

19. The levels of armament, both nuclear and conventional, have not yet been significantly reduced and qualitative advances continue to be made. Nuclear testing continues. The issue of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, in all its aspects, remains a major preoccupation. The repeated use of chemical weapons has caused alarm. Indications of the emergence of chemical weapons in an increasing number of national arsenals gives rise to grave concern. The use of chemical weapons in violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol or other rules of customary international law has been strongly condemned. Numerous instances of conflict fought with conventional weapons have occurred, taking a massive toll of human life and resources. Furthermore, a nuclear exchange which would have global and catastrophic effects remains a possibility. There is also a danger of extension of the arms race to outer space.

20. World military expenditures, which have doubled in the past 10 years, are now, according to some estimates, approaching a trillion dollars a year. Valuable resources urgently needed for economic and social development have been expended for military purposes. New technological developments are often directed to military requirements.

21. Efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to conclude a convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons, as well as the prohibition of attacks against nuclear facilities, are still under way. Moreover, the question of clandestine and hostile dumping of radioactive and toxic wastes in the territory of other States has begun to give grounds for growing concern.

22. The gap between developed and developing countries has not narrowed. On the contrary, it has widened, and if early solutions are not found, there may be serious, adverse effects on international peace and security.

23. States members of the United Nations must therefore take concerted and determined actions to offset these negative possibilities by building upon and expanding the areas of convergence of views, including the widening consensus that genuine international peace and security cannot be ensured through ever-growing accumulation of weapons.

III. DIRECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

24. In looking towards the future, the international community must heighten its sense of common purpose in halting the arms race and pursuing disarmament. Efforts should be made in all areas where differences of approach exist, with a view to reaching consensus. The international community must seize the opportunity that is before it. Solutions must be energetically sought. Building on the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, mutually complementary, bilateral, regional and global approaches are needed to address and fulfil the deep desire of peoples of the world for success in disarmament negotiations and the attainment of peace and security.