Fifteenth special session

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE FIFTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In pursuance of a decision of the General Assembly (resolution 2837 (XXVI), annex II, para. 17 (b)), an annotated agenda is issued on 15 June for each regular session of the General Assembly.

2. Although no such arrangement was provided for special sessions, this document has been prepared in the hope that it may facilitate the work of delegations.

3. The fifteenth special session of the General Assembly was convened in pursuance of resolution 38/73 I of 15 December 1983, by which the Assembly decided to hold a third special session devoted to disarmament not later than 1988, resolution 41/60 G of 3 December 1986, by which the Assembly decided to establish the Preparatory Committee for the third special session, and resolution 42/40 of 30 November 1987, by which the Assembly, inter alia, endorsed the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Third Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament 1/ and decided that the session should be held from 31 May to 25 June 1988. On 5 February 1988, the Preparatory Committee concluded its work and submitted its final report. 2/

4. The provisional agenda, provided for in rule 16 of the rules of procedure, was issued on 14 March (A/S-15/10).

5. The fifteenth special session will open at United Nations Headquarters on Tuesday, 31 May 1988, at 3 p.m.

II. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of the German Democratic Republic

   Rule 30 of the rules of procedure provides that, at the opening of each session of the General Assembly, the Chairman of that delegation from which the President of the previous session was elected shall preside until the Assembly has elected a President for the session. 3/

2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation

   Rule 62 of the rules of procedure provides that, immediately after the opening of the first plenary meeting and immediately preceding the closing of the final


2/ Ibid., Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/S-15/1).

3/ For the election of the President, see item 4.
plenary meeting of each session of the General Assembly, the President shall invite the representatives to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation. This provision was incorporated in the rules of procedure at the fourth session (resolution 362 (IV), annex I).

3. Credentials of representatives to the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly:

(a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

(b) Report of the Credentials Committee

In accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure, the credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation are to be submitted to the Secretary-General, if possible not less than one week before the opening of the session. The credentials must be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Under rule 28 of the rules of procedure, a Credentials Committee consisting of nine members is appointed by the General Assembly at the beginning of each session on the proposal of the President. The members of the Committee are traditionally appointed at the 1st plenary meeting, on the proposal of the temporary President and before the election of the President for the session. The Committee elects a Chairman, but no Vice-Chairman or Rapporteur.

On completion of its work, the Committee submits a report to the General Assembly.

It should be noted that at the third to fourteenth special sessions the General Assembly decided that the membership of the Credentials Committee would be the same as at the preceding regular session. The Preparatory Committee recommended to the Assembly that a similar procedure should be followed in the case of the fifteenth special session (A/42/46, para. 21). This recommendation has already been endorsed by the Assembly (resolution 42/40).

At the forty-second session, the Credentials Committee consisted of the following Member States:

Argentina, Barbados, Cape Verde, China, Germany, Federal Republic of, Kenya, Singapore, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.

4. Election of the President of the General Assembly

Under rule 31 of the rules of procedure, the President of the General Assembly is elected by the Assembly and holds office until the close of the session at which he was elected. In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election is held by secret ballot and there are no nominations. The President is elected by a simple majority.

It should be noted that at the third to fourteenth special sessions the General Assembly decided that the President would be the same as at the preceding regular session. The Preparatory Committee recommended to the Assembly that a
similar procedure should be followed in the case of the fifteenth special session (A/42/46, para. 18). This recommendation has already been endorsed by the Assembly (resolution 42/40).

5. Organization of the session

Under rule 38 of the rules of procedure, the General Committee comprises the President of the General Assembly (see item 4), the 21 Vice-Presidents and the Chairmen of the seven Main Committees. The Preparatory Committee recommended to the Assembly that the General Committee for the fifteenth special session should also include the Chairman of the committee of the whole and the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee (A/42/46, para. 22). This recommendation has already been endorsed by the Assembly (resolution 42/40).

