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

Assessment of the United Nations programme of fellowships
on disarmament since its inception in 1979

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* A/36/49 para. 18.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The idea of establishing a United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament was proposed initially by Nigeria (A/S-10/AC.1/11) at the tenth special session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, in 1978. In adopting that suggestion, the Assembly included in the Final Document of the special session (resolution S-10/2 of 30 June 1978) the decision to establish a programme of fellowships on disarmament (para. 108). The stated aim of the programme was to promote expertise in disarmament in more Member States, particularly in the developing countries, and the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare guidelines for the programme and to determine the financial requirements of awarding 20 fellowships a year.

2. It was against this background that the United Nations disarmament fellowship programme commenced in 1979. Every year since then, the General Assembly has adopted a resolution by which it has, inter alia, decided to continue the United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament. The programme completed its third year of activities in November 1981. Preparations are now in progress for the organization of the 1982 programme.

3. The most recent action of the General Assembly was taken at its thirty-sixth session. On 9 December 1981, the Assembly adopted resolution 36/92 A, the operative part of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Decides to continue the United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to make adequate arrangements relating to the programme for 1982 in accordance with the guidelines approved by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session;

"3. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament a report containing an assessment of the United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament since its inception in 1979;

"4. Commends the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme has been conducted;

"5. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary and Sweden for inviting the fellows to their capitals to study selected activities in the field of disarmament, thereby contributing to the fulfilment of the over-all objectives of the programme, as well as providing additional information sources and practical knowledge for the fellows."

4. The present report is submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 3 of the resolution.

/...

II. GUIDELINES AND MANDATE

A. Fellowships

5. In the guidelines for the fellowship programme (A/33/305), as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/71 E of 14 December 1978, it is clearly indicated that the primary objective of the programme is to promote expertise in disarmament, that is, to enable the holders of fellowships to derive from their training the knowledge and professional competence that will help increase their ability to deal with problems of disarmament.

6. The guidelines also make clear that United Nations fellowships in general are primarily intended for persons already or soon to be entrusted with responsibilities related to the development of their countries. In the case of disarmament fellowships in particular, candidates are expected to be individuals involved in or earmarked for work on disarmament and related matters. This means that disarmament fellowships are not awarded for the pursuit of academic studies leading to degrees.

7. Other criteria set by the guidelines are that disarmament fellowships should normally be awarded to candidates nominated by their Governments and that, in considering applications, particular attention should be paid to the background of the candidates, their position in the home country, and the practical use they expect to make of the knowledge and experience gained on their return home. Other factors which influence the selection of candidates are the greater needs of developing countries and over-all geographical balance.

B. Selection panel

8. On the basis of the above criteria, a group of 20 disarmament fellows has been selected each year for the past three years, by the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a selection panel. The selection panel is composed of senior officials of the Centre for Disarmament and a representative from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The panel usually meets once a year, in April, in New York. In selecting the candidates, efforts are made to ensure the broadest possible geographical distribution of the 20 fellowships available and to ensure that an ever-expanding number of States will have the opportunity to avail themselves of the advantages of the programme. Most of the recipients of fellowship awards are foreign service officials who are either working with their Governments at their Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York or Geneva or at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in their home countries, while some are serving with other government agencies interested in questions of disarmament.

C. Organization of the programme

9. From the start of the fellowship programme the United Nations Centre for Disarmament has been charged with the task of organizing and carrying out the programme, drawing on expertise from within the United Nations system as well as from Member States, relevant research institutes and non-governmental organizations.

III. PROGRAMME CONTENT (1979-1981)

A. General

10. When the fellowship programme was established by the General Assembly at its tenth special session, it was conceived within the framework of efforts designed to mobilize public opinion in favour of disarmament through such means as disarmament education, seminars and training. The various elements of the programme were therefore designed to give in-depth knowledge of disarmament issues, so as to create a cadre of public officials knowledgeable in all the intricate aspects of disarmament, particularly in countries that are currently short of such expertise.

11. Each year, the training course, the duration of which does not exceed six months, has usually started in Geneva at the beginning of the summer session of the Committee on Disarmament, and ended in New York after the First Committee of the General Assembly has concluded its consideration of the disarmament items on its agenda. The Geneva part of the programme has been followed by a one-week course at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at Vienna. At the invitation of some Member States in Europe, the disarmament fellows have visited the countries concerned, and have thus been afforded the opportunity to acquaint themselves with some aspects of disarmament-related activities there (see paras. 17-19).

12. The fellowship programme has included the following main elements to date:

(a) Lectures on disarmament issues, both in their historical context and as the subject of current deliberations and negotiations;

(b) Seminars covering selected disarmament issues, documentation in the disarmament field, the drafting of disarmament documents, and simulation exercises;

(c) Research on peace, disarmament and related issues;

(d) Writing papers and reports on specific subjects of disarmament;

(e) Observing and discussing the activities of bodies dealing with disarmament;

(f) Study visits.

