

Chapter VII

Disarmament

The adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by the General Assembly on 10 September 1996 was the culmination of more than four decades of lengthy and complex negotiations and marked a major milestone on the road to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Upon the opening for signature of the historic, 17-article document at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 September, the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Treaty, said its approval by the General Assembly had been a "bold act" that had realized a long-standing objective of the international community.

In the Treaty's preamble, States parties recognized that the cessation of all nuclear-weapon-test explosions and all other nuclear explosions, by constraining the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, constituted an effective measure of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. They stressed that the most effective way to end nuclear testing was through a universal and internationally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, which had been one of the highest priority objectives of the international community in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

In May 1996, the Review Conference on the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons adopted an amended Protocol II on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of mines, booby traps and other devices. The revised Protocol constituted an important step towards the total elimination of anti-personnel mines. The number of participants continued to increase in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, which promoted an enhanced level of transparency regarding arms transfers.

In October 1996, the requirements were fulfilled to allow the entry into force of the 1992 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. The Convention was to enter into force on 29 April 1997. Efforts continued towards strengthening the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons

and on Their Destruction at the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva from 25 November to 6 December.

Progress at the regional level included the opening for signature of the 1995 African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (also known as the Treaty of Pelindaba), by which the entire continent of Africa would become a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and the signing of its Protocols by the five nuclear-weapon States, as well as France's ratification of them. The signing of the Protocols to the 1985 South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) by France, the United Kingdom and the United States was considered another achievement in the area of disarmament in 1996.

The Conference on Disarmament, a multilateral negotiating body, held a three-part session in Geneva in 1996 (22 January-29 March, 13 May-28 June and 29 July-13 September). In addition to concluding a draft comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, it considered items on: cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; prevention of nuclear war; prevention of an arms race in outer space; effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons; a comprehensive programme of disarmament; and transparency in armaments.

The Disarmament Commission (New York, 22 April-7 May), comprising all United Nations Member States, considered the subject of international arms transfers, as well as a new item on an exchange of views on convening a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

UN role in disarmament

UN machinery

United Nations disarmament efforts continued in 1996, mainly through the General Assembly and its First (Disarmament and International Security) Committee, the Disarmament Com-

mission (a deliberative body) and the Conference on Disarmament (a multilateral negotiating forum which convened in Geneva).

First Committee agenda items

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 September, the General Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to allocate all the agenda items relating to disarmament and international security to the First Committee.

By **decision 51/411** of 10 December, the Assembly took note of part one of the report of the First Committee [A/51/566], which contained the allocation of the agenda items.

Also on 10 December, by **decision 51/414**, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee, decided to include in the provisional agenda of its 1997 session the item entitled "Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and of vehicles for their delivery in all its aspects".

Fourth special session devoted to disarmament

Disarmament Commission action. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/72 D [YUN 1995, p. 186], the Disarmament Commission included a new item on its agenda dealing with an exchange of views on the question of convening a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament [A/51/42]. The Commission established a working group on the item, which held 10 meetings between 23 April and 3 May. By the end of the Commission session, it appeared that it might be possible, in the First Committee later in the year, to agree on a date in 1999 for the special session (see below for General Assembly action).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 C**.

Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolutions 49/75 I of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 F of 12 December 1995,

Recalling also that, there being a consensus to do so in each case, three special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament were held in 1978, 1982 and 1988, respectively,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, and the objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Welcoming the recent positive changes in the international landscape, characterized by the end of the cold

war, the relaxation of tensions at the global level and the emergence of a new spirit governing relations among nations,

Taking note of paragraph 108 of the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995, which supported the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1997, which would offer an opportunity to review, from a perspective more in tune with the current international situation, the most critical aspects of the process of disarmament and to mobilize the international community and public opinion in favour of the elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and of the control and reduction of conventional weapons,

Taking note also of the interim report of the 1996 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission on the item entitled "Exchange of views on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament",

Desiring to build upon the constructive exchange of views on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament during the 1996 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission,

Reiterating its conviction that a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament can set the future course of action in the field of disarmament, arms control and related international security matters,

Emphasizing the importance of multilateralism in the process of disarmament and arms control, peace and security,

Noting that, with the completion of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, as well as of amended Protocol II and new Protocol IV to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, the following years would be opportune for the international community to start the process of reviewing the state of affairs in the entire field of disarmament and arms control in the post-cold-war era,

1. Decides, subject to the emergence of a consensus on its objectives and agenda, to convene its fourth special session devoted to disarmament in 1999;

2. Notes the view of the Secretary-General that preparations for the special session could begin in 1997;

3. Decides, subject to the outcome of deliberations concerning the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament at the 1997 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, to convene a meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament before the end of the fifty-first session of the Assembly in order to set an exact date and to decide on organizational matters relating to the convening of the special session, and requests the Preparatory Committee to submit its progress report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Preparatory Committee with all necessary assistance, including essential background information and relevant documents as necessary;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament" and, subject to the outcome of deliberations at the 1997 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, to take up the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament.

General Assembly resolution 51/45 C
10 December 1996 Meeting 79 163-2-5 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) by recorded vote (137-2-1), 18 November (meeting 25); draft by Colombia, for Non-Aligned Movement (A/C.1/51/L.11/Rev.2); agenda item 71 (d).

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-14, 25; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States.

Abstaining: Denmark,* Latvia,* Russian Federation, Tajikistan,* Uzbekistan.

*Later advised the Secretariat they had intended to vote in favour.

Disarmament Commission

The Disarmament Commission, comprising all United Nations Member States, held seven plenary meetings during its 1996 session (New York, 22 April-7 May); it also held organizational meetings on 11 December 1995 and 13 March and 19 April 1996 [A/51/42].

The Commission's 1996 agenda contained only two substantive items: on international arms transfers, with particular reference to General Assembly resolution 46/36 H [YUN 1991, p. 56], and a new item on an exchange of views on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. No consensus could be reached on the exact wording of a possible third item on nuclear-weapon-free zones.

Working Group I, established to deal with international arms transfers (see below, under "Conventional weapons"), met between 23 April and 3 May and held 15 meetings.

Working Group II, entrusted with the mandate of dealing with the exchange of views on the fourth special session on disarmament, held 10 meetings between 23 April and 3 May. Its Chairman also conducted a number of informal consultations.

The Commission concluded its work on 7 May by adopting its report [A/51/42] to the General Assembly.

Note by Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/72 D [YUN 1995, p. 186], the Secretary-General in July transmitted a compilation [A/51/182] of all texts of principles, guidelines or recommendations on subject items adopted unanimously by the Disarmament Commission since its inception [YUN 1978, p. 39].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/47 B**.

Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly, Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994 and 50/72 D of 12 December 1995,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. Takes note of the report of the Disarmament Commission;
2. Commends the Disarmament Commission for its adoption by consensus, at its 1996 substantive session, of a set of guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991, which were recommended to the Assembly for consideration;
3. Endorses the guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991, as adopted by the Disarmament Commission;
4. Notes with satisfaction that the Disarmament Commission has made significant progress in the discussions on its agenda item regarding the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;
5. Reaffirms the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;
6. Also reaffirms the role of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the

United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

7. Encourages the Disarmament Commission to continue to make every effort to enhance its working methods so as to enable it to give focused consideration to a limited number of priority issues in the field of disarmament, bearing in mind the decision it has taken to move its agenda towards a three-item phased approach;

8. Requests the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items of its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";

9. Recommends that, pursuant to the adopted three-item phased approach, the Disarmament Commission, at its 1996 organizational session, adopt the following items for consideration at its 1997 substantive session:

(a) The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned;

(b) The fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

(c) [to be added];⁴

10. Requests the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding four weeks during 1997 and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament, together with all the official records of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

12. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

⁴At its 208th plenary meeting, on 11 December 1996, the Disarmament Commission adopted the agenda for its 1997 substantive session, including a third substantive item entitled "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N".

General Assembly resolution 51/47 B
10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.13) without vote, 14 November (meeting 23); 12-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.5/Rev.1); agenda item 73 (a).

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 16, 23; plenary 79.

Conference on Disarmament

In 1996, the Conference on Disarmament, a multilateral negotiating body, held a three-part

session in Geneva (22 January-29 March, 13 May-28 June and 29 July-13 September), and concluded by adopting its report [A/51/27] to the General Assembly.

During 30 formal plenary meetings and four informal meetings, the Conference considered a nuclear test ban; cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; prevention of nuclear war; prevention of an arms race in outer space; effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons; a comprehensive programme of disarmament; and transparency in armaments.

In January, the Conference re-established the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban. However, there was no consensus on the establishment of other ad hoc committees.

Regarding the agenda in general, the Conference appointed a Special Coordinator to consult on the review of the future agenda as well as on organizational arrangements to deal with the subjects of: prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; prevention of an arms race in outer space; and transparency in armaments.

In 1996, the Conference on Disarmament resolved the outstanding issue of the expansion of its membership by admitting, on 17 June, 23 new members [CD/1406]. Thereafter, a total of 60 States, as listed below, participated as members in the work of the Conference (the newly admitted States are indicated in italics): Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zaire and Zimbabwe. In addition, 36 non-member States (Angola, Armenia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Oman, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovenia, Swaziland,

Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen) participated in its work.

In ajoint letter [CD/1407] addressed to the President of the Conference, the 23 new member States made the commitment, legally binding upon each individually, not to obstruct any consensus among the original members of the Conference. The commitment would cease to apply after two years for States not subject to comprehensive enforcement measures under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, or earlier, if there was consensus in the Conference that the circumstance that had given rise to the situation (i.e., sanctions imposed by the Security Council on one of the new members) no longer existed.

After the expansion of the membership by 23 States, there were still 14 outstanding applications (in chronological order): Ireland, Tunisia, Ecuador, Greece, Croatia, Kuwait, Portugal, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Malaysia, Costa Rica, Denmark, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Cyprus. The Conference requested the President to continue consultations on further expansion of its membership.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/47 C**.

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Considering, in this respect, that the present international climate should give additional impetus to multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching concrete agreements,

1. Reaffirms the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. Welcomes the determination of the Conference on Disarmament to fulfil that role in the light of the evolving international situation, with a view to making early substantive progress on priority items of its agenda;

3. Also welcomes the decision taken by the Conference on Disarmament on 17 June 1996 to expand its membership with the admission of twenty-three new members;

4. Encourages the Conference on Disarmament to continue further review of its membership;

5. Also encourages the Conference on Disarmament to intensify further the ongoing review of its agenda and methods of work;

6. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to make every effort to reach a consensus on its agenda and programme of work at the beginning of its 1997 session;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services;

8. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

General Assembly resolution 51/47 C

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote
Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.13) without vote, 14 November (meeting 23); draft by Poland (A/C.1/51/L.25), orally revised; agenda item 73 (b).

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 17, 23; plenary 79.

On the same date, the Assembly adopted **resolution 51/47 A**.

Expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament and in particular the section concerning the expansion of the membership of the Conference,

Stressing the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral global negotiating body on disarmament,

Convinced that a more representative membership of the Conference on Disarmament from among the United Nations would contribute to the more effective pursuit of disarmament goals affecting the entire international community,

Recalling that since 1978, when agreement was reached at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament that the membership of the then Committee on Disarmament would be reviewed at regular intervals, there have been thirty-seven applications for membership in the Conference,

Recalling also that, in 1993, the Special Coordinator for Membership of the Conference on Disarmament proposed that twenty-three applicants for membership should be admitted to the Conference and proposed further that a dynamic solution to the question of membership should be pursued,

Recalling further decision CD/1406 of the Conference on Disarmament, adopted at its 739th plenary meeting on 17 June 1996, admitting twenty-three countries as members of the Conference,

Recalling its resolution 50/72 C of 12 December 1995, adopted without a vote, in which it urged that, following the presentation of progress reports by the President of the Conference, the other applicants to date be further considered by the Conference at its 1996 session,

Noting the request of the Conference on Disarmament that its President continue consultations on a further expansion of its membership and report to it at the beginning of its 1997 session,

1. Recognizes the legitimate aspirations of all countries that have applied for membership to participate fully in the work of the Conference on Disarmament;

2. Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to consider all remaining applications for membership with a view to reaching a decision on its further enlargement before the end of its 1997 session.

General Assembly resolution 51/47 A

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 171-0-2 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.13) by recorded vote (144-0-2), 15 November (meeting 24); 16-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.1/Rev.1); agenda item 73 (b).

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-14, 24; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Turkey, United States.

Multilateral disarmament agreements

Parties and signatories

As at 31 December 1996, the following numbers of States had become parties to the multilateral agreements listed below (listed in chronological order, with the years in which they had been initially signed or opened for signature).

(Geneva) Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare (1925): 131 parties

The Antarctic Treaty (1959): 43 parties

Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water (1963): 124 parties

Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (1967): 94 parties

Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) (1967): 38 parties

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (1968): 185 parties

Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof (1971): 91 parties

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (1972): 139 parties

Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (1977): 64 parties

Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (1979): 9 parties

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (1981): 63 parties

South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) (1985): 14 parties

Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (1990): 30 parties

Treaty on Open Skies (1992): 22 parties

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (1993): 67 parties

Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) (1995): 5 parties

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty) (1996): 2 parties

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (1996): 1 party

Nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The General Assembly on 10 September adopted a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty (CTBT) by **resolution 50/245** (see below), culminating years of complex negotiations, many under the aegis of the United Nations.

The Treaty consists of a preamble, 17 articles and two annexes. By article I, each State party undertakes not to carry out any nuclear-weapon-test explosion or any other nuclear explosion, and to prohibit and prevent any such nuclear explosion at any place under its jurisdiction or control. Further, each party undertakes to refrain from caus-

ing, encouraging, or in any way participating in the carrying out of any nuclear-weapon-test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.

Other articles deal with: the Organization (including the Conference of the States Parties, the Executive Council, the Technical Secretariat and privileges and immunities); national implementation measures; verification (including the International Monitoring System); measures to redress a situation and to ensure compliance, including sanctions; settlement of disputes; amendments; review of the Treaty; duration and withdrawal; status of the Protocol and annexes; signature; ratification; accession; entry into force; reservations; depositary; and authentic texts. The Treaty is accompanied by a three-part Protocol (dealing with the International Monitoring System and International Data Centre functions; on-site inspections; and confidence-building measures), with two annexes.

The goal of a global test ban had been on the agenda of multilateral, trilateral and bilateral negotiating and deliberative bodies for more than 40 years. Concerns first arose about nuclear testing in the mid-1950s as the general public became increasingly aware of the harmful effects of radioactive fallout from atmospheric nuclear tests. Worldwide public protests led Governments to pursue a ban on nuclear-weapon tests. Three treaties on nuclear testing, none comprehensive, were concluded: the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water [YUN 1963, p. 137], and two bilateral treaties on limitations of yields of nuclear tests for military and peaceful purposes between the former USSR and the United States—the Treaty on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapon Tests and the Treaty on Underground Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes.

The Conference on Disarmament had long attempted to establish a working group to formulate a comprehensive test ban. It created a subsidiary body on the item in 1982, but succeeded in agreeing upon a mandate for the group only in 1993. Negotiations began in 1994; following two-and-a-half years of intense negotiations, the Conference concluded a draft treaty in August 1996, but the draft did not command consensus, and therefore the Conference was unable to transmit it to the General Assembly for adoption.

Capitalizing on the political momentum gained in the negotiations and the heightened international expectation for finalization of a global ban, an overwhelming majority of Member States of the Assembly, on 10 September, adopted a CTBT identical to the one drafted by the Conference.

As depositary, the Secretary-General opened the Treaty for signature on 24 September. Seventy-one States signed the Treaty on the first day, including the five nuclear-weapon States (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States) and 32 of the additional 44 States required by article XIV to ratify it to allow its entry into force. As at year's end, 138 States had signed and one (Fiji) had ratified the Treaty.

Pursuant to a request made by Canada as organizer of the process preparing for the first session of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBT Organization (CTBTO), the Secretary-General as depositary convoked a Meeting of States Signatories on 19 November which established the Preparatory Commission.

The Commission held the first part of its first session in New York from 20 to 22 November [CTBT/PC/I/22 & Corr.1], during which it adopted one resolution, entitled "Text on the Establishment of a Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization" [CTBT/MSS/RES/1]. The Commission adopted its provisional rules of procedure and provisional financial regulations and elected five Vice-Chairmen. It took note of a report [CTBT/PC/I/11 & Add.1] on host country commitments prepared by the Government of Austria and adopted the host country agreement as annexed to that document.

Owing to lack of time, the Commission decided to suspend the first session and to resume the session in Geneva early in 1997.

Conference on Disarmament consideration. On 23 January, the Conference on Disarmament decided [CD/1380] to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban with the same mandate it had in 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 142] and 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 194], namely, to negotiate a comprehensive test-ban treaty. The Committee held 50 meetings between 23 January and 16 August.

The Committee established two working groups: Working Group 1, on verification, and Working Group 2, on legal and institutional issues. In addition, it appointed 12 Friends of the Chair and 5 Moderators to deal with specific issues in private and open-ended consultations.

Working Group 1 made intensive efforts towards finalizing treaty language on the verification regime in the rolling text. The Friends of the Chair held consultations with delegations on the International Monitoring System (IMS), the International Data Centre (IDC) and on-site inspections (OSI). As a result, at the end of March, the Chairman of the Working Group presented revised draft language on provisions relating to verification issues for inclusion in the rolling text.

Working Group 2 focused on legal and institutional aspects of the future organization to be entrusted with implementing the treaty. It considered, *inter alia*, the issues of entry into force, duration and withdrawal, review, composition of the Executive Council, measures to redress a situation contravening the treaty, national implementation measures including compliance, funding and the seat of the organization and its possible relationship to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Following the discussion on those issues, the treaty language in the rolling text was substantially revised and refined.

Negotiations continued on the basis of the rolling text of September 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 195] and subsequently that of 22 January 1996 [CD/1378]. In February, draft treaty texts were submitted by Iran [CD/1384 & Corr.1] and by Australia [CD/1386 & Corr.1], which were used by the Ad Hoc Committee as resource papers.

At the end of the first part of the session, on 28 March, the Chairman submitted for the first time a working paper entitled "Outline of a draft comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty", which was structured in treaty format, beginning with a preamble followed by 17 articles. The paper pointed out some of the most contentious areas—scope, entry into force, elements of OSI, composition of the Executive Council—and retained most of the brackets contained in the rolling text. The Chairman indicated that his aim was to show what a CTBT could look like and to highlight the key issues needing decisions. Various countries stressed, nonetheless, that they expected the Chairman to present a new rolling text at the second part of the session.

