

resources for military purposes is to be kept to a minimum and that, by implication, there is such a thing as excessive military spending, namely, whenever it exceeds the least amount needed to establish peace and security.

Subsequent declarations go further to state that international peace and security actually depend on there being reductions in military preparations and that reductions in armaments and armed forces are therefore in the interests of peace and security and are identified as an enduring objective of the international community. In 1978, the UN General Assembly adopted the Final Document of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which declared: "Genuine and lasting peace can only be created through the effective implementation of the security system provided for in the Charter of the United Nations and the speedy and substantial reduction of arms and armed forces, by international agreement and mutual example, leading ultimately to general and complete disarmament under effective international control." [Final Document, Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament 1978, paragraph 13.]

Similarly, the international community has declared that reductions in armaments and armed forces are also essential for development and for economic and social well-being. The 1982 UN study on The Relationship between Disarmament and Development concluded that excessive military spending undermines development and is incompatible with the international community's development objectives:

"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. It cannot do both....The arms race and development are in a competitive relationship...." [paragraph 391.]

In addition, since the 1970s a series of international commissions, while not formal expressions of the will of the international community, have been undertaken by panels of eminent persons and have consistently called for reductions in military spending in the interests