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FIRST COMMITTEE****SUGGESTIONS REGARDING REARRANGEMENT OF THE AGENDA
OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE****Working paper by the Chairman****INTRODUCTION**

In recent years, increasing attention has focused on the question of the method of work of the First Committee. On the basis of their experience, various Chairmen of the First Committee have, at successive sessions, offered useful suggestions on how to refine and streamline the work and proceedings of the Committee and have underlined the need to accelerate efforts towards facilitating a more rational and focused discussion of and action on the issues, inter alia, through a rearrangement of the Committee's agenda.

The Committee has, over the years, made an earnest effort to focus on this matter and following extensive consultations, a number of useful initiatives have been introduced in the work and proceedings of the Committee. This process culminated in the adoption on 30 November 1987 of resolution 42/42 N by which the General Assembly decided upon a number of recommendations concerning the work of the First Committee. As I pointed out at the Committee's 2nd meeting, on 12 October 1988, several of those recommendations, based on consultations with delegations, were incorporated in the programme of work and timetable that was adopted by the Committee, thereby implementing them. Some of the other measures which were included in resolution 42/42 N needed to be examined further with a view to determining the best possible modality for implementing them, including the recommendation in paragraph 1 (a) which stipulated that the agenda of the First Committee should be rationalized by grouping or merging related items to the extent possible in order to provide greater organizational clarity and without prejudging their substance,

Pursuant to that recommendation, and the views expressed on the subject-matter, I conducted preliminary consultations with the members of the Bureau of the Committee and subsequently circulated a working paper entitled "Suggestions regarding rearrangement of the agenda of the First Committee".

The paper that I presented was discussed **extensively** at several meetings of the open-ended Group of the Friends of the Chairman, at which **time** reference was also made to the working paper circulated at the thirty-ninth session by the then Chairman **of the** First Committee, Ambassador Souza e Silva of Brazil (A/C.1/39/9). In the **course** of the consultation **within the Group** of the Friends of the Chairman, divergent views were **expressed** on a **number** of **issues**. In **this** context, there appeared to be a general understanding that **any** efforts aimed at a rearrangement of the Committee's agenda should be geared towards the realisation of greater **organizational** clarity and coherence, without **sacrificing** the **substance** of the **issues** or compromising the right of **delegations** to **request** the inclusion of new items **on** the General Assembly's agenda.

The view was also reiterated that any rearrangement of the Committee's agenda **would** be subject to limitations imposed, **inter alia**, by the **fact** that : (a) various General **Assembly** decisions provide for the inclusion **of individual items** on the **agenda** of **futuro sessions**; and (b) the right of every Member State to request the inclusion of **new items**.

Despite the difficulties involved, however, and taking into account the results of **my** consultations, I, nevertheless, feel that serious efforts must continue to be made to find **an** acceptable regrouping or restructuring of the **agenda** of **the** First **Committee**, so that appropriate recommendations to **that** effect. may, **as** necessary, be transmitted to the General Assembly.

It is **my** hope that the suggestions that **I** have presented below, concerning rearrangement of **the** agenda of the First Committee, will receive further serious consideration **by** Member States so that the matter may **once** again be addressed by **the** **Committee** at the next session of the General Assembly.

I. A GENERAL GUIDELINE FOR SYSTEMATIC ARRANGEMENT

1. Nuclear weapons in all aspects!

- (a) Nuclear **test ban**;
- (b) **Cessation** of the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament)
- (c) **Prevention** of **nuclear** war, including all **related** matters ;
- (d) **Non-use**, non-first-use and the prohibition of the use **of** nuclear weapons;
- (e) **Security assurances** for **non-nuclear-weapon** States;
- (f) **Unilateral**, bilateral and multilateral measures towards nuclear disarmament;
- (g) **Nuclear free** or nuclear **-weapon -f ree** zones;

- (h) Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and safeguards régime, including the question of peaceful uses of nuclear energy;
 - (i) Nuclear-weapon freeze;
 - (j) Prohibition of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes.
2. Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons:
- (a) Prohibition of the use of chemical weapons;
 - (b) Convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction;
 - (c) Other issues related to chemical weapons;
 - (d) Bacteriological (biological) weapons.
3. Other weapons of mass destruction, including radiological weapons,
4. Prevention of an arms race in outer space,
5. Conventional weapons :
- (a) Conventional disarmament)
 - (b) Reduction of conventional weapons and armed forces;
 - (c) Question of conventional weapons transfer;
 - (d) Certain inhumane conventional weapons.
6. Other disarmament and disarmament-related measures:
- (a) Reduction of military budgets;
 - (b) Disarmament and development;
 - (c) Confidence-building measures, including openness and transparency, and objective information on military matters;
 - (d) Zones of. peace;
 - (e) Disarmament and international security;
 - (f) Naval armaments and disarmament;
 - (g) Disarmament and science and technology;

