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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE
TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: WORLD
DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND
DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH
SPECIAL SESSION

Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to section III of resolution 37/99 K of 13 December 1982, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies has the following functions:

(a) To advise the Secretary-General on various aspects of studies and research in the area of arms limitation and disarmament carried out under the auspices of the United Nations or institutions within the United Nations system, in particular on the integration of a programme of such studies with a comprehensive programme of disarmament, once this had been established;

(b) To serve as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR);

(c) To advise the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign;

(d) At the specific invitation of the Secretary-General, to provide him with advice on other matters within the area of disarmament and arms limitation.

In its resolution 38/183 O of 20 December 1983, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly on the work of the Advisory Board.

2. The Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies held its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions from 27 April to 1 May 1987 and 21 to 25 September 1987 in New York, under the chairmanship of President Edgar Faure of France. The annex lists the members of the Advisory Board.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON DISARMAMENT STUDIES

A. United Nations studies on disarmament

3. At its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions, the Board continued its consideration of the matter of United Nations studies on disarmament.

4. By resolution 40/152 K of 16 December 1985, the General Assembly, inter alia, had requested the Secretary-General to invite the Board to prepare a comprehensive report on United Nations disarmament studies for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

5. At its sixteenth session, members of the Board focused their attention on the finalization of that report and approved a revised draft. The Secretary-General subsequently transmitted the Board's report to the General Assembly in document A/42/300.

6. At its seventeenth session, the Board was informed on the status of the ongoing studies on the economic and social consequences of the arms race, and on

the climate and potential physical effects of nuclear war. Both studies are due to be completed in the spring of 1988.

7. The Board held an extensive discussion on the nature of further studies and research, including a consideration of the different means to carry out the work that were offered by the existence of UNIDIR and the Department for Disarmament Affairs. Views were exchanged on a number of possible subject areas and specific topics for study.

8. There was a wide measure of support for projects on the following subjects: a study on battlefield nuclear weapons; a study of security in the Persian Gulf; a study of the security of third world countries; and a history of nuclear arms control negotiations. Of these projects, there was a general view that the first lent itself to a United Nations study by a group of governmental experts, whereas the others were more suited to UNIDIR. It was recognized that additional funds would be needed to carry out such work, either from voluntary sources or authorized by the General Assembly.

B. Implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign

9. This subject was discussed at both sessions.

10. At its sixteenth session, the Board was informed by Mr. Yasushi Akashi, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, on the implementation of the Campaign since September 1986. In the exchange of views, the Board commented favourably on the activities carried out and stressed in particular the importance and value of regional conferences and seminars of experts.

11. The Board's attention was drawn to the fact that the measures of financial constraint in the United Nations had also affected the Campaign. Reassessment and streamlining of the Campaign were therefore needed in order to focus on activities that were considered to be most effective. The Board expressed concern at the shortage of funds for the World Disarmament Campaign and hope was expressed that innovative ways and means could be found to attract new resources.

12. Also at its sixteenth session, the Board was informed about the status and development of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, at Lomé, and the steps being taken to establish a regional centre at Lima.

13. At the seventeenth session, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, reviewed the activities in the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign during the preceding 12 months. The Board took note of the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the programme of activities of the Campaign in 1987 (A/42/543).

14. During his presentation, the Under-Secretary-General drew attention to the publications that had been distributed world-wide in several languages and the conferences and meetings that had been held under the aegis of the Campaign in China, Italy and the Soviet Union. Recent experience had shown that smaller, high-level meetings were an effective and useful forum for disarmament discussions.

15. Special attention had been devoted to activities in connection with the recent International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, which had been attended by a large number of non-governmental organizations.

16. In his remarks, the Under-Secretary-General said that the financial situation of the Campaign had not improved in the past year and that aspect had to be kept in mind when planning activities for the future. In that context the activities of the regional centres established at Lomé and Lima would depend to a large extent on the availability of funds.

