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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, at its forty-first session, adopted resolution 41/60 D of 3 December 1986, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa", the text of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 40/151 G of 16 December 1985,

"Taking note of the report of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries held at New Delhi from 16 to 19 April 1986, in which the ministers reaffirmed the need to strengthen the role of regional bodies in mobilizing support for the World Disarmament Campaign and the realization of its objectives and, in that context, welcomed the establishment at Lomé of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa,

"Taking into consideration the report of the Secretary-General on the Regional Centre,

"1. Welcomes the establishment on 1 January 1986 of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;

"2. Also welcomes the promptness with which the Secretary-General has taken the necessary administrative steps to ensure the functioning of the Centre, and requests him to continue to give the Centre all necessary support;

"3. Thanks Member States and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations that have already made contributions towards the functioning of the Centre;

"4. Again appeals to Member States and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations to make voluntary contributions to the Centre;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of that resolution.

II. FUNCTIONING OF THE CENTRE

3. As the Secretary-General stated in his report on the Centre submitted to the Assembly at its forty-first session (A/41/660), the Centre, which was established in 1986 in accordance with Assembly resolution 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, became operational in 1986. It was officially inaugurated at its headquarters at Lomé, Togo, on 24 October 1986, in the presence of senior officials of the host Government and of the representatives of the Secretaries-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and of the United Nations.

4. Structure: In his aforementioned report, the Secretary-General stated that he had established the Centre, in the initial phase, under the auspices of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign. The Department acts as a focal point for co-ordinating inputs to the activities of the Centre by pertinent organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system.

5. Objectives and activities of the Centre: The General Assembly, in its resolution 40/115 G, decided that the Centre should provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other efforts of Member States of the African region towards the realization of measures of peace, arms limitation and disarmament in the region, in co-operation with OAU, as well as co-ordinate the implementation of regional activities in Africa under the World Disarmament Campaign. The Centre began its activities in the latter part of 1986, mainly within the framework of programmes and activities under the World Disarmament Campaign. In this regard, and in response to requests from Governments and the public in the region, the Centre, especially as this was the first year of its operations, concentrated on the dissemination of information and on developing and expanding contacts with relevant institutions and organizations, as well as the public as a whole in Africa, with a view to promoting better understanding of and generating wider support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of peace, arms limitation and disarmament. With a view to facilitating information and research activities in this field in the region, the Centre is setting up at

its headquarters a reference and documentation service on issues of peace, security, disarmament and development, especially within the African context. To this end, the Centre would welcome such contributions as Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the public as a whole may wish to make towards the continued development of the reference and documentation service, including, among other things, books, journals, newspapers and other publications as well as related library and documentation equipment.

6. Among other activities carried out in the region within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign, representatives of the Centre visited various institutions, attended seminars and conferences and received several visitors at the Centre's headquarters, in the course of which discussions were held and information disseminated on various issues relating to peace and disarmament. The Director of the Centre attended the first regional training programme for Africa convened by the World Federation of United Nations Associations and held at Accra, Ghana from 16 to 22 June 1987, and made a statement on "The United Nations and the quest for peace and disarmament". From 23 to 27 June 1987, a representative of the Centre participated in the World Congress of Women held at Moscow under the theme "Towards 2000: without nuclear weapons, for peace, equality and development". At an international seminar at Helsinki sponsored by the Association of Finnish Adult Education Organizations, a representative of the Centre made a statement on "The role of the United Nations in the search for peace and security in Africa". Representatives of the Centre also participated in the Third International Conference on Peace and Security in Southern Africa, held at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 6 to 9 April 1987, and co-sponsored by the Centre for Foreign Relations, Dar es Salaam, and the International Peace Academy, New York.

7. In connection with regional activities in Africa under the World Disarmament Campaign, the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in its resolution AHG/Res. 164 (XXIII) adopted at its twenty-third ordinary session held at Addis Ababa from 27 to 29 July 1987, called upon all OAU member States to pay particular attention to the question of disarmament and to ensure its popularization through schools and educational programmes, within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign.