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- (h) Regional disarmament)
 - (i) **Economic** and social consequences of **the arms race and military expenditures;**
 - (j) Other **measures.**
7. General **and** complete disarmament under effective international controls
- (a) General and complete disarmament in all its aspects
 - (b) Comprehensive programme of **disarmament;**
 - (c) Declaration of disarmament decades.
8. Verification in all its aspects and **compliance.**
9. **Role** of the United Nations in the **field** of disarmament, disarmament **machinery** and institutional **matters,**
- (a) Role of the **United** Nations in the field of disarmament;
 - (b) **Role** of the Secretary-General;
 - (c) Security Council;
 - (d) General **Assembly;**
 - (e) Special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament)
 - (f) First Committee;
 - (g) Disarmament Commission;
 - (h) Conference on Disarmament;
 - (i) **Ad Hoc Committee** on the Indian Ocean;
 - (j) **Ad Hoc** Committee on World Disarmament Conference;
 - (k) Advisory **Board** on Disarmament Studies!
 - (l) United Nations **Institute** for **Disarmament** Research;
 - (m) Department. for Disarmament. Affairs;
 - (n) United Nations regional disarmament. centres;
 - (o) World Disarmament Campaign and non-governmental organizations;

- (p) Disarmament Week;
- (q) United Nations studies *on* disarmament)
- (r) Fellowship and training programme on disarmament.

10. Question of Antarctica.

11. Strengthening of regional and international security;

- (a) Regional security, including security *and* co-operation in the Mediterranean region;
- (b) International security, including a comprehensive system of international peace and security.

II. ALLOCATION OF CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GENERAL GUIDELINE

<u>Headings</u>	<u>Current agenda items</u>
1. Nuclear weapons in all aspects :	
(a) Nuclear test ban;	Items 52, 53, 64 (c)
(b) Cessation of the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament;	Items 64 (e), 67 (k)
(c) Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters)	Items 67 (j), 67 (1)
(d) Non-use, non-first-use and the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons;	Item 65 (c)
(e) Security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States;	Items 57, 58
(f) Unilateral, bilateral and multilateral measures towards nuclear disarmament;	
(g) Nuclear-free or nuclear-weapon-free zones;	Items 51, 54, 55, 60, 69
(h) Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and safeguards régime, including the question of peaceful uses of nuclear energy;	Item 141

- (i) Nuclear-weapon **freeze;** Items 65 (b), 65 (f)
- (j) Prohibition of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes. Item 64 (i)
- 2. Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons: Item 63
 - (a) Prohibition of **the use** of chemical weapons;
 - (b) Convention on **the** complete and **effective** prohibition of the development, production and **stock-piling** of chemical weapons **and on** their **destruction;**
 - (c) **Other** issues related to chemical weapons;
 - (d) Bacteriological (biological) weapons.
- 3. Other weapons **of** mass destruction, including radiological weapons. Items 61, 64 (b)
- 4. Prevention of an **arms** race in outer space. Item 59
- 5. Conventional weapons:
 - (a) Conventional disarmament; Item 64 (d)
 - (b) Reduction of conventional weapons and armed **forces;**
 - (c) Question of conventional weapons **transfer;** Item 145
 - (d) Certain **inhumane** conventional weapons. Item 56
- 6. Other **disarmament** and **disarmament-**related **measures:**
 - (a) Reduction of military **budgets;** Item 62
 - (b) **Disarmament and** development)
 - (c) Confidence-building **measures,** including openness and transparency, and objective information on **military** matters; Item 64 (f)

- (d) Zones of peace; Item 68
- (e) Disarmament and international security
- (f) Naval armaments and disarmament; Item 64 (h)
- (g) Disarmament and science and technology)
- (h) Regional disarmament;
- (i) Economic and social consequences of the arms race and military expenditures] Item 67 (h)
- (j) Other measures. Item 64 (k)
7. General and complete disarmament under effective international control;
- (a) General and complete disarmament in all its aspects; Item 67 (c), 67 (n)
- (b) Comprehensive programme of disarmament)
- (c) Declaration of disarmament decades. Item 67 (f)
8. Verification *in* all its aspects and compliance. Item 139
9. Role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, disarmament machinery and institutional matters:
- (a) Role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament² Items 64 (a), 64 (g), 64 (j), 65 (a)
- (b) Role of the Secretary-General)
- (c) Security Council;
- (d) General Assembly;
- (e) Special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament; Item 66
- (f) First Committee;

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| (g) Disarmament Commission; | Item 67 (a) |
| (h) Conference on Disarmament ¹ | Items 67 (b), 67 (i) |
| (i) Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean; | Item 68 |
| (j) Ad Hoc Committee on World Disarmament Conference; | |
| (k) Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies; | Item 67 (d) |
| (l) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research | Item 67 (e) |
| (m) Department for Disarmament Affairs; | |
| (n) United Nations regional disarmament centres; | Items 67 (d), 65 (h), 65 (i) |
| (o) World Disarmament Campaign and non-governmental organizations; | Item 65 (e) |
| (p) Disarmament Week; | Item 67 (m) |
| (q) United Nations studies on disarmament; | Items 67 (g), 67 (h) |
| (r) Fellowship and training programme on disarmament. | Item 65 (g) |
| 10. Question of Antarctica. | Item 70 |
| 11. Strengthening of regional and international security: | Items 72 (a), 72 (b) |
| (a) Regional security, including security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region; | Item 71 |
| (b) International security, including a comprehensive system of international peace and security. | Item 73 |