Twelfth special session
Agenda item 9

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BELGIUM*

[Original: English]

[10 June 1982]

1. In general, the Ten countries members of the European Community consider that the study (A/36/356) develops some interesting themes and that it contains a wealth of information on the complicated question of the relationship between disarmament and development which will, no doubt, prove valuable in future consideration of this subject.

2. The Ten also wish to express their gratitude to the Group of Governmental Experts - four of them being nationals of members of the Ten - and to its Chairman, Mrs. Thorsson.

3. Although they joined the consensus on the recommendations, the Ten consider it regrettable that, after three years of hard work, the experts could not reach unanimous agreement on the whole of the report, so that some of them were obliged to express their reservations.

4. A general problem concerns the use of data in the report which is unbalanced throughout because adequate information about the Warsaw Pact countries was not available.

5. As an example, it could be mentioned that it was not possible to include even the statistics on development assistance compiled by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which has since been adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

6. In spite of the foregoing, two major conclusions were elaborated in the report:

   (a) First, in the long run, military expenditures have a negative impact on economic growth and employment, if compared to the same amount of expenditures for non-military purposes. In the view of the Ten, this is a very important conclusion.

   (b) Secondly, the concept of security is widened: there are more than only military threats which could affect a State's security. One of these is the world-wide build-up of arms itself, while others can be found in the economic field, such as protectionism and the scarcity of raw materials.

7. Social injustice and the economic gap between poor and rich countries are also important aspects of the wider comprehension of the concepts of security.

* On behalf of the Ten States members of the European Community.
8. The report recognizes that resources released through disarmament measures can be reallocated in such a way that economic growth and employment are sustained.

A. Recommendation 1

9. The Ten recognize the value of these kinds of studies and therefore generally endorse this recommendation.

10. In the Western world, many studies on this subject have been carried out, not only outside the Government but also in connexion with it through the sponsoring of research projects.

11. While the recommendation points to the responsibility of Governments to conduct investigations on this matter, the States members of the Ten consider that non-governmental organizations, universities or independent scholars, could also play a considerable role. In the view of the Ten, complementary contributions by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research could also be envisaged. While noting the specific reference to the particular responsibilities of the major military Powers, the Ten understand that all countries should be addressed, including those countries which spend large amounts on defence without publicly accounting for the possible negative consequences on their development.

12. The Ten note, moreover, that, unlike the situation in several other countries, the defence spending of each of them are public in all its aspects. In particular, the Ten insist on adequate co-operation from the countries of the East bloc in the release of data.

B. Recommendation 2

13. The Ten are aware of possible benefits that could be derived from reallocating military resources to address economic and social problems. While not all of them are convinced that the time is ripe for governmental initiatives, the Ten consider it appropriate to foster the work of scholars and non-governmental organizations which have been rather active in this area.

14. Given the international character of reducing the gap in income between the industrialized nations and the developing world and establishing a new international economic order, the Ten would encourage international organizations to carry out studies on this subject.

15. While acknowledging the potential positive effects of the reallocation of resources from military to civilian purposes on international economic relations, notably with regard to the relations between the industrialized and developing countries, including the transfer of development aid, the Ten consider that it would be realistic also to take into account possible national demand for the resources thus released.
16. Also, international development co-operation should not be viewed too narrowly, that is as only a matter of transfers of resources. In fact, any such transfers are relatively less important to Third World development than are the areas of trade and technology and an effective and dynamic international division of labour.

C. Recommendation 3

17. The Ten generally support this recommendation. They consider that making public national data on resource utilization is essential, not only to increase public awareness of the magnitude of the problem, but also because of its confidence building character. The United Nations reporting instrument for military budgets should be regarded as a very important first result of such quantifying efforts, and all members of the Ten are fully prepared to participate in the system if it is universally adopted.

18. Unfortunately, at the present moment, this is not the case. The Ten take note of the fact that, up till now, none of the Warsaw Pact countries have participated in the system, nor do they seem to be inclined to do so in the future. Therefore, the Ten consider this recommendation as being directed particularly to the Warsaw Pact countries. They would call upon those countries which have not yet done so, to make a start with their participation in the United Nations reporting instrument for military budgets.

19. It should be added that those members of the Ten already participating in the reporting instrument could find themselves obliged to reconsider their participation if other States continue to refuse to enter the system. To make the reporting instrument really useful and valuable, it is necessary that all relevant States co-operate by reporting their military expenditures.

D. Recommendation 4

20. The Ten recognize that useful work regarding the disarmament-development perspective could be done by specialized agencies and other technical bodies of the United Nations. In this connexion, the report provides some good examples of the incorporation of this issue in United Nations activities.

