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

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute (see annex).

## ANNEX

Report of the activities of the United Nations  
Institute for Disarmament Research

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 39/148 H of 17 December 1984, approved the statute of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the text of which was annexed to the resolution.

2. Under the provisions of the statute, UNIDIR, which has been in existence since 1 October 1980, is an autonomous institution within the framework of the United Nations, established by the General Assembly for the purpose of undertaking independent research on disarmament and related problems, particularly international security issues, and working in close relationship with the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

3. The statute provides that the Institute shall work on the basis of the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament (General Assembly resolution S-10/2), and that it shall aim at:

(a) Providing the international community with more diversified and complete data on problems relating to international security, the armaments race and disarmament in all fields, particularly in the nuclear field, so as to facilitate progress, through negotiations, towards greater security for all States and towards the economic and social development of all peoples;

(b) Promoting informed participation by all States in disarmament efforts;

(c) Assisting ongoing negotiations on disarmament and continuing efforts to ensure greater international security at a progressively lower level of armaments, particularly nuclear armaments, by means of objective and factual studies and analyses;

(d) Carrying out more in-depth, forward-looking and long-term research on disarmament, so as to provide a general insight to the problems involved, and stimulating new initiatives for new negotiations.

4. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of paragraph 6 of Assembly resolution 39/148 H, by which the Assembly invited the Director to report annually to the Assembly on the activities carried out by the Institute. <sup>a/</sup> This report relates to the activities carried out by the Institute during the period from September 1987 to September 1988.

5. An account of the activities of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies, functioning in its capacity as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, is contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/43/685).

## II. ORGANIZATION AND METHODS OF WORK

6. UNIDIR has a very small staff, which, at present, in addition to the Director, consists of a Deputy Director and two General Service staff. The Institute relies heavily on project-related short-term contracts to implement its research programme. This system of recruitment, which is geared to the research programme and designed on a project basis, permits recourse to and utilisation of reputable expertise available both inside and outside the United Nations system. This method has also contributed to the efforts of UNIDIR to expand its relations and contacts with other research institutes and individual experts from all over the world. Full use is being made of existing United Nations services to ensure co-ordination, economy and cost-effectiveness.

7. Within the approved research programme, the Institute hires the services of, or develops co-operation with, individual experts or research organisations for the implementation of the programme. It approaches those whom it considers qualified to be engaged in the respective research projects, determines the framework of the research and subsequently reviews it at the time of its finalisation by the author, its publication and dissemination. Groups composed of persons known for their expertise and experience may be established to assist in carrying out research projects so that a multidisciplinary approach and various schools of thought can be taken into account.

8. In each UNIDIR publication the procedure followed in the elaboration and finalisation of the research project is stated to make it understood that, although conducted within the research programme of UNIDIR and on its initiative, the contents of the publication are the responsibility of the author. Nevertheless, without taking a position on the views expressed by the authors of its research publications, UNIDIR assumes responsibility for determining whether the research merits publication and dissemination.

9. Voluntary contributions from States and public and private organizations form the principal financing of the Institute's activities. A subvention towards meeting the cost of the Director and the staff of the Institute is provided from the regular budget of the United Nations, in conformity with the provisions of the Institute's statute.

10. During the period under review, the following countries have made contributions to the Institute's Trust Fund, which are being utilized to finance the 1988 work programme of the Institute: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Norway, Switzerland and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In addition, under an agreement with the Government of Japan, a three-year project from 1986 to 1989 for the establishment of a data base on disarmament is being financed from the Trust Fund for Interest on the Contributions to the United Nations Special Account. UNIDIR avails itself of this opportunity to express its gratitude to these countries for their generous contributions.

### III. COMPLETED PROJECTS

#### A. Disarmament: problems related to outer space

11. The research project on this subject dealt with the prospects and consequences of an arms race in outer space and the means for its prevention.
12. The research work was carried out by a team within the Institute. In preparing the report, UNIDIR worked in co-operation with a group of experts representing various schools of thought. The experts were Alexei Arbatov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Yves Boyer (France), James Dougherty (United States of America), Sérgio de Queiroz Duarte (Brazil), Rikhi Jaipal (India), Andrei Karkoszka (Poland), Roberto Garcia Moritan (Argentina), Boris Maiorsky (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), later succeeded by Ednan Agaev (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), and Stephen Freiherr von Welck (Federal Republic of Germany).
13. The research report entitled Disarmament: Problems related to Outer Space b/ resulting from the project was issued in late 1987 and made available to delegations during the forty-second session of the General Assembly. The 190-page publication identifies and analyses the different issues relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including current military uses of outer space, the possibility of further developments, the nature of the existing legal régime and proposals put forward by States to prevent an arms race in outer space.
14. The report consists of four parts: I - Current uses of outer space; II - Technological and conceptual challenges; III - Legal aspects of an arms race in outer space and the means for its prevention; and IV - Proposals and negotiations related to arms limitation in outer space.
15. The first part contains a brief description of how outer space is currently being utilized for civilian and military purposes.
16. Part II deals with questions concerning the possibility and consequences of creating weapons that are not yet in existence but that may become possible with the advance of technology. Stating that one of the most important elements of the current debate on space weapons concerns their implications and consequences, the report notes that a significant event that changed the nature of the debate was the announcement of the United States Strategic Defense Initiative. In the subsequent sections the report seeks to give a balanced presentation of the different points of view regarding the potential implications of space weapons for strategic stability, the military balance, the arms race and arms limitation.
17. The third part, devoted to the legal aspects of an arms race in outer space and of the means for its prevention, contains an account of the international law in force relating to arms limitation in outer space. It emphasizes two issues: the status of self-defence and countermeasures, and the interpretation of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM Treaty) by its two parties.