At the opening meeting of the second session of the Conference on Disarmament, on 13 May, the Chairman announced that there would not be another version of the rolling text, but rather a treaty. On 28 May, underscoring that presentation of a complete draft text of the treaty constituted an essential and indispensable step towards finalizing their work within the time-frame set by the international community, the Chairman brought such a text before the Committee. Following discussions of the text, the Chairman, on 24 June, introduced changes to it, which drew mixed reactions. Canada, on behalf of a number of delegations—Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine—read out a declaration urging all countries to come to a compromise agreement by the end of June.

On the closing day of the second part of the session, 28 June, the Ad Hoc Committee Chairman presented a revised draft treaty, expressing his conviction that convergence had reached its peak and recommending the draft treaty for serious consideration to delegations and to their capitals. Several States expressed their support for the text, though only France voiced its full acceptance outright. A number of others reaffirmed their willingness to continue the negotiations until an agreement was reached on a consensus draft treaty. The Chairman also presented a revised draft text on the establishment of a preparatory commission, which had been prepared by one of the Friends of the Chair.

At the outset of the third part of the session at the end of July, a considerable number of countries stated that, in spite of reservations, they could accept the Chairman's text as presented, and that the Conference should seize the opportunity to forward it to the General Assembly for signature in September. A number of them expressed concern that any further negotiations might lead away from consensus.

Following intense discussions and consultations by the Chairman, nearly all members of the Committee made statements expressing support, reservations or objections to the Chairman's text and to the proposal to transmit it to the Conference, which were recorded in the report of the Conference [A/51/27].

The Ad Hoc Committee therefore concluded that no consensus for transmittal could be reached and thus referred its report to the Conference on Disarmament without the treaty attached.

Thereupon, the delegation of Belgium, in its national capacity, on 22 August, issued the treaty as a document of the Conference [CD/1427].

Communications. In a letter of 22 August [A/50/1024], Australia requested the President of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly to make arrangements for the Assembly to meet in plenary session to consider and take action on a CTBT, pursuant to Assembly resolution 50/65 [YUN 1995, p. 196]. In that resolution, the Assembly had declared its readiness to resume consideration of the item, as necessary, before its fifty-first session in order to endorse the text of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. Australia also submitted to the Secretary-General for circulation as official documents the text of a draft treaty [A/50/1027], identical to the one circulated by Belgium in the Conference on Disarmament, and a draft resolution calling for adoption of the treaty and its opening for signature at the earliest possible date.

On 29 August, India, in a letter [A/50/1030] to the President of the Assembly, noted that the 1995 Assembly resolution referred to the text of a CTBT that was to be concluded by the Conference on Disarmament, and that the treaty text submitted by Australia "as a national document" had not been adopted by consensus at the Conference. India considered therefore that the endorsement of any national document containing the non-consensus text would be contrary to the relevant provisions of the 1995 resolution. In a letter [A/50/1036] of 9 September addressed to the General Assembly President, India suggested changes in the preamble and in the provisions on basic obligations and entry into force.

Japan, on 26 August [A/50/1026], expressed support for the resumption of consideration of a CTBT. Argentina [A/50/1031] and the Russian Federation [A/50/1032], both on 3 September, declared their support for the draft treaty text and the procedure for its consideration. The Russian Federation added that the course of action chosen for the adoption of the treaty was a departure from the existing practice for the elaboration of multilateral agreements in the Conference on Disarmament, but that it had agreed to such a departure owing to the exceptional nature of the situation that had arisen with regard to the treaty.

General Assembly consideration. On 9 September, the Assembly agreed to Australia's request to resume consideration of the item dealing with CTBT and proceeded immediately to its consideration in plenary session. Upon introducing the draft resolution, which had at that point garnered 126 co-sponsors, Australia explained the reasons for the procedural arrangement made to submit the draft treaty to the Assembly, namely, that the treaty had been overwhelmingly agreed to in the Conference on Disarmament and that only one State had not agreed to transmit it to the Assembly. Australia also underlined that those "particular or exceptional circumstances" should not set a precedent, and expressed support for the operating procedures of the Conference—a point stressed by a large number of States.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 September, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 50/245**.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/65 of 12 December 1995, in which the Assembly declared its readiness to resume consideration of the item "Comprehensive test-ban treaty", as necessary, before its fifty-first session in or-

der to endorse the text of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty,

1. Adopts the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, as contained in document A/50/1027;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Treaty, to open it for signature, at United Nations Headquarters, at the earliest possible date;

3. Calls upon all States to sign and, thereafter, according to their respective constitutional processes, to become parties to the Treaty at the earliest possible date;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General, as depositary of the Treaty, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the status of signature and ratifications of the Treaty.

General Assembly resolution 50/245

10 September 1996 Meeting 125 158-3-5 (recorded vote)

127-nation draft (A/50/L.78/Add.1); agenda item 65.

Meeting numbers. GA 50th session: plenary 123-125.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Against: Bhutan, India, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Abstaining: Cuba, Lebanon, Mauritius, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania.

On 10 December, the Assembly, by **decision 51/413**, took note of part seven of the report of the First Committee [A/51/566/Add.6], which stated that the Committee had taken no action on the item dealing with the implementation of the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty.

In other related action, the Assembly, on the same date, by **decision 51/412**, took note of part six of the report of the First Committee [A/51/566/Add.5], which stated that the Committee had taken no action regarding the amendment of the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water [YUN 1963, p. 137] (also known as the partial test-ban treaty).

Nuclear explosive testing in 1996

On 27 January 1996, France conducted its last nuclear test explosion at the Mururoa and Fanga-

taufa atolls in French Polynesia, and announced the end of its testing programme two days later.

In a letter of 8 June, China stated that on that date it had conducted a nuclear test at its testing site at Lop Nor [A/51/163]. In a statement of 10 June [A/51/174], Kazakhstan expressed concern at the nuclear test. On 11 June [CD/1409], Argentina deplored the test, taking place as it did at a decisive moment in the negotiation of CTBT. Chile, in a letter of 12 June [A/51/167], strongly protested China's detonation of the nuclear device.

China's last nuclear test explosion at Lop Nor was conducted on 29 July, which was followed by the announcement of a moratorium on further testing effective the next day [A/51/262]. On 29 July [CD/1415], the United States regretted the test but welcomed the moratorium. Argentina, on 5 August [CD/1418], deplored the test but noted with satisfaction the decision of China to declare a moratorium on nuclear testing.

The former USSR had conducted its last nuclear test on 24 October 1990 [YUN 1991, p. 39], and the Russian Federation maintained the moratorium; the United Kingdom's last nuclear test was on 26 November 1991; and the United States' final test occurred on 23 September 1992.

Notes of Secretary-General. By a note of 7 August [A/51/279], the Secretary-General transmitted information received from Australia detailing nuclear explosions detected by that country from January to December 1995.

By a later note [A/52/88], the Secretary-General transmitted a communication received from Australia detailing nuclear explosions detected by that country from January to September 1996. Three nuclear explosions had taken place, one at the Fangataufa atoll in the South Pacific, by France (27 January), and two by China at the Lop Nor testing site (8 June and 29 July).

Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts

The Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Cooperative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events (GSE) held three sessions at Geneva in 1996. The main topic of the Group's forty-third session, held from 12 to 23 February [CD/1385], was the evaluation of the first full year of the Group of Scientific Experts Third Technical Test (GSETT-3), which was an experimental global seismic monitoring system intended to test concepts for possible use in a future CTBT International Monitoring System (IMS). GSETT-3 had begun full-scale operations on 1 January 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 195]. During its forty-fourth session (20-24 May) [CD/1398], the Group reviewed results from GSETT-3. At its forty-fifth session (5-15 August) [CD/1422 & Corr.1], the Group focused on preparing a comprehen-

sive report on the GSETT-3 experiment, which provided an overview of the results and conclusions from a year and a half of GSETT-3 operation. The report [CD/1423], which was submitted to the Conference on Disarmament in September, recommended that the Group continue GSETT-3 until the Preparatory Commission for CTBTO assumed responsibility for the evolving IMS, including the experimental International Data Centre.

Non-proliferation treaty

In 1996, Andorra, Angola and Djibouti acceded to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) [YUN 1968, p. 17, GA res. 2373(XXII)], bringing the number of States parties to 185 at year's end.

Pursuant to NPT's entry into force on 5 March 1970, quinquennial review conferences were held in 1975 [YUN 1975, p. 27], 1980 [YUN 1980, p. 51], 1985 [YUN 1985, p. 56], 1990 [NPT/CONF.IV.45/I] and 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 189], as called for under article VIII, paragraph 3, of the Treaty.

Following consultations, the parties to the Treaty decided that the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the next NPT review conference, to be held in the year 2000, would take place in New York from 7 to 18 April 1997.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 A**.

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolution 2373(XXII) of 12 June 1968, the annex to which contains the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Noting the provisions of article VIII, paragraph 3, of the Treaty regarding the convening of Review Conferences at five-year intervals,

Recalling the decision on strengthening the review process for the Treaty, of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of Parties to the Treaty in which it was agreed that Treaty Review Conferences should continue to be held every five years and that, accordingly, the next Review Conference should be held in the year 2000,

Recalling also the decision of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference that the first Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2000 Review Conference should be held in 1997,

Recalling further its resolution 50/70 Q of 12 December 1995, in which it took note of the various decisions of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference,

1. Takes note of the decision of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, following appropriate consultations, to hold the first

meeting of the Preparatory Committee in New York from 7 to 18 April 1997;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee.

General Assembly resolution 51/45 A

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 167-0-2 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) by recorded vote (142-0-2), 15 November (meeting 24); draft by Sri Lanka, for States parties to NPT (A/C.1/51/L.3); agenda item 71 f/A

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 15, 24; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: India, Israel.

The Assembly also adopted **resolution 51/45 G** on 10 December.

Nuclear disarmament with a view to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/70 C of 12 December 1995,

Recognizing that the end of the cold war has increased the possibility of freeing the world from the fear of nuclear war,

Appreciating the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, to which Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America are party, and looking forward to the early entry into force of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, which was ratified by the United States of America,

Welcoming the reductions in the nuclear arsenals of other nuclear-weapon States,

Welcoming also the decision of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to extend the Treaty indefinitely, taken without a vote, as well as the decisions on strengthening the review process for

the Treaty and on the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament,

Noting the reference in the decision on the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament to the importance of the following measures for the full realization and effective implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including the programme of action as reflected below:

(a) The completion by the Conference on Disarmament of the negotiations on a universal and internationally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty no later than 1996, and utmost restraint that should be exercised by the nuclear-weapon States pending the entry into force of that treaty;

(b) The immediate commencement and early conclusion of negotiations on a non-discriminatory and universally applicable convention banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in accordance with the statement of the Special Coordinator of the Conference on Disarmament and the mandate contained therein;

(c) The determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, and by all States of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Welcoming the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly and its opening for signature at the beginning of the current session,

Recalling that nuclear non-proliferation and the promotion of nuclear disarmament are key elements in the maintenance of international peace and security, which is one of the most important purposes of the United Nations,

1. Urges States not parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to accede to it at the earliest possible date, recognizing the importance of universal adherence to the Treaty;

2. Calls for the determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, and by all States of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, and invites them to keep States Members of the United Nations duly informed of the progress and efforts made;

3. Calls upon all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to make their best efforts for a smooth start of the strengthened review process of the Treaty as they convene their first Preparatory Committee, in 1997, with a view to the success of the next Review Conference which should be held in the year 2000;

4. Calls upon all States to implement fully their commitments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

General Assembly resolution 51/45 G

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 159-0-11 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) by recorded vote (132-0-11), 11 November (meeting 18); 22-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.17); agenda item 71 (i).

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 15, 18; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Algeria, Brazil, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Iran, Israel, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nigeria.

In the Committee, paragraph one and the seventh preambular paragraph were adopted by separate recorded votes of 138 to 2, with 2 abstentions, and 133 to 1, with 6 abstentions, respectively.

The Assembly retained the same paragraphs by recorded votes of 161 to 3, with 2 abstentions, and 161 to 1, with 5 abstentions, respectively.

Nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/73 [YUN 1995, p. 190], the Secretary-General submitted, in October, a report [A/51/446] on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. He stated that apart from the text of an IAEA resolution adopted by its General Conference on 20 September, he had received no additional information on the subject since the submission of his 1995 report [YUN 1995, p. 190].

Annexed to the Secretary-General's report was the text of the resolution adopted by the IAEA General Conference.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/48**.

The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the relevant United Nations resolutions,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the latest of which is GC(40)RES/22 adopted on 20 September 1996, and noting the danger of nuclear proliferation, especially in areas of tension,

Cognizant that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region of the Middle East would pose a serious threat to international peace and security,

Mindful of the importance of placing all nuclear facilities in the region of the Middle East under full-scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Recalling the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995, in which the Conference noted with concern the continued existence in the Middle East of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, reaffirmed the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty and called upon all States in the Middle East that had not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place all their nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards,

Recalling also the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995, in which the Conference urged universal adherence to the Treaty as an urgent priority and called upon all States not yet party to the Treaty to accede to it at the earliest date, particularly those States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities,

Noting that, since the adoption of the aforementioned resolution and decision on 11 May 1995, Djibouti and the United Arab Emirates have become parties to the Treaty, and that Oman will become a party to the Treaty at the earliest date, and noting also that Israel shall be the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become a party to the Treaty and has not declared its intention to do so,

Concerned about threats posed to security and stability by the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the region,

Stressing the importance of undertaking confidence-building measures, in particular the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in order to consolidate the non-proliferation regime and enhance peace and security in the region,

Noting the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by the General Assembly and its signature by one hundred and thirty-two States, including a number of States in the region,

1. Welcomes the accession of Djibouti to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 22 August 1996, as well as the decision of Oman, expressed by its Minister of State for Foreign Affairs before the General Assembly on 1 October 1996, to accede to the Treaty;

2. Calls upon the only State in the region that is not yet party to the Treaty and has not declared its intention to do so, to accede to the Treaty without further delay, and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons and to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East".

General Assembly resolution 51/48
10 December 1996 Meeting 79 129-3-32 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.14) by recorded vote (98-2-32), 18 November (meeting 25); draft by Egypt, for League of Arab States, and Malaysia (A/C.1/51/L.27/Rev.2); agenda item 74.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 17, 24, 25; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, Micronesia, United States.

Abstaining: Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Guatemala, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Singapore, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela.

In the Committee, the sixth preambular paragraph was adopted by a separate recorded vote of 118 to 2, with 10 abstentions.

The Assembly retained the paragraph by a recorded vote of 155 to 2, with 8 abstentions.

Prohibition of use

The Conference on Disarmament, at its 1996 session, was unable to undertake negotiations on a convention on the prohibition of use of nuclear weapons, as the General Assembly had requested [YUN 1995, p. 208, GA res. 50/71 E].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the Assembly adopted **resolution 51/46 D**.

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to the survival of mankind,

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons,

Convinced that a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would contribute to the elimination of the nuclear threat and to the climate for negotiations leading to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons, thereby strengthening international peace and security,

Conscious that some steps taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America towards a reduction of their nuclear weapons and the improvement in the international climate can contribute towards the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recalling that, in paragraph 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, it is stated that all States should actively participate in efforts to bring about conditions in international relations among States in which a code of peaceful conduct of nations in international affairs could be agreed upon and that would preclude the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming that any use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, as declared in its resolutions 1653(XVI) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December 1981,

Determined to achieve an international convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction,

Stressing that an international convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework,

Noting with regret that the Conference on Disarmament, during its 1996 session, was unable to undertake negotiations on this subject as called for in General Assembly resolution 50/71 E of 12 December 1995,

1. Reiterates its request to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations, in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances, taking as a possible basis the draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons annexed to the present resolution;

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly on the results of those negotiations.

ANNEX

Draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

The States Parties to the present Convention,
Alarmed by the threat to the very survival of mankind posed by the existence of nuclear weapons,

Convinced that any use of nuclear weapons constitutes a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity,

Desiring to achieve a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation of all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Determined, therefore, to achieve an international convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction,

Convinced that the present Convention would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework,

Determined to continue negotiations for the achievement of this goal,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The States Parties to the present Convention solemnly undertake not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

Article 2

This Convention shall be of unlimited duration.

Article 3

1. The present Convention shall be open to all States for signature. Any State that does not sign the Convention before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of the present article may accede to it at any time.

2. The present Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. The present Convention shall enter into force on the deposit of instruments of ratification by twenty-five Governments, including the Governments of the five nuclear-weapon States, in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article.

4. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited after the entry into force of the Convention, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

5. The depositary shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification or accession and the date of entry into force of this Convention, as well as of the receipt of other notices.

6. The present Convention shall be registered by the depositary in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 4

The present Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall send duly certified copies thereof to the Governments of the signatory and acceding States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention, opened for signature at _____ on the _____ day of _____ one thousand nine hundred and _____.

General Assembly resolution 51/46 D

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 114-31-27 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.12) by recorded vote (76-26-24), 11 November (meeting 19); 27-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.19/Rev.1); agenda item 72 (e).

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-14, 19; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Abstaining: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Comoros, Cyprus, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Georgia, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Malta, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Sweden, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine.

Security assurances

In 1996, the Conference on Disarmament did not establish an ad hoc committee to undertake negotiations on international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, but the subject was actively debated within the framework of CTBT negotiations. China and Ukraine advocated inclusion of a separate article on assurances, and China tabled a textual proposal that was later withdrawn. In general, the non-aligned States held that the unilateral commitments given in Security Council resolution 984(1995) [YUN 1995, p. 192] by the five nuclear-weapon States fell far short of expectations since they had not been negotiated multilaterally and were not legally binding or comprehensive, and that the Conference on Disarmament should consider further steps that might be taken. The Western nuclear-weapon States, however, maintained that their assurances were legally valid and adequate. Nevertheless, at the end of the session, it was recognized that an ad hoc committee on assurances could be set up and its mandate updated.

New action on security assurances was taken by the nuclear-weapon States in connection with their signature and ratification of relevant protocols to the Treaty of Rarotonga [YUN 1985, p. 58] and the Pelindaba Treaty [YUN 1995, p. 203], but no broader commitments were undertaken. The

commitment embodied in the Protocol to the Bangkok Treaty, whereby the nuclear-weapon States would undertake not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons within the South-East Asia zone, was considered too sweeping, and contributed to the reluctance of the nuclear-weapon States to adhere to the Protocol as drafted.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/43**.

Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the need to allay the legitimate concern of the States of the world with regard to ensuring lasting security for their peoples,

Convinced that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Welcoming the progress achieved in recent years in both nuclear and conventional disarmament,

Noting that, despite recent progress in the field of nuclear disarmament, further efforts are necessary towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Convinced that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Determined strictly to abide by the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or threat of force,

Recognizing that the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of non-nuclear-weapon States need to be safeguarded against the use or threat of use of force, including the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering that, until nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international community to develop effective measures and arrangements to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from any quarter,

Recognizing that effective measures and arrangements to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons can contribute positively to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it urged the nuclear-weapon States to pursue efforts to conclude, as appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and desirous of promoting the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Document,

Recalling the relevant parts of the special report of the Committee on Disarmament submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, and of the special report of the Conference on Disarmament submitted to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session,

the third special session devoted to disarmament, as well as the report of the Conference on its 1992 session,

Recalling also paragraph 12 of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980, which states, inter alia, that all efforts should be exerted by the Committee on Disarmament urgently to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting the in-depth negotiations undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons, with a view to reaching agreement on this item,

Taking note of the proposals submitted under that item in the Conference on Disarmament, including the drafts of an international convention,

Taking note also of the relevant decision of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995, and also of the decision adopted by the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 1 to 6 September 1992, as well as the relevant recommendations of the Organization of the Islamic Conference reiterated in the Final Communiqué of the Twentieth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Istanbul from 4 to 8 August 1991, calling upon the Conference on Disarmament to reach an urgent agreement on an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Taking note further of the unilateral declarations made by all nuclear-weapon States on their policies of non-use or non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as the difficulties pointed out in evolving a common approach acceptable to all,

Noting also the greater willingness to overcome the difficulties encountered in previous years,

Taking note of Security Council resolution 984(1995) of 11 April 1995 and the views expressed on it,

Recalling its relevant resolutions adopted in previous years, in particular resolutions 45/54 of 4 December 1990, 46/32 of 6 December 1991, 47/50 of 9 December 1992, 48/73 of 16 December 1993, 49/73 of 15 December 1994 and 50/68 of 12 December 1995,

1. Reaffirms the urgent need to reach an early agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

2. Notes with satisfaction that in the Conference on Disarmament there is no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, although the difficulties as regards evolving a common approach acceptable to all have also been pointed out;

3. Appeals to all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to work actively towards an early agreement on a common approach and, in particular, on a common formula that could be included in an international instrument of a legally binding character;

4. Recommends that further intensive efforts should be devoted to the search for such a common approach or common formula and that the various alternative approaches, including, in particular, those considered in the Conference on Disarmament, should be further explored in order to overcome the difficulties;

5. Recommends also that the Conference on Disarmament should actively continue intensive negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement and concluding effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

General Assembly resolution 51/43

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 125-0-45 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.9) by recorded vote (100-0-43), 11 November (meeting 19); 19-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.30); agenda item 69.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-14, 19; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion

By a note of 15 October [A/51/218], the Secretary-General transmitted the 8 July Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. The Court addressed the question in the light of the provisions of the

Charter relating to the threat or use of force; it then turned to the law applicable in situations of armed conflict, first addressing the question, of whether there were specific rules in international law regulating the legality or illegality of recourse to nuclear weapons per se and then examining the question in the light of the principles and rules of humanitarian law and the law of neutrality. Given the difficulties arising from the examination and considering that international law and the stability of the international order were bound to suffer from the continuing difference of views with regard to the legal status of nuclear weapons, the Court expressed the view that it was important to put an end to that state of affairs, and that complete nuclear disarmament appeared to be the most appropriate means of achieving that result.

In its Opinion, the Court agreed unanimously that a threat or use of force by means of nuclear weapons that was contrary to Article 2, paragraph 4 (refraining from the threat or use of force), of the Charter and that did not meet the requirements of Article 51 (inherent right of individual or collective self-defence) was unlawful, and that a threat or use of nuclear weapons should be compatible with international law applicable in armed conflict. By a vote of 7 to 7, with the President's vote deciding, it said that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict; however, it could not conclude definitively whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be lawful or unlawful in an extreme circumstance of self-defence. It decided unanimously, however, that "there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament".

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 M**.

Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 K of 15 December 1994, in which it requested the International Court of Justice to render an advisory opinion on whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons is permitted in any circumstance under international law,

Mindful of the solemn obligations of States parties, undertaken in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, particularly to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

Recalling its resolution 50/70 P of 12 December 1995, in which it called upon the Conference on Disarmament to establish an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament to commence negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework,

Recalling also the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in particular the objective of determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons,

Recognizing that the only defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the certainty that they will never be produced again,

Desiring to achieve the objective of a legally binding prohibition of the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, threat or use of nuclear weapons and their destruction under effective international control,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and welcoming every effort towards this end,

Reaffirming also the central role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum,

Noting the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996,

Regretting the absence of multilaterally negotiated and legally binding security assurances against the threat or use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States,

Convinced that the continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to all humanity and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for all life on Earth,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the International Court of Justice for responding to the request made by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

2. Takes note of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, issued on 8 July 1996;

3. Underlines the unanimous conclusion of the Court that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control;

4. Calls upon all States to fulfil that obligation immediately by commencing multilateral negotiations in 1997 leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear-weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary assistance to support the implementation of the present resolution;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Follow-up to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons".

General Assembly resolution 51/45 M

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 115-22-32 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) by recorded vote (94-22-29), 14 November (meeting 22); 45-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.37); agenda item 71 (k).

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 15, 22; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Norway, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Tajikistan, Togo, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

In the Committee, paragraphs 3 and 4 were adopted by separate recorded votes of 115 to 7, with 19 abstentions, and 87 to 27, with 27 abstentions, respectively.

The General Assembly retained those paragraphs by recorded votes of 139 to 7, with 20 abstentions, and 110 to 27, with 29 abstentions, respectively.

IAEA safeguards

In early 1996, IAEA began to implement the new measures, principally the collection of environmental samples and unannounced inspections, contained in Programme 93+2. The Programme consisted of two parts: one concerned measures for which IAEA already had authority; and the second dealt with measures that would require additional authority. In June, the Board of Governors decided to move ahead with concrete steps that would increase the authority of the inspectorate. It agreed to establish a Committee on Strengthening the Effectiveness and Improving the Efficiency of the Safeguards System that would draw up a draft model protocol to supplement the existing safeguards inspection

agreements between IAEA and non-nuclear-weapon States, and to define the nature of additional information and additional access to nuclear-related locations that were to be inspected.

The Committee met in July and in October, and examined the proposals concerning measures requiring additional authority that had been put forward by the IAEA secretariat and amendments that had been submitted by delegations. As at year's end, the bracketed rolling text of a model protocol additional to existing safeguards agreements reflected the degree of agreement reached, and intensive multilateral consultations were under way to facilitate progress in the session scheduled for January 1997.

As to safeguards with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the information and access provided to IAEA were insufficient to give a comprehensive picture of the country's nuclear programme and to answer questions about the completeness of its initial declaration of nuclear activities. The verification arrangements currently in place, however, gave confidence that the graphite-moderated reactors and related facilities subject to a freeze under the 1994 Agreed Framework [YUN1994, p.442] between the United States and the DPRK were actually frozen. In 1996, IAEA adopted a resolution on the implementation of the agreements between it and the DPRK (see also PART ONE, Chapter IV).

Regarding Iraq, IAEA continued to implement its ongoing plan for monitoring and verifying Iraq's compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions through its Nuclear Monitoring Group, assisted by and in coordination with the United Nations Special Commission (see also PART ONE, Chapter IV).

Nuclear disarmament

Programme of action to eliminate nuclear weapons

By a letter of 22 October [A/C.1/51/12], Egypt, on behalf also of other members of the Group of 21 non-aligned countries (Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zaire, Zimbabwe), transmitted a proposal for a programme of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons. The programme of action was to be carried out through the establishment by the Conference on Disarmament of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament.

The first phase of the programme of action, which would take place between the years 1996 and 2000, consisted of measures aimed at reducing the nuclear threat and measures towards nuclear disarmament. The second phase, planned for the years 2000 to 2010, aimed at reducing the nuclear arsenals and promoting confidence between States. The programme's final phase, to take place between the years 2010 and 2020, was intended to achieve the consolidation of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 O**.

Nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 E of 15 December 1994 on a step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat, and its resolution 50/70 P of 12 December 1995 on nuclear disarmament,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Determined to achieve the objective of prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and their destruction, and to conclude such an international convention or conventions at an early date,

Bearing in mind paragraph 50 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, calling for the urgent negotiation of agreements for the cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems, and for a comprehensive and phased programme with agreed timeframes, wherever feasible, for progressive and balanced reduction of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, leading to their ultimate and complete elimination at the earliest possible time,

Taking note of the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/245 on 10 September 1996,

Recognizing that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and any proposed treaty on fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices must constitute disarmament measures, and not only non-proliferation measures, and that these measures, together with an international legal instrument on adequate security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States and an international convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons, must be integral steps leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework,

Recognizing also that the end of the cold war has brought about favourable conditions for creating a world free of nuclear weapons,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, to which Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America are States parties,

Welcoming also the conclusion of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms by the Russian Federation and the United States of America and the ratification of that Treaty by the United States of America, and looking forward to the full implementation of the START I and START II Treaties by the States parties, and to further concrete steps for nuclear disarmament by all nuclear-weapon States,

Noting with appreciation the unilateral measures by the nuclear-weapon States for nuclear arms limitation, and encouraging them to undertake further such measures,

Recognizing the complementarity of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, and that bilateral negotiations can never replace multilateral negotiations in this respect,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and the multilateral efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to reach agreement on such an international convention at an early date,

Taking note of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice dated 8 July 1996 on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, and welcoming the unanimous reaffirmation by all Judges of the Court that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Taking note also of paragraph 84 and other relevant recommendations in the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995, calling upon the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee to commence negotiations early in 1996 on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework, and paragraph 26 of the Communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegations of the Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 25 September 1996,^a

Expressing its regret that the Conference on Disarmament has not been able as yet to establish an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament, as called for in Assembly resolution 50/70 P,

Taking note of the proposal of twenty-eight delegations to the Conference on Disarmament that are members of the Group of 21 for a programme of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons, and expressing its conviction that this proposal will be an important input and will contribute to negotiations on this question in the Conference,

1. Recognizes that, in view of the end of the cold war and recent political developments, the time is now opportune for all nuclear-weapon States to undertake effective disarmament measures with a view to the total elimination of these weapons within a time-bound framework;

2. Recognizes also that there is a genuine need to de-emphasize the role of nuclear weapons, and to review and revise nuclear doctrines accordingly;

3. Urges the nuclear-weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems;

4. Calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to undertake the step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat and a phased programme of progressive and balanced deep reductions of nuclear weapons, and to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to the total elimination of these weapons within a time-bound framework;

5. Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament to commence negotiations early in 1997 on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework through a nuclear-weapons convention;

6. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to take into account in this regard the proposal of the twenty-eight delegations for a programme of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Nuclear disarmament".

^a A/51/473-S/1996/839.

General Assembly resolution 51/45 O

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 110-39-20 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) by recorded vote (87-38-20), 11 November (meeting 19); 42-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.39); agenda item 71 (i).

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 18, 19; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Cyprus, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Fissile material

The impasse in the Conference on Disarmament with respect to negotiations on a fissile material cut-off, which had developed the previous

year [YUN 1995, p. 202], persisted in 1996. In plenary meetings, some delegations spoke of the commencement of negotiations on a cut-off as the next logical step for the Conference to take, once it had concluded a CTBT. Most non-aligned States, however, saw a cut-off as an element of their programme of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons, and sought to ensure that the Conference would deal with it in that context before agreeing to begin negotiations on a cut-off. In the end, although no delegation opposed negotiating a cut-off convention, it was not possible to undertake focused work at the Conference's 1996 session.

Some progress at the unilateral level was made. Early in the year, France, which had already halted the production of plutonium for military purposes, reported its decision to close down its Pierrelatte plant, which was capable of producing highly enriched uranium for national defence purposes. The Russian Federation, which had ceased producing weapons-grade uranium, announced that its national programme to cease producing weapons-grade plutonium would be implemented by 1998.

On 17 September, the Secretary of Energy of the United States and the Minister of Atomic Energy of the Russian Federation met with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General in Vienna to discuss IAEA verification of fissile material transferred from military use to peaceful nuclear activity. Following the meeting, a trilateral statement was issued, in which the Russian Federation and the United States agreed to discuss how to protect sensitive nuclear-weapons information and to prevent its disclosure, and to hold appropriate consultations with IAEA thereon; to form a joint group to address the various technical, legal and financial issues associated with implementing IAEA verification and to report on progress within nine months; and to visit two sites in the United States to examine how IAEA safeguards had been implemented at plutonium facilities under existing United States voluntary offer agreements with the Agency.

Issues related to START and other bilateral agreements

The 1991 Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I) [YUN 1991, p. 34], which was signed by the Presidents of the former USSR and the United States and entered into force on 5 December 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 145], was halfway through its implementation phase in 1996. The actual dismantling and destruction, at the rate of some 2,000 nuclear warheads a year, had begun before the Treaty entered into force. At year's end, the United States had

achieved 60 per cent of its target, and both parties had reduced their nuclear-delivery vehicles below the limits set for December 1999. The Russian Federation encountered some delays, however, in dismantling its nuclear-powered submarines.

Regarding the 1993 START II Treaty [YUN 1993, p. 117], on 26 January, the United States Senate ratified the Treaty with an overwhelming majority and without amendment, as was reported in a Conference on Disarmament document [CD/1382]. The Russian Federation delayed ratification because of concerns over the ratio of land-based, sea-based and airborne nuclear strategic missiles to be destroyed within the established quotas, as well as over proposals in the United States Senate to develop and deploy theatre missile defence (TMD)—actions that might conflict with the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty [YUN 1972, p. 5].

With regard to the first concern, according to START II not only would nuclear warheads be reduced to 3,000 or 3,500 on each side, but all multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV) intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), considered to be the most destabilizing of all weapons, would be eliminated. Thus, the Russian Federation's 400 land-based ICBMs would be destroyed, leaving it with 1,700 missiles deployed on submarines and 300 on aircraft. In order to build up to the ceiling of 3,000, the Russian Federation would have to build 600 mono-block (one warhead) missiles until the year 2003 at a rate of 100 annually. The Russian strategic forces, however, did not have sufficient financial means to develop at that pace, the Conference on Disarmament reported. Under the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program to reduce the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction, the United States provided \$230 million in 1996 to facilitate early deactivation and the elimination of strategic offensive arms in the Russian Federation.

With regard to the second concern, by a bill introduced in the United States Congress in February, the United States would be required to withdraw from the 1972 ABM Treaty in order to clear the way for deployment of a national missile defence system. The United States, however, continued its discussions on TMD with Russia, and on 23 September, it was announced that they had reached agreement on the first part of an understanding that would allow the United States to proceed with efforts to build a defence against shorter-range missiles, while preserving the ABM Treaty. The first part of the understanding was to deal with low-velocity systems, and the second part with higher-velocity systems. However, on 30 October, Russia withdrew from the agreement.

During the year, there were important developments in other countries that were parties to the

1992 Protocol to START I, known as the Lisbon Protocol [YUN 1992, p. 79]. By the Lisbon Protocol, signed by four successor States to the former USSR (Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Ukraine) and by the United States, the four successor States assumed the obligations of the former USSR under the Treaty. The Protocol had entered into force on 5 December 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 145]. By a letter of 6 June [A/51/157], Ukraine informed the Secretary-General that on 1 June the process of withdrawing strategic nuclear warheads from its territory to the Russian Federation for subsequent destruction under the supervision of Ukrainian observers was completed. On 2 June [A/51/159-S/1996/417], the Russian Federation stated that it was prepared to continue to deepen its cooperation with Ukraine in matters of security. The European Union (EU) [A/51/165-S/1996/435] and the United States [A/51/169-S/1996/444], in letters of 13 June, welcomed the removal of nuclear warheads from the territory of Ukraine.

A United States-Ukrainian facility to dismantle 130 deactivated SS-19 missiles, at a rate of at least four a month, was opened in 1996. In June, Belarus signed an agreement with Germany, according to which Germany agreed to help Belarus, before the end of 1996, to remove 18 nuclear-armed SS-25 intercontinental missiles from its territory. In a letter of 30 November [A/51/708], Belarus informed the Secretary-General that on 27 November the removal of nuclear weapons from its territory had been completed.

At the end of September, the President of Kazakhstan reported that the last nuclear missile launchers in the territory of Kazakhstan had been eliminated [A/C.1/51/5].

Significant developments were also registered as a result of unilateral actions by other nuclear-weapon States. In February, France announced new unilateral cuts in its nuclear arsenals, the closure of the Plateau d'Albion missile base in southern France, and the dismantling of the 30 Hades missiles that had been mothballed. That action entailed structural reductions as well, as France was thereby abandoning the land-based component of its deterrent and the short-range missiles it possessed. The United Kingdom proceeded with its programme of reductions; it projected that by the end of 1998 its nuclear forces would be limited to a single system deployed on submarines.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 R**.

Bilateral nuclear arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,
Recalling its previous relevant resolutions,

Recognizing the fundamental changes that have taken place with respect to international security, which have permitted agreements on deep reductions in the nuclear armaments of the States possessing the largest inventories of such weapons,

Mindful that it is the responsibility and obligation of all States to contribute to the process of the relaxation of international tension and to the strengthening of international peace and security and, in this connection, to adopt and implement measures towards the attainment of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Appreciating a number of positive developments in the field of nuclear disarmament, in particular the Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, and the treaties on the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms,

Appreciating also the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and acknowledging the importance of the determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, and by all States of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Welcoming the steps that have already been taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America to begin the process of reducing the number of nuclear weapons and removing such weapons from a deployed status, and bilateral agreements on the issue of de-targeting strategic nuclear missiles,

Noting the new climate of relations between the States of the former Soviet Union and the United States of America, which permits them to intensify their cooperative efforts to ensure the safety, security and environmentally sound destruction of nuclear weapons,

Noting also that the Russian Federation and the United States of America concurred that, once the Treaty between them on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms was ratified, they would proceed to deactivate all nuclear delivery systems to be reduced under the Treaty by removing their nuclear warheads or taking other steps to remove them from alert status,

Noting further the commitment between the Russian Federation and the United States of America to intensify their dialogue to compare conceptual approaches and to develop concrete steps to adapt the nuclear forces and practices on both sides to the changed international security situation, including the possibility, after ratification of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, of further reductions of and limitations on remaining nuclear forces,

Taking note of the joint statement of 10 May 1995 by the Russian Federation and the United States of America on the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems,

Recalling the Moscow Summit Declaration on Nuclear Safety and Security of April 1996,

Urging early action to complete the ratification of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms and further intensification of efforts to accelerate the implementation of agreements

and unilateral decisions relating to nuclear arms reduction,

Welcoming the significant reductions made by other nuclear-weapon States, and encouraging all nuclear-weapon States to consider appropriate measures relating to nuclear disarmament,

1. Welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed in Moscow on 31 July 1991 by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, including the Protocol to that Treaty, signed at Lisbon on 23 May 1992 by the parties thereto, and the exchange of documents of ratification between the United States of America, Belarus, Kazakstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine on 5 December 1994 at Budapest;

2. Also welcomes the signing of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms in Moscow on 3 January 1993, and urges the parties to take the steps necessary to bring that Treaty into force at the earliest possible date;

3. Expresses its satisfaction at the entry into force and ongoing implementation of the 1991 Treaty as well as the ratification by the United States of America of the 1993 Treaty, and expresses the hope that it will soon be possible for the Russian Federation to ratify that Treaty also;

4. Expresses further satisfaction at the continuing implementation of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, in particular at the completion by the parties of the destruction of all their declared missiles subject to elimination under the Treaty;

5. Welcomes the removal of all nuclear weapons from the territory of Kazakstan as of 1 June 1995, and from the territory of Ukraine as of 1 June 1996;

6. Encourages the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Belarus, Kazakstan and Ukraine to continue their cooperative efforts aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons and strategic offensive arms on the basis of existing agreements, and welcomes the contributions that other States are making to such cooperation as well;

7. Welcomes the accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of Belarus, Kazakstan and Ukraine as non-nuclear-weapon States, which thereby provided notable enhancement to the non-proliferation regime;

8. Encourages and supports the Russian Federation and the United States of America in their efforts to reduce their nuclear weapons and to continue to give those efforts the highest priority in order to contribute to the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons;

9. Invites the Russian Federation and the United States of America to keep other States Members of the United Nations duly informed of progress in their discussions and in the implementation of their strategic offensive arms agreements and unilateral decisions.

