

without sacrificing internal development needs. It was suggested that there was a need for analysis of military expenditure in developing countries which could focus inter alia on the questions of why developing countries spend -- to what extent military expenditure is directed against external threats and to what extent it might be directed against internal threats to the regime. It was suggested that if one could differentiate between the reasons for military expenditure, one could identify and determine how best to deal with particular problems. This might enable those Third World governments which appear to be grossly overspending to diminish their propensity to spend on defence-related items.

There was some discussion devoted to the concept of "security." It was suggested that the focus on security was one way of galvanizing the Disarmament/Development debate which otherwise tended to become fragmented under close scrutiny. Disarmament and Development were seen as "parallel tracks which converge at security." It was believed that this focus on security might well be one of the most constructive means of engaging the debate in Paris and could provide a basis upon which to move forward. In this regard, it was noted that it was essential to determine how the Third World defines security -- as the international community could not move forward on the basis of differing and possibly contradictory concepts of security. Some suggested that the present concept of security, as commonly defined in the West, was outmoded and irrelevant. As well, it was suggested that military alliances, for example, were the "antithesis of security."

In this context, it was suggested that there be a redefinition of thinking -- to move from the focus of the nation-state to a "common security paradigm" which recognized the interdependence of all nations on earth. One means suggested of facilitating this change in thinking was the establishment of what was termed a "Continuing U.N. International Conference on Security" which would operate on the basis of consensus using the Law of the Sea mechanism as a model. It was considered that such an ongoing conference could combine the consideration of disarmament items with the establishment of dispute settlement procedures. Finally, it was suggested that in today's world there was, in fact, an inverse relationship between the numbers of weapons and the perception of security.

Several participants spoke of the impact of the global arms trade on world economies -- particularly in Third World arms -- importing nations. In this context, it was suggested that stronger efforts be made to establish an arms trade register. It was noted however, that the majority of nations were unwilling to reveal statistics on military