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

Letter dated 19 April 1982 from the Permanent Representatives
of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith a working paper stating the views of the five Nordic countries on the United Nations study on the relationship between disarmament and development (A/36/356, annex). The working paper stresses the need for an effective follow-up of the recommendations contained in the study by Member States and the United Nations system.

We would be grateful if the working paper could be circulated as an official document of the twelfth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to disarmament, under item 9 of the provisional agenda, and be brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session.

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* A/36/49, para. 18.

ANNEX

Working paper on the relationship between disarmament and development
submitted by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden

1. The conviction that military preparations of the present-day scope and duration are an economic burden of increasing weight was one of the underlying reasons behind the joint initiative of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden in proposing, in what became resolution 32/88 A, an in-depth, forward-looking and policy-oriented study by the United Nations of the relationship between disarmament and development. The report which was a result of this study (A/36/356, annex) was based on the most comprehensive study yet undertaken by the United Nations in this field. The study was conducted under the chairmanship of Sweden. In addition, Norway participated in the Group of Governmental Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development which prepared the report. Research projects were commissioned in Finland, Norway and Sweden.
2. The Governments of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden are of the opinion that the release of resources from military purposes through disarmament represents an important potential development reserve in both industrialized and developing countries. However, the transfer of resources for economic and social development in developing countries must not be made contingent upon progress in disarmament and reductions in military budgets. One of the merits of the report is that it constructively projects both development and disarmament in the perspective of restoring global economic growth and closing the appalling gap between industrialized and developing countries, with a view to establishing a new international economic order.
3. The continued and unabated accumulation of armaments constitutes a growing danger for world peace and security. As stated in the report, there also exists an increasing range of non-military challenges to the security problems of nations which cannot be rationally met by a race for arms. The Nordic Governments therefore note with satisfaction that the report concentrates on the dynamic interaction between disarmament, development and the security problems of nations and the world. The considered political view - unanimously expressed in the study's concluding chapter - that the world can either continue to pursue the arms race with characteristic vigour or move consciously and with deliberate speed toward a more stable and balanced social and economic development within a more sustainable international economic and political order - is of utmost importance. The relevance of this conclusion should be regarded in the light of recent experiences both in the field of international development co-operation and global negotiations and in the disarmament field.

Follow-up of the recommendations contained in the report of
the Group of Governmental Experts on the Relationship between
Disarmament and Development

4. The Nordic Governments draw attention to the nine recommendations contained in the study (A/36/356, annex, para. 426; see also the appendix below) with a view to promoting an effective follow-up and possible decisions by the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament. The recommendations represent guidelines for the short and long-term work of Member States and the United Nations in this field. In this working paper the Nordic Governments draw attention to the actions to be taken by the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament as a follow-up to the recommendations.

I

5. One of the study's tasks was to establish a reliable data base on the present-day use of material and human resources for military purposes. The Nordic Governments deplore that this task proved impossible. It is known that most countries, among them some major participants in the arms race, do not give detailed information or analyses of resources devoted to their military effort.

6. It has become evident that the international community, in its disarmament related activities, has a great need for a reliable and acceptable base of data on military transfers. The United Nations should publish, through the United Nations Disarmament Centre, scientifically comparable data on all countries, as well as the necessary scientific analysis and commentary. The Nordic Governments welcome in this regard the development of the international system, adopted by the General Assembly, for the standardized reporting of military expenditures. In the view of the Nordic Governments, such data can be made public without compromising national security interests, and would contribute to increased confidence among nations. The Nordic Governments share the study's conclusions that a steady reduction of secrecy would contribute to breaking the vicious circle in which the arms race in one country unreasonably and excessively reinforces the arms race in another.

7. The Secretary-General, assisted by qualified experts, should be entrusted with the task of investigating the nature and amount of information, and in what form, that Governments should be invited to supply to the United Nations to fill the above-mentioned gaps of knowledge in order to strengthen the disarmament-development perspective. In this context, account should also be taken of the proposals made in the report of the Group of Experts on the Reduction of Military Budgets, prepared between February 1981 and March 1982 (A/S-12/7).