General Assembly resolution 51/45 R

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 160-0-11 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) by recorded vote (129-0-12), 12 November (meeting 20); 45-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.45); agenda item 71.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 17, 20; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lebanon, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania.

Also on 10 December, the Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 I**.

Bilateral nuclear arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions,

Recognizing the fundamental changes that have taken place with respect to international security, which have permitted agreements on deep reductions in the nuclear armaments of the States possessing the largest inventories of such weapons,

Stressing that it is the responsibility and the obligation of all States to contribute to the process of the relaxation of international tension and to the strengthening of international peace and security through disarmament, in particular, nuclear disarmament, which remains the highest priority of our times,

Stressing also that, as stipulated in many agreements and recently reiterated by the unanimous decision by the International Court of Justice, there exists the obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Welcoming the number of positive developments that have created opportunities for nuclear disarmament, in particular, the completion of the implementation of the 1987 Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, removing such weapons from deployed status, the conclusion of bilateral agreements on de-targeting strategic missiles, the cooperative efforts to ensure the safety, security and environmentally sound destruction of nuclear weapons as well as the efforts to deactivate all nuclear delivery systems or other steps to remove them from alert status,

Noting that there are still significant nuclear arsenals and that the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear

weapons, rests with all nuclear-weapon States, in particular, those possessing the largest stockpiles,

Recalling the expressed commitment by the nuclear-weapon States to pursue systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of the elimination of those weapons, which should be carried out within a time-bound framework,

Recalling also the agreement between the Russian Federation and the United States of America to intensify their dialogue to compare conceptual approaches and to develop concrete steps to adapt the nuclear forces and practices on both sides to the changed international security situation, including the possibility, after ratification of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, of further reductions of and limitations on remaining nuclear forces,

Taking note of the joint statement of 10 May 1995 by the Russian Federation and the United States of America on the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems,

Welcoming the reductions made by other nuclear-weapon States in some of their nuclear-weapons programmes, and encouraging all nuclear-weapon States to consider appropriate measures relating to nuclear disarmament,

Affirming that bilateral and multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament should facilitate and complement each other,

1. Welcomes the entry into force and implementation of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed in Moscow on 31 July 1991 by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, including the Protocol to that Treaty, signed at Lisbon on 23 May 1992 by the parties thereto, and the exchange of documents of ratification between the United States of America, Belarus, Kazakstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine on 5 December 1994 at Budapest, as well as the ratification by the United States of America of the 1993 Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, and urges the parties concerned to make further efforts to bring that Treaty into force at the earliest possible date;

2. Encourages the United States of America and the Russian Federation to continue their efforts aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons and strategic offensive arms on the basis of existing agreements, and welcomes the contributions that other States are making to such cooperation as well;

3. Welcomes the removal of all nuclear weapons from the territory of Kazakstan, as from June 1995, and from the territory of Ukraine, as from June 1996;

4. Encourages and supports the Russian Federation and the United States of America in intensifying their work for deep reductions in their nuclear armaments, and calls upon those States to accord the highest priority to this work, in order to contribute to the elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework;

5. Invites the Russian Federation and the United States of America to keep the States Members of the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament duly informed of progress in their discussions and in the implementation of their strategic offensive arms agreements and unilateral decisions;

6. Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to take such information into account in the negotiations to be held on nuclear disarmament leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework.

General Assembly resolution 51/45 I

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 107-37-24 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) by recorded vote (83-36-21), 12 November (meeting 20); draft by Colombia, for Non-Aligned Movement (A/C.1/51/L.21); agenda item 71.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-14, 20; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Japan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Malta, New Zealand, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Solomon Islands, Sweden, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

Africa

On 11 April in Cairo, 45 African States signed the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty [YUN 1995, p. 203], known as the Treaty of Pelindaba. China, France, the United Kingdom and the United States signed the Protocols for which they were eligible. In September, France ratified the Protocols, and in November, the Russian Federation signed those for which it was eligible. By the end of the year, 48 States had signed the Treaty, and the Gambia and Mauritius had become parties.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

The Security Council President, on 12 April, made the following statement [S/PRST/1996/17] on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council notes with deep satisfaction the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) on 11 April 1996 in Cairo, Egypt, and notes further the adoption of the Cairo Declaration on that occasion.

This historic event marks a successful formalization of the commitment undertaken 32 years ago when the leaders of Africa adopted in July 1964 at Cairo the pioneering resolution of the First Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, which declared Africa a denuclearized zone.

The Security Council considers that the signing of the Treaty by more than 40 African countries, as well as the signing of the relevant protocols to the Treaty by the majority of the nuclear-weapon States, constitute important steps towards the effective and early implementation of the Treaty. To that end it emphasizes the importance of early ratification of the Treaty with a view to securing its rapid entry into force.

The Security Council, reaffirming the statement made by its President on behalf of members of the Council at the meeting held at the level of heads of State and Government on 31 January 1992 that the proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction constitutes a threat to international peace and security, considers that the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty constitutes an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Security Council seizes this occasion to encourage such regional efforts, and stands ready to support efforts on the international and regional levels aimed at achieving the universality of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Meeting number. SC 3651.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/53**.

African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/78 of 12 December 1995 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity,

Noting and welcoming with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the signing ceremony of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) that was held at Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion,^a which emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Noting with satisfaction the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996, in which it was stated that the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Bearing in mind resolution CM/Res.1660(LXIV) on expediting the process of ratification of the

Treaty of Pelindaba, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-fourth ordinary session, held at Yaounde from 1 to 5 July 1996,^b

1. Calls upon African States to sign and ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty as soon as possible so that it may enter into force without delay;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the international community and in particular to the nuclear-weapon States which have signed the Protocols that concern them, and calls upon them to ratify the Protocols as soon as possible;

3. Calls upon the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, *de jure* or *de facto*, internationally responsible and which lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

4. Calls upon the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons which have not yet concluded comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to that Treaty to do so, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9 (b) and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba when it enters into force;

5. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Secretary-General for the diligence with which he has rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty in accordance with resolution 50/78;

6. Expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to extend assistance, within existing resources, to the signatories in 1997 in order to achieve the aims of the present resolution;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty".

^a A/51/113-S/1996/276.

^b A/51/524.

General Assembly resolution 51/53

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.19) without vote, 11 November (meeting 19); draft by South Africa, for African Group (A/C.1/51/L.23), orally revised; agenda item 79.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 17, 19; plenary 79.

Asia

Central Asia

On 29 October, the First Committee [A/51/566/Add.11] considered a draft resolution sponsored by Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia [A/C.1/51/L.29], calling on the five nuclear-weapon States to support the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Central Asian region. Consultations with interested delegations and other potential sponsors took place, but no action was taken on the draft.

South Asia

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/67 [YUN 1995, p. 207], the Secretary-General, in a June report [A/51/176], presented the views of the European Union (EU) and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with it (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia), as well as the associated countries of Cyprus and Malta, on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia. The EU stated that it supported the project.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/42**.

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3265 B (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3476 B (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/73 of 10 December 1976, 32/83 of 12 December 1977, 33/65 of 14 December 1978, 34/78 of 11 December 1979, 35/148 of 12 December 1980, 36/88 of 9 December 1981, 37/76 of 9 December 1982, 38/65 of 15 December 1983, 39/55 of 12 December 1984, 40/83 of 12 December 1985, 41/49 of 3 December 1986, 42/29 of 30 November 1987, 43/66 of 7 December 1988, 44/109 of 15 December 1989, 45/53 of 4 December 1990, 46/31 of 6 December 1991, 47/49 of 9 December 1992, 48/72 of 16 December 1993, 49/72 of 15 December 1994 and 50/67 of 12 December 1995 concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia,

Reiterating its conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world is one of the measures that can contribute effectively to the objectives of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament,

Believing that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, as in other regions, will assist in the strengthening of the security of the States of the region against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Taking note with appreciation of the declarations issued at the highest level by the Governments of South Asian States that are developing their peaceful nuclear programmes, reaffirming their undertaking not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and to devote their nuclear programmes exclusively to the economic and social advancement of their peoples,

Welcoming the proposal for the conclusion of a bilateral or regional nuclear-test-ban agreement in South Asia,

Noting the proposal to convene, under the auspices of the United Nations, a conference on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia as soon as possible, with the participation of the regional and other concerned States,

Noting the proposal to hold consultations among five nations with a view to ensuring nuclear non-proliferation in the region,

Considering that the eventual participation of other States; as appropriate, in this process could be useful,

Bearing in mind the provisions of paragraphs 60 to 63 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly regarding the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in the region of South Asia,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

1. Reaffirms its endorsement, in principle, of the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

2. Urges once again the States of South Asia to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the meantime, from any action contrary to that objective;

3. Welcomes the support of all the five nuclear-weapon States for this proposal, and calls upon them to extend the necessary cooperation in the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to communicate with the States of the region and other concerned States in order to ascertain their views on the issue and to promote consultations among them with a view to exploring the best possibilities of furthering the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".

General Assembly resolution 51/42

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 156-3-8 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.8) by recorded vote (130-3-8), 11 November (meeting 18); 2-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.6); agenda item 68.

Sponsors: Bangladesh, Pakistan.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-14, 18; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Bhutan, India, Mauritius.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Cuba, Cyprus, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Viet Nam.

South-East Asia

The Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty), which was opened for signature in 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 207], was

strengthened in 1996 by the ratification of five States (Brunei Darussalam, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Viet Nam). A total of 10 States had signed the Treaty.

As to the Protocol to the Treaty, it was not possible to allay the concerns of the nuclear-weapon States over the inclusion of continental shelves and exclusive economic zones in the zone of application and over the negative security assurance contained in the Protocol, or to resolve the conflicting territorial claims in the zone. At year's end, none of the nuclear-weapon States had signed the Protocol, although talks aimed at overcoming those difficulties continued throughout the year between various nuclear-weapon States and the members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Latin America and the Caribbean

The process of consolidation of the nuclear-weapon-free zone established by the 1967 Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco [YUN1967, p. 13], continued throughout 1996. During the year, there were no new ratifications and the number of parties to the Treaty stood at 38.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/52**.

Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in its resolution 1911 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963 it expressed the hope that the States of Latin America would take appropriate measures to conclude a treaty that would prohibit nuclear weapons in Latin America,

Recalling also that in the same resolution it voiced its confidence that, once such a treaty was concluded, all States, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, would lend it their full cooperation for the effective realization of its peaceful aims,

Considering that in its resolution 2028(XX) of 19 November 1965 it established the principle of an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations between nuclear-weapon States and those which do not possess such weapons,

Recalling that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) was opened for signature at Mexico City on 14 February 1967,

Taking note of the thirtieth anniversary on 14 February 1997 of the opening for signature of the Treaty of Tlatelolco,

Recalling that in its preamble the Treaty of Tlatelolco states that military denuclearized zones are not an end

in themselves but rather a means for achieving general and complete disarmament at a later stage,

Recalling also that in its resolution 2286(XXII) of 5 December 1967 it welcomed with special satisfaction the Treaty of Tlatelolco as an event of historic significance in the efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote international peace and security,

Recalling further that in 1990, 1991 and 1992 the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean approved and opened for signature a set of amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, with the aim of enabling the full entry into force of that instrument,

Recalling resolution C/E/RES.27 of the Council of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean,^a in which the Council calls for the promotion of cooperation and consultations with other nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Noting with satisfaction that, with the full adherence on 6 May 1996 of Guyana, the Treaty of Tlatelolco is in force for thirty-one sovereign States of the region,

Also noting with satisfaction that the amended Treaty of Tlatelolco is fully in force for Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay,

1. Welcomes the concrete steps taken by some countries of the region during the past year for the consolidation of the regime of military denuclearization established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco);

2. Notes with satisfaction the full adherence of Guyana to the Treaty of Tlatelolco;

3. Urges the countries of the region that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification of the amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco approved by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in its resolutions 267(E-V) of 3 July 1990, 268(XII) of 10 May 1991 and 290(E-VII) of 26 August 1992;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)".

^a CD/1392.

General Assembly resolution 51/52

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.18) without vote, 11 November (meeting 18); 33-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.9); agenda item 78. Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-14, 18; plenary 79.

Middle East

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/66 [YUN 1995, p. 205], the Secretary-General submitted an August report with a later addendum [A/51/286 & Add.1] on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. He stated that he had continued to carry out consultations to explore ways to promote the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, but regretted that since his 1995 report the views of

the main parties concerned had not evolved any further. He expressed concern about the impasse in the work of the Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security, which was established under the framework of the multilateral peace process in the Middle East (see PART ONE, Chapter VI).

Annexed to the report were views received from States on measures to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East as outlined in a 1990 report of the Secretary-General [A/45/435].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/41**.

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3263(XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474(XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/71 of 10 December 1976, 32/82 of 12 December 1977, 33/64 of 14 December 1978, 34/77 of 11 December 1979, 35/147 of 12 December 1980, 36/87 A and B of 9 December 1981, 37/75 of 9 December 1982, 38/64 of 15 December 1983, 39/54 of 12 December 1984, 40/82 of 12 December 1985, 41/48 of 3 December 1986, 42/28 of 30 November 1987, 43/65 of 7 December 1988, 44/108 of 15 December 1989, 45/52 of 4 December 1990, 46/30 of 6 December 1991, 47/48 of 9 December 1992, 48/71 of 16 December 1993, 49/71 of 15 December 1994 and 50/66 of 12 December 1995 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Recalling also the recommendations for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60 to 63, and in particular paragraph 63 (d), of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,

Emphasizing the basic provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions, which call upon all parties directly concerned to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and, pending and during the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party, to agree to place their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and to declare their support for the establishment of the zone and to deposit such declarations with the Security Council for consideration, as appropriate,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all States to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

Emphasizing the need for appropriate measures on the question of the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities,

Bearing in mind the consensus reached by the General Assembly since its thirty-fifth session that the es-

tablishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

Desirous of building on that consensus so that substantial progress can be made towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

Welcoming all initiatives leading to general and complete disarmament, including in the region of the Middle East, and in particular on the establishment therein of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons,

Noting the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

Recognizing the importance of credible regional security, including the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Emphasizing the essential role of the United Nations in the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 50/66,

1. Urges all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

2. Calls upon all countries of the region that have not done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

3. Takes note of resolution GC(40)RES/22, adopted on 20 September 1996 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its fortieth regular session, concerning the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East;

4. Notes the importance of the ongoing bilateral Middle East peace negotiations and the activities of the multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security in promoting mutual confidence and security in the Middle East, including the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone;

5. Invites all countries of the region, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, to declare their support for establishing such a zone, consistent with paragraph 63 (d) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council;

6. Also invites those countries, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices;

7. Invites the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance in the establishment of the zone and at the same time to refrain from any action that runs counter to both the letter and the spirit of the present resolution;

8. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

9. Invites all parties to consider the appropriate means that may contribute towards the goal of general and complete disarmament and the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to pursue consultations with the States of the region and other concerned States, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 46/30 and taking into account the evolving situation in the region, and to seek from those States their views on the measures outlined in chapters III and IV of the study annexed to his report or other relevant measures, in order to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;

11. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

General Assembly resolution 51/41
10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.7) without vote, 18 November (meeting 25); draft by Egypt (A/C.1/51/L.28/Rev.2), amendment by Israel (A/C.1/51/L.54) adopted by recorded vote (61-28-33); agenda item 67.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 17, 24, 25; plenary 79.

In the First Committee on 18 November, Israel introduced an amendment consisting of the insertion, in paragraph 4, of the words "ongoing" before "bilateral", "peace" before "negotiations" and "the activities of" before "the multilateral". The amendment was adopted by recorded vote. Subsequently, the draft text, as amended, was adopted without a vote.

South Pacific

In a letter dated 22 March [A/51/86-S/1996/216], France, the United Kingdom and the United States expressed their intention to sign the three Protocols to the 1985 South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) [YUN 1985, p. 58], which they did on 25 March in Suva, Fiji. China and the former USSR had signed the two Protocols for which they were eligible in 1987 and 1986, respectively, and had ratified them in 1988. Under Protocol 1, the States internationally responsible for territories situated within the zone would undertake to apply the relevant prohibitions of the Treaty to those territories; under Protocol 2, the five nuclear-weapon States would provide security assurances to parties or to territories within the zone; and under Protocol 3, the five would undertake not to carry out nuclear tests in the zone.

Southern hemisphere and adjacent areas

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 B**.

The nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas

The General Assembly,

Determined to continue to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to the process of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, with a view to strengthening international peace and security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Stressing the importance of the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the Antarctic Treaty,

Recalling that, at its first special session devoted to disarmament, the General Assembly declared, *inter alia*, that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of agreements or arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the zone concerned constitutes an important disarmament measure; that the States participating in such zones should undertake to comply fully with all the objectives, purposes and principles of the agreements or arrangements establishing the zones, thus ensuring that they are genuinely free from nuclear weapons; and that the nuclear-weapon States are called upon to give undertakings, negotiated with the competent authority of each zone, in particular, to respect strictly the status of the nuclear-weapon-free zone and to refrain from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against the States of the zone,

Recalling also that the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirmed the conviction that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, enhances global and regional peace and security, and encouraged the development of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as in the Middle East,

Recalling further the applicable principles and rules of international law relating to rights of passage through maritime space,

1. Recognizes with satisfaction that the Antarctic Treaty and the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba are gradually freeing the entire southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons;

2. Calls for the ratification of the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba by all regional States, and calls upon all concerned States to continue to work together in order to facilitate adherence to the protocols to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties by all relevant States that have not yet done so;

3. Calls upon all States to consider proposals to establish further nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in areas such as the Middle East and South Asia, on the

basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and, with particular reference to the responsibilities of the nuclear-weapon States, to advance the process of nuclear disarmament with the ultimate goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons;

4. Calls upon the States parties and signatories to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, in order to promote the common goals envisaged in those treaties, to explore and implement further ways and means of cooperation, including the consolidation of the status of the nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas;

5. Encourages the competent authorities of nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties to provide assistance to the States parties and signatories to such treaties so as to facilitate the accomplishment of these goals;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "The nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas".

General Assembly resolution 51/45 B

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 129-3-38 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) by recorded vote (111-4-36), 13 November (meeting 21); 69-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.4/Rev.1), amendment by Pakistan (A/C.1/51/L.51) adopted by recorded vote (89-1-51); agenda item 71.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 17, 21; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Andorra, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan.

In the First Committee on 13 November, Pakistan introduced an amendment by which a reference to the proposal for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia was inserted into paragraph 3. The Committee adopted the amendment by a recorded vote of 89 to 1, with 51 abstentions. It adopted the paragraph by a recorded vote of 100 to 1, with 43 abstentions.

Similarly, the Assembly retained paragraph 3 by a recorded vote of 118 to 1, with 46 abstentions.

Other nuclear and related issues

Convention on Nuclear Safety

The International Convention on Nuclear Safety entered into force on 24 October, following the deposit of the twenty-fifth instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, it having been also the seventeenth instrument from a State having at least one nuclear installation that had achieved criticality in a reactor core. The Convention, the depositary of which was IAEA, aimed to commit States operating land-based nuclear power plants to maintain a high level of safety. Obligations covered siting, design, construction, operation, the availability of adequate financial and human resources, the assessment and verification of safety, quality assurance and emergency preparedness. The Convention obliged parties to submit reports on the implementation of their obligations for peer review at meetings of the parties to be held at IAEA.

Moscow Declaration

By a letter of 7 May [A/51/131], France and the Russian Federation, which jointly chaired the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security (Moscow, 19 and 20 April), transmitted to the Secretary-General the texts of the Moscow Summit Declaration on Nuclear Safety and Security; the Programme for Preventing and Combating Illicit Trafficking in Nuclear Material; and a statement on CTBT. A statement on Ukraine and another made by participants of the Summit concerning Lebanon and the peace process also were transmitted.

Participants attending the Summit pledged to increase cooperation in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament by promoting universal adherence to the 1968 NPT [GA res. 2373(XXII), 12 June 1968], by working to strengthen the IAEA safeguards system and by implementing effective and responsible export control measures. Concerning the safety of civilian nuclear reactors, they urged all countries to sign the International Convention on Nuclear Safety (see above) and noted the need for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent States to continue their efforts, in cooperation with multilateral and bilateral programmes, to improve nuclear safety. As to nuclear waste management and ocean dumping issues, the participants called on national authorities to ensure that radioactive waste be managed safely and that provision be made for its proper handling, storage and ultimate disposal; they stated that the development of a convention on the safety of radioactive waste, based on those principles, was of paramount importance. They com-

mitted themselves to banning dumping at sea of radioactive waste.

The Summit agreed on the Programme for Preventing and Combating Illicit Trafficking in Nuclear Material, which recognized the risk of global proliferation and potential danger to public health and safety posed by trafficking. International efforts to suppress the phenomenon would have to address, *inter alia*, safe and secure storage and effective material protection; cooperative intelligence, customs and law enforcement efforts to prevent the sale of diverted material; and joint efforts to identify illicit supply and to deter potential traffickers. In addition, nuclear material released through the nuclear-weapon dismantling process should be placed under international safeguards as soon as possible. The programme included a system of measures designed to strengthen a collective response, on the part of the participating countries, to illicit trafficking.

Weapons of mass destruction

Although the item "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: radiological weapons" was on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament [A/51/27], the Conference did not establish an *ad hoc* committee on the subject. The topic was, however, discussed in plenary sessions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/37**.

Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Taking note of paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,

Determined to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction that have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of weapons of mass destruction identified in the definition of weapons of mass destruction adopted by the United Nations in 1948,

Noting that the item entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: radiological weapons" was considered in the Conference on Disarmament during its 1994, 1995 and 1996 sessions,

Also noting the desirability of keeping the matter under review, as appropriate,

1. Reaffirms that effective measures should be taken to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction;

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament, without prejudice to further overview of its agenda, to keep the matter under review, as appropriate, with a view to making, when necessary, recommendations on undertaking specific negotiations on identified types of such weapons;

3. Calls upon all States, immediately following any recommendation of the Conference on Disarmament, to give favourable consideration to those recommendations;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

5. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to report the results of any consideration of the matter in its annual reports to the General Assembly;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament".

General Assembly resolution 51/37

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.1) without vote, 11 November (meeting 19); 33-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.36); agenda item 60. Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-14, 19; plenary 79.

Radioactive wastes

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 J**.

Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind resolutions CM/Res.1153(XLVIII) of 1988 and CM/Res.1225(L) of 1989, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, concerning the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa,

Welcoming resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/530 establishing a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste, adopted on 21 September 1990 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-fourth regular session,

Welcoming also resolution GC(XXXVIII)/RES/6, adopted on 23 September 1994 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-eighth regular session, inviting the Board of Governors and the Director General of the Agency to commence preparations for a convention on the safety of radioactive waste management, and noting the progress that has been made in that regard,

Taking note of the commitment by the participants at the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, to ban the dumping at sea of radioactive wastes,

Considering its resolution 2602 C(XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, *inter alia*, to consider effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare,

Recalling resolution CM/Res.1356(LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organiza-

tion of African Unity, on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa,

Aware of the potential hazards underlying any use of radioactive wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and its implications for regional and international security, in particular for the security of developing countries,

Recalling all its resolutions on the matter since its forty-third session in 1988, including its resolution 50/70 E of 12 December 1995,

Desirous of promoting the implementation of paragraph 76 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

1. Takes note of the part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to a future convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons;

2. Expresses grave concern regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States;

3. Calls upon all States to take appropriate measures with a view to preventing any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States;

4. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention;

5. Also requests the Conference on Disarmament to intensify efforts towards an early conclusion of such a convention and to include in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session the progress recorded in the negotiations on this subject;

6. Takes note of resolution CM/Res.1356(LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa;

7. Expresses the hope that the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste will enhance the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories;

8. Welcomes the current efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the preparation of a draft convention on the safe management of radioactive wastes and the appropriate recommendations made by the participants at the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, in particular their call on all States generating nuclear wastes with nuclear installations to participate actively in the preparation of this convention under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency and to encourage its effective finalization and prompt adoption;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes".

General Assembly resolution 51/45 J

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) without vote, 11 November (meeting 18); draft by Burundi, for African Group, France, Monaco, Mongolia and Russian Federation (A/C.1/51/L.24); agenda item 71 (c).

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 17, 18; plenary 79.

Bacteriological (biological) and chemical weapons

Bacteriological (biological) weapons convention

Ad Hoc Group on verification

The Ad Hoc Group of the States Parties to the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction [GA res. 2826(XXVI), 16 Dec. 1971], established in 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 138], held its fourth (15-26 July) [BWC/AD HOC GROUP/31 & Corr.1] and fifth (16-27 September) [BWC/AD HOC GROUP/32] sessions in 1996, both in Geneva. The Ad Hoc Group had held its first three sessions in 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 211]. It continued to consider measures, including verification measures, to strengthen the 1972 Convention, for inclusion in a legally binding instrument.

Four groups, each led by a Friend of the Chair who assisted the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Group in consultations and negotiations, considered subjects in four areas: definitions of terms and objective criteria, such as lists of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins and their threshold quantities, and equipment and types of activities, where relevant for specific measures designed to strengthen the Convention; the incorporation of existing and further enhanced confidence-building and transparency measures, as appropriate, into the regime; a system of measures to promote compliance with the Convention; and specific measures to ensure effective and full implementation of article X (transfer of technology), which would avoid any restrictions incompatible with the obligations undertaken under the Convention with regard to the transfer of scientific knowledge, technology, equipment and materials.

At the end of the fifth session, the Ad Hoc Group was unable to complete its work and submit a draft instrument to the States parties for consideration at the Fourth Review Conference (see below), due to time constraints and a wide divergence of views on such central elements of the future regime as institutional, legal and financial

arrangements, modalities, safeguards and limitations under article X, and initiation of investigations, post-investigation reviews and tools for investigations in the area of compliance measures.

In order to fulfil its mandate, the Ad Hoc Group decided to intensify its work by holding three sessions of two to three weeks each in 1997, and two sessions of the same duration in 1998, building on materials contained in the papers of the Friends of the Chair, which were updated after every session and annexed to the relevant reports on the sessions.

Fourth review conference

The Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the 1972 Convention, meeting in Geneva on 9 and 10 April, decided that the Review Conference should take place in Geneva from 25 November to 6 December, and considered the provisional agenda, draft rules of procedure, background documentation and final document for the Conference. At the request of the Committee, the Secretary-General prepared background information documents on participation of States parties in the agreed confidence-building measures [BWC/CONF.IV/2 & Corr.1-5]; compliance of States parties, compiled from information received from them [BWC/CONF.IV/3 & Corr.1,2 & Add.1-3]; and new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention, compiled from information received from States parties [BWC/CONF.IV/4 & Add.1,2]. The Committee's report, without its annexes, was later annexed to the Final Document of the Fourth Review Conference [BWC/CONF.IV/9].

The Fourth Review Conference opened in Geneva on 25 November. Previous review conferences were held in 1980 [YUN 1980, p. 70], 1986 [YUN 1986, p. 64], and 1991 [YUN 1991, p. 52]. It concluded on 6 December after adopting by consensus a Final Declaration which was contained in the Final Document of the Conference [BWC/CONF.IV/9]. At year's end, there were 139 parties to the Convention, which had entered into force on 26 March 1975 [YUN 1975, p. 64]. The depositary Governments for the Convention were the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States.

At the opening of the Conference, Iran proposed two amendments to the Convention that would stipulate specifically a ban on use, and would entail the addition of the word "use" to the title and the phrase "to use biological weapons" in article I. Following consultations, it was decided to include the proposal in the agenda under the item "Other matters", and to reflect it under article XI in the Declaration that was being

drafted. In accordance with article 40 (2) of the 1986 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations [YUN 1986, p. 1006], all States parties would have to be notified of the proposed amendment, and each had the right to take part in any decision or negotiation regarding it; thus, no decision could be taken by the Fourth Review Conference itself. A communication on the matter was issued by the United Nations Office of the Legal Counsel [BWC/CONF.IV/7]. The subject of use was commented upon by many delegations in various contexts throughout the Conference.

The general debate focused on issues related to scope of the Convention, compliance, confidence-building measures, the work of the Ad Hoc Group, export control, technical cooperation, the 1925 Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, known as the 1925 Geneva Protocol, and the 1992 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction [YUN 1992, p. 65].

At the conclusion of the general debate, the Committee of the Whole [BWC/CONF.IV/6 & Add.1] met six times and held some additional informal consultations, during which it reviewed the articles of the Convention and received proposals concerning the text for the Final Declaration.

The Drafting Committee [BWC/CONF.IV/DC/2], following the conclusion of the Committee of the Whole, held 11 meetings and additional informal consultations; it worked on the basis of the proposals put before the Committee of the Whole and drew on the language of the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference, at which there had been no new proposals.

At its last plenary meeting, on 6 December, the Conference concluded its work with the adoption by consensus of its Final Document, which contained the Final Declaration. The Declaration consisted of a preamble, an article-by-article review of the Convention, and a section on the Ad Hoc Group.

The Declaration stressed the prohibition of use at several points in the article-by-article review. As a result of general concern over the matter and with the submission of the proposal by Iran, it was decided to state explicitly, both under article I and article IV, that the use of bacteriological and toxin weapons was prohibited. Moreover, under article VIII, the Conference adopted what was considered very strong language to the effect that reservations to the Geneva Protocol concerning retaliation through the use of any of the objects

prohibited by the Convention were "totally incompatible" with the Convention, and stressed the importance of the withdrawal of all reservations to the Protocol relating to the Convention. In addition, under article II, the Conference specified that the destruction of prohibited items required under that article would have to be completed upon a State's accession, that it should be carried out completely and effectively, and that submission of information on destruction could enhance confidence in the Convention.

In its review of article IX, the Declaration incorporated language identical with some paragraphs of the draft resolution that had been negotiated in the First Committee at the end of November; the draft was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December as **resolution 51/45 T** (see below).

Regarding article X, the Declaration referred to parties' legal obligation to facilitate and right to participate in technological exchange and emphasized that provisions of the Convention should not be imposed to restrict transfers consistent with its objectives.

As to the work of the Ad Hoc Group, the Declaration did not set a target date for the completion of the Group's work. The Conference agreed to encourage the Group "to review its method of work and to move to a negotiating format". In addition, under article XIV, the Declaration contained an appeal to parties to participate actively in the Ad Hoc Group.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/54**.

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and thirty-nine States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, including all the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to

the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Recalling its resolution 46/35 A, adopted without a vote on 6 December 1991, in which it welcomed, inter alia, the establishment, proceeding from the recommendations of the Third Review Conference, of an ad hoc group of governmental experts open to all States parties to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technical standpoint,

Recalling also its resolution 48/65, adopted without a vote on 16 December 1993, in which it commended the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint, agreed to by consensus at the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Group at Geneva on 24 September 1993,

Recalling further its resolution 49/86, adopted without a vote on 15 December 1994, in which it welcomed the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, adopted by consensus on 30 September 1994, in which the States parties agreed to establish an ad hoc group, open to all States parties, whose objective should be to consider appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, and draft proposals to strengthen the Convention, to be included, as appropriate, in a legally binding instrument to be submitted for the consideration of the States parties,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention related to scientific and technological cooperation and the related provisions of the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts, the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held from 19 to 30 September 1994, and the final documents of the Review Conferences,

1. Welcomes the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

2. Also welcomes the progress made by the Ad Hoc Group in pursuing the mandate established by the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on 30 September 1994, and urges the Ad Hoc Group, in order to fulfil its mandate, to intensify its work with a view to completing it as soon as possible before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference and to submit its report, which shall be adopted by consensus, to the States parties to be considered at a special conference;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, as well as the decisions contained in the final report of the Special Conference, including all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Group;

4. Welcomes the convening, at the request of the States parties, of the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Geneva from 25 November to 6 December 1996;

5. Calls upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and also calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

General Assembly resolution 51/54
10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.20) without vote, 11 November (meeting 19); 56-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.2); agenda item 80. Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 16, 19; plenary 79.

Also on 10 December, the Assembly adopted resolution **51/45 P**.

Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution 43/74 of 7 December 1988,

Determined to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Recalling the long-standing determination of the international community to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical and biological weapons as well as the continuing support for measures to uphold the authority of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, as expressed by consensus in many previous resolutions,

Welcoming the end of the cold war, the ensuing easing of international tension and the strengthening of trust between States,

Welcoming also the recent initiatives by some States parties to withdraw their reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol,

1. Renews its previous call to all States to observe strictly the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, and reaffirms the vital necessity of upholding its provisions;

2. Calls upon those States that continue to maintain reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to withdraw those reservations;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 51/45 P
10 December 1996 Meeting 79 165-0-7 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) by recorded vote (132-0-10), 11 November (meeting 19); draft by Colombia, for Non-Aligned Movement (A/C.1/51/L.41); agenda item 71. Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-14, 19; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Belarus, Israel, Kazakstan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, United States.

Chemical weapons convention

On 31 October, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Conference on Disarmament in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 65] and opened for signature in 1993 [YUN 1993, p. 111], received its sixty-fifth instrument of ratification, which was required for its entry into force. Under the Convention, its entry into force would take place 180 days following receipt of the deposit of the sixty-fifth instrument of ratification, on 29 April 1997. As at 31 December 1996, there were 67 States parties to the Convention.

Preparatory Commission

In 1996, the Preparatory Commission for the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), set up in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 65] to prepare for the Convention's implementation, held its thirteenth (18-22 March) [PC-XIII/18], fourteenth (22-27 July) [PC-XIV/29] and fifteenth (16-20 December) [PC-XV/25] sessions, all at The Hague.

The Commission considered verification issues, and progress was made in developing procedures to implement the inspection and declaration provisions of the Convention. Some 400 inspections were foreseen for the first year after the Convention's entry into force, and practical arrangements were set out for the General Training Scheme for inspectors. The OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store was inaugurated in Rijswijk, the Netherlands, and proficiency tests involving a number of laboratories in different

parts of the world got under way with a view to creating a worldwide network of laboratories that would meet OPCW analytical standards. Regarding concerns that the 1990 Agreement between the United States and the USSR on Destruction and Non-Production of Chemical Weapons and on Measures to Facilitate the Multilateral Convention on Banning Chemical Weapons [CD/1000 & CD/1001], under which national teams of the two States would verify each other's destruction programme, would not be in force at the time of entry into force of the Convention itself, the Convention secretariat submitted estimates for the additional resources for inspection that would be required. Moreover, the secretariat continued to assist States, as far as possible, in establishing their national implementation programmes.

Outstanding issues at year's end included: agreement on some declaration issues related to the chemical industry and chemical weapons facilities, and verification measures to be applied to inspections of chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities converted to civilian use, as well as to old and abandoned chemical weapons sites; the question of the timing of a harmonization of export controls with the provisions of article XI (on economic and technological development); and decisions on the composition of the Executive Council, the future Director-General and the top management structure of OPCW, which needed to be resolved before the first session of the Conference of States Parties, scheduled for May 1997.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 T**.

