Fifteenth special session
Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH AND TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSIONS

Letter dated 25 May 1988 from the representatives of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you annexed to this letter a memorandum stating the views of the five Nordic countries on the question of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

We should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly under item 10 of its provisional agenda.

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* A/S-15/10.
ANNEX

Memorandum submitted by the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden on the question of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

1. Measures to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons are a fundamental and integral part of nuclear-arms control and disarmament. The most important task of the international community is to reverse the nuclear-arms race and reduce the danger of nuclear war. The nuclear-weapon States have the main responsibility in this context. Non-proliferation measures for which all States share the responsibility are essential for security in regional and global contexts.

2. The Governments of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden attach the greatest importance to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a means to strengthen international peace and security and to promote international co-operation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty have according to article I undertaken not to transfer nuclear weapons to any recipient. The non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty have according to article II undertaken not to receive or acquire nuclear weapons. Since the entry into force of the Treaty no non-nuclear-weapon State party to the non-proliferation Treaty has acquired nuclear weapons. Efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons should be continued and strengthened. The Nordic countries urge all States which have not already done so to accede to the non-proliferation Treaty.

3. The possibility that non-nuclear-weapon States may already have acquired or may be actively pursuing nuclear-weapon capabilities underlies the urgency of international non-proliferation measures. Such a possibility constitutes a particularly grave danger in regions where tension or conflicts may pose a threat to international peace and security.

4. All parties to the non-proliferation Treaty have undertaken to pursue negotiations in good faith on nuclear disarmament. The Nordic countries welcome the progress in bilateral arms control and disarmament negotiations. The treaties between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on reducing the risk for nuclear war and on limitation of nuclear weapons and particularly the recently concluded treaty on the elimination of land-based intermediate and shorter-range missiles, the first significant nuclear-arms reduction treaty, are welcome and should be followed by agreements concerning substantial reduction of strategic nuclear weapons. The ultimate goal in this context is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

5. The conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty would also effectively enhance the non-proliferation régime. It would be an important step towards disarmament on behalf of the nuclear-weapon States in the implementation of article VI of the non-proliferation Treaty. The Nordic countries have followed with interest the bilateral negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on all aspects of nuclear testing. The achievement of a nuclear test-ban...
remains a vital issue on the international arms control and disarmament agenda. In halting further development of nuclear weapons a comprehensive test-ban treaty would be an essential step towards disarmament.

The Nordic Governments have repeatedly stressed the particular importance they attach to the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty with universal adherence, banning all nuclear explosions in all environments for all time.

6. An effective international non-proliferation régime is indispensable for international co-operation with regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The availability on a predictable and long-term basis of nuclear materials, equipment and technology should be assured under adequate non-proliferation and safeguard commitments.

7. Besides the measures and the objectives already indicated above the Nordic Governments consider progress concerning the realization of, inter alia, the following measures and objectives in the field of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament to be important:

(a) Accession to the non-proliferation Treaty, to which more than 135 States are now parties, by all States which have not yet acceded to it;

(b) Acceptance by all non-nuclear-weapon States of full-scope IAEA safeguards, that is, IAEA safeguards on all their nuclear activities present and future;

(c) The requirement of an international legally binding commitment, from recipient States, not to acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and to accept full-scope IAEA safeguards as a minimum condition for exports by all supplier States of relevant nuclear material, equipment and technology to non-nuclear-weapon States;

(d) Steps towards separation of civilian and military nuclear activities in the nuclear-weapon States, with application of IAEA safeguards in the civilian nuclear sector in these countries;

(e) Measures to assure the long-term supply of nuclear material, equipment and technology in a predictable manner, with appropriate assurances against the proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(f) Further strengthening of the safeguards system of IAEA in order to increase its capacity also in view of the development of nuclear technology;

(g) Full co-operation by all States with IAEA in its implementation of safeguards under existing and future bilateral and multilateral agreements;

(h) Cessation of the production of fissile material for weapon purposes;

(i) Agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

/...
(j) Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at between the States of the regions concerned and taking into account the characteristics of each region;

(k) Other national, bilateral and multilateral measures aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and halting and reversing the nuclear-arms race.

8. These measures all aim at the strengthening of the non-proliferation Treaty and the non-proliferation régime. The Nordic Governments reaffirm their commitments to the objectives of the non-proliferation Treaty. Article X of the Treaty stipulates the convening of the Conference in 1995 to decide whether the Treaty shall continue in force indefinitely, or shall be extended for an additional fixed period or periods. All ways and means must be explored to ensure its prolongation and the continued effectiveness of the non-proliferation régime.

9. The Nordic countries expect the General Assembly at its third special session devoted to disarmament to include in its final document adequate references to the importance of preserving and strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.