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

F. VERIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE

The Member States recognize that verification is a fundamental element of the disarmament process and that disarmament and arms limitation agreements must provide for effective measures of verification satisfactory to all parties concerned in order to create the necessary confidence and ensure that they are being observed strictly by all parties. In this respect, they endorse the statement of principles of verification and provisions and techniques of verification drawn up by the Disarmament Commission and urge all Member States to take them fully into account in negotiations on disarmament and arms control measures in which they are engaged. They note the possibility of following up consideration of this subject under the auspices of the United Nations.

Compliance

Strict observance of all provisions of arms limitation and disarmament agreements is a fundamental prerequisite to create confidence among States and to induce them to attempt further arms limitation and disarmament measures. Only full compliance by all parties to such agreements would create the confidence necessary to proceed further in the process of arms limitation and disarmament. Any violation of such agreements, on the other hand, not only adversely affects the security of States parties but can also create security risks for other States relying on the constraints and commitments stipulated in those agreements. Effective provisions for the resolution of non-compliance questions that might arise with regard to agreements on arms limitation and disarmament would contribute to better relations among States and to the strengthening of world peace and security.
G. CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Potential of confidence-building measures

Collateral measures in the nuclear, chemical and conventional field, together with other measures specifically designed to build confidence, should be undertaken in order to further the relaxation of international tension and thus create favourable conditions for the adoption of additional disarmament measures.

In order to facilitate the process of disarmament, it is necessary to take measures and pursue policies to strengthen international peace and security and to build confidence among States. Commitment to confidence-building measures could significantly contribute to preparing for further progress in disarmament.

In this context, the Member States endorse the guidelines drawn up by the Disarmament Commission and invite all States to apply them to their own particular situations as appropriate.

Openness and transparency

All States should promote a better flow of objective information on military capabilities in order to contribute to the building of confidence among States on a global, regional or subregional level and in order to facilitate the conclusion of concrete disarmament agreements, which in turn would enhance international peace and security. All States should consider implementing additional measures based on the principles of openness and transparency, such as, for example, the international system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, with the aim of achieving a realistic comparison of military budgets, facilitating the availability of objective information on, as well as objective assessment of, military capabilities and contributing to the process of disarmament. They request the Disarmament Commission to study the matter with a view to drawing up guidelines and principles in this regard.

H. NAVAL ARMS RACE AND DISARMAMENT

There is common recognition that the high seas should be preserved for peaceful purposes and that the traditional principle of freedom of navigation must be upheld. As naval forces are not independent of other military forces, disarmament measures in the maritime domain should be considered in their general military context, taking into account that independent naval balance or parity do not exist. Any effort directed towards arms limitation, disarmament and confidence-building measures at sea should proceed as an integral part of the overall objective of halting and reversing the arms race in general. Disarmament measures in the maritime field should be balanced in their general military context and should not diminish the security of any State.
I. ZONES OF PEACE

The establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions, to be clearly defined and determined freely by the States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in conformity with international law, can contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole. In this regard the Member States note the proposal for the establishment of a zone of peace in the South Atlantic, as well as proposals for other such zones in various regions of the world.

K. DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

With a view to fostering an interrelated perspective on disarmament, development and security as constituting a trial of peace, the Member States reaffirm the international commitment to allocate a portion of the resources released through disarmament for purposes of socio-economic development, particularly in developing countries, taking due account of existing capabilities of the United Nations system.