Vice-Presidents

The President of the General Assembly is assisted by 21 Vice-Presidents. The duties involved are performed by heads of delegations of Member States, and not by individuals elected in their personal capacity.

Under rule 31 of the rules of procedure, the Vice-Presidents are elected by the General Assembly and hold office until the close of the session at which they were elected. In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election is held by secret ballot and there are no nominations. Vice-Presidents are elected by a simple majority.

It should be noted that at the third to fourteenth special sessions the General Assembly decided that the Vice-Presidents would be the same as at the preceding regular session. The Preparatory Committee recommended to the Assembly that a similar procedure should be followed in the case of the fifteenth special session, on the understanding that regional groups might make substitutions of Vice-Presidents allocated to each group (A/42/46, para. 19). This recommendation has already been endorsed by the Assembly (resolution 42/40).

At the forty-second session, the following Member States served as Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly:


Chairmen of the Main Committees

As provided in rule 98 of the rules of procedure, the General Assembly has seven Main Committees.

Rule 103 stipulates that each Main Committee shall elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. It also states that the elections shall be held by
secret ballot unless the Committee decides otherwise in an election where only one candidate is standing. Since in the great majority of cases only one candidate is nominated, most officers of Main Committees are elected by acclamation.

In addition, rule 103 provides that the nomination of each candidate shall be limited to one speaker, after which the Committee shall immediately proceed to the election.

It should be noted that at the third to fourteenth special sessions the General Assembly decided that the Chairmen of the Main Committees would be the same as at the preceding regular session. The Preparatory Committee recommended to the Assembly that the Chairmen of the Main Committees should be the same as at the forty-second session, on the understanding that they might be replaced by members of their delegations or members of delegations of States belonging to the same regional group (A/42/46, para. 22). This recommendation has already been endorsed by the Assembly (resolution 42/40).

The Chairmen of the Main Committees at the forty-second session are:

**First Committee:** Mr. Bagbeni Adeito Nzengeya (Zaire)

**Special Political Committee:** Mr. Hamad Abdelaziz Al-Kawari (Qatar)

**Second Committee:** Mr. Guennadi I. Oudovenko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

**Third Committee:** Mr. Jorge E. Ritter (Panama)

**Fourth Committee:** Mr. Constantine Moushoutas (Cyprus)

**Fifth Committee:** Mr. Henrik Amneus (Sweden)

**Sixth Committee:** Mr. Rajab A. Azzarouk (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

**Committee of the Whole**

The Preparatory Committee recommended to the General Assembly the establishment of a committee of the whole and as many open-ended groups or subsidiary organs as might be necessary. The Preparatory Committee also recommended that the Chairman of the committee of the whole should be elected by the Assembly at its special session (A/42/46, para. 20). This recommendation has already been endorsed by the Assembly (resolution 42/40). Subsequently, the Preparatory Committee recommended to the Assembly that:

(a) The committee of the whole should have a 20-member bureau, consisting of a chairman, 18 vice-chairmen and a rapporteur (A/S-15/1, para. 39);

(b) The committee of the whole should begin its work on 6 June to elect its vice-chairmen and rapporteur (ibid., para. 40);
(c) The regional groups should consider renominating the present members of the bureau of the Preparatory Committee to serve in the bureau of the committee of the whole (ibid., para. 41);

(d) The committee of the whole should hear statements by representatives of non-governmental organizations and peace and disarmament research institutes and that the time allocated to each speaker should not exceed 10 minutes (ibid., para 43).

**Other recommendations**

The Preparatory Committee also submitted to the General Assembly recommendations concerning the rules of procedure (ibid., para. 23), the level of representation (ibid., para. 24), the role of non-governmental organizations and peace and disarmament research institutions (ibid., para 25) and statements by executive heads of organizations (ibid., para. 42).

6. **Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Third Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament**

At its forty-first session, the General Assembly decided to establish a Preparatory Committee for the Third Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (resolution 41/60 G).

The Preparatory Committee held its organizational (first) session on 5 December 1986 and its substantive second session from 26 May to 5 June 1987.

