Fifteenth special session
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE
FIFTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda items 10 and 13

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

CONSIDERATION OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE
FIELD OF DISARMAMENT AND OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
DISARMAMENT MACHINERY

Consideration of the role of the United Nations in the field
of disarmament and of the effectiveness of the disarmament
machinery

Working paper submitted by Argentina

1. This is a central role with primary responsibility. It derives from the
powers conferred on the United Nations in the Charter of the United Nations and the
Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 1978,
(resolution S-10/2).

2. Comprehensive consideration of the role of the United Nations in the field of
disarmament should begin with a determination of the circumstances which are
impeding or hindering the effective and full use of those powers.

3. The machinery of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, consisting of
Secretariat-assisted organs in which the Member States participate, is capable of
improvement. At the same time, however efficient this machinery of organs and
administrative services may be, it will accomplish little if its powers cannot be
exercised fully because of reservations or constraints which prevent those organs
from considering issues that concern them or because certain issues are being
discussed outside the United Nations or without the knowledge of the United
Nations, all of which impinges on the powers of the United Nations with respect to
the question of disarmament.
4. The consideration of the role of the United Nations should therefore begin with a reaffirmation by all Member States of the effective exercise of the jurisdiction and powers of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations and the Final Document.

5. The effective exercise of the jurisdiction of the United Nations is inhibited when the deliberative and negotiating powers of organs established to discuss disarmament issues are curtailed or limited.

6. The consideration of the question of disarmament outside the framework of the United Nations, and in particular the lack of information on the progress of such discussion, has a considerable impact on the role of the United Nations in this field.