

WORKING PAPER ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION EDUCATION

Submitted by
Egypt, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Poland and Sweden

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to build on the working paper on disarmament and non-proliferation education (NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/WP.18), submitted to the Second Preparatory Committee for the NPT by Egypt, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Poland and Sweden, encouraging Governments, the United Nations and other international organizations, civil society, and non-governmental organizations to include information on the NPT in their education and training programmes. Last year's paper noted that co-sponsors would present a more detailed working paper at the Third Preparatory Committee.

The paper presented last year outlined the background to the study carried out by the United Nations on disarmament and non-proliferation education. On 20 November 2000, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 55/33E entitled "United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education", which requested the Secretary-General to prepare a study on the question, with the assistance of a group of qualified governmental experts, and to report to the Assembly at its 57th session.

After two years of preparation, the study (A57/124) was submitted to the First Committee at its 57th session on 9 October 2002. In resolution 57/60 entitled "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education", adopted without a vote on 22 November 2002, the Assembly conveyed the recommendations of the study for implementation, as appropriate, by Member States, the United Nations and other international organizations, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the media, and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of these recommendations to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. Furthermore, Recommendation number 33 in the UN study encourages Member States and the Under-Secretary for Disarmament Affairs to include in their remarks to the First Committee of the General Assembly information on the results of the implementation of the recommendations of the study.

II. BACKGROUND

In the current unsettled security environment, there is a patent need to inform people of the dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction, and steps being undertaken to overcome these challenges. Long-term and enduring peace can only be ensured through a deeper and shared understanding of the underlying causes of conflict and how they can be resolved peacefully. In this respect, education is an important but underutilized tool for strengthening disarmament and non-proliferation for future generations.

The overall objective of disarmament and non-proliferation education and training is to impart knowledge and skills to individuals to empower them to make their contribution, as national and international citizens, to the achievement of concrete disarmament and non-proliferation measures. Education on disarmament and non-proliferation is important, in particular, to make progress towards the full implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation obligations under the NPT. Disarmament and non-proliferation education can ensure the continuation of institutional knowledge, and assist those working on NPT issues to understand the Treaty and its regime as a whole. Furthermore, it will assist NPT States Parties in increasing awareness of the dangers posed by nuclear weapons, and inform the public of actions being carried out by governments, diplomats and international institutions to this end.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

Co-sponsor countries:

1. Recall that in 1978, the Tenth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, known as the First Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD I), was the first international forum to declare the urgency of disarmament education, and welcomes the continuation of the Fellowship Programme which was initiated during the same Session;
2. Recognize the importance of the Final Document of the UNESCO World Congress on Disarmament Education, which considers special impetus should be given to the development of disarmament education;
3. Encourage States Parties to recognize the role and responsibility of States Parties, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions in promoting the objectives of the NPT through educational and training activities;
4. Welcome the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, and in particular:
 - a. Recognize the feasibility of the implementation by states of the recommendations included in the United Nations study, regardless of any specific position states may take, and encourage states, groups and individuals to begin implementing measures as appropriate and feasible;
 - b. Encourage each government to make efforts to take concrete steps, no matter how small, toward implementing measures from the report, thereby gathering momentum for disarmament and non-proliferation education at a grass-roots level;
 - c. Recognize that a large stock of disarmament and non-proliferation material already exists and is expanding, and reaffirm the necessity for arranging and

making accessible available resources in an easy-to-use format so as to disseminate them to as wide an audience as possible;

- d. Encourage the 2005 NPT Review Conference to attribute a high level of importance to the United Nations study;
5. Welcome the creation of an inter-agency group on disarmament and non-proliferation education under the auspices of DDA, as well as the development of disarmament and non-proliferation materials by a number of UN family members;
6. Note that, despite the aforementioned declaration and documents, not to mention the wealth of information currently available, further efforts in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation education are needed, including the translation, collation and dissemination of materials and their integration into various levels of education for different target audiences and socio-economic groups;
7. Encourage States Parties, drawing on their own expertise and that of NGOs and academic institutions, to work with relevant international organizations, including the UN DDA and the IAEA, with the support of States Parties in a position to do so, to present educational and training programmes and workshops, which include information on results of the NPT Review Conferences and the work of States Parties to implement the Treaty, to promote a deeper understanding of the NPT;
8. Encourage States Parties to recognize the need to develop and disseminate specific curriculum materials addressing the issues and consequences of proliferation and the importance of disarmament, for training purposes at institutions of learning in order to build a culture of disarmament and non-proliferation.
9. Encourage other States to support this working paper and to voluntarily share information on efforts they have been undertaking in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation at the 2005 Review Conference.