

Disarmament

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

—
**FOREWORD TO REPORT OF THE GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS
ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**
June 2004

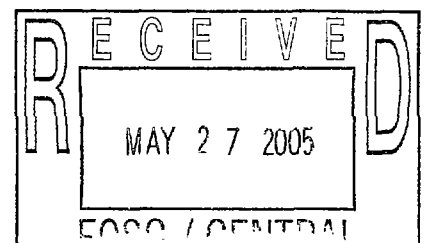
This report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development contains a series of important observations, ideas and recommendations that bring our understanding of this crucial issue into the current international context. I am especially gratified that the Group was able to adopt it by consensus.

As mandated by General Assembly resolution 57/65, the report reflects a concerted effort by the experts to reappraise the relationship between disarmament and development, taking into account the major changes that have taken place since the International Conference on Disarmament and Development in 1987. The report also contains some specific recommendations regarding the role of the United Nations in this area.

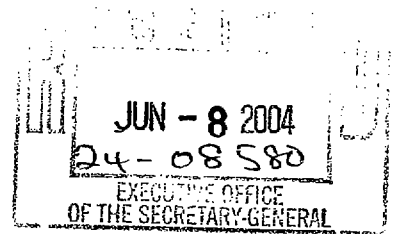
The experts found that some issues are as relevant as they were more than half a century ago. For instance, the report reiterates the importance of exercising restraint in military expenditures, so that human and financial resources can be used for the ongoing effort to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, we should recall article 26 of the United Nations Charter, which envisages an international system based on the “least diversion for armaments of the world’s human and economic resources”.

But the report also contains a number of new elements. Among the most prominent are the adverse and multifaceted impacts of illicit small arms and light weapons, and of international terrorism. Tackling these major global challenges is critical to creating security conditions conducive to development.

I hope this report will help to reinvigorate worldwide interest in this subject, and provide a basis for undertaking disarmament and development activities that are more closely in tune with prevailing realities and challenges. I thank the members of the Group of Governmental Experts for this illuminating report, which I commend to the General Assembly for its consideration.



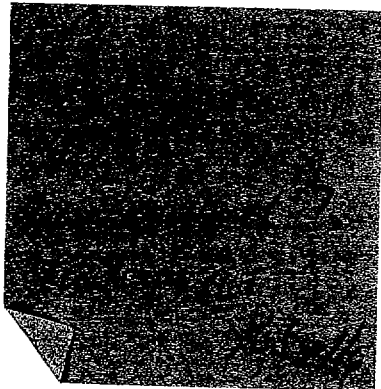
MIM




Note to Mr. Riza

**Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Relationship between
Disarmament and Development**

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 57/65, requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of governmental experts, to prepare a report for the consideration of the Assembly at its 59th session, with recommendations for a reappraisal of the relationship between disarmament and development in the current international context, as well as the future role of the Organization in this connection.
2. Accordingly, in August 2003, the Secretary-General appointed a Group of 14 Governmental Experts. Under the Chairmanship of Ambassador José Nicolás Rivas, Deputy Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations, the Group held one session at Geneva, from 17 to 21 November 2003, and two sessions in New York from 8 to 12 March 2004 and from 24 to 28 May 2004.
3. The report, which was adopted by consensus on 28 May 2004, as well as a summary of the work of the Group are attached for the consideration of the Secretary-General. Also, as has been practice with past studies prepared by groups of governmental experts, please find attached herewith a draft foreword by the Secretary-General, for his approval.




Nobuyasu Abe
Under-Secretary-General
for Disarmament Affairs
7 June 2004

Tom Kono
3-5575