COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE  
FIFTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION  
Working Group II  

OUTLINE FOR FOCUSING THE DISCUSSION IN WORKING GROUP II  

Submitted by the Chairman of the Group  

A. GENERAL ELEMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION  

Compliance with the Charter of the United Nations  

The States Members of the United Nations stress the imperative need for strict compliance with the Charter of the United Nations. In particular, they recall their obligation to maintain international peace and security and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purpose of the United Nations. At the same time, the Member States reaffirm the obligation of States to settle their international disputes by peaceful means. These principles should continue to constitute the basis for all efforts in the field of disarmament.  

Validity of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly  

The Member States acknowledge the historic significance and continuing importance of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution S-10/2), the first special session devoted to disarmament, which sets forth ideals that still inspire the international community. They recognize that the process of achieving general and complete disarmament under effective international control should take duly into account the basic principles and priorities established by the Final Document. They affirm the need to maintain and further the momentum generated by the first special session and its final document.  

Bilateral, regional and multilateral approaches  

All the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations. The United Nations has a central role and primary
responsibility in the sphere of disarmament. It should facilitate and encourage all measures in this field. All States have a duty to contribute to efforts in the field of disarmament. While disarmament is the responsibility of all States, the nuclear-weapon States have the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament and, together with other militarily significant States, for halting and reversing the arms race. Bilateral, regional and multilateral approaches and measures should mutually facilitate and complement and not hinder or preclude each other.

Disarmament and international security

Bearing in mind the right of each State to security, the adoption of disarmament measures should take place in such an equitable and balanced manner as to enhance the security of each State and to ensure that no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages of others at any stage. Disarmament measures should ensure that at each stage the objective should be undiminished security at the lowest level of forces based on full respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Disarmament and development

A broader understanding of security should include not just the military dimension but also the political, economic, social and humanitarian dimensions. A process of disarmament that provides for undiminished security at progressively lower levels of armaments and forces could, inter alia, allow additional resources to be devoted to addressing the non-military aspects of security, and thus result in enhanced overall security. Disarmament, development and security should be looked at in their relationship in the context of the interdependence of nations, interrelationships among issues and mutuality of interests.

Implications of technological developments

While technology as such is neutral and scientific and technical progress should not be impeded, it is recognized that the qualitative development and growing accumulation of weapons in many parts of the world add a further dimension to the arms race. Equally, it is recognized that qualitative aspects of the arms race remain closely linked to the dynamics of international security. In addition, new technologies have significant applications in arms limitations and disarmament. In order to promote international peace and security and to ensure that ultimately scientific and technological developments be used for peaceful purposes, qualitative as well as quantitative aspects must be taken into account.

B. NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

Prevention of nuclear war

There is today an international consensus that any war, whether nuclear or conventional, must be prevented. All the Member States agree on the continuing priority need to prevent a nuclear war, as well as situations which could lead to an escalation to nuclear war. They welcome practical measures such as the upgrading of emergency crisis communications (hotlines) between certain nuclear-weapon States, and the establishment of nuclear risk reduction centres.
They also welcome the initiation of regular summit meetings between the two States with the largest nuclear arsenals to discuss the range of relevant issues, including regional problems. They consider that such steps have had a significant impact on easing international tensions and can serve as a new starting point for further steps along the road to nuclear disarmament. They encourage the continuation and deepening of this process.

Cessation of the nuclear arms race

In this context, cessation of the nuclear arms race and measures of nuclear disarmament must remain a priority issue. The Member States note the special responsibility of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in this respect as the possessors of the largest nuclear arsenals. In this process, they stress the need for effective verification of measures of nuclear disarmament, as well as the vital importance of maintaining security at lower levels of forces.

Reductions in nuclear armaments

The Member States welcome the agreement on the global elimination of the United States and Soviet land-based intermediate and shorter-range nuclear missiles and the agreement, in principle, of verifiable 50 per cent reductions in the strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union. The former is an historic milestone in efforts for nuclear disarmament, being the first concrete measure of nuclear disarmament undertaken so far. The treaty's agreed provisions on stringent verification and asymmetrical reductions provide useful precedence for further agreements. This agreement should also open the way to progress in other arms control areas. The Member States particularly urge the need to conclude at an early date the negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on a 50 per cent cut in their strategic nuclear weapons.

Cessation of nuclear testing

The cessation of nuclear testing by all States within the framework of an effective nuclear disarmament process would be in the interest of mankind. It would make a significant contribution to the aim of ending the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and development of new types of such weapons and towards preventing their proliferation. The most effective way to achieve the ending of all nuclear tests in all environments for all times would be through the conclusion of a verifiable, comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty open to and attracting the adherence of all States.

The Conference on Disarmament should be urged to initiate substantive work on all aspects of a nuclear test-ban treaty at the earliest possible date. States members of the Conference on Disarmament, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, and all other States should co-operate in order to facilitate and promote such work. The Member States acknowledge the valuable work on verification of a nuclear test-ban treaty already being undertaken by the Ad Hoc Group of Seismological Experts, under the auspices of the Conference on Disarmament.

Pending the conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty, nuclear-weapon States, especially those which possess the most important nuclear
arsenals, should agree to appropriately verifiable interim measures. In this regard, the Member States note the negotiations on nuclear testing taking place between the United States and the Soviet Union which involve a stage-by-stage approach to the issues. In these negotiations the sides, as the first step, aim to agree upon effective verification measures which will make it possible to ratify existing treaties and proceed to negotiate further intermediate limitations on nuclear testing leading to the ultimate objective of the complete cessation of nuclear testing as part of an effective disarmament process. The Member States urge the early and successful conclusion of these negotiations.

Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

It is imperative, as an integral part of the effort to halt and reverse the arms race, to strengthen the régime aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. This objective involves obligations and responsibilities on the part of both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States. All States should undertake to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

Effective measures can and should be taken at the national level and through international agreements to minimize the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons without jeopardizing energy supplies or the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. All States should have access to and be free to acquire technology, equipment and materials for peaceful uses of nuclear energy, taking particularly into account the needs of the developing countries. International co-operation in this field should be under agreed and appropriate international safeguards applied through the International Atomic Energy Agency on a non-discriminatory basis in order to prevent effectively the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Negative security assurances

Bearing in mind that a consensus exists on the need to conclude effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and noting the unilateral declarations in this respect made by all nuclear-weapon States, the Member States agree that renewed efforts should be made to reach, if possible, an agreement on a common approach, which could lead to the conclusion of an appropriate international instrument on the subject of a legally binding character.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

The Member States reiterate their conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world can contribute effectively to the objectives of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and to nuclear disarmament. They acknowledge the valuable contribution of the existing nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco. They note the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific through the Treaty of Rarotonga. They also note proposals for the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world. They maintain the view that such zones should be established on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the regions concerned and taking into account the characteristics of each region.