

most affected by post-conflict DDRP problems have the greater say in how best to address them.²⁹

6. The Role of the Disarmament Commission and Other Relevant Bodies

The UNDC is a specialized deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery, mandated to consider and make concrete recommendations on various disarmament-related issues and to follow up the relevant decisions and recommendations of the special sessions devoted to disarmament held so far.³⁰ The UNDC takes its direction from, and reports to, the First Committee of the General Assembly, the resolutions of which have clearly indicated the need to deal with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.³¹

Since 1978, the Disarmament Commission has dealt with numerous disarmament-related questions, both nuclear and conventional, and has submitted consensus guidelines, principles or recommendations on various subject items.³² A number of these are of direct relevance to the consideration of DDRPs and offer examples of how the UNDC has addressed the interrelationship of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, how it has viewed the appropriateness of addressing DDRP-related issues, and the method by which it has approached such issues in the past. They are summarized in Annex A.

As noted earlier, UNIDIR, which is mandated to carry out forward-looking and long-term research on disarmament, has been looking in depth at the issue of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration since 1994. The First Committee addressed the issue in its deliberations in 1996 and 1997. The Conference on Disarmament has not considered

²⁹ See, for example, the UNDC consensus document on *Issues related to conventional disarmament* (A/45/42, 1990): "Whereas States with the largest military arsenals have a special responsibility in pursuing the process of conventional disarmament, it is incumbent upon all States, while taking into account the need to protect their security and maintain necessary defensive capabilities, to intensify their efforts and take, either on their own or by agreement, appropriate steps in the field of conventional disarmament that would enhance peace and security in their regions as well as globally and contribute to overall progress towards the goal of general and complete disarmament." (para. 6).

³⁰ The Mandate of the UNDC is contained in the *Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly*, A/S-10/2, para. 118(a) (1978). This mandate was confirmed in the *Review of the role of the United Nations in the Field of Disarmament* (A/45/42, para. 10c, 1990) and reaffirmed in resolution 48/77A of 16 December 1993.

³¹ See, for example, resolution 51/45N (1996) and resolution 52/38G (1997).

³² The texts of all "Principles, Guidelines or Recommendations on Subject Items that Have Been Unanimously Adopted by the Disarmament Commission Since its Inception Since 1978" are included in the *Review of the Implementation of the Recommendations and Decisions Adopted by the General Assembly at its Tenth Special Session: Report of the Disarmament Commission*, A/51/182, 1 July 1996.