18. Part IV discusses ongoing negotiations, both multilateral and bilateral, directed towards the prevention of an arms race in outer space. It gives a brief account of the role that the United Nations has played and continues to assume in the elaboration of this type of arms limitation. It also describes contemporary proposals by States presented at the Conference on Disarmament and negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union concerning arms limitation and arms prevention issues regarding outer space.

B. Conference of disarmament research institutes on the topic "Disarmament research: agenda for the 1990s"

19. The Conference, organized by UNIDIR with the assistance of the Institute for World Economics and International Relations of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (IMEMO), was held from 22 to 24 March 1988 at Sochi, Soviet Union. UNIDIR records with appreciation the co-operation and assistance received from the Soviet and Krasnodar region authorities and from IMEMO in the arrangements of the Conference.

20. Over 50 participants representing 46 institutes and organizations from different regions of the world were present at Sochi, helping to strengthen the co-operative links within the international disarmament research community and providing an opportunity for a productive exchange on the conceptual framework for the disarmament process in the next decade.

21. Five sessions were held during which the following subjects were discussed:

(a) The role of research institutes in disarmament, with reports from John E. Mroz and Wang Shu;

(b) Ways and means of increasing co-operation among institutes, with reports from Gelson Fonseca, Gabriel Olusanya and Jasjit Singh;

(c) The present status of research, with reports from Trevor Findlay, Jean-François Guilhaudis and Kurt Spillmann;

(d) Priorities for research in the 1990s, with reports from Thomas Enders, Wojciech Multan, Milan Sahovic and Vladimir Shoustov;

(e) Contributions of disarmament research institutes to the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly, with reports from Nazir Kamal and Johan Nordenfeldt.

22. The participants agreed that UNIDIR had fulfilled a useful function by organizing the Conference and suggested that such conferences be held regularly. The proceedings of the Conference were published in a research report c/ which was distributed to all delegations attending the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly, the third special session devoted to disarmament, held in New York from 31 May to 26 June 1988.

### C. UNIDIR "Newsletter"

23. As a means of maintaining and developing co-operation among research institutes in the field of disarmament, international security and other related fields, UNIDIR commenced the publication of a quarterly "Newsletter" in 1988. In a message carried in its first issue the Secretary-General said:

"UNIDIR has therefore launched its new Newsletter on disarmament at a very propitious moment. I warmly congratulate UNIDIR on this imaginative and timely initiative to develop closer links and fuller communication among those undertaking research in disarmament and international security. In this way, the UNIDIR Newsletter will surely serve the cause of disarmament by promoting the research and universal understanding on which its progress so much depends. I wish it every success and hope it will be welcomed by all those involved in the field of disarmament."

24. The "Newsletter" has provided a platform of communication for research institutes and researchers apart from being a useful source of information for others. The first issue of the UNIDIR "Newsletter", published in March 1988, dealt with the topic "Disarmament and development" and reported on research being undertaken in this field. The second issue adopted a regional approach and focused on Africa. It reported on African institutes and on research being carried out by them on disarmament and international security issues. The third issue will focus on the topic conventional disarmament in Europe and the fourth on Asia. Apart from the special foci, the UNIDIR "Newsletter" also contains a number of regular items such as conference announcements and news from institutes. The "Newsletter" is a quarterly bilingual (English and French) publication.

### D. Fellowship and internship programme

25. In accordance with the provisions of the Institute's statute the Director, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, designated Professor Hylke Tromp, of the Polemologisch Institute van de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen and Mr. Thomas Barthelemy of the Atlantic Council, Washington D.C., as Senior Fellows of UNIDIR.

26. The Institute's regular fellowship programme enables scholars from developing countries to undertake research on disarmament at UNIDIR. The work of visiting fellows continued to make an important contribution in fulfilling the Institute's mandate and Member States are increasingly expressing their interest in the programme.

