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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF
THE TWELFTH **SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**
WORLD DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN

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

Advisory Board on Disarmament StudiesUnited Nations Institute for Disarmament ResearchReport of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to section III of General Assembly resolution 37/93 K of 13 December 1982, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies has the following functions:

(a) To advise the Secretary-General on various aspects of studies and research in the area of arms limitation and disarmament carried out under the auspices of the United Nations or institutions within the United Nations system, in particular on the integration of a programme of such studies with a comprehensive programme of disarmament, once this had been established;

(b) To serve as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) ;

(c) To advise the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign;

(d) At the specific invitation of the Secretary-General, to provide him with advice on other matters within the area of disarmament and arms limitation.

In its resolution 38/183 D of 20 December 1983, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly on the work of the Advisory Board.

2. The Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies held its **fourteenth** and fifteenth sessions from 5 to 9 May 1986 and 22 to 26 September 1986 in New York, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Omran El-Shafei of Egypt. The annex lists the members of the Advisory Board.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON DISARMAMENT STUDIES

A. United Nations studies on disarmament

3. At its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions, the Board continued its consideration of the matter of United Nations studies on disarmament. **Members of the Board were informed** of the state of affairs of United Nations study groups on disarmament and noted the successful completion of the study on deterrence. The Board also noted with regret the deferment of the two new studies approved at the fortieth session of the General Assembly in resolutions 40/150 and 40/152 G of 16 December 1985. These studies, one an update of the study entitled "**Economic and social consequences of the arms race and military expenditures**", and the other, on the **climatic and potential physical effects of nuclear war, including nuclear winter**, were subsequently deferred by the General Assembly as part of a number of **savings** measures necessitated by the financial crisis.

4. The Board held a substantive discussion on the study on deterrence at its fifteenth session. While some members referred to the study as an example of how

to approach subjects on which consensus was difficult or even impossible, others observed that such an approach was only applicable in cases where consensus would not be forthcoming.

5. Members of the Board generally felt that the recommendations made by the Board in its report in October 1984 (A/39/549) to conduct the study "on an in-depth, objective basis: all different schools of thought and points of view should be explored and reflected by their respective advocates" and "to give full expression to differing views and their supporting arguments, without attempting to arrive at joint conclusions or recommendations . . ." had been fully taken into account by the expert group. However, the view was expressed that the study had not exhausted the subject as it contained the views of only a limited number of experts. The study was judged by members to be of particular value as it addressed a difficult political issue in a highly informative and balanced manner. The Board expressed the hope that when the General Assembly considered the study at its forty-first session it would recommend that the study be given the widest possible dissemination.

6. The Board continued its work, begun in September 1985, on the broader subject of United Nations disarmament studies as a whole. The Board also recognized the task allocated to it, through the Secretary-General, by the General Assembly in resolution 40/152 K of 16 December 1985, which requested the Board to prepare a comprehensive report on disarmament studies for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

7. During the Board's discussions, the important part played by consensus in achieving an agreed study report was emphasized. At the same time, it was also noted that in certain cases, when consensus might not be possible, it was necessary to ensure that the report reflect all points of view fully. Careful selection of subjects for study and the matter of costs were regarded as being of special importance. The long-standing view of the Board was reiterated that, while not presuming to censor proposals by delegation of sovereign States, the Board should be in a position to examine proposals for study before submission to the Assembly and to advise on possible directions or scope, priorities and approaches.

8. At its fifteenth session, the Board established a small working group, which considered a draft report prepared by the Secretariat. The Board requested that a revised version should be drafted and circulated in December to members of the present Board for their comments with a view to the finalization of the report at the Board's next session.

B. Implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign

9. At both its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions, the Board discussed the implementation of the world Disarmament Campaign.

10. At its fourteenth session, a report of the ongoing activities was presented to the Board. In addition, the Board's considerations were conducted on the basis of a background paper prepared by the Secretariat that responded to points and

questions raised by members of the Board during its session in September 1985, particularly with regard to the nature and involvement of non-governmental organizations and the Board's policy towards the attendance of their representatives at its meetings. The Board reaffirmed its policy of inviting representatives of the co-ordinating bodies of non-governmental organizations to meet with the Board each year at one of its sessions.

11. At its fifteenth session, Mr. Jan Martenson, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, gave the Board an account of activities during 1986 in the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign. At that session, the Board took note of the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the programme of activities of the Campaign in 1986 (A/41/554).

