Twelfth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE 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

Note by the Secretary-General

At its session of a special character, on 18 May 1982, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme adopted a resolution entitled "Arms and the environment". In conformity with paragraph 2, the Secretary-General has the honour to bring the resolution to the attention of the General Assembly at its twelfth special session.
ANNEX

Resolution adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its session of a special character on 18 May 1982

Arms and the environment

The Governing Council,

Meeting in a session of a special character,

Considering that:

(a) A major threat to the environment, of greater concern than a decade ago, is the possibility of a global confrontation. During the last decade, even local armed conflicts in many regions have brought about major environmental damage as well as massive displacement of populations. The human environment would greatly benefit from an atmosphere of peace and security,

(b) The accumulation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction poses serious environmental risks. Apart from causing human suffering and material destruction, modern systems of war cause environmental disruption on a large scale, and seriously affect the ecological balance of the areas where they are used. Already military preparations consume important amounts of financial, material and intellectual resources,

(c) Global nuclear war would signify largely unknown and unpredictable damage to earth's vital ecological systems, perhaps eroding the very basis of life,

(d) Environmental degradation by military activities can be prevented by disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, which would, apart from enhancing security, significantly expand the economic and social horizons of industrial and developing countries alike,

1. Appeals to Governments and the world community as a whole to do the utmost to halt the arms race and thereby prevent a major threat to the environment;

2. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to bring this appeal to the attention of the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.