B. Lectures

13. The programme has included lectures on the following subjects which were given by highly qualified speakers: role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament; review of developments in the plenary meetings of the General Assembly and in the First Committee; disarmament negotiations in the framework of the United Nations (1945-1981); disarmament machinery; approaches to disarmament: general and complete disarmament, nuclear disarmament, strategic arms limitation talks (SALT), nuclear-weapon-free zones, conventional weapons, a comprehensive programme of disarmament; question of a nuclear test ban; question of a ban on chemical weapons;

prohibition of new weapons of mass destruction; prohibition of excessively injurious conventional weapons; question of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons; Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; security guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon States; the arms race; economic and social consequences of the arms race; reduction of military budgets; the relationship between disarmament and development; concepts of regional security; the Vienna Talks on Mutual Reduction of Forces and Armaments and Associated Measures in Central Europe; arms limitation in outer space; issues of verification; contribution of non-governmental organizations to disarmament; peaceful uses of nuclear energy (a series of lectures was given by senior officials of IAEA on such topics as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and IAEA, the legal basis for international safeguards, safeguarding nuclear energy, and the implementation of IAEA safeguards).

C. Seminars

14. The fellows participated in a series of seminars on selected disarmament issues, including:

- (a) Documentation in disarmament fields;
- (b) Drafting of disarmament documents;
- (c) Simulation exercises;
- (d) Disarmament issues before the First Committee of the General Assembly;
- (e) Selected disarmament studies, for example, the work of the Advisory Board on disarmament studies, study on a comprehensive test-ban treaty, study on regional disarmament, study on a world disarmament campaign, study on institutional arrangements for disarmament and study on disarmament and development;
- (f) The first and second special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

D. Observation of proceedings of disarmament bodies

15. The fellows have been given the widest opportunity to follow the proceedings of disarmament bodies and to visit disarmament-related organizations. In particular, they have engaged in the observation of deliberations in the plenary meetings of the General Assembly and the First Committee as well as of negotiations in the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva.

E. Research work and papers

16. The fellows have done research work on peace and disarmament-related issues and submitted written papers and reports on various aspects of disarmament during the training period.

F. Study visits

17. During the period under review, the Centre for Disarmament received letters from several Governments, inviting participants in the programme to visit their countries to study their policies and activities in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. It was considered that the opportunities offered would contribute to the fulfilment of the over-all objectives of the fellowship programme and they were accepted on that basis. The questions covered during the study visits are the subject of current deliberations and negotiations in the United Nations and the Committee on Disarmament.

18. The first invitation came from the Government of Sweden in 1980. Since then, the Centre has received invitations from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of Hungary. In response to these invitations, disarmament fellows visited the Federal Republic of Germany and Sweden in 1980 and the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary and Sweden in 1981.

19. These visits, organized in a very generous and efficient manner by the inviting Governments, have provided the fellows with additional sources of information and practical knowledge. Particular mention should be made of the lectures on selected aspects of disarmament issues given at the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, and the visit to the Bayer Chemical Plant at Dormagen; the lectures on disarmament issues given at the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the meetings with representatives of the Hungarian United Nations Association and the Hungarian State Committee on Youth; and the briefings on disarmament issues given at the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the National Defense Research Institute, the lectures given at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the visits to the Hagfors Seismological Observatory and the Unit for Analysis of Airborne Radioactivity (ELBA).

G. Arrangements for lecturers

20. The programme has co-operative arrangements with professors and lecturers with recognized expertise in the field of disarmament. Lectures have been given by ambassadors and other senior members of the Diplomatic Corps, staff members from the Centre for Disarmament and lecturers from UNITAR, IAEA and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as well as lecturers from universities, international research institutes, in particular the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), and non-governmental organizations. The lecturers were drawn from as wide a group of countries as possible - both developed and developing - so as to acquaint the fellows with various shades of opinion on issues of disarmament.

H. Award of certificates

21. At the end of the course, fellows were awarded certificates of attendance.

IV. DISTRIBUTION OF FELLOWSHIPS

22. In its three years of existence, the programme has trained 59 disarmament fellows. The fellowships were awarded to nationals of the following countries:

<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Bulgaria	Bolivia	Argentina
Cuba	Burma	Bangladesh
Egypt	Cuba	China
Ethiopia	Czechoslovakia	Colombia
Greece	Democratic Yemen	Congo
India	Egypt	Ecuador
Indonesia	Hungary	Ethiopia
Israel	Malawi	German Democratic Republic
Jamaica	Morocco	Ghana
Kenya	Nepal	Greece
Nigeria	Nigeria	India
Poland	Oman	Indonesia
Romania	Pakistan	Israel
Syrian Arab Republic	Peru	Jamaica
Turkey	Philippines	Kenya
United Republic of Cameroon	Thailand	Lebanon
Venezuela	Turkey	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Viet Nam	United Republic of Tanzania	Romania
Yugoslavia	Yugoslavia	Sudan
	Zaire	Syrian Arab Republic

V. CONCRETE RESULTS OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

A. Questionnaire addressed to all former disarmament fellows

23. After the adoption, in 1981, of General Assembly resolution 36/92 A, the Centre for Disarmament addressed a questionnaire to all former disarmament fellows. The replies received may be summarized as follows.

