Elements for inclusion in the programme of action and in the documents relating to the machinery for disarmament negotiations

Working paper: Sweden

In order to maintain the momentum generated by the special session and its preparations it is essential both to agree on a series of specific measures to be implemented within a relatively short period of time and to secure an effective follow-up of the session. For this reason, the programme of action should be formulated in as precise terms as possible.

It is suggested that the following points, among others, be included in the programme of action (points A-E) and in the document relating to the machinery for disarmament negotiations (point F).

A. Second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

The General Assembly

1. Decides to convene a second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1982;

2. Further decides that a Preparatory Committee for the Second Special Session should be established by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

B. Nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly

1. (Appropriate reference to the draft treaty on a comprehensive test ban to be submitted to the General Assembly at its special session devoted to disarmament in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/78);
2. Considers as a general guideline for further action that the nuclear-weapon States, and in particular the two leading nuclear-weapon States, carry the main responsibility for nuclear disarmament;

3. Concludes that negotiations should urgently be undertaken concerning measures outlined below aiming at the eventual total elimination of nuclear weapons from the arsenals of States:

   (a) Freezing of the qualitative improvement of existing nuclear weapons and delivery systems;

   (b) Cessation of the research and development of new types and new systems of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery and guidance;

   (c) Cessation of the production of nuclear weapons and of fissionable material for weapon purposes;

   (d) Balanced reduction of stockpiles of nuclear weapons and of their delivery systems;

   (e) Prevention of proliferation of such weapons and systems;

4. Requests the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue with the highest priority its work in the field of nuclear disarmament;

5. Underlines the importance that the United Nations be kept fully informed on all ongoing bilateral and multilateral negotiations in the field of nuclear disarmament;

6. Expects substantial results in the area of nuclear disarmament to be reported to the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

C. Disarmament and development

The General Assembly

1. Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of qualified governmental experts appointed by him to initiate an expert study on the relationship between disarmament and development, the results of which to be reported to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session for subsequent action at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

2. Decides that the expert study should have the following terms of reference (to be inserted at the special session on the basis of the report of the ad hoc group of governmental experts appointed by the Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly resolution ______).
D. Particularly inhuman weapons

The General Assembly,

Recommends that the 1979 United Nations Conference on Specific Conventional Weapons should seek agreement on the prohibition and restriction of use of certain conventional weapons which may cause unnecessary suffering or which may have indiscriminate effects, such as those the primary effect of which is to injure by fragments not detectable by X-ray, incendiaries, land-mines and booby-traps, certain small calibre projectiles and certain blast and fragmentation weapons.

E. Reduction of military budgets

The General Assembly

1. Requests the Secretary-General to organize a pilot test of a system for the reporting of military expenditures by States, drawing on the recommendations on a standardized reporting instrument by the group of experts on the reduction of military budgets (A/32/194) with the participation of States representing different geographical regions and, preferably, different military budgeting and accounting systems;

2. Further requests the Secretary-General to appoint an ad hoc panel of budgetary experts, under the aegis of the United Nations, to give guidance to States supplying the required data, to analyse the results of the pilot test, to further refine the system and to develop recommendations for larger-scale application of the reporting instrument;

3. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

F. Machinery for disarmament negotiations

The General Assembly

1. Invites the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to make it possible for non-members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to participate in certain meetings to be decided by the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, through the submission of written and oral proposals and participation in the discussions thereon;

2. Invites the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to replace the present co-chairmanship institution by a bureau of four members, consisting of one chairman and three vice-chairmen. Two members of the bureau should be selected from the States belonging to the military blocs and the other from the group of neutral and non-aligned States in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. The chairmanship should rotate in alphabetical order on a monthly or sessional basis between all members of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament;
3. Decides, in the light of the new tasks and responsibilities entrusted upon the United Nations Secretariat as a result of the programme of action, to make a corresponding increase in the resources of the United Nations Centre for Disarmament, especially in the field of studies and follow-up of disarmament agreements. (Details to be discussed at a somewhat later stage of the preparations for the session.)