



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/44/582
9 October 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session
Agenda item 64 (e)

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

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 7 December 1988 the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/76 D entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa", the text of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 D of 3 December 1986 and 42/39 J of 30 November 1987,

"Taking note of the Political Declaration adopted by the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare from 1 to 6 September 1986, in which the Heads of State or Government, inter alia, reaffirmed the need to strengthen the role of the regional bodies in mobilizing support for the World Disarmament Campaign and, in this regard, welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa at Lomé,

"Bearing in mind resolution AHG/Res.164 (XXIII), adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-third ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 27 to 29 July 1987, by which it, inter alia, endorsed the Lomé Declaration on Security, Disarmament and Development in Africa and the Programme of Action for Peace, Security and Co-operation in Africa,

"Taking into account the report of the Secretary-General,

"1. Expresses its satisfaction that the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, inaugurated on 24 October 1986, has become operational;

"2. Commends the Secretary-General for his efforts in taking the necessary measures to ensure the effective functioning of the Centre, and requests him to continue to lend all the necessary support to the Centre;

"3. Expresses its gratitude to the Member States and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations that have already made contributions to ensure the functioning of the Centre;

"4. Appeals once again to Member State, as well as to international, governmental and non-governmental organizations, to make voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the effective functioning of the Centre;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth 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 informed the General Assembly at its forty-first, forty-second and forty-third sessions (A/41/660, A/42/609 and A/43/689), the Centre, which was set up in 1986 pursuant to Assembly resolution 40/151 G, has become operational and, under the auspices of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, has begun carrying out a number of important activities. During 1988-1989, some of these activities included conferences, training programmes on confidence-building and the peaceful settlement of disputes, research and study and the dissemination of information within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign. The incumbent Director of the Centre completed his assignment in June 1989. In the interim, the research assistant of the Centre serves as Officer-in-charge.

A. Activities of the Centre during 1988-1989

4. Conferences sponsored by or held under the auspices of the Centre from October 1988 through August 1989 included the following:

(a) In commemoration of United Nations Disarmament Week from 24 to 31 October 1988, the Centre organized at its headquarters at Lomé, a simulation exercise of a special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the relationship between disarmament and development. The main objective of the exercise was to familiarize university students in law and international relations at the Université du Bénin, at Togo with certain aspects of the work of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and also to increase their awareness of the problems of peace, security, disarmament and development;

(b) On 15 and 16 November 1988, a symposium on the role of Africa in United Nations peace-keeping activities was held at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs at Lagos, in observance of United Nations Day (24 October), United Nations Disarmament Week (24 to 31 October) and the award of the 1988 Nobel Prize for Peace to the United Nations Peace-keeping Forces. The symposium was co-sponsored by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the United Nations information centre at Lagos. The symposium sought to focus attention in the African region on peace-keeping operations as a vital facet of conflict resolution, crisis prevention and management and confidence-building among African States. Specific topics covered included: the role of the United Nations and of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in peace-keeping operations; the role of African States in United Nations peace-keeping efforts; the role of peace-keeping in the overall quest for peace and security in Africa; and principles, techniques, procedures and methods of peace-keeping operations. The symposium was attended by senior members of the Nigerian Government and armed forces, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions and the media.

5. Under the Centre's research and study activities, a project entitled "Defining an agenda for peace and progress in Africa" was launched during 1988. A

preparatory meeting of experts for the in-depth review of the substantive and methodological aspects relating to the project was held at the headquarters of the Centre at Lomé, from 6 to 8 February 1989. The preparatory meeting examined and established a catalogue of critical issues of peace and progress in Africa, taking into account the most pressing priorities and preoccupations.

6. The final phase of the research project, in the form of a high-level experts' workshop to review the draft report of the Rapporteur-General of the project, was held at the Centre's headquarters from 14 to 18 August 1989. It brought together approximately 40 senior experts and other personalities from all over the world to focus attention on the main sources of threats to peace, regional and subregional security in Africa; ways and means of preventing and resolving conflicts in Africa by peaceful means; and the relationship between national, regional and global security, disarmament and development. Proposals and perspectives for future studies and research on specific solutions to problems of peace and progress in Africa were also examined.

7. Under the Centre's documentation and information activities, emphasis continued to be placed on the dissemination of information relating to peace, security and development within the African context. In this connection, a documentation and reference library has been established at the Centre and efforts are under way to publish a newsletter on relevant developments in this field for wide distribution in the region.

8. In addition, the Centre sponsored an essay competition on the theme "Scouting and peace in Africa" in commemoration of the World Scouting Federation Week of Peace from 17 to 25 February 1989 at Lomé. The main objective of the essay competition was to increase the awareness of the youth on the problems of peace, security, disarmament and development.

9. Representatives of the Centre also visited various institutions and attended conferences sponsored by other organizations. In this connection, from 29 March to 7 April 1989, the Centre participated at Abidjan, in a training programme on the law of armed conflicts organized jointly by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Ivorian armed forces and the Accord on Non-Aggression and mutual Defence. The Director of the Centre presented a paper on the role and activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa within the framework of regional intergovernmental institutions, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in the field of peace and security in Africa.

10. The Centre was also represented at the International Congress on "Peace in the minds of men" organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in collaboration with the Houphouët-Boigny International Foundation for Peace, which took place from 26 June to 1 July 1989 at Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire. Topics discussed at the Congress included, *inter alia*, peace between human beings; preparing societies to live in peace; peace in the context of relations between man and his environment and the instruments of peace. In the course of the discussions on the instruments of peace, much emphasis was placed on the role of arms limitation and disarmament to the realization of peace. The

Centre's representative at the Yamoussoukro Congress also made a statement dealing mainly with the work of the Centre in this field.

11. Visitors to the Centre's headquarters were briefed on issues relating to peace and disarmament and received relevant information materials. Delegations of political, diplomatic, academic and other leading personalities from within and outside the African region were also received at the Centre during 1988-1989.

B. Staffing and finance

12. 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 may make to that end. In paragraph 11 of his report on the Centre to the Assembly at its forty-first session (A/41/660), the Secretary-General 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."

13. 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 and the continuing financial crisis confronting the United Nations. The Secretary-General therefore strongly supports the appeals made by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/60 D, 42/39 J, and 43/76 D to Member States and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations to make voluntary contributions to the Centre. Furthermore, it will be recalled in this connection, that the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in its resolution AHG/Res.164 (XXIII) (A/42/699, annex II) also reaffirmed its appeal to the international community to provide substantive assistance for the effective operation of the Centre.

14. Since the submission of the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly last year, an equivalent of \$699,000, all in convertible currency, has been pledged to the Centre by Member States and various foundations. Of this total, an approximate amount of \$106,000 has been deposited. Approximately \$143,000 has been spent on carrying out the activities outlined in this report, as well as on the staffing and operational costs of the Centre. As of September 1989, the trust fund for the Centre stands at approximately \$97,000. Since its establishment, the following countries and non-governmental organizations have made voluntary

contributions to the Centre: Belgium, Cameroon, Egypt, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Nigeria, Norway, Senegal, Tunisia, Togo, United States of America, the Ford Foundation (United States), the MacArthur Foundation (United States), the Rockefeller Foundation (United States), the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security and the United States Institute of Peace. The Secretary-General wishes to express deep appreciation to the Governments and organizations mentioned above for their generous support to the Regional Centre.
