Ways to promote education and training in disarmament and non-proliferation at all levels of formal and informal education

1. Member States are encouraged to accord importance to disarmament and non-proliferation education and training in their programmes and policies, consistent with their national legislation and practices, taking into account present and future trends. They are also encouraged to use, designate or establish public advisory bodies, where appropriate, whose responsibilities include advising on disarmament and non-proliferation education and training practices. Member States are encouraged to share their experience in disarmament and non-proliferation education and training with other Member States, international organizations, civil society and the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

2. Relevant United Nations offices and other international organizations and agencies should prepare, adapt and disseminate a wider range of user-friendly educational material on disarmament and non-proliferation. The current experience in this field should be tapped and existing educational material, including educational modules, resource books, guides and online programmes, should be tailored to the needs of individual countries, specific audiences or the international community at large.

3. The United Nations and other international organizations should translate its disarmament and non-proliferation educational material and publications into all United Nations official languages and, when possible, into other languages for additional dissemination. Upon request by the United Nations or relevant international organizations, Member States, academic and research institutions and NGOs are encouraged to support or assist in translating relevant materials.

4. The United Nations and other international organizations should increase their capacities to disseminate disarmament and non-proliferation education-related materials (print and audio-visual) more widely to all regions of the world. While strengthening existing distribution channels, they should explore new ones, such as cooperation with educational networks, teachers unions and curriculum committees as well as electronic access. Member States, local academic institutions, research centres and NGOs are also encouraged to assist in dissemination efforts. As it is essential to reach the local community level, channels of dissemination such as school libraries, gathering places, radio and television are highly recommended.

5. The Department of Disarmament Affairs should gather information about the involvement of regional and intergovernmental organizations in disarmament and non-proliferation education, training and data collection activities. The Department should examine ways to foster an exchange of experiences and regional perspectives to facilitate the development of disarmament and non-proliferation education programmes.

6. The Department of Disarmament Affairs should examine, accumulate and make public and easily accessible the different disarmament and non-proliferation curricula and
programmes that States have developed for their formal school systems and university courses as well as for informal training.

7. UNU and UPEACE are encouraged to develop intensive postgraduate and other courses on disarmament and non-proliferation for representatives of all regions of the world, including government officials, legislators, military officers, NGOs, the media and students, working in cooperation with academic and non-governmental institutions that have expertise in designing and implementing such courses. UPEACE, in coordination with the Department of Disarmament Affairs, may wish to host seminars and workshops as well as to develop model university and school material.

8. Member States are encouraged to include parliamentarians and/or non-governmental advisers in delegations to United Nations disarmament related meetings, taking into account national legislation and practices.

9. The Department of Disarmament Affairs and its regional centres, in cooperation with UNIDIR, UNU and UPEACE, are encouraged to establish a virtual library of reports of “lessons learned” on disarmament-related aspects of peace operations and make it available to both Governments and NGOs on a disarmament and non-proliferation online education resource site (see recommendation 25).

10. Municipal leaders, working with citizen groups, are encouraged to establish peace cities, as part of the UNESCO Cities for Peace network, through, for example, the creation of peace museums, peace parks, web sites and the production of booklets on peacemakers and peacemaking.

11. UNU and UPEACE are encouraged to provide assistance to those city councils and prefectures that are willing to host seminars on disarmament and non-proliferation issues for the media, academics, local and national politicians, trade union representatives, religious leaders and the wider public.

12. Religious leaders and institutions are encouraged to develop educational material promoting a culture of peace and disarmament.

13. Member States, in cooperation with the United Nations and relevant international organizations, are encouraged to sponsor training, fellowships, and awareness programmes, on as wide a geographical basis as possible, for researchers, engineers, scientists and other academics in areas of particular relevance, but not limited to treaties and agreements on weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. They are also encouraged to give special emphasis to training customs, licensing and law enforcement officers for the purpose of fulfilling international obligations of Member States in the disarmament and non-proliferation fields.

14. The Department of Disarmament Affairs, in cooperation with UNU and UPEACE, should be encouraged to organize a programme of training for educators and trainers in disarmament and nonproliferation. These programmes may be implemented
cooperatively with international organizations such as IAEA, OPCW and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

15. The Department of Disarmament Affairs, in cooperation with UNESCO, UPEACE, UNIDIR and NGOs, should produce and maintain an updated international bibliography of reference literature for teachers, including an updated directory of peace studies programmes and disarmament and non-proliferation research centres, and make this available on a disarmament and non-proliferation online education resource site (see recommendation 25).

16. UNESCO IBE is encouraged to convene regional meetings with ministers of education, educational administrators and university presidents to discuss the issues involved in developing disarmament and non-proliferation education for primary, secondary and university students. The International Conference on Education is encouraged to devote one session of a future meeting to disarmament and nonproliferation education, for example, through a workshop on science and ethics.

17. The United Nations, relevant international organizations, Member States, NGOs and research institutes should develop and strengthen programmes, workshops, fellowships and materials on disarmament and non-proliferation topics for journalists and media representatives in order to enhance their knowledge of these issues. Special attention should be paid to the development of programmes and materials designed for local media in post-conflict situations, as essential partners in the disarmament and non-proliferation education process.

