

on comparative military budget reporting, and the study was completed in March 1982. The next step is to have nations report their data to the UN, using the recommended accounting procedures; however, only 21 nations so far have responded. The US has suggested a conference on accounting procedures, but there was not much enthusiasm for this at the UN. This path to arms reductions thus remains blocked, though it would seem to be one of the most reasonable ways to proceed.

If military budgets are to be reduced, then it would make sense to institute at the UN a Disarmament Fund for Development. Such a Fund was proposed by France at UNSSOD I in 1978, and a study of it was published by UNIDIR, (UN Institute for Disarmament Research). More recently, the idea was discussed at the UN conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, but no action was taken on it there. The UNIDIR study recognized 3 types of fund: a disarmament dividend (developing nations receive a part of the money saved by disarming); an armament levy (overarmed nations are taxed and the benefits go to developing nations); and a system of voluntary donations. The drawback of the disarmament dividend is having to wait till serious disarmament starts before giving development benefits; under the armament levy plan, benefits would begin immediately, and the payments would give overarmed nations an added incentive to disarm. The disadvantage of the armament levy is that it may be seen as selling licenses to nations to arm. The drawback of the voluntary system is that it might provide too little money and also be unfair--the willing would give more than the recalcitrant, even if both were equally able to give. The advantage of the voluntary system is that it would be easier to start, from the political viewpoint.