RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

891 (XXXIV). ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF DISARMAMENT

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1378 (XIV) of 20 November 1959 and 1316 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Aware of the great importance of an agreement on disarmament for the achievement of accelerated economic and social progress in the world and, in particular, for the promotion of economic development of the less developed countries,

Drawing attention to the fact that the world is spending annually on military account a sum approximately as large as the entire national income of all the less developed countries,

Affirming that pending an agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control, Member States should not relax in their efforts to assist the developing countries but should rather accelerate such efforts,

Conscious that the impact of disarmament will set in motion great changes in the domestic economies of countries and in international economic relations as a result of the progressive diversion of human and material resources from military to civilian purposes,

Expressing its appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General transmitting the study on the "Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament" (E/3593) prepared by a team of expert consultants,

Considering that further study will have to be given to the action to be taken at the national and international levels to make use of material and human resources released as a consequence of disarmament for the benefit of the world community,
1. **Endorses** the unanimous conclusion of the Consultative Group that the achievement of general and complete disarmament would be an unqualified blessing to all mankind,

2. **Recognizes** that all problems of transition connected with disarmament can be met by appropriate national and international measures, that diversion to peaceful purposes of the resources now in military use can be accomplished to the benefit of all countries and lead to the improvement of world economic and social conditions and that disarmament can be accomplished in all countries without impairing their economies,

3. **Declares** that the study of the economic and social consequences of disarmament and the conclusions drawn therefrom have emphasized an important reason for the earliest feasible achievement of an agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

4. **Appeals** to all States to take the findings of the report on the Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament into consideration in the policies they pursue;

5. **Requests** the Secretary-General:
   (a) To transmit his report, together with the comments made in the Council, to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session;
   
   (b) To submit his report to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament for its consideration;
   
   (c) To have his report widely distributed by means of:
   
   (1) printed publication to be used by the United Nations office of Public Information;
   
   (2) approach to all Member States with a request to translate and publish the report in their respective languages, and
   
   (3) distribution of the report to non-governmental organizations associated with the Economic and Social Council.

6. **Urges** that Member States – particularly those which are significantly involved in, or affected by, current military programmes – should devote further attention to, and conduct any necessary studies of, the detailed aspects of the economic and social consequences of disarmament with a view to developing needed information, plans and policies for making necessary economic and social adjustments in the event of disarmament;
7. **Invites the Secretary-General:**
   (a) To continue to keep under review, in co-operation with the regional economic commissions and with the related agencies concerned, the basic aspects of economic and social consequences of disarmament and the problems arising therefrom on the national and international plane;
   (b) To enquire of Member States as early as possible concerning the progress made in the studies referred to in paragraph 6;
   (c) To report to the Council at its thirty-sixth session on those activities and to suggest to the Council what further studies on the impact of disarmament on international economic relations (trade patterns, balance of payments, foreign investment, economic assistance, et cetera) might be useful;

8. **Requests** the Secretary-General to place the item on the agenda of the General Assembly at its seventeenth session.

1232nd plenary meeting,
26 July 1962