

by which the Committee carries out its deliberations. The implementation of the recommendations put forth in resolution 42/42 N would substantially improve the General Assembly's ability to speak in a clear and strong voice on arms control and disarmament issues. Such a strong voice is necessary if the United Nations is to be at the forefront of multilateral arms control efforts, and to provide international support and guidance for bilateral or regional efforts. In addition, the third special session should recommend that each succeeding chairman of the First Committee make it a matter of custom to hold consultations with a view to refining procedures and practices of the Committee.

3. Of further assistance to the deliberations of the United Nations would be a strengthened United Nations Disarmament Commission. As an organ charged with the responsibility of considering and making recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament, it is important that the Commission be able to carry out its mandate in a thorough, timely fashion. It is true that the Commission frequently reflects the difficult and sometimes intractable nature of some arms control and disarmament issues. This reality, however, must not inhibit its ability to direct its expertise to areas where progress may be possible. To this end, Canada proposes that the third special session consider the following measures designed to focus and improve upon the ability of the Disarmament Commission to consider the issues before it:

(a) The imposition of time-limits on subjects which have appeared for a number of years without progress being made; or

(b) The placing of an item in temporary abeyance if agreement appears remote. This will allow efforts to be concentrated on other issues promising greater potential for success.

4. While the First Committee and the Disarmament Commission are examples of United Nations machinery in need of improvement, it sometimes happens that this machinery would make a valuable contribution to disarmament if only it were made use of. Such is the case with the reporting instrument for military budgets adopted by the General Assembly in 1980. Canada has consistently reported its military budgets through this instrument, but is only one of too few Member States to do so. A firm commitment by all States at the special session to report their military budgets through the standardized international reporting instrument would instill confidence, and indicate clearly to the international community that Member States are willing to accept the principle of transparency as an important first step towards the reduction of military expenditures.

5. Canada attaches high priority to the Conference on Disarmament, a multilateral forum which has significant potential to achieve real progress in the field of disarmament. We encourage the continuing negotiations taking place at the Conference and would seek to have their importance recognized by the special session.

6. The growing international consensus that adequate and appropriate verification is essential to successful arms control and disarmament agreements is an encouraging development, especially since it confirms the role accorded to verification by the Final Document of the first special session devoted to