Status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, in particular resolution 47/39 of 30 November 1992, adopted without a vote, in which it commended the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that, since the Convention was opened for signature at a signing ceremony held in Paris from 13 to 15 January 1993, one hundred and sixty States have signed the Convention,

Determined to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction,

Convinced of the urgent necessity of universal adherence to the Convention so as to abolish an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, and thus elimi-

nate the risk to mankind of renewed use of these inhumane weapons,

Noting the ongoing work of the Preparatory Commission for the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,

1. Welcomes the fact that the required sixty-five instruments of ratification have now been deposited and that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction will therefore enter into force on 29 April 1997;

2. Stresses the importance to the Convention that all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities should be among the original parties to the Convention and, in this context, the importance of the United States of America and the Russian Federation, having declared possession of chemical weapons, being among the original States parties to the Convention;

3. Also stresses that this would promote the full realization and effective implementation of the Convention;

4. Calls upon all States that have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify the Convention without delay;

5. Notes that the Preparatory Commission for the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, at its fourteenth session from 22 to 26 July 1996, entrusted the Chairman of the Commission, in close consultation with its member States, with the task of convening, as necessitated by circumstances in connection with the occurrence of the trigger point, a meeting of the Commission to provide appropriate guidance;

6. Urges the Preparatory Commission for the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to intensify efforts to complete its remaining work;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction".

General Assembly resolution 51/45 T

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote
Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) without vote, 18 November (meeting 25); 5-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.48/Rev.1); agenda item 71.

Sponsors: Canada, India, Iran, Mexico, Poland.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 17, 25; plenary 79.

Conventional weapons and related issues

Landmines

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/700 [YUN 1995, p. 223], the Secretary-General reported [A/51/313] in August on information received from Governments and the EU on steps taken to implement moratoriums declared on the export of anti-

personnel landmines. The Secretary-General described unilateral, regional and global initiatives to limit their export.

Ottawa conference

By a letter [A/C.1/51/10] of 16 October, Canada transmitted information concerning the Ottawa International Strategy Conference, which was convened by the Government of Canada from 3 to 5 October in its capital, with the theme "Towards a global ban on anti-personnel mines".

The Conference led to the adoption of the Ottawa Declaration, by which the 50 participating States, known as the "Ottawa Group", agreed to enhance cooperation and coordination of efforts to achieve their goal, taking into account that the extreme humanitarian and socio-economic costs associated with the use of anti-personnel mines required urgent action on the part of the international community to ban and eliminate them. Until such a ban was achieved, the Declaration said, States must work to encourage universal adherence to the prohibitions or restrictions contained in amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Mine-affected States must halt all new deployment of anti-personnel mines to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of mine-clearance operations, and the international community must provide significantly greater resources to mine-awareness programmes, mine-clearance operations and victim assistance. In addition, the members of the Ottawa Group committed themselves to work together to ensure the following: the earliest possible conclusion of a legally binding international agreement to ban anti-personnel mines; progressive reductions in new deployments of mines with the urgent objective of halting all new deployments; support for a General Assembly resolution calling on Member States, among other things, to implement national moratoriums, bans or other restrictions, particularly on the operational use and transfer of anti-personnel mines, at the earliest possible date; regional and sub-regional activities in support of a global ban; and a follow-up conference, to be hosted by Belgium in June 1997, to review the progress in achieving a global ban.

The Chairman of the Conference presented his Agenda for Action to advance a total ban on anti-personnel mines. The Agenda envisaged global measures, such as building public awareness and political will for a global ban, rapid entry into force and universal adherence to amended Protocol II, increased exchanges of information and data on anti-personnel mines, and preparation of a draft agreement, as well as regional action in all parts of the world. The

Agenda also dealt with landmine clearance, mine awareness and victim assistance. The Government of Canada expressed its intention to host a ceremony in December 1997, at which time the treaty banning anti-personnel mines would be signed.

Communications. By a letter [CD/1381] of 23 January, Turkey communicated the text of a statement by its Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the introduction by Turkey of a comprehensive moratorium, for a renewable term of three years, on all anti-personnel landmine exports and transfers. On 26 January, Canada announced that it was declaring comprehensive unilateral moratoriums on the production, export and operational use of anti-personnel landmines [A/51/313]. Singapore, on 7 May, informed the Secretary-General that it had declared a two-year moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines that had no self-destruct or self-neutralizing mechanisms [A/51/136]. On 14 May, Italy, on behalf of the EU, transmitted a declaration by the EU on anti-personnel landmines [A/51/139], which stated that the European Union would consider the possibility of conducting specific demining actions. Denmark on 23 May said that it would renounce unilaterally the use of anti-personnel landmines and destroy existing stockpiles [A/51/323]. On 15 July, Israel informed [A/51/313] the Secretary-General of its decision to extend its moratorium on export of anti-personnel landmines for a further period of three years. By a letter [A/51/266-S/1996/621] of 24 July, Germany presented a seven-point action programme on anti-personnel mines. Germany stated that in January it had imposed a unilateral unlimited moratorium on all exports of anti-personnel mines, and in April, the Federal Armed Forces relinquished totally and unconditionally the use of anti-personnel mines. Existing stocks were to be destroyed. France, by a letter [A/C.1/51/7] of 4 October, stated that the Council of Ministers, on 2 October, had adopted important decisions relating to anti-personnel mines. It drew attention to the country's commitment to refrain from the use of anti-personnel mines and its determination to arrive at a legally binding and verifiable international agreement on a total and comprehensive ban on anti-personnel mines within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament. Belgium, on 17 October, reporting on the status of Belgian legislation on anti-personnel mines, informed [A/C.1/51/11] the Secretary-General that the Act of 24 June required the State or the public authorities to destroy existing stocks of anti-personnel mines and similar traps or devices within three years. A lim-

ited number of anti-personnel mines would, however, be kept for research and training.

Similar statements were made in various forums. The following were announced at the Review Conference. Australia stated that it had decided to unilaterally suspend the use of anti-personnel landmines. Bulgaria informed the Conference that by a decision of 2 May concerning changes and amendments to the import and export regime of the country, a timely moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines had been introduced; the decision took effect immediately upon adoption and was valid until 30 April 1999. China declared that, pending the entry into force of Protocol II, it would implement a moratorium on its export of anti-personnel landmines that were not in conformity with the technical specifications on detectability, self-destruction and self-deactivation as provided for by the Protocol, and would ban the export of booby traps. Croatia on 19 April issued a statement declaring a moratorium on the use, production, stockpiling, import and export of anti-personnel landmines, booby traps and remotely delivered anti-personnel mines. Luxembourg reported the introduction of a complete moratorium on the production, transfer, stockpiling or use of landmines, and with the exception of a small number of devices intended for training deminers, existing stockpiles would be destroyed. New Zealand on 22 April announced a formal renunciation of the use of anti-personnel landmines. South Africa, on 3 May, announced that it had decided to suspend the operational use of anti-personnel landmines by its defence force, which would conduct a study to review long-term policy. It had also decided to replace an earlier moratorium on the export of landmines with a prohibition on the export of all types of landmines.

Speaking before the General Assembly on 26 September, the Foreign Minister of Italy announced that the Government pledged to renounce the production and export of anti-personnel landmines. The country would also initiate the destruction of existing devices and promote further restrictions.

On 11 March, the Netherlands declared that its army would no longer use anti-personnel landmines and that stockpiled mines would be destroyed. On 21 March, the Minister for Foreign Affairs announced in Parliament that the Government would not allow anti-personnel mines to be exported from the Netherlands, and on 2 April, a resolution calling for a bill banning the production of those weapons was passed by a unanimous vote of the Lower House of the Dutch Parliament, which was the final step to a compre-

hensive ban in the Netherlands. On 22 April, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom announced that the United Kingdom would destroy a substantial part of its existing stocks of anti-personnel landmines; would not use any of those mines operationally, except in exceptional circumstances and with specific ministerial authorization; and would also extend with immediate effect its national export moratorium to prohibit the export of all types of anti-personnel landmines to all destinations. On 16 May, the United States President, in announcing his Government's landmine policy, stated that the country would undertake not to use, and to place in inactive stockpile status with intent to demilitarize by the end of 1999, all non-self-destructing anti-personnel landmines not needed to train personnel engaged in demining and countermining operations, or to defend the United States and its allies from armed aggression across the Korean Demilitarized Zone. Between the present and the time an international agreement took effect, the United States would reserve the option to use self-destructing/self-deactivating anti-personnel landmines, subject to the restrictions it had accepted in the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, in military hostilities to safeguard American lives and hasten the end of fighting.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 S**.

An international agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines

The General Assembly,

Recalling with satisfaction its resolutions 48/75 K of 16 December 1993, 49/75 D of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 O of 12 December 1995, in which it, inter alia, urged States to implement moratoriums on the export of anti-personnel landmines,

Also recalling with satisfaction its resolutions 49/75 D and 50/70 O, in which it, inter alia, established as a goal of the international community the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines,

Noting that, according to the 1995 report of the Secretary-General entitled "Assistance in mine clearance", it is estimated that there are one hundred and ten million landmines in the ground in more than sixty countries throughout the world,

Noting also that, according to the same report, the global landmine crisis continues to worsen as an estimated two million new landmines are laid each year, while only an estimated one hundred and fifty thousand were cleared in 1995,

Expressing deep concern that anti-personnel landmines kill or maim hundreds of people every week, mostly innocent and defenceless civilians and especially children, obstruct economic development and reconstruction, inhibit the repatriation of refugees and the return

of internally displaced persons, and have other severe consequences for years after emplacement,

Gravely concerned about the suffering and casualties caused to non-combatants as a result of the proliferation, as well as the indiscriminate and irresponsible use, of anti-personnel landmines,

Recalling with satisfaction its resolutions 48/7 of 19 October 1993, 49/215 A of 23 December 1994 and 50/82 of 14 December 1995 calling for assistance in mine clearance,

Welcoming the recent decisions taken at the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, particularly with respect to the amended Protocol II to the Convention, and believing that the amended Protocol is an essential part of the global effort to address problems caused by the proliferation, as well as the indiscriminate and irresponsible use, of anti-personnel landmines,

Welcoming also the adoption of the declaration entitled "Towards a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines" by participants at the Ottawa International Strategy Conference on 5 October 1996, including its call for the earliest possible conclusion of a legally binding international agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines, and further welcoming the follow-on conference at Brussels in June 1997,

Welcoming further the recent decisions taken by States to adopt various bans, moratoriums or other restrictions on the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, and other measures taken unilaterally as well as multilaterally,

Recognizing the need to conclude an international agreement to ban all anti-personnel landmines as soon as possible,

1. Urges States to pursue vigorously an effective, legally binding international agreement to ban the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines with a view to completing the negotiation as soon as possible;

2. Urges States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996, and urges all States immediately to comply to the fullest extent possible with the applicable rules of Protocol II as amended;

3. Welcomes the various bans, moratoriums or other restrictions already declared by States on anti-personnel landmines;

4. Calls upon States that have not yet done so to declare and implement such bans, moratoriums or other restrictions—particularly on operational use and transfer—at the earliest possible date;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on steps taken to complete an international agreement banning the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, and on other steps taken by Member States to implement such bans, moratoriums or other restrictions and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament";

6. Requests Member States to provide the requested information for the report of the Secretary-General on steps taken to complete an international agreement banning the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, and on other steps taken to implement bans, moratoriums or other restrictions on anti-personnel landmines and to submit such information to the Secretary-General by 15 April 1997.

General Assembly resolution 51/45 S

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 155-0-10 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) by recorded vote (141-0-10), 13 November (meeting 21); 116-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.46); agenda item 71.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-14, 21; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Belarus, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Israel, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey.

Excessively injurious conventional weapons

Convention and Protocol

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/74 [YUN 1995, p. 222], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/51/254], presented information on actions taken between 1 July 1995 and 30 June 1996 concerning the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects [YUN 1980, p. 86], and its three Protocols (dealing with non-detectable fragments; mines, booby traps and other devices; and incendiary weapons). The Convention is also known as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

As at 31 December 1996, 63 States were parties to the Convention. During the year, Djibouti, Georgia, Luxembourg, Mauritius, the Philippines and the former Yugoslav Republic of Mace-

donia became parties to the Convention and its Protocols, which had entered into force in 1983 [YUN1983,p.66].

Review conference

Pursuant to its 1995 decision [YUN 1995, p. 222] to continue work on amendments to the Convention's Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, the Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons met twice during the year (Geneva, 15-29 January and 22 April-3 May) [CCW/CONF.I/16].

The first resumed session focused on the further elaboration of articles 2 to 6 and the Technical Annex of Protocol II, concentrating on military-technical aspects, with a view to finding acceptable compromises that would strengthen the provisions of the Protocol. The work was carried out within the framework of the President's consultations.

On 19 January, the President submitted to the Conference a working paper incorporating changes to articles 2 to 6 and the Technical Annex of the draft amending Protocol II contained therein for the consideration of delegations, and to serve as a basis for the work of the concluding session of the Review Conference. The President's text reflected the stage of negotiations as seen by the President and did not commit any delegation. The parties agreed to continue negotiations on the basis of that text, with a view to reaching agreement on an amended Protocol II during the concluding phase of the resumed session, in April.

At the second resumed session, the Conference continued its work on amending Protocol II through the President's consultations and consultations of Friends of the Chair. While the President himself undertook to work on the understanding regarding technical matters, the Friends of the Chair dealt with those provisions of the Protocol relating to consultations and compliance, technical cooperation and assistance, transfers, and protection from the effects of minefields, mined areas, mines, booby traps and other devices. As agreed to during the first resumed session, the President's texts on Protocol II and its Technical Annex served as a basis for the negotiations.

On 3 May, the President's consultations and those of his Friends resulted in a compromise agreement to amend Protocol II in a number of important areas. The scope of application of the Protocol was extended to cover both international and internal armed conflicts; restrictions on the use of all types of mines were increased significantly; the use of non-detectable anti-

personnel mines was prohibited, albeit with a long period of deferral (nine years from the entry into force of the Protocol as amended); the use of non-self-destructing and non-self-deactivating mines outside fenced, monitored and marked areas was prohibited; the transfer of non-detectable anti-personnel mines was prohibited with effect from the Protocol's entry into force, i.e., after 20 States parties had notified their consent to be bound by the Protocol. There was, however, a political obligation to refrain from such transfers with effect from the date of the Protocol's adoption. Broader obligations of protection in favour of peacekeeping and other UN missions and agencies were imposed on States parties or parties to a conflict; and the Protocol required States to enforce compliance with its provisions within their jurisdiction, and called for penal sanctions in case of violation. Annual conferences were instituted to ensure periodic reviews of the operation of the provisions of the Protocol. The UN Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary, would convene, at an early date following entry into force of the Protocol, a preparatory meeting for the first Annual Conference to elaborate draft rules of procedure and agenda items, which might include a review of the operation and status of the Protocol.

Although the focus of the resumed session was on amending Protocol II, the Conference did continue its review of the scope and operation of the Convention and its annexed protocols and its elaboration of a Final Declaration.

In its review of the preamble of the Convention, the Conference stressed the obligation of parties to determine whether the use of a weapon that they were considering to develop or acquire would in some or all circumstances be unlawful, and reaffirmed the need to continue the progressive development of international law applicable to conventional weapons that might be excessively injurious or have indiscriminate effects. Parties emphasized the desirability of achieving universal adherence by the year 2000.

In connection with article 1 (scope of application of the Convention and its annexed protocols), the parties agreed to broaden the scope of Protocol II to include conflicts not of an international character. With a view to ensuring the effectiveness of the Convention, parties recognized that it was important that the provisions of the Convention be well known to their respective armed forces (article 6, "Dissemination"). It was widely felt that international cooperation and collaboration could facilitate that process, for example, through the exchange of experience at all levels and the exchange of instructors. In that

context, Switzerland's offer to host a seminar on dissemination was noted.

The Convention made no provision for convening review conferences at regular intervals (article 8). Participants agreed, however, that such conferences should be held more frequently, and considered doing so every five years. They decided, consistent with article 8, subparagraph 3(c), to convene a review conference five years following the entry into force of the amendments that they were in the process of adopting, but in any case not later than 2001 with preparatory expert meetings starting as early as 2000 if necessary. Concerning the next Review Conference, Switzerland proposed the consideration of an additional protocol on small-calibre weapons and ammunition; Sweden, measures related to naval mines; and Mexico, consideration of certain other conventional weapons.

On 3 May, the Conference concluded its work with the adoption of amended Protocol II and the Final Declaration.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/49**.

Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/74 of 12 December 1995 and previous resolutions referring to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,

Recalling with satisfaction the adoption, on 10 October 1980, of the Convention, together with the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I), the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) and the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III), which entered into force on 2 December 1983,

Also recalling with satisfaction the adoption, on 13 October 1995, of the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV),

Reaffirming its conviction that a general and verifiable agreement on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons would significantly reduce the suffering of civilians and combatants,

Noting that, in conformity with article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened to examine amendments to the Convention or to any of the Protocols thereto, to examine additional protocols concerning other categories of conventional weapons not covered by the existing Protocols or to review the scope and application of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto and to examine any proposed amendments or additional protocols,

Welcoming the fact that the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects met at resumed sessions at Geneva from 15 to 19 January 1996 and from 22 April to 3 May 1996 and concluded its work,

Particularly welcoming the adoption on 3 May 1996 of the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II),

Recalling the desire expressed by the States party to the Convention that all States, pending the entry into force of the amended Protocol, respect and ensure respect for the substantive provisions of the amended Protocol to the fullest extent possible,

Also recalling the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the elaboration of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto,

Welcoming the national measures adopted by an increasing number of Member States relating to bans, moratoriums or restrictions on the transfer, use or production of anti-personnel landmines or to the reduction of existing stockpiles of such mines,

Desirous of reinforcing international cooperation in the area of prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons, in particular for the removal of minefields, mines and booby traps,

Recalling, in this respect, its resolution 50/82 of 14 December 1995 and previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance,

Noting with appreciation contributions pledged to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance,

1. Registers its satisfaction with the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Welcomes the fact that additional States have ratified or accepted the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, which was opened for signature in New York on 10 April 1981, or have acceded to the Convention;
3. Urgently calls upon all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Convention and its Protocols, and upon successor States to take appropriate measures so that ultimately adherence to these instruments will be universal;
4. Calls upon the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto, to continue to inform it periodically of ratifications and acceptances of and accessions to the Convention and the Protocols;
5. Takes note with appreciation of the final report of the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, adopted at Geneva on 3 May 1996;
6. Commends the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) to all States, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to this instrument at an early date, and calls, in particular, on the States parties to express their consent to be bound by

the Protocol with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible;

7. Again commends the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV) to all States, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to this instrument at an early date, and calls, in particular, on the States parties to express their consent to be bound by the Protocol with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

General Assembly resolution 51/49
10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.15) without vote, 13 November (meeting 21); 48-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.40); agenda item 75. Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 15, 21; plenary 79.

