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 verbale dated 16 June 1982 from the Permanent
Representative of Belgium to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations presents her compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith a memorandum from Belgium concerning regional disarmament.

She would be grateful to the Secretary-General if he would have the text of the memorandum circulated as an official document of the twelfth special session of the General Assembly under item 9 of the agenda.
ANNEX

Memorandum on regional disarmament

I

1. Since the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the international community has shown growing interest in the possibilities of the regional approach to disarmament.

2. That interest has been expressed in two resolutions of the General Assembly adopted by consensus:

   (a) Resolution 35/156 D relating to the study on all aspects of regional disarmament (A/35/416).

   (b) Resolution 36/97 H relating to the views expressed by many Member States on the subject of the study (A/36/343 and Add.1).

   This resolution requested the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament to consider the question of regional disarmament in terms of substance and follow-up.

3. The promise of the regional approach to disarmament was also highlighted, particularly, in two recent studies of the Secretary-General that have been the subject of consensus resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

   These resolutions are:

   (a) The study on confidence-building measures (A/36/474, resolution 36/97 F).

   (b) The study on the relationship between disarmament and international security (A/36/597, resolution 36/97 L).

II

4. The lengthy debate conducted on the regional approach to disarmament makes it possible to determine the general framework within which all future action on the subject should be based:

    (a) Conformity with international law, more particularly the Charter of the United Nations, and with the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly.

    (b) Contribution to the achievement of the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament.

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IV

To this end, the General Assembly, at its special session devoted to disarmament, might adopt the following draft resolution:

Regional disarmament

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its concern over the arms race and the continuing increase in arms expenditure,

Reaffirming the right of each State to make a sovereign assessment of the conditions necessary for its security and to take all appropriate measures in this respect, while taking into account the objectives and principles of the United Nations,

Taking full account of the decisions and recommendations of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,

Aware of the importance of the regional measures which have already been adopted, of the studies which have already been carried out, in particular on nuclear-weapon-free zones, or confidence-building measures, and on the relationship between disarmament and international security, and of regional measures relating to nuclear and conventional disarmament,

Recalling its resolutions 35/156 D and 36/97 H concerning the study on all the aspects of regional disarmament and the views of Member States on that study,

Confirming the importance and effectiveness of regional disarmament measures taken at the initiative of the States concerned, in that they can contribute to the realization of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

1. Requests Governments to take initiatives and to consult with each other in the various regions with a view to agreeing on appropriate regional disarmament measures;

2. Encourages Governments to establish or to strengthen at the regional level institutional arrangements capable of promoting the implementation of such measures;

3. Calls upon Governments and the competent regional institutions to inform the Secretary-General of measures taken to that end;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in particular the Centre for Disarmament and the United Nations institute for disarmament research, to co-operate closely with States and regional institutions requesting assistance in the framework of regional initiatives;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at each annual session, a progress report;

6. Decides to include in the agenda of its subsequent regular sessions an item entitled "Regional disarmament: report of the Secretary-General".