27. During 1988 UNIDIR welcomed Mr. Nazir Kamal (Pakistan), Mr. Abdelwahab Biad (Algeria) and Mr. Edmundo Fujita (Brazil) as Visiting Fellows.

28. UNIDIR also welcomed a number of interns from Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland and the United States of America.

#### E. Publications

29. During the period under review seven publications were issued and are available on sale to the public through the regular channels for the distribution of United Nations publications.

30. The publications are the following:

(a) La guerre des satellites: enjeux pour la communauté internationale, Pierre Lellouche éd. (Institut français des relations internationales), Genève, UNIDIR 1987, 42 p., publication des Nations Unies, Numéro de vente GV.F.87.0.1 (Also available in English: Satellite Warfare: A Challenge for the International Community);

(b) The International Non-Proliferation Régime 1987, by David A. V. Fischer, Geneva, UNIDIR, 1987, 81 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.87.0.2 (The French version is under preparation);

(c) The Verification Issue in United Nations Disarmament Negotiations, by Ellis Morris, Geneva, UNIDIR, 1987, 103 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.87.0.4 (The French version is under preparation);

(d) Confidence-Building Measures in Africa, by Augustine P. Mahiga and Fidelis M. Nji, Geneva, UNIDIR, 1987, 16 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.87.0.5;

(e) Disarmament: Problems Related to Outer Space, Geneva, UNIDIR, 1987, 190 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.87.0.7 (Also available in French: Désarmement: Problèmes relatifs à l'espace extra-atmosphérique);

(f) Interrelationship of Bilateral and Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations/ Les relations entre les négociations bilatérales et multilatérales sur le désarmement, Proceedings of the Baku Conference, 2-4 June 1987/Actes de la Conférence de Bakou, 2-4 juin 1987, Geneva, UNIDIR, 1988, 258 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E/F.88.0.1;

(g) Disarmament Research: Agenda for the 1990s/Le désarmement: Programme pour les années 90, Proceedings of the Sochi Conference, 22-24 March 1988/Actes de la Conférence de Sotchi, 22-24 mars 1988, Geneva, UNIDIR, 1988, 164 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E/F.88.0.3.

#### IV. CURRENT ACTIVITIES

##### A. Conventional disarmament in Europe

31. The UNIDIR conference on conventional disarmament in Europe has been rescheduled for January 1989 and will be held at Geneva. As part of the preparation for this conference, research reports reflecting different perspectives are being published during the course of 1988.



32. The conference is to be attended, on a balanced basis, by diplomats, government officials, scholars and researchers representing various schools of thought. The subject is of interest not only to the European countries and their public but also to the international community at large. For this reason, UNIDIR would like to ensure that there is a substantial participation by experts from other regions and especially from the non-aligned countries.

#### B. National security concepts

33. The project on national concepts of security of States has been a constant element of the Institute's work programme for several years. The original intent was to publish a series of concise studies of 30 to 40 pages each, prepared by experts from the respective States and presenting the basic features of the security concepts of those States. Keeping within that format, UNIDIR has published, in chronological order, studies on the national concepts of security of Yugoslavia, Belgium, Austria, the Soviet Union, the United States and China.

34. Conducted in a systematic way, such a series can greatly promote the understanding of national policies and facilitates the appreciation of specific conduct by States in a more general context. It would also explain some of the difficulties encountered in the course of disarmament negotiations. A globally shared objective such as general and complete disarmament under effective international control is adapted in various ways to conform with diverse national security approaches, depending on each State's perceived security interests.

35. UNIDIR has revised the format and structure of these monographs to ensure that they attain the objectives of the project without being entirely descriptive.

36. Under this revised format and structure, a series of monographs on a number of countries is being undertaken with the co-operation of qualified authors.

#### C. Pilot project on a computerized data base on disarmament

37. Approved by the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR at its fifteenth session in September 1986, this is a three-year project to establish a computerized data base on selected security and disarmament issues. It is carried out under a specific project agreement between the United Nations, UNIDIR and the Government of Japan.

38. Under the action programme elaborated in 1987, the project has continued its work in 1988 to expand, update and maintain the computerized sample files on the following specific subjects:

(a) The experience and evaluation of the Final Act of Helsinki, with particular attention to confidence- and security-building measures;

(b) Verification questions.

39. These files consist of a set of text files of the official and publicly

available documents of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, as well as relevant reports and statements presented at the United Nations, at the Conference on Disarmament and at other intergovernmental meetings, and another group of files of information relating to scientific and academic studies, books and articles and other reports of a non-governmental nature, on these specific subjects.