12. During the subsequent exchange of views members of the Board expressed much satisfaction at the manner in which the Campaign was being conducted, in particular in the balanced, factual and objective presentation of information. Favourable comments were made, inter alia, on the organization and realization of regional conferences and seminars within the World Disarmament Campaign. Special reference was made to the regional conference held at Tbilisi in the Soviet Union in May and the seminar held at Erice, Italy, in April. The Board was informed of the plans to hold a regional conference in China in 1987. In noting the wide range of information material in a variety of languages, members of the Board emphasized the importance of sufficient material on disarmament-related issues in local languages as well as the use of other channels of information such as radio, television and other means of visual presentation as effective ways of reaching larger audiences.

13. The Board expressed interest in the establishment of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, at Lomé, and noted the Centre's potential contribution to the World Disarmament Campaign.

14. The Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs drew attention to the fact that the Campaign's programme of activities could be carried out only as far as available finances would permit. In this respect, despite the voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund, the Campaign had not been able to escape the effects of the current financial crisis: every effort was being made to pursue the aims of the Campaign within the constraints imposed. The Board expressed the hope that despite those difficulties the projects and programme envisaged for 1987 would be implemented as far as possible.

15. Pursuant to the decision of the Board, representatives of the Special Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Disarmament in Geneva and of the Non-Governmental Committee on Disarmament in New York attended a meeting of the fifteenth session. A written statement was submitted on behalf of the World Federation of United Nations Associations.

16. In their remarks, the representatives of non-governmental organizations commented favourably on the conduct of the Campaign and noted that some of their suggestions in previous years had led to valuable improvements. Campaign materials were informative and useful as well as being attractive and readable; more emphasis

On visual presentation would improve them further. Regional conferences were especially recognized as successful undertakings and a more sustained network of non-governmental organizations could be fostered in and around those events. Noting disappointment at the Campaign's inadequate funding, one of the representatives of non-governmental organizations suggested that non-governmental organizations might assist by pressing Governments to make or increase their contributions to the Campaign.

17. During the exchange of views, members of the Board generally felt that the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the World Disarmament Campaign had reached a new dimension. They commented favourably on proposals made by the representatives of the co-ordinating bodies of non-governmental organizations to implement the Campaign, in particular on their ideas regarding fund-raising measures. The Board valued the efforts made by non-governmental organizations and emphasized its wish to continue to hold exchanges of view on the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign with representatives from the co-ordinating bodies of the non-governmental organizations.

C. Situation in the area of disarmament

18. At both its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions, the Board reviewed the general situation in the area of disarmament. At the fourteenth session a number of members expressed cautious but hopeful optimism to the effect that, although the Soviet Union and the United States were still separated on certain major issues, there were possibilities for progress. Other views, however, were less positive and drew attention to the fact that virtually nothing had been achieved, despite years of work, since the General Assembly's first special session on disarmament in 1978. In this context, attention was drawn to the absence of progress on any of three major items on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament, namely a nuclear-test ban; the cessation of the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters. Some members noted with regret the postponement of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

19. The fifteenth session of the Board took place during the week marked by the successful outcome of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. Members expressed satisfaction at that result and in the discussion emphasized its contribution to the improvement of security and confidence in the region. Some members stressed its importance in that the continuation of the process might lead to significant achievements in the process of arms limitation and disarmament. The Board regarded the Stockholm Conference as a good indication of how it was possible to achieve progress if the necessary political will was present. The significance of the agreements arrived at was emphasized, especially on verification aspects, and the value of similar measures in other multilateral negotiations on disarmament issues, in particular with regard to a comprehensive nuclear-test ban.

20. Separately, the view was expressed that there may now be prospects for a global agreement on chemical weapons in the not too distant future.

21. Other members observed, however, that although there were reasons to take a more hopeful view, nevertheless qualitative improvements in weapons still continued, in particular with regard to strategic defence weapons, with all their negative implications for international security.

22. In the discussion a proposal was made that at its next session the Board should allow time for a full consideration of all the elements which are now part of the ongoing process of negotiation in arms limitation and disarmament.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD IN ITS CAPACITY AS BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH

A. The absence of the Director of UNIDIR

23. During the year the Board of Trustees found itself faced with a very difficult situation in UNIDIR due to the absence of its Director, Mr. Liviu Bota. In late December 1985 Mr. Bota visited Bucharest, Romania, for consultation and did not return to his duties at Geneva. Efforts to obtain his return were unsuccessful. In March a letter of resignation signed by Mr. Bota was received at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Secretary-General decided that, in line with Staff Rule 109.2 (c), the resignation should be submitted in person in order to be acceptable.

