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**Open-ended Working Group to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of the preparatory committee, for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament**

Second session, 30 July-3 August 2007, New York

**Additional reflections and questions**

**Working paper by the Chairman of the Open-ended Working Group to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of the preparatory committee, for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament**

- During the first week of our Working Group we have discussed ideas pertaining to the scope of the objectives of a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. Of course, we have not exhausted the matter, but we have moved in the right direction.
- Above all, we have been able to create and sustain a collegial atmosphere which, in itself, is a much needed confidence-building measure within the disarmament machinery.
- The interactive debate has enabled us to recognize some points of convergence. These accrue to the critical mass of political support we need to convene a fourth special session.
- During our second week we'll try to identify additional points of convergence related to the agenda of a fourth special session.

**Some questions for the second week**

- There is a degree of overlap and a number of similarities between disarmament international law and humanitarian international law. Such similarities and overlapping occur particularly in connection with human security priorities. Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan described small arms as “weapons of mass destruction” in terms of the carnage they cause.



*Should proliferation and illicit manufacture and transfer of small arms and light weapons be a priority item on the agenda of the fourth special session?*

*Should mines, explosive remnants of war and sub-munitions be incorporated as separate agenda items for the fourth special session?*

- Globalization and the informatics revolution have generated myriad opportunities for progress and development and, at the same time, new vulnerabilities, amplified by an increased, global interdependence. Cyber threats have the ability to disrupt not only economies or financial systems but human security in every region of the world.

*Should the fourth special session deal with cyber-security?*

*What kind of multilateral instrument would better cope with threats to cyber-security?*

- Missiles are probably the weapon-system experiencing the fastest development and the widest dissemination. There is currently no legally-binding instrument on missiles. MANPADS (in the wrong hands) are perceived as a severe threat to civil aviation.

*Should missile proliferation be included as a priority agenda item for the fourth special session?*

*What normative approach could work best to tackle missile proliferation?*

*Would it be advisable to start addressing first certain types of missiles (i.e. MANPADS)?*

- Terrorism has been recognized by the international community as a major and pressing global challenge. Multilateral preventive action is indispensable to forestall the use of weapons of mass destruction, delivery vehicles and, in general, any major weapon system by terrorists.

*Should the fourth special session address the prevention of the use of weapons of mass destruction, delivery vehicles and major weapon systems as a priority agenda item?*

*Should the fourth special session discuss the objectives and a basic framework of a convention for the prohibition of radiological weapons?*

- Weaponization of outer space seems a more distinct possibility in 2007 than in 1978.

*Should PAROS be a priority agenda item for the fourth special session?*

- Export controls are intended to support the regimes established by disarmament instruments and, in particular, prevent the use of weapons of mass destruction, delivery vehicles and related materials and technologies by non-State actors. Multinational and multilateral efforts (for instance in APEC) are in place or under development.

*Should export controls be included as a separate agenda item for the fourth special session?*

- Confidence-building measures are the basic tool of disarmament diplomacy. They have proved their enormous political value in global and regional frameworks. In the era of information society and globalization they could be used to address political and even cultural phenomena undermining international peace and security.

*Should confidence-building measures be recognized as a priority agenda item for the fourth special session?*

*Could “classical” confidence-building measures be complemented with new, “cultural” confidence-building measures?*

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