General Assembly

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 DULLY 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

Working paper submitted by Brazil

INTRODUCTION

1. Brazil attaches the utmost importance to the convening of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, under the assumption that all Member States are committed to recognize, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the central and primary responsibility of the United Nations in the sphere of disarmament.

2. The Final Document of the first special session (General Assembly resolution 3-10/2) remains as valid today as it was upon its approval by consensus in 1978 and the Programme of Action therein established continues to be the foundation on the basis of which practical measures of disarmament should be undertaken towards the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.
NEW TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

3. The third special session should make a balanced and forward-looking assessment of the new trends and developments relevant to the disarmament process, which duly assumes, inter alia, that:

(a) Concerns regarding security of a State are just as valid, just as important and just as relevant as those of any other State;

(b) No State should demand from any other measures of disarmament that it is not, itself, prepared to take;

(c) Industrial and technological development does not free any country from the obligation to observe and respect measures of disarmament which have been internationally agreed upon;

(d) The non-militarization of outer space constitutes an essential pre-condition for the adoption of significant measures of regional disarmament;

(e) The geographical proliferation of nuclear weapons compromises the position adopted by many States to renounce the military nuclear option.

4. Within this perspective, due attention should be paid by the special session to the following developments:

(a) The declaration by the General Assembly of the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and co-operation, which calls upon all States, in particular the militarily significant States, to respect the objectives of the initiative, especially through the reduction and eventual elimination of their military presence there, the non-introduction of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction and the non-extension into the region of rivalries and conflicts that are foreign to it;

(b) The progress accomplished at the Conference on Disarmament in the negotiations on a multilateral convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction, based upon the principles of universality and non-discrimination;

(c) The growing risks of militarization of outer space, putting at stake the effort undertaken for years by the United Nations in order to preserve this environment as a common heritage to be utilized exclusively for peaceful purposes.