

44. Arms limitation and disarmament agreements must provide for adequate and effective measures of verification satisfactory to the parties to such agreements. In this regard, the General Assembly endorses the principles of verification drawn up by the Disarmament Commission. Multilateral aspects of the verification of arms limitation and disarmament agreements deserve further in-depth consideration. In this regard the General Assembly therefore requests the Secretary-General to undertake, with the assistance of a group of qualified governmental experts, an in-depth study of the role of the United Nations in this field. It further requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the subject to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session in 1990.

45. The group of experts would identify and review existing activities of the United Nations in the field of verification of arms limitation and disarmament, would assess the need for improvements of existing activities as well as explore and identify possible additional activities, taking into account organizational, technical, operational, legal and cost aspects, and would provide specific recommendations for future action by the United Nations in this context.

46. The process of building confidence between States is becoming ever more important. Measures in this regard would serve to reduce mistrust, misunderstanding and miscalculation, to facilitate the achievement of measures of arms limitation and disarmament, and to further the relaxation of international tensions. Transparency and openness in military matters, and a better flow of objective information on military capabilities, should be pursued. Constructive dialogue and confidence-building measures should be actively promoted among States, taking into account the specific characteristics or requirements of a particular region. The General Assembly endorses the guidelines for confidence-building measures drawn up by the Disarmament Commission.

47. The establishment of zones of peace in various regions of the world under appropriate conditions, and based on full respect for the Charter and other relevant provisions of international law, can contribute to strengthening the security of States within such zones and to international peace and security as a whole. In this regard, efforts to achieve the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and the declaration of a zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic and proposals for the establishment of zones of peace in South-East Asia and in the Mediterranean region and of a zone of peace and co-operation in the South Pacific are noted.

48. Improved relations between States could facilitate consideration of moves towards reduction in military expenditures. Proposals relating to the reduction of military budgets could usefully be considered by the General Assembly. Member States are encouraged to utilize the international system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures.