



## United Nations Disarmament Commission

The United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) is another deliberative body, but it devotes attention to only a limited number of ACD items. It meets each year for virtually the entire month of May and is open to attendance by representatives of each of the 159 UN member states. Whereas the First Committee conducts its business by means of voting, the UNDC operates by consensus.

In 1986, the UNDC discussed six issues: the arms race in all its aspects, the reduction of military budgets, the nuclear capability of South Africa, the role of the UN in disarmament, curbing the naval arms race, and confidence-building measures. In comparison with previous years, the 1986 session was exceptionally successful. The main achievements included agreement on a document on confidence-building measures, thus clearing this item off the agenda. There was also substantial progress on a document on the reduction of military budgets (ROMB), with only one paragraph in an otherwise agreed formulation of guiding principles

The First Committee Programme of Work and Timetable follows the same format from year to year, and for UNGA 41 is expected to be as follows:

|                                                                                                                               | Dates                            | Number of Meetings |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| General debate on all disarmament agenda items                                                                                | mid to end of October            | 20                 |
| Statements on specific disarmament agenda items and continuation of general debate, as necessary                              | end of October to early November | 20                 |
| Deadline for submission of draft resolutions on disarmament agenda items                                                      | end of first week in November    |                    |
| Consideration of and action upon draft resolutions on disarmament agenda items                                                | to mid-November                  | 20                 |
| General debate, consideration of and action (voting) upon draft resolution(s), on Question of Antarctica                      | end of November                  | 8                  |
| Deadline for submission of draft resolution(s) on Antarctica                                                                  | end of November                  |                    |
| General debate, consideration of and action (voting) upon draft resolutions, on the three international security agenda items | early December                   | 10                 |
| Deadline for submission of draft resolutions on international security agenda items                                           | early December                   |                    |
| Voting in General Assembly                                                                                                    | early December                   |                    |



Closing session of the 1985 Disarmament Commission. At the podium are (left to right) Miljan Komatina, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament; Jan Martenson, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs; Mansur Ahmad (Pakistan); Fehmi Alem, Secretary; and Don Arturo Laclaustra (Spain), Rapporteur.

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for ROMB agreements remaining to be negotiated. Some useful work was also realized on the role of the UN in disarmament. However, little progress was reported on agenda items dealing with nuclear and conventional disarmament, or on the item dealing with South Africa's nuclear capability. The session also witnessed a considerable difference of views on the naval arms race item. In general, the 1986 session was a positive one and it is hoped that this spirit will carry over into the 1987 session.

## Ad Hoc Committees and Bodies

Committees which function under a mandate from the General Assembly and in which Canada plays an active, or monitoring, role include:

(1) *Ad hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean*. This committee meets from four to six weeks per year to deal with preparatory work relating to the convening of an international conference which would be concerned with the