

reconcile differences and agree on actions in the field of disarmament, thereby making a substantial contribution to the achievement of lasting peace and security. The international community must act, collectively and decisively, by building upon the growing awareness that genuine international peace and security cannot be achieved in an environment that fosters an ever-growing accumulation of weapons. The time has come to break the cycle of mistrust, accumulation of arms, military rivalry and mutual fear, and to seek security for all. It is time to acknowledge fully that security is being challenged both by military and non-military threats, and to recognize that problems of a social, humanitarian, economic and ecological nature demand co-operative solutions. The promise and challenges of interdependence must be met through a universal commitment to a shared human destiny.

6. Arms limitation and disarmament constitute a crucial element in the pursuit of international peace and security. Lasting peace and global security will, however, remain elusive so long as there continue to be actions contrary to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and so long as mutual suspicion and mistrust persist in international relations. The special importance is stressed of refraining from the threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or against peoples under colonial or foreign domination seeking to exercise their right to self-determination and to achieve independence; non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States; the inviolability of international frontiers; and the peaceful settlement of disputes, having regard to the inherent right of States to individual and collective self-defence in accordance with the Charter.

7. The international community must take co-ordinated, complementary and mutually supportive initiatives to find new ways and means to address issues of underdevelopment, to resolve international tensions and regional conflicts, and to forestall new ones. Constructive dialogue and confidence-building measures aimed at enhancing trust and easing tensions between and among States would facilitate the creation of an environment conducive to the attainment of the goal of enhanced security of all States at the lowest level of armament and armed forces.

II. ASSESSMENT

8. The Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (resolution S-10/2), adopted in 1978, reflected a historic consensus on the part of the international community that the halting and reversing of the arms race, in particular the nuclear arms race, and the achievement of genuine disarmament were tasks of primary importance and urgency. The Final Document continues to be the principal expression of the international community's determination to proceed along the road of binding and effective international agreements in the field of disarmament.

9. At the twelfth special session of the General Assembly, held in 1982, it was not possible to further the momentum engendered in 1978. However, the