24. At its fourteenth session in May, the Board discussed the situation at length, with particular reference to the effect of the Director's absence on the effective functioning of the Institute. With the Board's agreement, the Chairman sent a letter to the Secretary-General expressing his concerns and urging him to bring them to the attention of the Romanian government authorities with a view to resolving the matter.

25. At its Fifteenth session, the Board received a letter from the Secretary-General to the effect that he had made several unsuccessful efforts to obtain a satisfactory outcome to the situation and that he intended to take the matter up personally with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania at the end of September.

26. The serious impairment to the work of the Institute caused by the continued absence of the Director was noted by many members of the Board. It was felt that the effect was particularly critical at the present state of the Institute's development when the presence of an active Director was vital. It was decided that the Secretary-General should be given every support by the Board in his efforts to find a solution satisfactory to all concerned and this was expressed to the Secretary-General in a letter from the Chairman.

27. The Board continues to hope for an early resolution of the situation so that the Institute's work will not be further adversely affected.

B. Report on the work of the Institute

28. By the provisions of article IV, paragraph 2 (i) of the Institute's statute, the Director is required to report to the Board on the Institute's activities and execution of its work programme for the Board's approval and subsequent submission to the General Assembly. In the absence of the Director a report was submitted to the Board at its fifteenth session by the Deputy Director.

29. The Board noted the difficulties facing the Institute during the past year and commended the Deputy Director and the staff of the Institute for their hard work and dedication.

30. By paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 40/87 of 12 December 1985 Member States were invited to transmit to the Secretary-General their views on the scope and content of the UNIDIR study on disarmament problems relating to outer space and the consequences of extending the arms race into outer space. The Secretary-General was requested to convey those views to the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR for consideration to enable it to give the Institute such possible guidance with respect to the elaboration of its study as it might derive from those views.

31. With those views before it, the Board held extensive discussions on two versions of the draft report prepared by the Institute. At its fifteenth session, the Board decided that the Institute should reconvene a meeting of the steering group of experts and the authors of both versions of that draft report in order to finalize the study, taking into account the guidance already provided by the Board and the views received from Member States.

32. At its fifteenth session, the Board approved the report on the work of the Institute for submission to the General Assembly (A/41/676).

C. Proposed annual budget for 1987

33. In its review of the financial situation of the Institute and consideration of the proposed annual budget for 1987, the Board had before it a draft programme of work and proposed budget document prepared by UNIDIR and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. In the light of the comments and recommendations made by the latter, and recognizing the serious financial situation of the United Nations as a whole, the Board made certain changes to the Institute's draft programme of work and reduced the proposed budget.

34. The Board was informed that, as at 26 September 1986, the assured income from voluntary sources for 1987 was as follows:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Amount in local currency</u>	<u>Amount in United States dollars</u>
Australia	\$A 20 000	13 460 <u>a/</u>
Canada	\$Can 40 000	20 477 <u>a/</u>
France		180 000
Norway		50 000
Switzerland	SwF 50 000	27 322 <u>b/</u>
Barrow & Cadbury Trust fund		30 000
	Subtotal	<u>\$329 259</u>

a/ Contributions received after 27 September 1985 and held on account in accordance with A/40/744, para. 31.

b/ Based on an exchange rate of SwF 1.83 = SOS 1.

35. In addition, half of the contribution by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1986 of 200,000 rouble will be carried over to 1987, resulting in the equivalent of \$141,690 in non-convertible currency. Thus the total assured income from voluntary sources for 1987 is expected to be:

	\$
Dollar contributions	329 259
Non-convertible currencies (roubles)	141 690
Total	<u>470 949</u>

36. The Board noted that the net income that could be used for calculation of a possible subvention was \$329,259, and therefore the maximum subvention that might be requested according to the provisions of the statute would be 8164,600. The Board considered that a subvention from the regular budget of the United Nations would be necessary, but, in view of the grave financial crisis, the level should be the absolute minimum of support needed to discharge the Institute's responsibilities imposed by its statute. The Board therefore recommended a subvention of \$98,500 for 1987, but drew attention to the fact that restriction to such an amount would pose very serious difficulties for the Institute and its development.

37. It was decided that any income that might be pledged in addition to that shown above should be held in account to be used in connection with the 1988 programme of work and budget.

38. Subject to the approval of the subvention proposed, the total income for 1987 would be \$569,449, including the Soviet contribution of 100,000 roubles (dollar equivalent: \$141,690). The estimated expenditure is summarized as follows:

	<u>Trust Fund</u>	<u>Rouble account</u>	<u>Subvention</u>
		\$	\$
Salaries and common staff costs of the regular staff of the Institute (Director, Deputy Director, two General Service)	174 000		92 600
Travel of staff	14 800	6 700	5 900
<u>Ad hoc expert group</u>		80 000	-
Contractual service8	45 000	55 000	-
Fellowship programme	46 000	-	-
Office equipment maintenance	500	-	-
Reimbursement of programme support costs	14 000		-
Contribution towards liquidation of the deficit	34 900		
	-		
Total	329 200	141 700	98 500

39. One of the activities of UNIDIR to be funded separately will be the establishment of a data base on disarmament. The entire funding for this three-year project will be provided from the Trust Fund for Interest on the United Nations Special Account, in accordance with a specific agreement with the Government of Japan. The expenditure in 1987 will amount to \$179,000 and the total cost over three years will be \$585,300. The Board decided to address in 1987 the matter of the recurring costs in the fourth and subsequent years of the project and how such costs might be met.

D. Work programme for 1987

40. At its fifteenth session, the Board adopted the following work programme:

(a) Subprogramme 1: Disarmament: problems related to outer space

Using the forthcoming preliminary study under this title as background and framework, two further studies were authorized subject to the presentation for Board approval in the spring of 1987 of extended project descriptions. The two further studies would relate respectively to problems of definition and demarcation that are likely to arise in the formulation of detailed treaty provisions for the prevention of an arms race in outer space; and to the possibilities and problems of establishing an organization for the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space.

(b) Subprogramme 2: Disarmament and development

An analysis of the proceedings and results of the forthcoming International Conference on Disarmament and Development.

(c) Subprogramme 3: Conventional disarmament, including regional aspects

A study, in a comprehensive framework, of the ongoing efforts, proposals and negotiations to bring about conventional arms control and disarmament in Europe.

(d) Subprogramme 4: Establishment of a data base on disarmament

A three-year project to establish a computerized data base from United Nations documents, governmental statements, parliamentary records and scientific literature on specified security and disarmament issues.

(e) Subprogramme 5: Updating the Repertory of Disarmament Research

An updating of the Repertory of Disarmament Research published in 1982.

(f) Subprogramme 6: Security of States and lowering the level of armaments

A continuation of the existing series of monographs on national concepts of security.

(g) Subprogramme 7: UNIDIR fellowships

Short-term fellowships for a small number of scholars and diplomats from developing countries to work in UNIDIR.

In addition, when the work commences on updating the 1982 report entitled "Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and Military Expenditures", authorized by the General Assembly in resolution 40/150 and subsequently deferred by the General Assembly, UNIDIR will engage and provide consultant expertise as necessary. Appropriate funds have already been approved under section 2B of the regular budget of the United Nations.

41. The Board directed that in the implementation of the Institute's work it was particularly important to avoid duplication of work being done by the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

42. Members of the Board recognized that their individual terms of office were due to expire on 31 December 1986. However, while the membership and composition of the Board may be different in 1987, in view of the terms of reference of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies and the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, it was considered appropriate to comment on the schedule of meetings for 1987.

43. The Board noted that, according to the draft calendar of conferences, two sessions of the Board were provisionally scheduled in 1987 as follows:

27 April-1 May (New York)

21-25 September (New York)

The Board also noted that the Committee on Conferences, at its substantive session in August 1986, had observed that the essential factor in the Board requesting the exceptional treatment of meeting in the latter part of September was the level and timing of pledges available to fund the UNIDIR programme of work. The Committee on Conferences had also commented that the meetings pattern of the Board in and after 1988 should be subject to further review in 1987 by the Committee on Conferences in the light of the situation prevailing at that time.

ANNEX

Members of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies

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Ambassador, Assistant Foreign Minister
Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Mr. Constant. in Ene
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Member of the Senate
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Mr. Alfonso Garcia Robles
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the Conference on Disarmament
Geneva

Mr. Ignac Golob
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
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Mr. Bjorn Inge Kristvik
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Mr. Liviu Rota, Director of UNIDIR, is an ex officio member of the Advisory Board when acting in its capacity as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR.