Confidence-building

UN Register of Conventional Arms

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/70 D [YUN 1995, p. 213], the Secretary-General published in August the fourth annual report [A/51/300 & Add.1-5] on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, established in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 75] to promote enhanced levels of transparency regarding arms transfers. The report contained information provided by 96 Governments for the calendar year 1995 on imports and exports of conventional arms in the seven categories (battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, large-calibre artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles and missile launchers) covered under the Register and/or background information on their military holdings, procurement through national production, legislation and policies. Of the 32 Governments submitting information, 27 reported on military holdings and 19 on procurement through national production. The submissions for 1995 revealed again high participation by Western European States and the same or higher level of participation from those of Asia and Eastern Europe. Participation from nations of Latin America and the Caribbean was lower than in previous years. Participation from African and Middle Eastern States remained low. After four years of operation, the overall number of participants in the Register continued to increase, rising to 134.

Although not all publicly known importers participated in the Register, the information provided by the major exporters reflected most "import" transactions. Twenty-three States that were identified by exporting States as recipients of

arms in 1995—as compared to 19 in 1994, 19 in 1993 and 25 in 1992—did not participate in the information exchange.

The question of the continued operation and further development of the Register was scheduled for examination in 1997 by a Group of Governmental Experts, which was to consider issues related to participation, adjustment of the categories of weapons covered, the addition of new categories of weapons and the possible inclusion of information on military holdings and procurement through national production on the same basis as information on imports and exports.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 H**.

Transparency in armaments

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, 47/52 L of 15 December 1992, 48/75 E of 16 December 1993, 49/75 C of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 D of 12 December 1995,

Continuing to take the view that an enhanced level of transparency in armaments contributes greatly to confidence-building and security among States and that the establishment of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms constitutes an important step forward in the promotion of transparency in military matters,

Welcoming the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the Register, which includes the returns of Member States for 1995,

Welcoming also the response of Member States to the request contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 46/36 L to provide data on their imports and exports of arms, as well as available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies,

Welcoming further the report of the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 session on the subject of international arms transfers, which was adopted by consensus,

Stressing that the continuing operation of the Register and its further development should be reviewed in order to secure a Register that is capable of attracting the widest possible participation,

1. Reaffirms its determination to ensure the effective operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms as provided for in paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 10 of resolution 46/36 L;

2. Calls upon Member States to provide the requested data and information for the Register, on the basis of resolutions 46/36 L and 47/52 L and the annex and appendices to the 1994 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, to the Secretary-General by 30 April annually;

3. Reaffirms its decision, with a view to the further development of the Register, to keep the scope of and participation in the Register under review, and, to that end:

(a) Recalls its request to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with their views on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and on transparency measures related to weapons of mass destruction;

(b) Recalls its request to the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts to be convened in 1997, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, taking into account the report of the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 session on the subject of international arms transfers, the work of the Conference on Disarmament, the views expressed by Member States and the 1994 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, with a view to a decision at its fifty-second session;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources are made available for the Secretariat to operate and maintain the Register;

5. Invites the Conference on Disarmament to consider continuing its work undertaken in the field of transparency in armaments;

6. Reiterates its call upon all Member States to cooperate at the regional and subregional levels, taking fully into account the specific conditions prevailing in the region or subregion, with a view to enhancing and coordinating international efforts aimed at increased openness and transparency in armaments;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the progress made in implementing the present resolution;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Transparency in armaments".

General Assembly resolution 51/45 H
10 December 1996 Meeting 79 154-0-15 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) by recorded vote (133-0-15), U November (meeting 22); 95-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.18); agenda item 71 (b).

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 16, 22; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Algeria, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic.

In the Committee, paragraphs 3 (b) and 5 were adopted by separate recorded votes of 124 to none, with 11 abstentions, and 125 to none, with 14 abstentions, respectively.

The Assembly retained those paragraphs by recorded votes of 147 to none, with 13 abstentions, and 146 to none, with 18 abstentions, respectively.

Transparency of military budgets

In June, the Secretary-General submitted a report [A/51/179] containing the views of Italy on behalf of the European Union (EU) and of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with it (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia), as well as of the associated countries Cyprus and Malta, in reply to his request on ways to implement guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/66 [YUN 1994, p. 16].

In a July report [A/51/209], the Secretary-General provided information received from 28 Member States concerning their military expenditures, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 40/91 B [YUN 1985, p. 84]. Annexed to the report was the standardized form for international reporting of military expenditures.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/38**.

Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/66 of 15 December 1994 on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures,

Also recalling its resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, which introduced the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, and its resolution 48/62 of 16 December 1993, calling upon all Member States to participate in it, and its resolution 47/54 B of 9 December 1992, endorsing the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters and inviting Member States to provide relevant information to the Secretary-General regarding their implementation,

Noting that since then national reports on military expenditures and on the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters have been submitted by a number of Member States belonging to different geographic regions,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on ways and means to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military

matters, including, in particular, how to strengthen and broaden participation in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for providing Member States with the reports on military expenditures in standardized form reported by States and on guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters,

Welcoming the decision of many Member States to exchange and to publish information annually on their military budgets and to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, as appropriate,

Reaffirming its firm conviction that a better flow of objective information on military matters can help to relieve international tension and contribute to the building of confidence among States and to the conclusion of concrete disarmament agreements,

Convinced that the improvement of international relations forms a sound basis for promoting further openness and transparency in all military matters,

Recalling that the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters recommended certain areas for further consideration, such as the improvement of the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures,

1. Recommends the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters to all Member States for implementation, fully taking into account specific political, military and other conditions prevailing in a region, on the basis of initiatives and with the agreement of the States of the region concerned;

2. Calls upon all Member States to report annually, by 30 April, to the Secretary-General their military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available, using, for the time being, the reporting instrument as recommended in its resolution 35/142 B;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to circulate annually the reports on military expenditures as received from Member States;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and make recommendations on necessary changes to the content and structure of the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures in order to strengthen and broaden participation, and to submit a report within existing resources on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

5. Calls upon all Member States, in time for the deliberation by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, to provide the Secretary-General with their views on ways and means to strengthen and broaden participation in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, including necessary changes to its content and structure;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures".

General Assembly resolution 51/38

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.2) without vote, 14 November (meeting 22); 30-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.47); agenda item 61.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 16, 22; plenary 79.

Arms transfers

International arms transfers

Disarmament Commission. In 1996, the Disarmament Commission continued to consider the item "International arms transfers, with particular reference to General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991" [YUN 1991, p. 56]. By that resolution, the Assembly had called on all States to give high priority to eradicating illicit trade in all kinds of weapons and military equipment.

Working Group I, which dealt with the item, based its discussion on the Chairman's 1995 working paper [YUN 1995, p. 218]. It agreed on a set of guidelines, covering both licit and illicit transfers, which the Commission subsequently adopted and annexed to its report [A/51/42].

The guidelines assigned equal responsibility to suppliers and recipients. The former were to seek to ensure that the quantity and level of sophistication of their exports did not contribute to instability and conflict, and the latter were to ensure that their level of armaments was commensurate with their legitimate self-defence and security requirements. The guidelines suggested a number of ways, both national and international, to ensure effective control over transfers, and proposed institutional arrangements, including the role of the United Nations.

Illicit transfers

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/75 M [YUN 1994, p. 166], the Secretary-General, in a June report [A/51/181], provided information received from seven Governments regarding measures they had taken to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms.

Pursuant to Assembly resolution 50/70 H [YUN 1995, p. 220], the Secretary-General transmitted an October report [A/51/452] on further developments regarding the issue of assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them.

As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 50/70 B [YUN 1995, p. 217], the Secretary-General appointed a Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms to prepare a report [A/52/298] on the types of small arms and light weapons actually used in conflicts, the causes of their excessive and destabilizing accumulation

and transfer, and the ways and means to prevent and reduce their transfer. The Panel held its first meeting in New York from 24 to 28 June 1996.

To gain better insight into the problems created by the accumulation, proliferation and use of small arms in various regions, the Panel decided to hold a series of workshops. The first regional workshop (Pretoria, South Africa, 23-25 September) adopted an appeal by which the participants declared themselves ready to adopt collective regional measures, including combating criminal activity, harmonizing national legislation, standardizing licensing procedures for arms possession, pooling relevant intelligence and entering into extradition agreements. They appealed to the donor community to make provision in their development assistance policies for programmes to reintegrate demobilized military personnel into civil society, and called on the United Nations to ensure that its post-conflict peace programmes included arrangements for destruction and disposal of weapons and for trade-off of weapons and equipment for gainful employment.

Communication. In accordance with Assembly resolution 50/70 B [YUN 1995, p. 217], Italy, by a letter [A/51/377] of 29 May addressed to the Secretary-General, presented a common reply to the resolution on behalf of the EU and of countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with it—Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia—as well as of the associated countries Cyprus and Malta. The response dealt with definition of small arms, the nature and cause of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of such arms, including their illicit trade, and ways and means of preventing or reducing the phenomenon.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 F**.

Measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991 and its decision 47/419 of 9 December 1992 on international arms transfers,

Recalling also its resolutions 48/75 F and H of 16 December 1993, 49/75 M of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 J of 12 December 1995 on measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms,

Recognizing that the availability of massive quantities of conventional weapons and especially their illicit transfer, often associated with destabilizing activities, are most disturbing and dangerous phenomena, in particular for the internal situation of affected States and the violation of human rights,

Bearing in mind that in certain situations mercenaries, terrorists and child soldiers are supplied with weapons acquired from illicit transfers of conventional arms,

Convinced that peace and security are inextricably interlinked with and in some cases imperative for economic development and reconstruction, including in war-stricken countries,

Realizing the urgent need to resolve conflicts and to diminish tension, and to accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament with a view to maintaining regional and international peace and security,

Recognizing the curbing of the illicit transfer of arms as an important contribution to the relaxation of tension and peaceful reconciliation processes,

Stressing the need for effective national control measures on the transfer of conventional weapons,

Convinced that effective measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms will help enhance regional and international peace, security and economic development,

1. Welcomes the adoption by the Disarmament Commission of the report on international arms transfers, with particular reference to General Assembly resolution 46/36 H, as well as a text entitled "Guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991";

2. Invites Member States:

(a) To enact adequate national legislation and/or regulations and adopt administrative procedures in order to exercise effective control over armaments and the export and import of arms, inter alia, with the aim of preventing trafficking in illicit arms and bringing offenders to justice;

(b) To provide the Secretary-General, by 15 April 1997, with relevant information on national control measures on arms transfers with a view to preventing illicit arms transfers;

3. Also invites Member States to provide the Secretary-General, by 15 April 1997, with their views on:

(a) Effective ways and means of collecting weapons transferred illicitly, in particular in the light of experience gained by the United Nations;

(b) Concrete proposals concerning measures at national, regional and international levels to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms;

4. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report containing the views expressed by Member States;

(b) To report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the effective implementation of the present resolution;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms".

General Assembly resolution 51/45 F

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) without vote, 14 November (meeting 22); 15-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.16); agenda item 71 (f).

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 16, 22; plenary 79.

Also on 10 December, the Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 L**.

Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 H of 6 December 1991, 47/52 G and J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 H and J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 H of 12 December 1995,

Considering that the illicit circulation of massive quantities of small arms throughout the world impedes development and is a source of increased insecurity,

Considering also that the illicit international transfer of small arms and their accumulation in many countries constitute a threat to the populations and to national and regional security and are a factor contributing to the destabilization of States,

Basing itself on the statement of the Secretary-General relating to the request of Mali concerning United Nations assistance for the collection of small arms,

Gravely concerned at the extent of the insecurity and banditry linked to the illicit circulation of small arms in Mali and the other affected States of the Saharo-Saharan subregion,

Taking note of the first conclusions of the United Nations advisory missions sent to the affected countries of the subregion by the Secretary-General to study the best way of curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and ensuring their collection,

Taking note also of the interest shown by other States of the subregion in receiving a United Nations advisory mission,

Noting the actions taken and those recommended at the meetings of the States of the subregion held at Banjul, Algiers and Bamako to establish close regional co-operation with a view to strengthening security,

1. Welcomes the initiative taken by Mali concerning the question of the illicit circulation of small arms and their collection in the affected States of the Saharo-Saharan subregion;

2. Also welcomes the action taken by the Secretary-General in implementation of this initiative in the context of General Assembly resolution 40/151 H of 16 December 1985;

3. Thanks the Governments concerned in the subregion for the substantial support that they have given to the United Nations advisory missions, and welcomes the declared readiness of other States to receive the United Nations Advisory Mission;

4. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts, in the context of the implementation of resolution 49/75 G and of the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions, to curb the illicit circulation of small arms and to collect such arms in the affected States that so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity;

5. Notes that, as part of its efforts to halt the flow of small arms into Mali and the Saharo-Saharan subregion, the Malian Government oversaw the destruction, at the "Flame of Peace" ceremony held at Timbuktu on 27 March 1996, of thousands of small arms handed over by ex-combatants of the armed movements of northern Mali;

6. Encourages the setting up in the countries of the Saharo-Saharan subregion of national commissions against the proliferation of small arms;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to examine the issue and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

General Assembly resolution 51/45 L

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) without vote, 13 November (meeting 21); 20-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.35), orally revised; agenda item 71.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 16, 20, 21; plenary 79.

On the same date, the Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 N**.

Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purpose of the United Nations to maintain peace and security and, in this context, reaffirming in particular the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, as well as the commitment of Member States to take concrete steps in order to strengthen that role,

Convinced that a comprehensive and integrated approach towards certain practical disarmament measures, such as, inter alia, arms control, particularly with regard to small arms and light weapons, confidence-building measures, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, demining and conversion, often is a prerequisite to maintaining and consolidating peace and security and thus provides a basis for effective rehabilitation and social and economic development,

Noting in this context the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace" and "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace" in which the Secretary-General, inter alia, stressed the urgent need for "practical disarmament in the context of the conflicts the United Nations is actually dealing with and of the weapons, most of them light weapons, that are actually killing people in the hundreds of thousands", and in which, with regard to practical disarmament measures, the Secretary-General stated that "the assembly, control and disposal of weapons has been a central feature of most of the comprehensive peace settlements in which the United Nations has played a peacekeeping role",

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 M of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 B and 50/70 J of 12 December 1995 concerning small arms and light weapons, as well as the control and the illicit transfer of such weapons, and, in this context, encouraging the work of the United Nations expert panel on small arms,

Welcoming the adoption by the Disarmament Commission of the "Guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991",

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 H of 12 December 1995, in which it welcomed the initiative taken by Mali concerning the question of illicit circulation of small arms and their collection in the affected States of the Saharo-Saharan

subregion, as well as the action taken by the Secretary-General in the implementation of that initiative,

Welcoming, in this context, the measures taken and other ongoing efforts by the Central African States to promote, within the framework of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, confidence-building and conflict prevention in their subregion,

Recalling its resolution 50/70 D of 12 December 1995 on transparency in armaments, and continuing to take the view that an enhanced level of transparency could contribute to confidence-building and security among States,

Recalling also its resolutions 50/70 O and 50/74 of 12 December 1995 and 50/82 of 14 December 1995 addressing the global landmine problem,

Welcoming the adoption on 3 May 1996 of a revised Protocol II by the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects as a further step, and also welcoming respective national measures adopted by a growing number of States,

1. Stresses the particular importance of certain practical disarmament measures, such as the collection, control and disposal of arms, especially small arms and light weapons, coupled with restraint over the production and procurement as well as transfers of such arms, the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, demining and conversion, for the maintenance and consolidation of peace and security in areas that have suffered from conflict;
2. Underlines the important role of the United Nations in providing a political framework for such practical disarmament measures in those areas and in facilitating their implementation;
3. Requests the Secretary-General, in the light of experience gained from conflict resolution, to make recommendations and suggestions for an integrated approach to such practical disarmament measures, taking also into account the work of the United Nations expert panel on small arms, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;
4. Also requests the Secretary-General, in this connection, to seek the views of Member States on this subject and to include them in his report;
5. Calls upon Member States, as well as regional arrangements or agencies, to assist the Secretary-General in his endeavours in this regard and to contribute actively to the implementation of such practical disarmament measures;
6. Encourages United Nations organs and agencies to join in this task within the framework of their responsibilities, in particular the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the basis of its Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project;
7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures".

General Assembly resolution 51/45 N

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) without vote, 15 November (meeting 24); 43-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.38/Rev.1); agenda item 71.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-14, 24; plenary 79.

Regional approaches to disarmament

Africa

The signing in April in Cairo of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (the Treaty of Pelindaba) constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security (see above, under "Nuclear-weapon-free zones").

Reports of the Secretary-General described demobilization, collection of arms and the reintegration of military forces into civilian society in Angola [S/1996/1000], Liberia [S/1997/90] and Sierra Leone [S/1997/80].

In Angola, the Government and the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) continued talks on completing the formation of the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA), and they agreed on a timetable for the quartering of UNITA troops and their incorporation into FAA. Only limited progress was made in that area during 1996, however. The disarmament and demobilization processes in Liberia began on 22 November as scheduled and, despite constraints, made some progress by the end of the year, especially in extending the demobilization exercise to all designated disarmament sites. With respect to Sierra Leone, a Peace Agreement was signed in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, on 30 November by the newly elected Government and the Revolutionary United Front, under which the United Nations was requested to lend its assistance, in particular with demobilization and the reintegration of former combatants.

The International Commission of Inquiry, established by Security Council resolution 1013(1995)[YUN 1995,p.382] to investigate reports of military training of and arms transfers to former Rwandan government forces, completed its work in March [S/1996/195]. The Commission recommended that, when an arms embargo was imposed, neighbouring States be encouraged to participate in a data bank of movements and acquisitions of small arms; that they be urged to adhere to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects [YUN 1980,p.76], especially its Protocol II, on land-

mines; and that suppliers be requested not to transfer such arms to non-State entities.

Two forums took place in 1996 to address the problems of destabilization and armed conflict: a regional workshop on small arms, convened by the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms (Pretoria, South Africa, 23-25 September) (see above), and a High-level Consultation on Post-conflict Peace-building in West Africa: Political and Development Initiatives (New York, 21 October) [A/51/730-S/1996/1043], held under the auspices of the Secretary-General. The Consultation was attended by the members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), 21 donor countries and five multilateral institutions.

The Secretary-General, in an August report [A/51/287], stated that he had attended the first meeting of heads of State and Government of States members of the UN Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (Yaounde, Cameroon, 8 July) [A/51/274-S/1996/631]. At the meeting, a Non-Aggression Pact designed to prevent future armed conflicts among the States of the subregion was signed by Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe, and Zaire. Subsequently, it was also signed by the Central African Republic. The Final Declaration of the summit set out a course of action on subregional security cooperation and outlined a number of specific measures, among them establishment under UN auspices of an early warning mechanism, a disarmament programme to deal with the wide proliferation of weapons, and model peacekeeping units within the armed forces of member States. Subsequently, the first training seminar, for senior military and civilian officials who would train the specialized peacekeeping units took place in Yaounde from 9 to 17 September.

