



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/43/614
19 October 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-third session
Agenda item 65 (1)

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

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament
and Development in Latin America

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly at its forty-second session adopted resolution 42/39 K of 30 November 1987, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America", the text of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 41/60 J of 3 December 1986 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America,

"Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General, 1/

"1. Welcomes the inauguration at Lima on 2 October 1987 of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America;

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

1/ A/42/544.

"3. Expresses its thanks to the host Member State for its valuable contribution to the functioning of the Centre;

"4. Believes that, in carrying out its activities, the Centre will seek to promote relations of mutual trust and security between the countries of the region in a spirit of harmony, solidarity and co-operation for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, and for the promotion of economic and social development in Latin America;

"5. Recommends that the Centre hold, in 1988, a conference of experts on the strengthening of political co-operation in Latin America in the areas of peace, disarmament, development and security in the context of the World Disarmament Campaign;

"6. Again calls upon Member States and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations to make voluntary contributions to the Centre;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit that appeal to all Member States in order to ensure the normal functioning of the Centre;

"8. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. The present report is submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 42/39 K.

II. FUNCTIONING OF THE CENTRE

3. As the Secretary-General stated in his report on the Centre submitted to the Assembly at its forty-second session (A/42/544), the Centre, which was established in 1987 in accordance with resolution 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, became operational in 1987. It was inaugurated at its headquarters at Lima on 9 October 1987, in the presence of the Foreign Minister of Peru and of the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Structure

4. In his report, the Secretary-General stated that he had established the Centre 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.

Objectives and activities of the Centre

5. The General Assembly, by resolution 41/60 J, decided that the Centre should provide, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States of the Latin American region for the implementation of

measures for peace and disarmament, and for the promotion of economic and social development through appropriate reutilization of available resources, as well as co-ordinate the implementation of regional activities in Latin America under the World Disarmament Campaign. The initial activities of the Centre focused on the dissemination of information and on establishing contacts with relevant institutions and organisations, as well as responding to written and oral queries received from the public, with a view to promoting better understanding of and generating wider support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. The Centre is also making efforts to set up a reference and documentation service on issues of peace, security, disarmament and development, especially within the Latin American context, which could serve as a resource centre for organizations and individuals concerned with these issues.

6. The Centre's activities included the promotion and co-ordination of the competition for a disarmament poster design, which was launched in late 1987. This included publicizing the competition and receiving and judging the national entries. The third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament held in May/June 1988 in New York was another opportunity to provide information about the work of the United Nations in arms limitation and disarmament. In addition to distributing written materials on the session, several briefings were held for the media and the public, and a panel discussion was organized that was broadcast by the major television network in Peru.

7. In connection with the recommendation by the General Assembly contained in resolution 42/39 K to hold, in 1988, a conference of experts on the strengthening of political co-operation in Latin America in the areas of peace, disarmament, development and security, the Centre organized a preparatory meeting from 4-6 May at its headquarters at Lima that brought together 12 experts who held exchanges on those issues, as well as on a possible medium-term programme of activities, including suggestions for the holding of the conference, which is scheduled to take place in December 1988.

Staffing and finance

8. By its resolution 41/60 J, the General Assembly decided to establish the Centre on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States and interested organizations might make to that end. The Secretary-General wishes to emphasize that, in accordance with the terms on which the Centre was established and in view of the financial crisis facing the United Nations, no resources from the regular budget of the Organization can be made available for the Centre and voluntary contributions are thus needed to ensure the viability and effective functioning of the Centre.

9. Since the submission of the Secretary-General's report to the forty-second session, voluntary contributions to the Centre were received from Belgium, Brazil, the Federal Republic of Germany and Peru that amounted to a total of \$US 28,000. In addition, contributions were pledged to the Centre by Colombia, Jamaica, Norway, Peru and Uruguay in the amount of \$US 37,500. 1/

10. The Centre functions with the assistance of the Department of Public Information, as the Director of the Information Centre continues to be entrusted with the additional functions of the Director of the Regional Centre, on an interim basis. The Director is assisted by a locally recruited research assistant in the discharge of the Centre's functions. The Centre continues to share the premises of the Information Centre and enjoys the administrative support of the Department of Public Information staff, in the interest of greater economy and efficiency.

Notes

1/ Contributions pledged at the Fifth United Nations Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign and thereafter until 31 March 1988 (A/CONF.142/2).