8. Furthermore, and taking into account the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 40/151 G that the Centre should work in co-operation with OAU, the Centre participated in a number of activities during 1987 in co-operation with the OAU. Upon the invitation of the OAU secretariat, the Centre participated in the meetings held on 25 and 26 February and on 21 July 1987 at Addis Ababa of the OAU Ad Hoc Committee of Fourteen member States established by OAU resolution AHG/Res. 154 (XXII) to carry out a more detailed study of the Lomé Declaration on Security, Disarmament and Development in Africa and the Programme of Action for Peace, Security and Co-operation in Africa, adopted at the Ministerial Regional Conference on Security, Disarmament and Development in Africa, which was convened by OAU at Lomé from 13 to 16 August 1985 (see A/40/761-S/17537). Following the conclusion of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, at its twenty-third ordinary session, decided, by its resolution AHG/Res. 164 (XXIII), to endorse the Lomé Declaration and the Programme of Action.

9. In the text of the Programme of Action, a number of references were made to the objectives and activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa. In particular, paragraph 8 of the Programme of Action, as amended by the Committee and endorsed by the Heads of State and Government stresses the utmost importance for the Centre to serve as a focal point for promoting co-ordination and harmonization of research, study, documentation and information activities of the region in the interrelated field of peace, security, disarmament and development, in co-operation with the institutions of the United Nations. It will be recalled in this connection that the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government had in its resolution AHG/Res. 154 (XXII) recommended that the Centre work closely with OAU and, in particular, with its Defence Commission and its Liberation Committee.

10. Following a recommendation by the OAU Ad Hoc Committee of Fourteen that Africa should contribute collectively to the preparations for the convening of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development by submitting to that Conference a document highlighting Africa's views on the question, and upon the request of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts established by the Group of African States at United Nations Headquarters to prepare the draft text of such a document, the Centre provided assistance to enable the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to meet, at the Group's request, at Lomé from 6 to 10 July 1987. In its resolution AHG/Res. 164 (XXIII), the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government expressed its gratitude to the United Nations particularly its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, for its invaluable co-operation with the OAU Ad Hoc Committee.

11. Upon the request of the OAU Council of Ministers, as reflected in its resolution CM/1042 (XLIV) adopted at the Council's forty-fourth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 21 to 26 July 1986, the Centre has been co-operating with the OAU secretariat in connection with the organization and convening of a regional seminar of African scientists, researchers and institutions on Africa's role in the use of nuclear science for peace and development.

12. Bearing in mind its mandate to provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other efforts of Member States of the African region towards the realization of measures of peace, arms limitation and disarmament in the region, the Centre, at the request of the Government of Cameroon, is engaged in preparations for the initiation of a programme of activities aimed at building and strengthening confidence, security and development within the framework of the Economic Community of Central African States.

13. Staffing and finance: By its resolution 40/151 G, the General Assembly decided to establish the Centre on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States make to that end. In paragraph 11 of his earlier report (A/41/660), the Secretary-General had stated the following with regard to staffing and finance:

"The Secretary-General wishes to emphasize that, in accordance with the terms of resolution 40/151 G by which the Centre was established and in view of the financial crisis facing the United Nations, neither the regular budget of the Organization nor existing extrabudgetary resources can provide additional

funding for the Centre. It is therefore necessary, in order to ensure the Centre's viability, to establish a stable base for its financing. Consequently, voluntary contributions from Member States and interested organizations and individuals will be needed in order to meet staff requirements and the basic operating and administrative costs of the Centre. A special effort is being made to raise voluntary contributions and to this end the Secretary-General has established within the Secretariat a trust fund to receive such contributions as may be made to the Centre."

14. The Secretary-General wishes to reaffirm that voluntary contributions will continue to be needed to ensure the viability and effective functioning of the Centre, especially in view of the Centre's growing programme of work. In this connection, it will be recalled that the General Assembly in its resolution 41/60 D again appealed to Member States and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations to make voluntary contributions to the Centre. Furthermore, the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in its resolution AHG/Res. 164 (XXIII), reaffirmed its appeal to the international community to provide substantive assistance for the effective operation of the Centre. Since the submission of the Secretary-General's report to the Assembly at its forty-first session, Cameroon and Togo have pledged further voluntary contributions to the Centre. Italy, Norway and Senegal have also made contributions to the Centre. In addition, the Ford Foundation has announced its decision to make a contribution to the Centre.

15. The Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information are holding consultations on the consolidation of the administration of the Regional Center and the United Nations Information Centre in the interest of greater economy and efficiency, while the two Centres would remain distinct in their functions. It was proposed, subject to a current review of the role and functions of the network of United Nations information centres that the Director of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament would concurrently act as Acting Director of the Information Centre. Furthermore, efforts are being made to determine the possible contribution of other organs, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system towards assisting the Centre and its work.
