Tenth special session
AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE TENTH
SPECIAL SESSION
Agenda item 11

ADOPTION OF A PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON DISARMAMENT

Note verbale dated 8 June 1978 from the Permanent Mission of the
Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations
presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and has the
honour to submit annexed hereto a draft working paper concerning zones of
confidence-building measures as a first step towards the preparation of a world-
wide convention on confidence-building measures.

The Permanent Mission requests the Secretariat kindly to circulate the draft
working paper as an official document of the tenth special session of the General
Assembly under agenda item 11.
ANNEX

Working paper submitted by the Federal Republic of Germany concerning zones of confidence-building measures as a first step towards the preparation of a world-wide convention on confidence-building measures

1. Agreement on clearly delimited regions in which, if possible, all States in a particular geographical zone voluntarily conclude agreements on specific confidence-building measures could be a major contribution to stability and, hence, to further progress in the direction of disarmament and arms control.

2. The primary purpose of confidence-building measures is to give all States in the region more information on military activities and thereby help to eliminate mistrust of other partners in the region. Regional agreements could form the basis for a universal convention on confidence-building measures.

3. The positive experience in Europe with the confidence-building measures agreed to in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the prior notification of major manoeuvres and the exchange of observers and of military personnel shows that such measures can indeed be the first step towards the elimination of mistrust and anxiety.

4. The choice of the voluntary confidence-building measures to be agreed to in each case should be made exclusively by the countries of the region concerned and be adequate to the geographical and military conditions.

5. In view of the different political and military conditions in the various regions, the parameters of confidence-building measures agreed to in Europe are not easily transferable. The agreements may, initially, only relate to a few confidence-building measures which can be supplemented by other steps later.

6. The following illustrative list of possible confidence-building measures is wide-ranging and thus offers to the different regions the possibility of selecting suitable measures step by step depending on their situation.

7. Possible measures would be:

   (a) Supply of full information on military budgets as the prerequisite for possible subsequent agreement on the limitation or reduction of budgets;

   (b) Information about the strength of the armed forces and a description of their set-up;

   (c) Notification of any changes in that set-up;

   (d) Exchange of military personnel, including visits of military delegations;
(e) Notification of military manoeuvres, including minor exercises;

(f) Exchange of manoeuvre observers;

(g) Notification of military movements;

(h) Establishment of internationally staffed observation posts and electronic monitoring stations in crisis areas and demilitarized zones.

8. Initially, it should be sufficient for the States of a particular region to commit themselves to a few confidence-building measures adequate to the given military situation. As soon as favourable results from several regions become available, consideration could be given to the drafting of an international convention which, allowing for parameter flexibility, would introduce a number of important confidence-building measures on a global basis and hence would create a better basis for further steps towards disarmament and arms control.