II

8. Concerning recommendation 1, it is obvious that the central government - as the single purchaser of goods and services in the military sector - should also bear the responsibility for carrying out analyses on the economic and social consequences, nationally and internationally, of its military spending, and for informing the public about them. The Nordic Governments share the view that the major military powers should assume a special responsibility in this regard. The

provision of such data to the United Nations, e.g., by updating at regular intervals the study of the economic and social consequences of the arms race, would also strengthen international confidence and the capacity of the United Nations effectively to deal with the relationship between disarmament and development. The Centre for Disarmament and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research would naturally assume a central role in the collection, analysis and dissemination of such information.

III

9. It may also be appropriate for Governments to co-operate with scientific institutions, which have the necessary access to national and international data, to develop and implement methods for identifying and analysing the benefits that would be derived from the reallocation of military resources, following disarmament, to address economic and social problems at the national level and to contribute towards reducing the gap in income between industrial nations and the developing world and establishing the new international economic order. The United Nations should develop and implement such methods and make them known to the Governments of Member States.

IV

10. In the view of the Nordic Governments there is a need for planning and preparation for smoothing the transition from military to civilian production following disarmament. All Governments, particularly those of the major military Powers, should undertake to create the necessary prerequisites, including preparation and planning, for the conversion of resources freed by disarmament measures to civilian purposes, especially to meet urgent economic and social needs, particularly in the developing countries. The Nordic Governments also support the proposal that Governments should make conversion experiences internationally available by submitting reports from time to time to the General Assembly on possible solutions to conversion problems.

11. The Nordic Governments suggest that the matter of conversion should be included in the agenda of the General Assembly at regular intervals, e.g., every four or five years, starting with the fortieth session of the Assembly in 1985. In preparation for the Assembly's deliberation, the Centre for Disarmament and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research should be given the task of exploring methods for the collection, reporting and dissemination of information on experiences in conversion.

V

12. The Nordic Governments would welcome a more thorough and effective integration of the disarmament-development perspective in the activities of the United Nations system and its incorporation in the working programme of the United Nations organs and specialized agencies.

VI

13. Possible institutional arrangements for the transfer of resources, freed through disarmament, to social and economic development in developing countries need to be studied in the light of the capabilities of existing international institutions for the transfer of financial resources for development. In the Nordic Governments' view a disarmament dividend approach to financing an eventual disarmament fund for development is most in accord with the United Nations conceptions of disarmament and development, and is the most feasible and politically acceptable alternative.

14. The Nordic Governments support the recommendation that further investigation of the administrative and technical modalities of a fund and their political acceptability is necessary. Such an investigation could be executed by the Centre for Disarmament and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

APPENDIX

Recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental
Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development

The Group recommends that:

1. All Governments, but particularly those of the major military Powers, should prepare assessments of the nature and magnitude of the short- and long-term economic and social costs attributable to their military preparations so that their general public be informed of them.
2. Governments should urgently undertake studies to identify and to publicize the benefits that would be derived from the reallocation of military resources in a balanced and verifiable manner, to address economic and social problems at the national level and to contribute toward reducing the gap in income that currently divides the industrialized nations from the developing world and establishing a new international economic order.
3. Governments should undertake a fuller and more systematic compilation and dissemination of data on the military use of human and material resources and military transfers, taking into account the needs of the United Nations in terms of resolution 35/142 B (on a standardized system of reporting on military expenditures).
4. The disarmament-development perspective elaborated in this report should be incorporated in a concrete and practical way in the ongoing activities of the United Nations system.
5. Governments should create the necessary prerequisites, including preparations and, where appropriate, planning, to facilitate the conversion of resources freed by disarmament measures to civilian purposes, especially to meet urgent economic and social needs, in particular, in the developing countries.
6. Governments should consider making the results of experience and preparations in their respective countries available by submitting reports from time to time to the General Assembly on possible solutions to conversion problems.
7. Further consideration should be given to establishing an international disarmament fund for development and that the administrative and technical modalities of such a fund be further investigated by the United Nations with due regard to the capabilities of the agencies and institutions currently responsible for the international transfer of resources.
8. The Secretary-General should take appropriate action, through the existing interagency consultative mechanism of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to foster and co-ordinate the incorporation of the disarmament and development perspective in the programmes and activities of the United Nations system.

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9. The Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat and other relevant United Nations organs and agencies, while continuing to emphasize the danger of war - particularly nuclear war - should give increased emphasis in their disarmament-related public information and education activities to the social and economic consequences of the arms race and to the corresponding benefits of disarmament.