40. In relation to the UNIDIR research project on the topic "Medium-term perspectives in disarmament and arms limitation", the data base project has created a file, storing text data extracted from the official records of the General Assembly on the questions relating to the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly, the third special session devoted to disarmament, and compiling statements of government representatives.

41. Sample outputs of all these files have been distributed to the diplomatic community in Geneva and also globally to the research institutes and other bodies known to be active in research and/or the co-ordination of research in these fields.

42. As has been envisaged in the action programme, the UNIDIR data base project is being carried out through two major kinds of activities that interact with each other: first, the development of the project's own data base, and second, the work of exploring the possibility of making concrete reciprocal arrangements in order to develop a mutual flow of information between the project and other research institutions.

43. Accordingly, information on the project and its sample outputs have been sent to research institutes working in the field of disarmament and international security. By the end of August 1988 a large number of institutes had responded positively, providing information on their own data bases and/or other activities and expressing a wish to establish arrangements for a mutual flow of information. Work has commenced on these arrangements.

44. All the data stored in the computer files are easily accessible on the monitor screen, in copies of diskettes or as a hard copy printout, with flexible data-processing options producing, for example, chosen texts of information, listing of files by year and other chronological order, by State etc., or indexing by subject key words.

45. Since this is a pilot project the budget has not provided funds for frequent distribution of voluminous outputs, particularly in hard copies. However, sample outputs will be distributed to interested Governments and project partners.

#### D. Medium-term perspectives in disarmament and arms limitation

46. A survey is being conducted of medium-term perspectives in the field of disarmament and arms limitation addressing the major problems, the most essential measures and the ways and means to be utilised with a view to defining the future

research agenda. The survey is being conducted among two different groups: Governments and research institutes working in the field of disarmament and arms control. All Governments have been invited to participate in the survey. As to the group of research institutes, a sample has been established, ensuring a balanced representation in geographical and political terms. Responses are in the process of being collated and analysed. The results of the survey will be published some time in 1988-1989.

#### E. Verification

47. A research project on the topic "National concepts of verification", analysing in detail the viewpoints of participating States in multilateral disarmament negotiations on the problem of verification, has been initiated. Two research reports are expected to be completed in 1988 under this project.

48. A separate project on the technical aspects of verification, under the title "Verification by airborne systems", commenced in 1988. It seeks to provide a comprehensive guide on the potential of airborne-systems remote-sensing techniques in the field of arms control verification, examining the technical, legal and operational considerations involved.

#### F. Outer space

49. Following the successful conclusion of the first research project on outer space, which resulted in the UNIDIR publication Disarmament: Problems related to Outer Space, a second project has commenced. It will deal with problems of definition and demarcation in the prevention of an arms race in outer space. It entails the pooling of the expertise of an international group of scientific and legal experts under the aegis of UNIDIR to provide a variety of optional approaches that the international community could utilize in the task of preventing an arms race in outer space.

### V. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

50. UNIDIR was represented throughout the fifteenth special session of the General Assembly. During the special session many delegations expressed their satisfaction with the functioning of UNIDIR and recommended that it should receive enhanced financial support.

51. UNIDIR has maintained close co-operation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs, ensuring complementarity and co-ordination. It also continues to be associated with other organizations and bodies in the United Nations system working in the field of disarmament and international security.

52. Several aspects of the Institute's activities have contributed to the development of relations with other research institutes, such as the hiring of services of institutes for implementing the research programme, the Conference of

research institutes held at Sochi, Soviet Union, and the publication of the quarterly "Newsletter". The Director and Deputy Director accepted invitations to speak at universities and institutes with which UNIDIR has links. A number of visitors from Governments, organisations and institutes were also welcomed at UNIDIR during the course of the year.

53. As part of its public lecture programme, UNIDIR, with the co-operation of the United Nations Information Service and in association with the Geneva International Peace Research Institute, organized a symposium on the topic "US-USSR negotiations on nuclear and space arms", which was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 18 April 1988.

54. The Board of Trustees had expressed the wish that the Director undertake an energetic campaign to obtain new voluntary contributions for UNIDIR in order to fund its programme of research activities. The fund-raising campaign that was accordingly initiated has begun to achieve results. Seventeen new donors have either pledged or paid in voluntary contributions during the period under review. This has resulted in the 1989 budget having an assured income that is 51.73 per cent above the assured income in the 1988 budget.

#### VI. CONCLUSIONS

55. UNIDIR continues to fulfil its mandate as contained in its statute. However, the continuation of its work in a satisfactory manner is strongly dependent on more reliable and increased flows of financial resources and the strengthening of its small staff.

#### Notes

a/ For previous reports on the activities of the Institute, see A/38/475, annex; A/39/553, annex; A/40/725, annex; A/41/676, annex; and A/42/607, annex.

b/ United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.87.0.7.

c/ United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.88.0.3.