Fifteenth special session
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE
FIFTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda items 10 and 14

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

UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN
THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT, INCLUDING MEASURES TO MOBILIZE
WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IN FAVOUR OF DISARMAMENT

Working paper submitted by Bulgaria, Mongolia and the Ukrainian SSR

1. Since the most recent special session of the General Assembly devoted to
disarmament, definite progress has been made in United Nations information and
educational activities in the field of disarmament, including measures to mobilize
world public opinion in favour of disarmament.

2. The World Disarmament Campaign and the annual Disarmament Week make a positive
contribution to the task of drawing the attention of the peoples of the world to
the urgency of the problem of disarmament and averting a suicidal nuclear
catastrophe. The States Members of the United Nations declare their intention to
do everything possible to promote the attainment of the goals of this Campaign in
the future. The World Disarmament Campaign must by every possible means ensure the
increasingly active involvement of broad public and political circles from various
countries in the cause of disarmament and the constant intensification of the
efforts of parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations in the struggle to
guarantee a secure, nuclear-free future for mankind.

3. In order to perform the tasks facing the world community in the area of arms
limitation, reduction and elimination, States Members of the United Nations,
elected representatives, governmental and non-governmental mass media,
non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and scientific research
institutes must formulate and implement concrete practical measures designed to expand the circulation of objective information on the arms race and its consequences.

4. Priority must be given in United Nations information and educational activities at the global, regional and national levels to the comprehensive, complete and truthful explanation of bilateral and multilateral efforts designed to curtail strategic offensive weapons, to avert an arms race in outer space, to achieve a complete and universal nuclear test ban, to eliminate nuclear, chemical and other types of weapons of mass destruction, to reduce armed forces and conventional weapons, to reduce military expenditure and to resolve other important security and disarmament issues.

5. Governmental and non-governmental information organs of States Members of the United Nations and United Nations organs and specialized agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, should take additional measures for the expanded preparation, upgrading and wide distribution of printed and audio-visual material publicizing the principles and purposes, the content and form of the World Disarmament Campaign, the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade and the final documents of the first and second special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

6. The information and educational activities of States Members of the United Nations on arms limitation and disarmament questions must use every possible means to alert the international community to the dangers involved in all aspects of the arms race and to the threat posed by war in general and by nuclear war in particular. The attention of the world community must be focused constantly on the danger of an escalation of the arms race, the link between disarmament and development and the need to achieve universal and complete disarmament under strict and effective control.

7. The States Members of the United Nations must help to ensure objective flows of information on all aspects of the arms race, prevent the promotion of false and tendentious information material and avoid propagating an "enemy image" and launching anti-United Nations campaigns.

8. The information and educational activities of the world community must in every way possible bolster the conviction of the peoples of the world that a nuclear war must never be unleashed and can have no victor, that any war - both nuclear and conventional - must be averted and that the creation of a secure world requires new thinking and an innovative approach to questions of war and peace and presupposes the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and renunciation of the concept of "nuclear deterrence" and of the policy of force or threats of force in international relations.

9. In view of the special importance of scholarly argumentation and popularization of complex disarmament problems, the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, together with the Department of Public Information, must step up their scientific research and information activities in this direction and do more to explain to the world community the pressing questions relating to the arms race and disarmament.

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10. It is extremely important and urgent to bring to the attention of the world community, as soon as possible and as widely as possible, the essence of the statements made at the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and the documents adopted at that session. To this end, use should be made of all the possibilities provided by the United Nations information centres, UNDP offices, United Nations regional disarmament centres in Africa, Asia and Latin America and other appropriate United Nations offices.

11. In order to involve broad strata of the community in the discussion of disarmament questions in the United Nations, the practice should be continued of organizing, within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign, seminars and conferences on urgent questions relating to the curtailment and cessation of the arms race and the strengthening of security and a series of regional seminars on the results of the third special session devoted to disarmament should be held, in which delegates to the session and representatives of non-governmental organizations would be invited to participate. "Open house" days should be organized at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of participating States after the conclusion of the session, so that heads of delegations could meet representatives from the public of their countries and inform them of the results of the session and of the activities of their delegations at the session.

12. The United Nations information and educational activities in the field of disarmament and the measures to mobilize world public opinion in favour of disarmament implemented within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign should be based on a long-term strategy and backed by sufficient financial means.