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RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF INTEREST TO THE
COMMISSION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL AT ITS THIRTY-THIRD, THIRTY-FOURTH AND
RESUMED THIRTY-FOURTH SESSIONS AND BY THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS SEVENTEENTH SESSION

Corrigendum

General Assembly Resolution 1837(XVII) - Declaration on the
conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by
disarmament.

In E/CN.14/232/Add.1, this resolution was placed under Category B - Other relevant resolutions. In view of the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council at the 1238th meeting of its resumed thirty-fourth session to the effect that the declaration contained in the resolution should be circulated to regional economic commissions, this resolution, the full text of which is attached, should be read as appearing under Category A - Resolutions requiring action by the Commission or to which the Commission's attention should be drawn - and not under Category B.

Distr.
LIMITED

A/RES/1837 (XVII)
14 January 1963

Seventeenth session
Agenda items 33 and 94

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On the report of the Second Committee (A/5361)

1837 (XVII). Declaration on the conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament

The General Assembly,

Inspired by the ardent desire for peace and by the lofty aims of the Charter of the United Nations and recalling its resolutions 1378 (XIV) of 20 November 1959 and 1516 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting that the arms race is continuing all over the world, that military expenditures of States are enormous, that conventional, nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction are accumulating and being developed, and that, as a result, an agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control is urgent,

Convinced that there is still time to stave off the deadly danger looming over the world and to achieve the implementation of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Recalling that the consultative group of experts, in its study on the economic and social consequences of disarmament^{1/} estimated that the world is spending at the present time roughly \$120,000 million annually on military account, a sum at least two-thirds of, and according to some estimates of the same order of magnitude as, the entire annual national income of all the under-developed countries,

^{1/} E/3593/Rev.1.

Realizing the enormous importance which an agreement on disarmament would have for the attainment of accelerated economic and social progress for the benefit of mankind,

Recognizing that all problems of transition connected with disarmament can be met by appropriate national and international measures, that diversion to peaceful uses of the resources now in military use can be accomplished in a manner which will benefit all countries and will lead to the improvement of economic and social conditions throughout the world, and that disarmament can be accomplished in all countries not only without impairing their economies but with great advantages to the real welfare of their people,

Recalling its resolution 1710 (XVI) of 19 December 1961 on the United Nations Development Decade, which calls for proposals relating, inter alia, to the utilization of resources released by disarmament for the purpose of economic and social development, in particular of the under-developed countries,

Believing that the release of a portion of the savings which would follow upon an agreement on disarmament for aid to the economic growth of the less-developed countries, together with their own intensified internal efforts and domestic savings, would enable countless millions of people in the less-developed countries to improve substantially within a generation their present level of living standards through, inter alia, the development of new centres of energy and industrial activity,

Convinced that disarmament and the conversion of huge resources to peaceful uses would open up vast opportunities for the development of peaceful co-operation and trade among States on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, that the expansion of international economic exchange and mutual assistance would be beneficial to all countries, both big and small and both economically less-developed and highly developed, would ensure the growth of production and provide new jobs for millions of people,

1. Solemnly urges the Governments of all States to multiply their efforts for a prompt achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control;

2. Declares that it firmly believes in the triumph of the principles of reason and justice, in the establishment of such conditions in the world that would forever banish wars from the life of human society, and replace the arms race which consumes enormous resources of funds by broad and fruitful co-operation among nations in bettering life on earth;

3. Takes into account the important role of the United Nations in organizing international aid to the less-developed countries and in making studies of the economic and social consequences of disarmament;

4. Expresses its appreciation for the report of the Secretary-General transmitting the study on the economic and social consequences of disarmament presented by the consultative group of experts pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1516 (XV);

5. Endorses the unanimous conclusion of the consultative group of experts that the implementation of general and complete disarmament will be an unqualified blessing for all mankind;

6. Concurs in Economic and Social Council resolution 891 (XXXIV) of 26 July 1962 and endorses the request in paragraph 6 thereof that Member States, particularly those which are significantly involved in or affected by current military programmes should devote further attention to, and conduct any necessary studies of, the detailed aspects of the economic and social consequences of disarmament, with a view to developing needed information, plans and policies for making necessary economic and social adjustments in the event of disarmament and in the successive stages towards the achievement of complete disarmament, bearing in mind the imperative needs of the developing countries;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to make available to the General Assembly at its eighteenth session the report prepared for the session of the Economic and Social Council pursuant to Council resolution 891 (XXXIV);

8. Invites the Secretary-General and the Governments of developing countries to intensify their efforts to establish and implement soundly conceived projects and well-integrated development plans of a national and regional character, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1708 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, the implementation of which may be accelerated as part of an economic programme for disarmament at such time as additional resources are released following an agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and requests the Secretary-General to present his preliminary report on this matter to the General Assembly at a forthcoming session, if possible at the eighteenth session;

9. Affirms that, pending an agreement on general and complete disarmament under effective international control, Member States should not relax their efforts to assist the developing countries but should rather accelerate such efforts.

1197th plenary meeting,
18 December 1962.

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