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

World Disarmament Campaign

Note of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report on the contribution of UNESCO to the World Disarmament Campaign, prepared by the Director-General of UNESCO in the light of annex V to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly (A/S-12/32).

ANNEX

Report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the contribution of UNESCO to the World Disarmament Campaign

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly at its twelfth special session requested the Secretary-General to submit to its thirty-seventh regular session the specifics of a programme of the World Disarmament Campaign, which it had proclaimed on 7 June 1982. The General Assembly also took into consideration the ongoing activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in promoting disarmament education as a distinct field of study and the materials produced under that programme and requested that the programme of action to be implemented by the World Disarmament Campaign set out appropriate tasks for UNESCO in its fields of competence and in co-ordination with the Centre for Disarmament (A/S-12/32, annex V, sect. IV, para. 16).

2. In order to prepare for the contribution of UNESCO to the Campaign, the Director-General of UNESCO placed on the agenda of the Organization's Executive Board an item on the twelfth special session (item 7.1.1). In the document that the Director-General submitted to the Board on that occasion (115 EX/13 Add.) the conclusions of the twelfth special session, information on the World Disarmament Campaign and on relevant UNESCO action were summarized for the Board and the complete text of the conclusions of the twelfth special session and the annex concerning the World Disarmament Campaign (see A/S-12/32, sect. III and annex V) were distributed to the Board.

3. Following a debate on that item, the Board adopted, on 4 October 1982, its decision 115 EX/7.1.1, by which it invited the Director-General to make a specific contribution to the World Disarmament Campaign and to submit a report on the contribution UNESCO would make to the World Disarmament Campaign. The present document is submitted in compliance with that decision. Decision 115 EX/7.1.1 is appended to this report.

4. The contribution of UNESCO to the World Disarmament Campaign will be made throughout the duration of the Campaign. In accordance with decision 115 EX/7.1.1, provision will be made for this contribution in the second Medium-Term Plan (1984-1989). It is premature, at this stage, to attempt to identify the activities which may be provided for in that Medium-Term Plan and in the various programmes and budgets to be submitted to the legislative bodies of the Organization during the period covered by the Plan. It may be noted that, among the sources which the Secretariat may draw upon in preparing those draft programmes and budgets, is the Phased Action Plan for Disarmament Education which was drawn up by a consultation convened by the Director-General further to a recommendation of the World Congress on Disarmament Education. The text of the Phased Action Plan appears in the United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, volume 6: 1981, pages 419 to 423.

II. ACTIVITIES OF UNESCO IN 1983

5. The activities mentioned in this report are limited to those foreseen for the year 1983. The relevant activities cover the fields of education, social sciences, communication and public information.

A. Education

6. Among the education activities which may be considered as a contribution to the World Disarmament Campaign, the major one will be the Intergovernmental Conference on Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education Relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, with a view to developing a climate of opinion favourable to the strengthening of security and disarmament (Category II), to be held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris from 12 to 20 April 1983.

7. A teacher's guide for the implementation of the UNESCO recommendation concerning education for international understanding, co-operation and peace and education relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms is in preparation and will be published in English in the beginning of 1983. Two other publications are in preparation:

(a) A publication on the content and methodology of human rights, peace and disarmament education of an interdisciplinary nature based on the results of the recommendations of a consultation of specialists in education held at Morges, Switzerland, in 1981. The provisional title is "Teaching about major issues facing the world today";

(b) A publication entitled "The role and use of mass media in education for peace, disarmament and respect for human rights", based on the recommendations of a round table of specialists in education and the media, organized by UNESCO and held at Vienna in 1981.

8. The work plan for 1983 includes the following:

(a) Preparation of a consolidated report on co-operation between schools and other social institutions capable of contributing to peace and disarmament education. The report, which will be subsequently published, will be based on national case studies in Brazil, India, Mali, Peru, the Philippines, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America;

(b) Preparation and publication of a teacher's guide on disarmament education, based on reports from a study of curricula and manuals of teacher training institutions.

9. Disarmament will also be one of the discussion themes of the World Congress of the Associated Schools System, which will take place, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the System, from 12 to 16 September 1983 at Sofia, Bulgaria, since, like international understanding and peace, disarmament education constitutes an important area of activity of the Associated Schools. Activities to be undertaken with a view to implementing, developing and strengthening disarmament education in the Associated Schools, as well as the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Conference (see para. 6), will be studied by the participants in the Congress.

10. As regards the Medium-Term Plan (1984-1989), proposals contained in Major Programme XIII entitled "Peace, international understanding, the freedom of the peoples and human rights", especially programme XIII.3 entitled "Education for peace and respect for human rights and the rights of peoples", provide the appropriate orientation and framework for disarmament education activities and the intensification and/or extension of action in this area at all levels and in all forms of education. These activities will be set out in detail during the preparation of the biennial programmes and budgets for the period covered by the Medium-Term Plan.

