Fifteenth special session
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE
FIFTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda items 10 and 12

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

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

Danger of radiation arising from clandestine dumping of nuclear
wastes

Working paper submitted by Nigeria

1. Within the past few years, approaches have been made to some developing
countries, especially in Africa, by transnational corporations and other
enterprises from some developed industrialized countries for the dumping of nuclear
and industrial wastes in their territories or territorial waters. There have been
instances of actual dumping of these lethal wastes in some African countries and
marine waters. Regrettably, contracts and arrangements to facilitate the dumping
of these wastes whose true identity were never disclosed were sometimes negotiated,
taking advantage of the economic and financial difficulties of the countries.

2. The grave negative implications of the dumping of nuclear wastes in the
territory or territorial waters of any country without adequate precautionary
measures are well known. The effects of such waste disposal on human, animal and
marine life are too horrendous to contemplate. That the continent of Africa should
be targeted for the disposal of these dangerous wastes testifies to the lack of
respect for the dignity of her peoples, and the lack of sensitivity of their overall development.

3. At the recently concluded Organization of African Unity Summit, the issue of the harmful effects of radiation from nuclear wastes as well as other hazardous industrial wastes was given considerable attention. The Summit, apart from requesting the Secretary-General of OAU to take appropriate steps to ensure its inscription as an item on the agenda of the forty-third session of the General Assembly, also called upon international agencies such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic Commission for Africa to assist African countries to establish appropriate mechanisms for monitoring and control of the movement and disposal of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa.

4. This special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament offers the first opportunity to the international community to condemn this sordid practice which is fraught with danger for international peace.

5. Nigeria therefore proposes that the session should include appropriate references and formulations, reflecting the growing awareness of the dangers posed by clandestine disposal of nuclear as well as other industrial wastes to mankind. It should condemn those that indulge in these deplorable activities and call upon States to take appropriate steps, including domestic legislations, barring transnationals and other enterprises within their jurisdiction from such activities.