

World Disarmament Campaign, which was launched at that session, has made positive contributions by informing, educating and generating public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament.

10. In recent years, because of efforts within the international community, positive trends have emerged in the consideration of various international issues. There have been important developments in the areas of arms limitation and disarmament efforts, the resolution of certain local conflicts and the easing of international tensions. Significant shifts have occurred in perceptions, attitudes and policies. These developments present the international community of nations with the opportunity to take a significant step towards the realization of security at progressively lower levels of armed forces and armaments.

11. The two major military Powers have expressed their shared recognition that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. The Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, the very first disarmament agreement ever concluded for the elimination of an entire category of nuclear weapons, represents a valuable initial step in the reduction of nuclear weapons. The agreement in principle by the same two States on the reduction by 50 per cent of their strategic offensive arms and their continuing efforts to conclude a treaty soon are greatly welcomed. Such a treaty would be a major achievement towards further reduction and ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons. These developments, together with bilateral measures to reduce the risk of nuclear war, full-scale stage-by-stage negotiations on issues relating to nuclear testing and steps to improve their mutual relations in other fields, contribute to better international relations and to the disarmament effort.

12. In the area of multilateral negotiations, the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons brought the Third Review Conference to a successful conclusion. The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco) continued to make a valuable contribution to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America. A valuable contribution to regional security was made with the establishment of a nuclear-free-zone in the South Pacific by the Treaty of Rarotonga. At the United Nations Conference on the Promotion of International Co-operation on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy resolute efforts were made to advance understanding on these issues.

13. Significant progress has been registered in the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament towards the conclusion of a comprehensive convention for the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, transfer and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction. A number of issues, some of them complex, remain subject to negotiation. It is also encouraging that the recently held Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and Their Destruction adopted measures designed to strengthen international norms relating to the prohibition of biological weapons.