

The President and Rapporteur of the General Assembly at its 42nd session, Peter Florin of GDR and Pedro Nunez-Mosquera of Cuba, respectively, continued to occupy the same positions at UNSSOD III.

The May/June 1987 meeting of the Preparatory Committee adopted a balanced and forward-looking agenda for the Special Session, despite difficulties in overcoming differing approaches. The major items of the agenda were agreed as follows:

Items 9/10: Review and appraisal of the present international situation

Assessment of the decisions of UNSSOD I and II

Item 12: Assessment of developments and trends, including qualitative and quantitative aspects

Items 13/14: Disarmament machinery

UN information and educational activities

At the final meeting of the Preparatory Committee, a new Item 15: "Relationship between disarmament and development" was also added. Because of the failure of the first meeting to set a date for UNSSOD III, the decision was taken at UNGA 42, as noted above.

Despite the optimism generated as a result of progress in the bilateral USA/USSR negotiations, the final meeting of the Preparatory Committee proved a major disappointment. It failed to agree on any elaboration of the UNSSOD III agenda and simply decided to forward a non-consensus Chairman's "informal paper" containing "suggested elements for consideration" to the Special Session. The paper avoided unhelpful rhetoric, however, and provided a good basis for discussion.

More seriously, the results of the Preparatory Committee served to demonstrate the continuation of deep divisions among states and regions over a broad spectrum of ACD issues and on what the Special Session should accomplish. In retrospect the outcome was clearly a harbinger of things to come and constituted a source of serious concern to Canada for the prospects for a successful UNSSOD III.