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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: REGIONAL DISARMAMENT

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

Regional disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/52 G and 47/52 J of 9 December 1992,

Affirming the abiding commitment of all States to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and to international law in the conduct of their international relations,

Believing that the efforts of the international community to move towards the ideal of general and complete disarmament are guided by the inherent human desire for genuine peace and security, the elimination of the danger of war and the release of economic, intellectual and other resources for peaceful pursuits,

Noting that regional arrangements for disarmament and arms limitation may also free resources of participating States for peaceful purposes, inter alia, the promotion of their economic and social development,

Reaffirming its firm conviction that the regional approach to disarmament is essential to strengthen international peace and security on a regional and global level,

Welcoming initiatives towards disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and security, undertaken by some countries at the regional level,

Noting with satisfaction the important progress made in various regions of the world through the adoption of arms limitation, peace, security and cooperation agreements, including those related to the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction, and encourages States in the regions concerned to continue implementing these agreements,

Convinced that endeavours by countries to promote regional disarmament, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region and in accordance with the principle of undiminished security for all the participating States, would enhance the security of all States and would thus contribute to international peace and security,

Recognizing the useful role played by the United Nations regional centres,

Taking note of the report of the Disarmament Commission, containing the text, adopted by the Commission at its 1993 session, of the guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security, 1/

Expressing its appreciation for the work accomplished by the Disarmament Commission in finalizing the text of these guidelines and recommendations,

1. Endorses the guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security 1/ as adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1993 substantive session, and recommends them to all Member States for implementation;

2. Affirms that global and regional approaches to disarmament complement each other and should therefore be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security;

3. Affirms also that multifaceted cooperation among States in the region, especially encompassing the political, economic, social and cultural fields, can be conducive to the strengthening of regional security and stability;

4. Encourages States to reach, wherever possible and freely arrived at, agreements at regional levels on confidence- and security-building measures, disarmament and arms limitations, arrangements to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in all its aspects, zones of peace, zones free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, as well as consultative and cooperative arrangements;

5. Supports and encourages efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional level in order to ease regional tensions and to further disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation measures at the regional level;

6. Encourages States to address, in regional arrangements for disarmament and arms limitations, the question of the accumulation of conventional weapons beyond the legitimate self-defence requirements of States;

1/ A/48/42, annex II.

7. Also encourages States of a region to examine the possibility of creating, on their own initiative, regional mechanisms and/or institutions for the establishment of measures in the framework of an effort of regional disarmament or for the prevention and the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts with the assistance, if requested, of the United Nations;

8. Invites Member States and regions to bring to the attention of the General Assembly results achieved on regional disarmament, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the basis of the replies received;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session an item entitled "Regional disarmament".