B. Social sciences

11. As part of the cycle of regional training seminars in disarmament education organized further to the World Congress on Disarmament Education, a regional seminar will be organized in Africa in 1983. In addition to the dissemination of educational materials and methods relevant to disarmament studies, this seminar will provide the occasion to alert the participants to the Campaign and to examine ways and means of promoting it in Africa.

12. A textbook for university teaching on disarmament will be prepared in 1983 by an international team of experts. Its dissemination will also be considered part of the contribution of UNESCO to the Campaign. The provisional title of this work is "Disarmament and security".

13. The programme of social science research in the field of disarmament will continue in 1983 with special emphasis on problems of perceptions of security. These research activities will be related, to the largest extent possible, to the objectives of the Campaign.

C. Communication

14. According to the document approved by the General Assembly on the World Disarmament Campaign, the Campaign "should give full consideration to the role of mass media as the most effective way to achieve wide access to the public with a view to promoting a climate of understanding, confidence and co-operation conducive to peace and disarmament" (A/S-12/32, annex V, sect. III, para. 11). In the spirit of that text, UNESCO will hold, at Nairobi, Kenya, a symposium on the media and disarmament. Various aspects of the way disarmament-related issues are treated in the media in different parts of the world will be examined and possibilities for improving co-operation among journalists in this area will be explored.

15. Studies will be carried out pursuant to the recommendations of the international symposium at Nairobi in order to identify better the contribution the media may make, within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign and the 1978 UNESCO Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racialism, Apartheid and Incitement to War, to creating better understanding of, and generating public support for, the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation.

16. Within the framework of the second Medium-Term Plan, the third subprogramme of Programme III.2, entitled "Contribution of the media to ensuring mutual respect, international understanding and peace, and to the solution of major world problems", may also be considered as reflecting the concerns which led to the World Disarmament Campaign.

D. Public information

17. The Office of Public Information will provide full public information support for the programme activities undertaken by the various sectors in connection with the World Disarmament Campaign. This may include, but is not necessarily limited to, articles in UNESCO Features and the UNESCO Courier, radio and television programmes, exhibitions and photo sets, posters, brochures, special events and direct efforts through national commissions, non-governmental organizations and UNESCO Clubs.

18. UNESCO Clubs and Associations in many countries have shown an interest in activities related to disarmament education, and federations in 35 countries will be invited to take part in the Campaign. Among the countries which have been particularly active so far, one can cite Austria, Belgium, Colombia, France, Japan and Morocco.

19. Finally, an illustrated brochure will be prepared for the general public explaining the main concepts and conditions of disarmament. This brochure will be considered a direct contribution to the Campaign.

20. Additional activities may be worked out within the framework of the close collaboration that has been established with the Centre for Disarmament. Indeed, all the activities mentioned in this report will be carried out to the fullest extent possible in co-operation with the Centre, whose general co-ordination role in the implementation of the Campaign was clearly recognized by the Executive Board of UNESCO and has already been put into practice through regular consultations.

APPENDIX

Decision 115 EX/7.1.1, adopted on 4 October 1982 by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

The Executive Board,

1. Having considered the report of the Director-General concerning the contribution of UNESCO to the twelfth special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (115 EX/13/Add., Part A, paras. 1-17),
2. Recalling resolution 11.1 adopted by the General Conference at its twenty-first session, entitled "Creation of a climate of public opinion conducive to the halting of the arms race and the transition to disarmament",
3. Recalling also decisions 7.1.5 and 7.9 adopted at its 114th session,
4. Noting that the General Assembly, at its twelfth special session, launched the World Disarmament Campaign,
5. Noting also the conclusions concerning other items examined by the General Assembly at its twelfth special session,
6. Reaffirming its conviction that UNESCO has an important role to play within the United Nations system in the promotion of disarmament through research, education, information, communication and culture,
7. Notes with satisfaction that the Director-General addressed the twelfth special session and also provided a report in accordance with the wishes expressed by the Board in its decisions 114 EX/7.1.5 and 7.9;
8. Invites the Director-General to ensure that UNESCO, in the context of the implementation in 1983 of the programme and budget for the current triennium (21 C/5) and of whatever programme may be adopted in the Medium-Term Plan (1984-1989), will continue activities in the field of disarmament education and make, in co-operation with the United Nations Centre for Disarmament, a specific contribution to the World Disarmament Campaign, bearing in mind, inter alia, the reference in the Director-General's address to the twelfth special session to the special threat of a nuclear conflagration and the dangers of chemical and biological weapons;
9. Further invites the Director-General to submit a report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for transmission to the General Assembly outlining the contribution UNESCO will make to World Disarmament Campaign.