21. Because of their international character, United Nations organs - more than national Governments - also seem to provide a suitable framework for carrying out the studies mentioned in recommendation 2. The possibilities offered by the United National Institute for Disarmament Research should be taken into account.

22. The Ten have no objections to this recommendation, provided that two basic conditions are met: first, that each specialized agency or technical body keeps within its proper mandate and, secondly, that disarmament-and development-related activities are well guided and co-ordinated. Therefore, the Ten would link this
recommendation with recommendation 8 on the co-ordination of the incorporation of the disarmament and development perspective in the programmes and activities of the United Nations system.

23. Before starting these kinds of activities within United Nations bodies, the Ten consider it indispensable to decide first whether these are going to be co-ordinated by the Centre for Disarmament, the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, or some other body to be constituted.

24. In this respect, the Ten believe that the task of co-ordinating disarmament/development activities might best be confided to the Centre for Disarmament.

E. Recommendation 5

25. The Ten recognize that the conversion of defence industries to civilian production is one important area which will require attention during the process of disarmament. From a macro-economic point of view, conversion is not an insurmountable problem. As has already been noted, in the long run it will have positive effects on economic growth and employment. Moreover, open-market economies are already very familiar with the problem of adjustments to changing demands in the civilian industry. An important problem however, appears on the industrial level: some specific military industries in specific regions could be affected rather seriously by disarmament measures. Therefore, the Ten consider it useful to stimulate conversion studies in specific relevant industrial sectors, to be carried out by non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, organizations of employers and employees and by competent international agencies such as the International Labour Organisation.

F. Recommendation 6

26. The Ten recognize that an international exchange of data on the important issue of conversion would be very useful. They are prepared to make available information which might be conducive to solving this problem.

G. Recommendation 7

27. The Ten consider the establishment of an international disarmament fund for development an interesting idea. The Ten are prepared to give further consideration to the idea.

28. Concerning the relationship between disarmament and development in general, the Ten would state the following. They agree that resources released from disarmament could be used for development assistance. However, as long as disarmament has not yet started, in their view it is better not to link disarmament and development too closely, in order to prevent the lack of progress in the former
from becoming an excuse for a lack of effort in the latter. Resources released by disarmament should be used, inter alia, for additional development efforts.

29. Therefore, the Ten consider that, for the moment, it is better to concentrate on existing development-assistance targets, apart from eventually released resources from disarmament.

H. Recommendation 8

30. As they already pointed out in their comments on recommendation 4, the Ten attach great importance to adequate guidance and co-ordination of disarmament-and development-related activities within the United Nations system, and, if possible, of such activities outside the United Nations system.

31. The Ten wish to repeat that, in their view, the Centre for Disarmament is the most appropriate body to be charged with these functions, and that the agencies should not exceed their mandates.

1. Recommendation 9

32. The Ten could support this recommendation. In general, the Ten take a positive view of the present United Nations activities in the field of public information. They also welcome the publication of a popular version of the study on the relationship between disarmament and development (A/36/356), as was decided in General Assembly resolution 36/92 G.

33. In the view of the Ten, it is important to inform public opinion on the problems of disarmament, development and security, and their effects on social and economic well-being. It should be made clear to the public that security is not only a matter of military strength, but can be affected by a number of other factors. This awareness could lead the way to arms control and disarmament and the use of released resources for development purposes.

34. The Ten agree that, in disseminating information to increase this awareness, the non-governmental organizations have an important role to play.

FINLAND

[Original: English]

[4 June 1982]

1. The five Nordic countries, initiators of the study of the relationship between disarmament and development (A/36/356), have stated their views on the study in a working paper circulated as a document of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (A/S-12/18). The working paper stresses the need for an effective follow-up to the recommendations contained in the study. In
addition, the Government of Finland wishes to make the following observations on the study.

2. By virtue of its scope, framework and substance, the study (A/36/356) is to be considered exceptionally significant. One of the fundamental merits of the study is that it is forward-looking and policy-oriented, focusing, inter alia, on the feasibility of reallocating resources from arms build-up to development. The relationship between disarmament and development is further highlighted by prospects of slowing economic growth in the industrialized countries and the growing military expenditures in both developed and developing countries. This affects the availability of resources for development purposes.

3. The 40 research reports commissioned by the Group added significantly to the scope and diversity of the study. The project financed by Finland dealt with transnational military production, international transfer of military technology and their impact on development. Problems related to international arms trade are obviously of relevance to the relationship between disarmament and development. As this question was not elaborated in the study, its further consideration and analysis could be called for.

4. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/92 G, the Government of Finland has taken measures to give the study the widest possible distribution. An abridged version of the study will also be published in Finnish before the beginning of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.