

An older, but still current, idea is to convene a UN Security Conference, "security" being a wider concept than "disarmament" (also including UN peacekeeping, dispute settlement, etc). In one version, a Security Conference is seen as parallel to a UN Special Session on Disarmament, i.e., a session of about 4 weeks duration, preceded by Preparatory Committee meetings, and producing a Final Document. In another version, the parallel would be to the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea; i.e., a long conference lasting for many years, as many as necessary to produce a full-fledged, complex, consensual treaty. Of these two alternatives, the second would be preferable for producing lasting results, but if the process is too prolonged, it may lose momentum and produce discouragement.

Another suggestion has been to have an independent international commission on UN reform. The model here is the Brandt or Palme Commission. Its recommendations would be respected if commission members were former prime ministers or other such prominent persons. (These last two proposals originate from the ranks of World Federalists.)

An excellent program for stimulating public participation in government policy is the Swedish People's Parliament, later widened to include the other Scandinavian countries and renamed the Nordic People's Parliament. The topics can vary: the first (1982) was on disarmament in preparation for UNSSOD II; among the later topics was South African apartheid (1986). Participating organizations (all non-governmental) include a broad range: unions, churches, development education groups, environmental groups, women's groups, youth groups, human rights groups, peace groups. Preparations begin at least a year ahead of time. Each participating organization proposes resolutions, in the form of bills for parliament, on the theme topic. All these resolutions are collected and circulated to