18. Disarmament and non-proliferation educational materials developed by the United Nations, such as the Cyberschoolbus web site, should include complementary material on how parents can encourage attitudes of peace and nonviolence. Efforts should also be made by educators, parents and the business community to devise and produce toys, computer games and videos that engender such attitudes.

19. Additional fellowships and scholarships should be provided for various target audiences by or through the Department of Disarmament Affairs (directly or through its regional centres), UPEACE, UNIDIR and the NGO Committee on Disarmament, among others. An important educational supplement to disarmament and non-proliferation classroom training should be on-the-job training, which may be conducted at the sites of international organizations, national governmental agencies, NGOs and research centres. Opportunities for such on-the-job training should be expanded.

20. The United Nations, relevant international organizations, Member States, and corporate and private donors are encouraged to provide assistance, including funds, educational material and equipment to NGOs in different regions of the world and to universities to establish or expand their disarmament and non-proliferation libraries with free and open public access to their resources. Member States should be encouraged to fund research institutes that focus on disarmament and non-proliferation and offer scholarships for advanced university students to carry out research on disarmament and
non-proliferation and its pedagogy. The United Nations should make greater efforts to tap the financial resources of private enterprises in the fields of information and communications technology. Ways to utilize evolving pedagogic methods, particularly the revolution in information and communications technology

21. Organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations are encouraged to promote and provide financial support for disarmament and non-proliferation education and training using such techniques as distance learning, the Internet, and videoconferencing as well as cost-efficient and cost effective media such as CD-ROMs.

22. Regional organizations, academic institutions and NGOs are encouraged to develop and disseminate material online in languages other than English.

23. Educators should consider a full range of pedagogical methods for inclusion in any educational material. In addition to computer-based learning, model United Nations programmes, other role-playing and simulation games, videos, film, dance, song, theatre, puppetry, poetry, photography, origami, visual art and creative writing, to name a few, are all useful methods. Special emphasis should be given to participatory learning approaches that can be applied to a wide variety of disarmament and non-proliferation problems and audiences.

24. Internships in United Nations organizations with special competence in disarmament and nonproliferation are a valuable tool for educating graduate and undergraduate students and should be continued and expanded.

25. The Department for Disarmament Affairs should develop a disarmament and nonproliferation online education resource site in the six official United Nations languages. This site should be based on:
(a) Links to existing resources of United Nations and other relevant international organizations, Member States, universities, research institutes and NGOs having web sites on disarmament and non-proliferation and with education-oriented online programmes;
(b) Existing web pages of the Department for Disarmament Affairs on the United Nations website;
(c) Recommendations by the Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;
(d) Recommendations of the inter-agency group on disarmament and non-proliferation education and training. The Department for Disarmament Affairs should develop the online educational resource site in cooperation with interested research institutes, IT companies, NGOs and/or regional centres for information technology. It should have chat rooms and testing tools and be user-friendly.

26. The Department of Public Information and relevant international organizations, in coordination with the Department for Disarmament Affairs and, when appropriate, NGOs, are encouraged to produce video programmes to promote disarmament and non-
proliferation to the widest possible audience. Ways to introduce disarmament and nonproliferation education into post-conflict situations as a contribution to peace-building

27. International organizations, regional organizations and representatives of civil society, where appropriate, are encouraged to include disarmament education and training in their programmes in post-conflict situations.

28. Member States are encouraged to ensure that their military staff colleges include disarmament and non-proliferation elements in their curricula. Ways in which the United Nations system and other international organizations can harmonize and coordinate their efforts in disarmament and non-proliferation education

29. United Nations bodies and other international organizations with special competence in disarmament and non-proliferation education and training should designate a focal point for the subject. Representatives should meet periodically at the inter-agency level to:
   (a) Promote disarmament and nonproliferation education and training at all levels in all regions of the world, with the active participation of civil society, especially educators and NGOs;
   (b) Network and share experiences and best practices on disarmament and non-proliferation education;
   (c) Consult and actively seek partnerships with Governments, regional organizations, academic and research institutions, educators, civil society, including NGOs, and private and corporate donors on further practical disarmament and nonproliferation education and training projects;
   (d) Encourage the incorporation of disarmament and non-proliferation education elements into future public information products of the United Nations and relevant international organizations;
   (e) The Department for Disarmament Affairs should facilitate the work of the interagency group. The inter-agency group is encouraged to invite the participation of civil society, especially educators and NGOs, in its work.

30. In the context of its current mandate, the Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters is encouraged to consider periodically follow-up action related to disarmament and non-proliferation education. Next stages and implementation

31. Member States are encouraged to designate a focal point for disarmament and non-proliferation education and training and to inform the Department for Disarmament Affairs on steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in the present report.

32. The Secretary-General is encouraged to prepare a report on a biennial basis reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations in this study.

33. Member States and the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs are encouraged to include in their remarks to the First Committee of the General Assembly information on the results of the implementation of the recommendations in this study.
34. In order for the Department for Disarmament Affairs to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of this study, the General Assembly is encouraged to allocate adequate human and financial resources to the task.