Twelfth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda item 11

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE 1980s AS THE SECOND DISARMAMENT DECADE AND CONSIDERATION OF INITIATIVES AND PROPOSALS OF MEMBER STATES

Note verbale dated 6 July 1982 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit enclosed a copy of the document entitled "Appeal adopted on 29 June 1982 by the Twentieth Co-ordination Meeting of UNESCO Commissions from Socialist countries, held in Dresden" with the request kindly to circulate this document as an official document of the twelfth special session of the General Assembly under agenda item 11.
ANNEX

APPEAL

adopted on 29 June 1982 by the Twentieth Co-ordination Meeting of
UNESCO Commissions from Socialist Countries, held at Dresden

1. The participants in the Twentieth Co-ordination Meeting of National
Commissions for UNESCO of Socialist countries address an urgent appeal to the
National Commissions for UNESCO of all countries, to representatives of science,
education, culture and information throughout the world that they raise their
voices in defence of peace, against the threat of a nuclear catastrophe. This is
dictated by the international situation which has been aggravated through the fault
of aggressive imperialist circles, this is dictated by the ever escalating arms
race fraught with the most serious consequences, this is dictated by reason and the
feeling of grave concern for the destiny of mankind.

2. Today, as never before, purposeful and concrete actions are needed on the part
of each and everyone, regardless of nationality or political persuasion, because a
nuclear war, should it break out, could mean the destruction of human civilization
and even the end of life on earth itself.

3. More and more people begin to realize this evident truth, people who are
united in anti-war movements saying their resolute no to war and the arms race.

4. To save peace is an urgent objective of paramount importance that can only be
attained through joint efforts of the entire international community. In this
context UNESCO, being the largest among the specialized agencies of the United
Nations, whose Constitution defines as its main purpose the strengthening of peace
and international security, can and must speak out with authority.

5. Also today by the authority of its reputation and the belief in the triumph of
reason, UNESCO is seeking to exert positive influence on world public opinion and
to mobilize it against the devastating arms race with the help of its very own
methods and means. The National Commissions of all countries have the duty to
support UNESCO in every way in this noble endeavour, to redouble its efforts aimed
at making the immense material and intellectual resources of mankind serve creative
purposes rather than manufacturing lethal weapons, and at making scientific and
technological progress serve solely the peaceful aspirations of humanity.

6. The times call for ruling out the very idea of using nuclear weapons in any
form and on any scale. This should be given the highest priority both in UNESCO's
activities and in the work of the National Commissions of its member States, since
ensuring peace is the basic prerequisite for a successful solution of national and
global problems.

7. In this connexion the Twentieth Co-ordination Meeting of National Commissions
for UNESCO of Socialist countries unanimously and sincerely welcomes the Soviet
Union's peaceful initiatives, its solemn pledge not to be the first to use nuclear
weapons, given at the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. This step is indeed of historic significance and it is to be hoped that it will evoke due response on the part of other States.

8. We hope that the decisions of the current special session will give fresh impetus to all peace-loving forces, and will encourage intensified activities on the part of UNESCO and the organizations co-operating with it so as to bring about disarmament and prevent a nuclear catastrophe.

9. Let us unite our efforts to solve this most important task of today, which determines the future of our planet and the life of the present and future generations.