At its forty-second session, the General Assembly endorsed the report of the Preparatory Committee (A/42/46) and the recommendations contained therein (resolution 42/40).

The Preparatory Committee held its third session from 25 January to 5 February 1988.

At its fifteenth special session, the General Assembly will have before it the final report of the Preparatory Committee (A/S-15/1). 4/

7. **Adoption of the agenda**

Rules 16 to 19 of the rules of procedure deal with the agenda of special sessions.

The General Assembly adopts the agenda by a simple majority.

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4/ For the other documents of the fifteenth special session, see items 9 to 15.
In this connection, it should be noted that at the third to fourteenth special sessions the agenda was adopted without a vote and without first being referred to the General Committee.

The provisional agenda of the fifteenth special session, as recommended by the Preparatory Committee and endorsed by the General Assembly (resolution 42/40), was issued on 14 March 1988 (A/S-15/10).

8. General debate

The Preparatory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should hold a general debate in the plenary from the morning of 1 June to the afternoon of 14 June 1988 (A/S-15/1, para. 35).

In accordance with paragraph 46 of annex V to the rules of procedure, the list of speakers wishing to take part in the general debate is closed at the end of the third day after the opening of the debate.

9. Review and appraisal of the present international situation, especially in the light of the vital objective of terminating the arms race and the pressing need to achieve substantial progress in the field of disarmament

This item was included in the provisional agenda of the fifteenth special session on the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee (A/42/46, para. 16). That recommendation has already been endorsed by the General Assembly (resolution 42/40).

No preliminary documentation is expected for this agenda item at the fifteenth special session.

10. Assessment of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth and twelfth special sessions:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament

(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission

(c) Resolutions of the General Assembly in the field of arms limitation and disarmament

(d) Status of negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament in bilateral and various multilateral forums

At its fifteenth special session, the General Assembly will have before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament: Supplement No. 2 (A/S-15/2);

(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission: Supplement No. 3 (A/S-15/3);
(c) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the World Disarmament Conference: Supplement No. 4 (A/S-15/4);

(d) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean: Supplement No. 5 (A/S-15/5);

(e) Reports of the Secretary-General:

(i) Objective information on military matters, called for under resolution 42/38 I: A/S-15/7;

(ii) Summary of developments in the field of arms limitation and disarmament since 1982, including the status of negotiations, in bilateral and various multilateral forums, called for under resolution 42/38 J: A/S-15/8.

(f) In addition, the Preparatory Committee recommended that the following two reports of the Secretary-General, to be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-third session, should be issued in time for the third special session (A/S-15/1, para. 37):

(i) Report pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 41/86 H containing a study on the climatic and potential physical effects of nuclear war, including nuclear winter, which will examine, inter alia, its socio-economic consequences and will take into account the Secretary-General's report and the source documents from which the compilation was prepared, together with any other relevant scientific studies;

(ii) Report pursuant to paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 41/86 I, updating the report entitled Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and Military Expenditures.

11. Consideration and adoption of the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament

At its forty-second session, the General Assembly urged the Conference on Disarmament to resume the work on the elaboration of the comprehensive programme on disarmament at the outset of its 1988 session with a view to resolving outstanding issues and concluding negotiations on the programme in time for its submission to the Assembly at its third special session devoted to disarmament (resolution 42/42 I).

At its fifteenth special session, the General Assembly will have before it the report of the Conference on Disarmament, which will be issued as Supplement No. 2 (A/S-15/2).
12. Assessment of developments and trends, including qualitative and quantitative aspects, relevant to the disarmament process, with a view to the elaboration of appropriate concrete and practical measures and, if necessary, additional principles, taking duly into account the principles and priorities established in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament

This item was included in the provisional agenda of the fifteenth special session on the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee (A/42/46, para. 16). That recommendation has already been endorsed by the General Assembly (resolution 42/40).

No preliminary documentation is expected for this agenda item at the fifteenth special session.

