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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 30 November 1987, the General Assembly adopted resolution 42/39 J 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 18 December 1985 and 41/60 D of 3 December 1986,

"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 mobilising 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 or Government of the Organisation 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 land all the necessary support to the Centre;

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

"4. Appeals once again to all Member States, as well as international, governmental and non-governmental organisations, to make voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the effective operational activities of the Centre;

"5. 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 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 and forty-second sessions (A/41/660 and A/42/609), the Centre, which was set up in 1986 pursuant to Assembly resolution 40/151 G, has become operational and has begun carrying out a number of important activities.

A. Structure of the Centre

4. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/151 G, the Centre was set up within the framework of the Secretariat of the United Nations on the basis of contributing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States might make to that end. Furthermore, the Centre is at this initial phase, functioning under the auspices of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. 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.

B. Objectives and activities of the Centre

5. In resolution 40/151 G, by which the Centre was created, the General Assembly decided that the Centre should provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other efforts of Member States of the African region towards the realisation of measures of peace, arms limitation and disarmament in the region, in co-operation with the Organisation of African Unity, as well as co-ordinate the implementation of regional activities in Africa under the World Disarmament Campaign. The current scope and activities of the Centre therefore involve from that overall mandate and include the organisation of programmes of training on the peaceful settlement of disputes, the prevention and management of crises and confidence-building among African States, seminars and conferences, research study, advisory services to Member States, at their request, and the dissemination of information and documentation, in particular within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign.

6. Conferences sponsored by or held under the Centre's auspices during 1986 included the following:

(a) From 15 to 19 February 1986, a conference on security, development and confidence-building, within the framework of the Economic Community of Central African States, was held at the Centre's headquarters at Lomé at the initiative of the Government of Cameroon. The Conference began the consideration of a proposed programme of measures aimed at enhancing security, confidence and development among the 10 countries concerned. Further meetings are envisaged in this context;

(b) From 4 to 6 May 1988, a group of senior African and other experts participated in a preparatory meeting for the programme of training on conflict resolution, crisis prevention and management, and confidence-building among African States, held at the Centre's headquarters at Lomé. At that meeting, it was agreed that the Centre should continue to work in this field.

that the programme would be initiated in 1988 and that its first session would be held within the framework of the protocol on non-aggression existing among the member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The primary objective of such training programmes is to promote ● xpirtirr and ● xporionoo that would enable the officials concerned to pursue and to participate constructively in negotiations and other efforts to reach agreement on measures not only to end specific conflicts in the short-term, but also to ● nhanco mutual confidence and peaceful relations among States in the region in the long-term.

(c) From 22 August to 2 September 1988, the programme of training on conflict resolution, crisis prevention and management, and confidence-building among ECOWAS member States was held under the Centre's auspices at Lomé. The programme, which was organised in co-operation with the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat, was held within the framework of the ECOWAS protocols on non-aggression and mutual defence assistance and was attended by senior military and civilian officials of the member States concerned.

7. The programme of training was opened by the Under-Secretary-General, Department for Disarmament Affairs. Mr. Adelino Queta, Deputy Executive-Secretary of ECOWAS, and His Excellency Mr. Hassan B. Jallow, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Gambia, representing the current chairman of ECOWAS, also made statements at the opening ceremony. His Excellency Mr. Kpotivi Tevi-Djidjogbe Lacle, Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals of the Republic of Togo, representing the Head of State of Togo, His Excellency General Gnassingbé Eyadema, delivered the official welcoming address on behalf of the host Government.

6. The ● UbDtanOO of the programme of training consisted of presentations by experts on the various topics considered, followed by intensive discussions with participants. Training simulations on mediation, crisis management, the application of international humanitarian law in ● ituationa of internal strife or international conflict, and on the peaceful settlement and management of border disputes were also organised. In addition, film shows and slide projections were used to demonstrate or clarify certain aspects of some of the subjects examined during the programme. At the conclusion of the programme, participants recommended the holding of further sessions of the programme, as well as its ● xpansion to cover all interested African countries.

9. In addition, from 5 to 7 April 1988, the Centre co-sponsored, with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, the Togolese National Commission on Human Rights and the Government of Togo, an African regional workshop that examined such themes as the relationship between human rights, peace and development. The meeting was held at Lomé, within the framework of activities in commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

10. Under the Centre's research and study activities a project geared towards identifying high priority areas for research on problems of international co-operation for the ● nhancement of peace and progress in Africa has recently been initiated for 1988-1989. The completion of the project would help define key issues for future study as well as criteria by which to assign priorities for research in this domain, which could be conducted under the auspices of the Centre.

11. Under information and documentation activities, the Centre continues to be placed on the dissemination of information relating to peace, security and development within the African context. In this connection, efforts are being made to establish a documentation/reference library at the Centre and to publish a newsletter on relevant developments in this field for wide distribution in the region. The Centre published the following documents during 1987/1988:

(a) Conference report No. 1 "Observance of United Nations Disarmament Week, 24-31 October 1987, Lomé, Togo";

(b) Rapport de conférence No. 2 "Conférence sur la promotion de la confiance, de la sécurité et du développement dans le cadre de la Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique centrale, 15-19 février 1988, Lomé, Togo";

(c) Occasional report No. 1 "The International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, New York, 24 August-11 September 1987: Africa's Contribution@.

12. Among other activities carried out within the framework of the World Disarmament Campaign, a meeting of scholars, researchers and representatives of non-governmental organisations from Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo was held at Lomé, in October 1987, in connection with the observance of Disarmament Week. The meeting addressed issues relating to peace, security and disarmament in the West African subregion and, in particular, within the five participating neighbouring States.

13. In addition, representatives of the Centre visited various institutions and attended seminars and conferences sponsored by other organisations. In this connection, the Centre participated in an international seminar on the topic "Human rights and economic and social progress", which was jointly sponsored by the Benin Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Middle and Higher Education, the Institute of Social Economic and Civil Training of Benin, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS. The meeting was held at Cotonou, Benin, from 30 May to 2 June 1988.

14. 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 also visited the Centre during 1987-1988. They included, inter alia, delegations from the Canadian International Development Agency, the Pan African Women Organisation, based in Luanda, Angola, the Soviet Committee for the Defence of Peace and the National Committee for Peace of Togo,

C. Staffing and finance

15. By its resolution 41/151 G, the General Assembly decided to establish the Centre on the basis of contributing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States may make to that end. In paragraph 11 of his report 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 emphasise 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 Organisation 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 organisations 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."

16. The Secretary-General wishes to reaffirm, as he did in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session (A/42/609), 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 appeal made by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/60 D and 42/39 J to Member States and international, governmental and non-governmental organisations to make voluntary contributions to the Centre. Furthermore, it will be recalled, in this connection, that the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity in its resolution AHG/Res. 164 (XXIII) also reaffirmed its appeal to the international community to provide substantive assistance for the effective operation of the Centre.

17. To date, an equivalent of \$840,000, 811 in convertible currency, has been pledged to the Centre by Member States and various foundations. Of this total, an approximate amount of \$630,000 has been deposited, out of which approximately \$500,000 has been spent on carrying out the activities outlined in this report, as well as on the staffing and operational costs of the Centre. The pledges were made by the following countries and non-governmental organisations: Belgium, Cameroon, Egypt, Germany, Federal Republic of Italy, Norway, Senegal, Tunisia, Togo, United States of America, the Ford Foundation (United States), the Rockefeller Foundation (United States), the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security and the United States Institute of Peace.