17. At the invitation of the Board, representatives of the Special Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Disarmament at Geneva and of the Non-Governmental Committee on Disarmament in New York made statements at the seventeenth session. In their remarks, satisfaction was expressed at the arrangements made for them at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development and also at the Campaign publications in general, although the representatives urged that financial constraints should not be allowed to reduce quality to the detriment of popular appeal. As a whole, the Campaign had in the past year once again proved its vitality and viability.

18. The non-governmental representatives stressed the importance of greater involvement in the planning, participation and follow-up of Campaign activities. In that respect, non-governmental organizations wished to be more closely associated with the preparations for the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly.

19. During the exchange of views, members of the Board noted the improvement and enrichment of Campaign activities, and encouraged greater use of the visual media in order to inform and to educate. The importance, within the limits of available finances, of publications in languages other than the official languages of the United Nations was emphasized. The Board expressed its appreciation to the representatives for their contribution and the constructive efforts of the non-governmental organization community in the area of arms limitation and disarmament.

C. Situation in the area of disarmament

20. In order to encourage a frank and open exchange of views on this item of the agenda, it has been the Board's practice in recent years to reflect in its report only the general nature of the discussion.

21. At the sixteenth session, several members of the Board felt that the world was witnessing positive developments. The possibility of an agreement on intermediate/medium-range nuclear weapons, the successful outcome of the Stockholm Conference in 1986 as well as the prospects for the conclusion of a convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons in the not too distant future were regarded as encouraging signs. Other members of the Board, however, stressed that the continuation of conflicts in several regions of the world had a negative impact on the solution of global problems in the field of arms limitation and disarmament.

22. Also at the sixteenth session, members of the Board recognized that in the present interdependent world the security of each State was linked to the security of all other States. It was also generally felt that the issue of verification was gaining more importance. Members of the Board emphasized the need to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the overall field of disarmament, including the implementation of verification measures.

23. The seventeenth session took place only two weeks after the conclusion of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. It was also immediately following the joint announcement by the Governments of the Soviet Union and the United States of their agreement in principle to conclude a treaty before the end of 1987 on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, and the agreement to begin full-scale stage-by-stage negotiations on nuclear testing.

24. The Board welcomed the recent announcement that the Soviet Union and the United States had agreed in principle to conclude a treaty to eliminate intermediate- and shorter-range missiles.

25. The agreement would also do much to encourage energetic pursuit of 50 per cent reductions in the strategic weapons of the two super-Powers. Success in bilateral negotiations on nuclear and space issues, and the agreement of the Soviet Union and the United States to begin full-scale stage-by-stage negotiations on nuclear testing, a positive outcome of the multilateral negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on chemical weapons, together with progress in conventional disarmament, would mark a significant turn for humanity in the pursuit of international security.

26. Recognizing the interactive nature of many aspects of disarmament, and in the light of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly on disarmament at which the disarmament machinery would be reviewed, the Board has given attention to its own role and methods of work. The Board felt there would be merit in the Secretary-General giving consideration to enlarging the role of the Board in such a way as to permit it to provide advice on any aspect of disarmament to the Secretary-General and through him to the General Assembly.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD IN ITS CAPACITY AS BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH

A. The post of the Director of UNIDIR

27. Following the submission of the Board's previous report at the end of September 1986 (A/41/666), the circumstances of the Director of UNIDIR, Mr. Liviu Bota, that were described in that report, have remained unchanged. With the expiry of his contract in the post of Director of the Institute on 31 December 1986, the Secretary-General gave a new contract to Mr. Bota at the rank of Director, and therefore from 1 January 1987 the post of the Director was vacant.

28. At its sixteenth session, the Board discussed the subject of the post of the Director in executive session. After an extensive discussion of all aspects of the situation, the Board decided to recommend to the Secretary-General that he should appoint a Director from 1 July 1987 to 31 December 1988 on a renewable contract. The Board recommended the candidature of Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala. In his letter to the Secretary-General, the Chairman expressed the wish of some members of the Board that the former Director of UNIDIR should as soon as possible be enabled to be present to assist the Secretary-General in the requisite transfer of powers to the new Director of the Institute before the next session of the Board.

29. The Secretary-General subsequently appointed Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala to the post of Director. Mr. Dhanapala took up his duties on 1 July 1987.

