

## 6. COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF DISARMAMENT

### Background

The Final Document of the First United Nations Special Session on Disarmament (UNSSOD I) specified that general and complete disarmament under effective international control "remains the ultimate goal of all efforts exerted in the field of disarmament."<sup>1</sup>

The UNSSOD discussion envisaged that negotiations on a comprehensive programme could take place at the same time as negotiations for more partial measures, such as those addressed in the ongoing superpower dialogue on arms control. The Final Document asked the reconstituted Disarmament Commission, a deliberative body in which all Member States of the UN are represented, to consider the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament (CPD). As the Disarmament Commission operates by consensus, the Final Document also directed the Disarmament Commission to submit its recommendations to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which would then pass them on to the negotiating body, the Committee on Disarmament. This 40-member body, which became the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in 1984, also operates by consensus, but has a mandate to develop and promulgate specific arms control measures.

In 1979, the Disarmament Commission spent most of its first session elaborating the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament. The outcome was transmitted to the CD through the General Assembly later that year.

The Committee on Disarmament worked on the outline from the Disarmament Commission from 1980 to 1982 with the intention of submitting a more articulated and detailed proposal to the Second United Nations Special

<sup>1</sup> "Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament" Report of the Conference on Disarmament, General Assembly, Official Records: Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/40/27) United Nations New York, 1985, p. 137.