Disarmament and development

INTRODUCTION

1. There is a close interrelationship between disarmament and development.

2. Progress in disarmament would greatly help in the realization of development. Nevertheless, measures to promote economic and social development in developing countries must not be made contingent on progress in the field of disarmament. Security has not only military and political aspects but also involves the active promotion of the economic and social development of all States, in particular of the developing countries.

Disarmament would contribute over the long term to the effective economic and social development of all States, in particular developing countries, by contributing towards reducing the economic disparities between developed and developing countries and establishing the new international economic order on the basis of justice, equity and co-operation. Thus, the Comprehensive Programme can make an effective contribution to economic and social development of all States, in particular of the developing countries. In this context, it is of particular significance that substantial progress in disarmament should be made by the nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States so that funds could be released at an early stage from the military expenditures for the benefit of development in all countries, particularly the developing countries.
MEASURES

1. Bearing in mind the conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations Study on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development (Doc. A/36/356) effective follow-up on the disarmament-development perspective should be undertaken at different levels so that national and United Nations' activities may reinforce each other.

2. The economic and social consequences, at national and international levels, of the military spending of all States, in particular of all militarily significant States, should be assessed and their public be informed about them. States have a special responsibility in this matter as regards their own military spending.

3. The Secretary-General, assisted by qualified experts, should update periodically the Study on Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military Expenditure.

4. As preliminary steps towards the eventual conversion of defence industries to civilian production during the process of disarmament, taking into account the specific internal impacts of such measures, the following measures could be pursued at the national and international levels:

   a. the creation by Governments and other economic and social actions of the necessary prerequisites to facilitate the conversion of resources freed through disarmament measures to civilian purposes, including planning;

   b. the participation by Member States in an international exchange, through appropriate channels, of experiences in conversion, inter alia by submission of reports from time to time to the Secretary-General on possible solutions to conversion problems;

   c. the Secretary-General would take the necessary action to disseminate national information on conversion experiences and, furthermore, explore methods for collection, reporting and dissemination of such information;

   d. the Secretary-General would take appropriate action for identifying and analysing the possible benefits of conversion in the field of economic and social development;

   e. regular review of the matter of conversion by the General Assembly, inter alia, in the context of the periodic review of the Comprehensive Programme.

5. All States should facilitate the development and implementation, at the national level, of methods for identifying and analysing the benefits that could be derived from the reallocation of military resources, following disarmament measures, to address economic and social problems at the national level and to contribute towards reducing the economic disparities between developed and developing countries and establishing the new international economic order, based on justice, equity and co-operation.

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6. All Member States, especially the militarily significant States, could make public data on their utilization of human and material resources for military purposes.

7. The Secretary-General should take appropriate action to promote and co-ordinate the incorporation in concrete and practical ways of the disarmament and development perspective in the appropriate programmes and activities of the United Nations' system. In this regard, the Centre for Disarmament should be given a major role.

8. States should endeavour when possible to transfer to the purpose of internal and international development, all resources released by disarmament measures, rather than transfer them from one type of military expenditures to another.

9. The realization of disarmament measures could greatly contribute to the task of increasing resources for development. Bearing in mind the urgent need for increased and additional flows of resources for development in developing countries, several practical measures by which disarmament could contribute to the process have been explored. Taking into account the capabilities and needs of the agencies and institutions, currently responsible for the international flow of resources, further consideration should be given, as an integral part of the first stage of the Comprehensive Programme, to the administrative and technical modalities of establishing a special account or an international disarmament fund for development. The methods adopted for generating such new resources for development should encourage the disarmament process and the resulting funds should be allocated on a just and non-discriminatory basis among developing countries.