B. Report on the work of the Institute

30. By the provisions of article IV, paragraph 2 (i), of the Institute's statute, the Director is required to report to the Board on the Institute's activities and execution of its work programme for the Board's approval and subsequent submission to the General Assembly. At the seventeenth session, the Board gave consideration to the Director's report.

31. The Director reported that, notwithstanding the difficulties facing the Institute in the period September 1986-September 1987, significant efforts had been made by the Institute's staff in pursuit of its programme of work. Among the achievements, there had been a successful conference on the interrelationship of bilateral and multilateral disarmament negotiations held at Baku, USSR, in June, and the proceedings of the conference would be published shortly.

32. The Director informed the Board that a number of other research papers had been, or would shortly be, published. A major publication would be the report of the research project dealing with the prospects and consequences of an arms race in outer space and the means for its prevention. After a final meeting of the group of experts held in September 1987, the report was being finalized and prepared for publication in autumn 1987.

33. At its seventeenth session, the Board approved the report by the Director on the work of the Institute for submission to the General Assembly (A/42/607).

C. Proposed annual budget for 1988

34. At the sixteenth session, the Deputy Director gave the Board a presentation of the critical financial situation facing the Institute. During the discussion, the Board recalled that in 1986 it had decided to recommend to the General Assembly that, in view of the grave financial crisis facing the United Nations, the level of subvention from the regular budget of the Organization should be \$98,500 instead of \$162,200 as initially foreseen. It was also recalled that in making that recommendation, the Board had drawn attention to the fact that restriction to such an amount would pose very serious difficulties for the Institute and its development (A/41/666, para. 36).

35. In the light of the critical financial situation described to the Board, at its sixteenth session the Board decided in principle to recommend that the subvention should be restored in 1988 to a level comparable to that of former years. The Board also instructed that, should the Secretary-General accept the Board's recommendation to appoint a new Director from 1 July 1987, the latter should undertake an energetic fund-raising campaign.

36. In its review at the seventeenth session of the financial situation of the Institute and consideration of the proposed annual budget for 1988, the Board had before it a draft programme of work and proposed budget document prepared by UNIDIR and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

37. The Board was informed that, as at 25 September 1987, the assured income for 1988 was as follows:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Amount in local currency</u>	<u>Amount in United States dollars</u>
Australia		13 300 <u>a/</u>
Canada	\$Can 38 000	27 900 <u>a/</u>
France		210 000
Federal Republic of Germany		5 000 <u>a/</u>
Norway		50 000
Switzerland	SwF 50 000	33 300 <u>b/</u>
	Subtotal	<u>339 500</u>

a/ Contributions received after 1 October 1986 and held in account in accordance with A/41/666, para. 37.

b/ Based on an exchange rate of SwF 1.50 = \$US 1.00.

38. In addition, the Soviet Union had contributed 200,000 roubles in non-convertible currency, equivalent to \$315,500. Thus the total assured income from voluntary sources for 1988 is expected to be:

	\$
Dollar contributions	339 500
Non-convertible currencies (roubles)	<u>315 500</u>
Total	<u>655 000</u>

39. The Board noted that the net income that could be used for calculation of a possible subvention was \$339,500, and therefore the maximum subvention that might be requested towards meeting the costs of the Director and the staff of the Institute, according to the provisions of the statute, would be \$169,700. The Board expressed its firm belief that in 1987 UNIDIR had continued to demonstrate its value to the international disarmament community and its developing ability to discharge the responsibilities of its statute. The Board was confident that further progress would be achieved in 1988, provided that the Institute was adequately funded. Accordingly, the Board recommended a subvention from the regular budget of the United Nations in the sum of \$169,700 for 1988.

40. Subject to the General Assembly's approval of the proposed subvention, the total income for 1988 would be \$824,700, including the Soviet contribution of 200,000 roubles (dollar equivalent: \$315,500).