24. In general, fellows indicated that their participation in the fellowship programme had contributed to their career development and that they had gained considerable and valuable knowledge. This knowledge had given them more confidence to take part in discussions on disarmament issues and had made it possible for their Ministries of Foreign Affairs to rely on them as resource persons in this field. Moreover, the lectures and seminars as well as the practical aspects of the programme had made it possible for them to become familiar with the current stage of disarmament negotiations. Some fellows indicated that the programme had given them good exposure to the United Nations system and had built a broad basis for the development of their negotiating skills.

25. The fellows pointed out that, upon returning to their home countries, they had been given assignments dealing with: (a) disarmament and other security-related matters at their Ministries of Foreign Affairs; (b) subjects being discussed in the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva; (c) disarmament items on the agenda of the First Committee of the General Assembly in New York; and (d) disarmament items on the agenda of the Disarmament Commission.

26. A large number of the fellows had been included in their countries' delegations to international conferences dealing with disarmament questions. This is particularly evident from the delegations to the single multilateral negotiating body - the Committee on Disarmament at Geneva. An analysis of the distribution of the fellowships for the past three years shows that nationals of 22 Member States of the Committee on Disarmament have participated in the fellowship programme. Disarmament fellows had also been included in their countries' delegations to the regular sessions of the General Assembly in New York, the second Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held at Geneva in 1980, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and the Disarmament Commission.

27. Some of the fellows mentioned that they had been nominated by their Governments to be members of expert groups convened by the Secretary-General to study specific disarmament topics, for example, the reduction of military budgets. Other fellows mentioned that they had been included in working groups in the Committee on Disarmament, for instance, the one on negative security assurances.

B. Interest of Member States

28. Governments, particularly those of developing countries, have continued to manifest serious interest in the programme. That interest is reflected in the increase in the number of States nominating candidates for the fellowships. Although the General Assembly has approved 20 fellowships each year, the Centre for Disarmament has received, on the average, 40 nominations from Member States (that is, twice as many fellowships as the Secretary-General was authorized to award each year). The steady increase in the number of nominations is shown in the following table:

<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>
36	38	40	50

29. After the first year, Member States showed particular interest in inviting participants in the programme to visit their capitals to study selected aspects of disarmament issues (see paras. 17-19).

VI. BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAMME

30. In each of the years from 1979 to 1981, the General Assembly appropriated an unchanged amount of \$250,000 to meet the cost of the fellowship programme, including all travel expenses connected with the fellowships and the stipends to be paid to the fellows during the tenure of their awards. These two items represent

about 80 per cent of the total appropriation for the programme. The stipends are intended to cover only normal living expenses, in accordance with the policies and procedures governing the administration of United Nations fellowships.

31. It should be pointed out that, when the Secretary-General first suggested, in 1978, that the General Assembly allocate a sum of \$250,000 to cover the cost of the fellowship programme for the following year, he informed the General Assembly that other direct and indirect costs might be involved in implementing the programme of fellowships on disarmament. The Secretary-General further stated that it was not possible to identify those costs in view of the limited experience with the programme at that time.

32. As a result of the experience that has been gained since 1979, the programme has considerably expanded in scope and depth. This expansion has brought with it some increase in costs which is due in part also to the inflation that has occurred in the past three years. Furthermore, it is expected that the level of activities and the content of the programme might widen owing to the demonstrated interest of Member States.

VII. CONCLUSION

33. As mentioned earlier, the stated aim of the programme was to promote expertise in disarmament in more Member States, particularly in the developing countries. In a period of three years, 59 national public officials, from developing countries in particular, have been trained to participate more effectively in international deliberative and negotiating forums in the area of disarmament, as well as to provide expertise at the national level. Thus, judging from the experience of the three years, the replies received from former disarmament fellows, and views of Member States actively supporting the programme, the programme has clearly justified the hopes that inspired its launching in 1979.

34. Governments, particularly those of the developing countries, have continued to manifest serious interest in the programme. This interest is reflected in the increase in the number of States nominating candidates for the fellowships. Furthermore, for the 1982 programme, the Centre for Disarmament has received letters from three Member States (German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, and Sweden), inviting the participants in the 1982 fellowship programme to visit their respective countries.
