Fifteenth special session
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE
FIFTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda items 10, 12 and 15

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

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, IN THE LIGHT OF
THE ACTION PROGRAMME ADOPTED AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Working paper submitted by Sweden

The relationship between disarmament and development

1. Disarmament and development are two of the most urgent challenges facing the
world today. They constitute priority concerns of the international community in
which all nations - developed and developing, big and small, nuclear and
non-nuclear - have a common and equal stake. Disarmament and development are two
pillars on which enduring international peace and security can be built.

2. In the action programme adopted by the International Conference on the
Relationship between Disarmament and Development held last year, the States
participating in the Conference reaffirmed their commitments in the fields of
disarmament and development and reiterated their determination to adopt, both
individually and collectively, appropriate measures to implement these
commitments. These would include bilateral, regional and global initiatives for
peaceful resolution of conflicts and disputes.
3. The contrast between global military expenditures and unmet socio-economic needs provides a compelling moral appeal for relating disarmament to development. Disarmament would release resources that could be of benefit for development purposes. However, even before such supplementary resources become available certain measures may be taken to give practical expression to the mutually reinforcing relationship between disarmament and development. The action programme adopted by the International Conference outlines several such measures.

4. In the Charter of the United Nations, Member States have undertaken to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources. The Member States also express in the Charter their determination to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples. The United Nations has thus a central role to play for the promotion of both disarmament and development. In the view of the Swedish Government, this role should be reaffirmed by the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

5. The States participating in the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development agreed to foster an interrelated perspective on disarmament, development and security. The Swedish Government considers that this agreement should be reaffirmed by the special session on disarmament. It is stated in the Final Document of the Conference that the adverse development implications of international arms transfers outweigh immediate trade benefits to the suppliers and security gains to the recipients. The issue of conventional arms transfers should be considered also in this context.

6. The Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development contains a comprehensive action programme outlining a number of measures, both national and international, some of which may be implemented without awaiting the achievement of genuine disarmament. In the view of the Swedish Government, the urgency of implementing these measures should be reaffirmed by the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.