41. The estimated expenditure is summarized as follows:

	<u>Trust fund</u>		<u>Subvention</u>	<u>Total</u>
	Convertible currency \$	Non-convertible currency \$	\$	\$
Regular staff of the Institute	149 700	-	169 700	319 400
Travel of staff	15 000	57 000	-	72 000
<u>Ad hoc</u> expert groups	65 000	228 000	-	293 000
Contractual services	70 000	30 500	-	100 500
Fellowship programme	20 000	-	-	20 000
Maintenance of office equipment	700	-	-	700
Reimbursement of programme support costs	16 000	-	-	16 000
Contribution towards liquidation of the deficit	3 100	-	-	3 100
Total	<u>339 500</u>	<u>315 500</u>	<u>169 700</u>	<u>824 700</u>

42. The entire funding of the three-year project for the establishment of a data base on disarmament is provided from the Trust Fund for Interest on the United Nations Special Account, in accordance with a specific agreement with the Government of Japan. The expenditure in 1988 will amount to \$169,500 and the total over three years will be \$585,300.

D. Work programme for 1988

43. At its seventeenth session, the Board adopted the following work programme:

(a) Subprogramme 1: Establishment of a data base on disarmament

A three-year project to establish a computerized data base from United Nations documents, governmental statements, parliamentary records and scientific literature on selected security and disarmament issues.

(b) Subprogramme 2: National security concepts

Continuation in an expanded format of the existing series of monographs on national concepts of security, including national approaches to disarmament.

(c) Subprogramme 3: UNIDIR fellowships

Short-term fellowships for a small number of scholars and diplomats from developing countries to work at UNIDIR.

(d) Subprogramme 4: Conventional disarmament in Europe

Two research reports are being prepared by the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI) and the Institute for International Relations of the German Democratic Republic. On this basis, experts from various parts of the world will attend a conference in the second half of 1988 on the theme "Conventional disarmament in Europe: options and perspectives", covering a wide range of views on this issue.

(e) Subprogramme 5: Medium-term perspectives in disarmament and arms limitation

A survey of medium-term perspectives in the field of disarmament and arms limitation, addressing major problems, the most essential measures as well as the ways and means to be utilized with a view to helping define research needs.

(f) Subprogramme 6: Maintenance and development of co-operation with and among research institutes

This programme will involve two activities:

- (i) A UNIDIR newsletter: a quarterly liaison bulletin to develop as well as enhance contacts with research institutes and individual experts from various parts of the world;
- (ii) A symposium of directors from disarmament research institutes to review the status of disarmament research, exchange views and discuss the contribution of research institutes to the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.
- (g) Subprogramme 7: Verification in multilateral disarmament: a Soviet approach

A detailed project and analysis of a national approach as a contribution to the ongoing discussion of the subject in multilateral disarmament forums.

- (h) Subprogramme 8: Disarmament: problems related to outer space

A decision will be made on the second stage of this project at the Board's session in April 1988 after its examination of the study report of the first stage.

- (i) Subprogramme 9: Confidence- and security-building measures

Confidence- and security-building measures: concepts and approaches. An in-depth investigation based upon a comparative analysis of the various concepts and approaches.

- (j) Subprogramme 10: Disarmament and development

In this context the Board emphasized that UNIDIR was well-suited to carry out certain aspects of the Disarmament and Development Action Programme, in particular on an international exchange of views and experience in the field of conversion, and on the establishment of a mechanism to monitor trends in military spending. Subject to decisions by the General Assembly at its forty-second session, UNIDIR would develop a subprogramme that would contain follow-up research in implementation of the Action Programme contained in the final document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. The Board will give further consideration to this subprogramme at its next session in April 1988.

- (k) Subprogramme 11: Problems of verification

A discussion paper will be prepared to assist the Board's consideration at its session in April 1988.

44. The Board noted that the Institute and the Department for Disarmament Affairs had continued to co-operate closely in order to avoid possibilities of duplication of work.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

45. The Board noted that its next two sessions were provisionally scheduled in 1988 as follows:

25-29 April (New York)

26-30 September (New York)

46. The Board was informed of the comment of the Committee on Conferences contained in document A/42/32, paragraph 42.

ANNEX

Members of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies

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Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala, Director of UNIDIR, is an ex officio member of the
Advisory Board when acting in its capacity as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR.