13. Consideration of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and of the effectiveness of the disarmament machinery

At its tenth special session, in 1978, the General Assembly adopted a number of recommendations regarding the disarmament machinery, which related mainly to the Assembly (resolution S-10/2, para. 117), the Disarmament Commission (ibid., para. 118), the Committee on Disarmament (ibid., para. 120), bilateral and regional disarmament negotiations (ibid., para. 121), World Disarmament Conference (ibid., para. 122), the United Nations Centre for Disarmament (ibid., para. 123) and the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies (ibid., para. 124).

For documents relating to this agenda item before the General Assembly at its fifteenth special session, see agenda item 10 above, documents listed in subparagraphs (a) to (d).

14. United Nations information and educational activities in the field of disarmament, including measures to mobilize world public opinion in favour of disarmament:

(a) World Disarmament Campaign

(b) Other public information activities

At its tenth special session, in 1978, the General Assembly established a programme of fellowships on disarmament in order to promote expertise in disarmament in more Member States, particularly in the developing countries (resolution S-10/2, para. 108). At its thirty-sixth session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament a report containing an assessment of the programme since its inception in 1979 (resolution 36/92 A).

At its twelfth special session, in 1982, the General Assembly approved the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Twelfth Special Session as the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session (decision S-12/24). Annex IV of the Concluding Document contained the recommendation that the Assembly should decide to
endorse the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament, to continue the programme and to increase the number of fellowships from 20 to 25 from 1983 onwards. The Assembly also launched the World Disarmament Campaign in order to promote public interest in and support for the goals set out in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session (A/S-12/32, annex V, para. 1).

At its forty-second session, the General Assembly reiterated its commendation of the manner in which the World Disarmament Campaign had been conducted by the Secretary-General in order to guarantee "the widest possible dissemination of information and unimpeded access for all sectors of the public to a broad range of information and opinions on questions of arms limitation and disarmament and the dangers relating to all aspects of the arms race and war, in particular nuclear war" (A/S-12/32, annex V, para. 4); noted with appreciation that the Secretary-General had made permanent his instructions to the United Nations information centres and regional commissions to give wide publicity to the Campaign; and requested the Secretary-General, in carrying out the activities of the Campaign contemplated for 1988, to give particular attention to the third special session of the Assembly devoted to disarmament (resolution 42/39 I).

At its fifteenth special session, the General Assembly will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the World Disarmament Campaign, as requested by the Preparatory Committee at its third session (A/S-15/1, para. 36).

15. Relationship between disarmament and development, in the light of the action programme adopted at the International Conference

At its tenth special session, in 1978, the General Assembly adopted the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session, by which the Secretary-General was requested, with the assistance of a group of qualified governmental experts appointed by him, to initiate an expert study on the relationship between disarmament and development and to submit the final results to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session (resolution S-10/2, paras. 94 and 95).

At its thirty-ninth session, the General Assembly decided to convene an International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, which should be preceded by thorough preparation and should take decisions by consensus; and further decided to set up a Preparatory Committee composed of 54 members, which should formulate and submit, by consensus, to the Assembly, recommendations as to the provisional agenda, procedure, place, date and duration of the Conference (resolution 39/160).

At its forty-first session, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee, and on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the Preparatory Committee, decided to hold the International Conference at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 24 August to 11 September 1987 (decision 41/422).
The International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development was held at Headquarters on those dates. The Conference adopted by consensus a report (A/CONF.130/39), section II of which was the final document of the Conference and which included an action programme.

At its forty-second session, the General Assembly welcomed the adoption of the Final Document of the Conference; decided to have the report of the Conference brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee for the Third Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament; and requested the Committee to include in the agenda of that session an item entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development, in the light of the action programme adopted at the International Conference" (resolution 42/45).

At its third session, the Preparatory Committee decided to include the item in the provisional agenda of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (A/S-15/1, para. 34).

No preliminary documentation is expected for this agenda item at the fifteenth special session.

16. Adoption, in an appropriate format, of the document(s) of the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly

No preliminary documentation is expected for this agenda item at the fifteenth special session.