Convinced of the value of coordinating policies in order to strengthen regional stability, the heads of State or Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) met in Gaborone, Botswana, on 28 June [A/50/1001] and established the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security. Among its objectives were to mediate inter-State and intra-State disputes; pre-empt conflict through an early warning system; develop a collective security capacity and a regional peacekeeping capacity; and encourage and monitor the ratification of international and regional arms control and disarmament conventions. (See also PART ONE, Chapter II.)

Asia and the Pacific

Concerning nuclear issues, France, the United Kingdom and the United States on 25 March signed the three Protocols to the 1985 South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, thereby contributing to stability in the Asian-Pacific region. In addition, consultations continued between members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the nuclear-weapon States regarding the Protocol to the 1995 Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, known as the Bangkok Treaty (see above under "Nuclear-weapon-free zones").

Significant confidence-building took place in various subregions. On 26 April, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan signed an agreement in Shanghai, China, on confidence-building in the military field in the border area [A/51/137]. By the 16-article Agreement, the Joint Party (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan) and China committed themselves to a series of confidence-building measures, such as information exchanges on their respective border units, notification of large-scale military activity, invitation of observers to military exercises, and increased cooperation between the armed forces in contiguous military districts. The Agreement stated that armed forces in the border area "shall not be used to attack the other Party or carry out any military activity threatening the other Party and disturbing tranquillity and stability in the border area". Also in April, China and the Russian Federation reaffirmed their commitment to resolve outstanding boundary issues between them and agreed to set up a telephone hotline between their capitals [A/51/127].

At the third ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) meeting (Jakarta, Indonesia, 23 July), the issues discussed included the security situations in the South China Sea and on the Korean peninsula. ARF held meetings of the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence-building Measures (Tokyo, 18 and 19 January; Jakarta, 15 and 16 April). The Group proposed more dialogue on security issues and information exchange on defence programmes.

Europe

Important issues related to confidence-building and international security, such as the projected enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the modernization of the 1990 Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE), preoccupied European countries throughout most of 1996. At the first CFE Treaty Review Conference (Vienna, 15-31 May), member States reaffirmed the fundamen-

tal role of the Treaty with regard to European security and resolved to continue the conventional arms control process. The parties agreed to begin negotiations on modernization in Vienna in January 1997.

In the context of regional efforts to deal with arms control issues and plans to enlarge NATO, 54 heads of State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) met in Lisbon, Portugal, on 2 and 3 December, to assess the situation.

By a letter of 4 December [A/51/716], the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations transmitted to the Secretary-General the Lisbon Document, adopted on 3 December, which contained the Lisbon Summit Declaration and the Lisbon Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe in the Twenty-First Century. It also contained a Framework for Arms Control and information on the development of the agenda of the Forum for Security Cooperation, which aimed at strengthening security and stability within the OSCE community of States. In the Lisbon Document, OSCE articulated a vision of a common security space for Europe in which all member States were equal partners—a concept elaborated on in its Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the Twenty-First Century and the Framework for Arms Control. In the latter document, members stressed that arms control was an integral part of OSCE's comprehensive and cooperative concept of security, and that the CFE Treaty had established a core of military stability and predictability that was fundamental to the security of OSCE members.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) signed the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control on June 14, in Florence, Italy. The parties agreed to set limits on five categories of armaments—battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, artillery of 75 millimetre calibre and above, combat aircraft, and attack helicopters. They also agreed to an extensive information exchange and on-site inspection regime to verify compliance with the Agreement. The Agreement established the Subregional Consultative Commission to act as an implementation review body, the chairmanship of which would rotate among the parties (see also PART ONE, Chapter V).

Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional efforts to promote peace and security in the Americas continued during the year, with

some significant achievements. On 30 December [S/1996/1045/Add.2], the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace had been signed on 29 December between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca. To support the peace process, the Secretary-General requested the Council to approve the establishment of a military component in the existing UN Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala, to undertake verification of the ceasefire, the separation of forces and the demobilization of combatants, as called for in the peace accords.

Regarding the border dispute that had erupted into armed confrontation between Ecuador and Peru in 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 214], the parties, by the Santiago Agreement signed on 29 October, decided to begin substantive talks to reach a complete and lasting solution to their differences [A/51/648-S/1996/900].

As part of its continuing efforts to enhance regional confidence-building and transparency in military matters, the Organization of American States (OAS) on 7 June adopted a resolution dealing with confidence- and security-building measures in the Americas, by which it urged member States to implement the recommendations of the 1995 Declaration of Santiago on Confidence- and Security-building Measures [YUN 1995, p. 214], and requested them to provide the OAS Secretary-General, by 15 May each year, with the same information that they submitted to the UN Register of Conventional Arms and to the UN standardized system of reporting of military expenditures.

Concerned that there were still approximately 170,000 anti-personnel landmines in Central America, OAS adopted on 7 June a resolution by which member States committed themselves to the global elimination of anti-personnel landmines and to conversion of the western hemisphere into a mine-free zone. Member States were urged to adhere to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, especially amended Protocol II (see above, under "Landmines"). It also called for the establishment of a complete and integrated registry of anti-personnel landmines based on information provided annually by member States with respect to the approximate numbers of mines in their stockpiles, the number removed during the past year, and plans for clearance. In addition, it urged members to establish stockpile controls, to adopt domestic legislation to prohibit the private possession and transfer of mines and to inform the OAS Secretary-General of such action.

At a high-level meeting (Cochabamba, Bolivia, 3 and 4 September), members of the Rio Group attending the meeting—Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica (representing the Central American countries), Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago (representing the Caribbean Community), Uruguay, Venezuela—approved in principle two proposals of Mexico: adoption of a convention to impede the illicit transfer of weapons and adoption of measures to prevent an arms race in Latin America and the Caribbean.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 K**.

Regional disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/58 P of 4 December 1990, 46/36 I of 6 December 1991, 47/52 J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 I of 16 December 1993, 49/75 N of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 K of 12 December 1995 on regional disarmament,

Believing that the efforts of the international community to move towards the ideal of general and complete disarmament are guided by the inherent human desire for genuine peace and security, the elimination of the danger of war and the release of economic, intellectual and other resources for peaceful pursuits,

Affirming the abiding commitment of all States to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations in the conduct of their international relations,

Noting that essential guidelines for progress towards general and complete disarmament were adopted at the tenth special session of the General Assembly,

Taking note of the guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1993 substantive session,

Welcoming the prospects of genuine progress in the field of disarmament engendered in recent years as a result of negotiations between the two super-Powers,

Taking note of the recent proposals for disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation at the regional and subregional levels,

Recognizing the importance of confidence-building measures for regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that endeavours by countries to promote regional disarmament, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region and in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, would enhance the security of smaller States and would thus contribute to international peace and security by reducing the risk of regional conflicts,

1. Stresses that sustained efforts are needed, within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament and under the umbrella of the United Nations, to make progress on the entire range of disarmament issues;

2. Affirms that global and regional approaches to disarmament complement each other and should

therefore be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security;

3. Calls upon States to conclude agreements, wherever possible, for nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels;

4. Welcomes the initiatives towards disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and security undertaken by some countries at the regional and subregional levels;

5. Supports and encourages efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease regional tensions and to further disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation measures at the regional and subregional levels;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Regional disarmament".

General Assembly resolution 51/45 K

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 170-0-1 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) by recorded vote (145-0-1), U November (meeting 22); 26-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.31); agenda item 71.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-14, 22; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: India.

Also on 10 December, the Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 Q**.

Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/75 J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 O of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 L of 12 December 1995,

Recognizing the crucial role of conventional arms control in promoting regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that conventional arms control needs to be pursued primarily in the regional and subregional contexts since most threats to peace and security in the

post-cold-war era arise mainly among States located in the same region or subregion,

Aware that the preservation of a balance in the defence capabilities of States at the lowest level of armaments would contribute to peace and stability and should be a prime objective of conventional arms control,

Desirous of promoting agreements to strengthen regional peace and security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces,

Noting with particular interest the initiatives taken in this regard in different regions of the world, in particular the commencement of consultations among a number of Latin American countries and the proposals for conventional arms control made in the context of South Asia, and recognizing, in the context of this subject, the relevance and value of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which is a cornerstone of European security,

Believing that militarily significant States, and States with larger military capabilities, have a special responsibility in promoting such agreements for regional security,

Believing also that an important objective of conventional arms control in regions of tension should be to prevent the possibility of military attack launched by surprise and to avoid aggression,

1. Decides to give urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament, as a first step, to consider the formulation of principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control, and looks forward to a report of the Conference on this subject;

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels".

General Assembly resolution 51/45 Q

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 164-1-2 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) by recorded vote (144-1-4), 14 November (meeting 22); 17-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.44/Rev.1); agenda item 71.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-14, 22; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United

Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: India.

Abstaining: Cuba, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

On the same date, the Assembly adopted **resolution 51/46 C**.

Regional confidence-building measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Recalling its resolutions 43/78 H and 43/85 of 7 December 1988, 44/21 of 15 November 1989, 45/58 M of 4 December 1990, 46/37 B of 6 December 1991, 47/53 F of 15 December 1992, 48/76 A of 16 December 1993, 49/76 C of 15 December 1994 and 50/71 B of 12 December 1995,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, in that they can contribute to regional disarmament and to international security, in accordance with the principles of the Charter,

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Convinced also that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the subregion,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures, which deals with the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in the period since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 50/71 B;

2. Reaffirms its support for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in the subregion and to further disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful settlement of disputes in Central Africa;

3. Also reaffirms its support for the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee held at Yaounde in July 1992;

4. Welcomes the fact that the Committee's programme of work has led to specific actions and measures promoting confidence-building and security in the Central African subregion;

5. Notes the holding of the First Summit of Heads of State and Government of Countries Members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, at Yaounde on 8 July 1996;

6. Welcomes with great satisfaction the signature at that Summit of the Non-Aggression Pact between the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee, and reaffirms its conviction that the Pact is likely to contribute to the prevention of conflicts and further confidence-building in the Central African subregion;

7. Invites the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee that have not yet signed the Pact to do so, and encourages all member States to expedite ratification so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;

8. Welcomes with satisfaction the Final Declaration of the First Summit of the Standing Advisory Committee, which aims at the implementation of the following measures:

(a) The promotion of participatory systems of governance as a means of preventing conflicts;

(b) The organization, under United Nations auspices, of training seminars for officers in the armed forces, republican guard, gendarmerie and police forces of the Central African States, in order to promote a culture of peace by explaining, once again, their role in a democratic context;

(c) The development of a programme to combat illicit arms trafficking, in order to remove this source of insecurity and a threat to the stability of States in the subregion;

(d) The setting-up, under United Nations auspices, of an early warning system as the basic instrument for preventive diplomacy in Central Africa;

(e) The strengthening of cooperation between States of the subregion and bilateral and multilateral partners on the question of peace and security in Central Africa;

9. Expresses its conviction that the democratic process offers a valuable means to build confidence, promote development and prevent conflicts, and welcomes with satisfaction the decision taken by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to hold a subregional conference at Brazzaville in January 1997 on the topic "Democratic institutions and peace in Central Africa";

10. Welcomes the holding, under United Nations auspices, of the first training seminar for instructors in peace operations, at Yaounde from 9 to 17 September 1996, with a view to strengthening the capacity of the units specializing in peace operations in the armed forces of the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee;

11. Expresses its gratitude to those Governments which responded favourably to the request from the General Assembly and contributed towards financing the aforementioned training seminar;

12. Emphasizes once again the importance of continuing with this training programme in order to strengthen the participation of States members of the Standing Advisory Committee in future United Nations peace operations;

13. Commends the Secretary-General for having established the Trust Fund for the United Nations Stand-

ing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

14. Appeals to Member States and governmental and non-governmental organizations to make additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular the measures and objectives referred to in paragraphs 8, 9 and 12 of the present resolution;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to ensure that they are able to carry on with their efforts;

16. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures".

General Assembly resolution 51/46 C

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.12) without vote, 15 November (meeting 24); draft by Congo, for members of UN Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (A/C.1/51/L.15), orally revised; agenda item 72 (c).

Financial implications. S-G, A/C.1/51/L.52.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 15, 22, 24; plenary 79.

Other disarmament issues

In 1996, there were a number of issues that had been before the international community for some time, but that for various reasons were not directly addressed to any extent in the different disarmament forums. They were, however, the subject of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. Studies, training and information programmes in the area of disarmament continued in 1996.

Prevention of an arms race in outer space

Despite general agreement among Member States on re-establishing the ad hoc committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, the Conference on Disarmament [A/51/27] did not do so in 1996, mainly because it concentrated its efforts on the nuclear-test ban (see above, under "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty"). As a result, outer space issues, to the extent that they were addressed, were referred to in plenary meetings.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/44**.

Prevention of an arms race in outer space

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Reaffirming the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

Reaffirming also provisions of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

Recalling the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

Reaffirming paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, in which it is stated that in order to prevent an arms race in outer space further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this issue and taking note of the proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and at its regular sessions, and of the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament,

Recognizing that prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,

Considering that wide participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into account its previous efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

Regretting the inability of the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee in 1996,

Emphasizing the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space, and hoping that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible,

Convinced that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

Stressing that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community,

Recalling in this context its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990, 47/51 of 9 December 1992 and 48/74 A of 16 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it reaffirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Conscious of the benefits of confidence- and security-building measures in the military field,

Recognizing that the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remains the fundamental task of the Ad Hoc Committee and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements,

1. Reaffirms the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space, and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;

2. Reaffirms its recognition, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that this legal regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness, and that it is important strictly to comply with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;

3. Emphasizes the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;

4. Calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

5. Reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

6. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee with a negotiating mandate at the beginning of its 1997 session, taking into account the work undertaken since 1985, with a view to conducting negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

7. Recognizes, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space;

8. Urges States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities,

to keep the Conference on Disarmament informed of the progress of bilateral or multilateral negotiations relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, if any, so as to facilitate its work;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

General Assembly resolution 51/44

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 126-0-44 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.10) by recorded vote (98-0-40), 14 November (meeting 23); 19-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.43), orally revised; agenda item 70.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 16, 23; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

In the Committee, paragraph 6 was adopted by a recorded vote of 87 to 1, with 39 abstentions, and the seventeenth preambular paragraph was adopted by a recorded vote of 85 to 1, with 39 abstentions.

The Assembly retained those paragraphs by recorded votes of 117 to 1, with 45 abstentions, and 116 to 1, with 45 abstentions, respectively.

Disarmament and development

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/70 G [YUN 1995, p. 226], the Secretary-General submitted a July note [A/51/207] on the relationship between disarmament and development. The Secretary-General stated that there had been no new developments since the submission of his last report in 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 226].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 D**.

Relationship between disarmament and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly concerning the relationship between disarmament and development,

Recalling also the adoption on 11 September 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,

Recalling further its resolutions 49/75 J of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 G of 12 December 1995,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995,

Stressing the growing importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development in current international relations,

1. Acknowledges the note by the Secretary-General and actions taken in accordance with the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development;

2. Urges the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever widening gap between developed and developing countries;

3. Invites all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General, by 15 April 1997, their views and proposals for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, as well as any other views and proposals with a view to achieving the goals of the action programme, within the framework of current international relations;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

General Assembly resolution 51/45 D

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) without vote, 14 November (meeting 23); draft by Colombia, for Non-Aligned Movement (A/C.1/51/L.12); agenda item 71.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-14, 23; plenary 79.

Science and technology

In 1996, as in past years, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions on the subject of the role of science and technology in disarmament.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/39**.

The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged,

Concerned that military applications of scientific and technological developments can contribute significantly to the improvement and upgrading of weapons of mass destruction,

Aware of the need to follow closely the scientific and technological developments that may have a negative impact on international security and disarmament, and to channel scientific and technological developments for beneficial purposes,

Cognizant that the international transfers of dual-use as well as high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes are important for the economic and social development of States,

Expressing concern over the growing proliferation of ad hoc and exclusive export control regimes and arrangements for dual-use goods and technologies,

Recalling that the Final Declaration of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995, noted that restrictions being placed on access to technology through the imposition of non-transparent ad hoc export control regimes with exclusive membership tended to impede the economic and social development of developing countries,

Emphasizing that the internationally negotiated guidelines for the transfer of high technology with military applications should take into account the legitimate defence requirements of all States and requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, while ensuring that access to high-technology products and services and know-how for peaceful purposes is not denied,

1. Affirms that scientific and technological progress should be used for the benefit of all mankind to promote the sustainable economic and social development of all States and to safeguard international security, and that international cooperation in the use of science and technology through the transfer and exchange of technological know-how for peaceful purposes should be promoted;

2. Invites Member States to undertake additional efforts to apply science and technology for disarmament-related purposes and to make disarmament-related technologies available to interested States;

3. Urges Member States to undertake multilateral negotiations with the participation of all interested States in order to establish universally acceptable, non-discriminatory guidelines for international transfers of dual-use goods and technologies and high technology with military applications;

4. Recalls the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security", and requests the Secretary-General to update and further develop that report in order to evaluate the impact of recent scientific and technological developments, especially those which have potential military applications, and

to submit a report to the General Assembly not later than at its fifty-third session;

5. Encourages United Nations bodies to contribute, within existing mandates, to promoting the application of science and technology for peaceful purposes;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament".

General Assembly resolution 51/39

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 105-39-24 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.3) by recorded vote (81-39-22), 14 November (meeting 23); 17-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.20/Rev.1); agenda item 63.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 15, 23; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Georgia, Germany*, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uruguay.

*Later advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote against.

On the same date, the Assembly adopted **resolution 51/40**.

The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields, in which, inter alia, it recognized that scientific and technological developments could have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needed to be maintained and encouraged,

1. Invites Member States to enhance bilateral and multilateral dialogue on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields, with a view to:

(a) Ensuring implementation of relevant commitments already undertaken under international legal instruments;

(b) Exploring ways and means of further developing international legal rules on transfers of high technology with military applications;

2. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields".

General Assembly resolution 51/40

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 161-0-8 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.4) by recorded vote (137-0-11), 14 November (meeting 23); 30-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.34); agenda item 64.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 15, 23; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Iran, Japan, Micronesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United States.

Environment and disarmament

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/45 E**.

Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/70 M of 12 December 1995,

Emphasizing the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

Recognizing that it is necessary duly to take into account the agreements adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as prior relevant agreements, in the drafting and the implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms limitation,

Mindful of the detrimental environmental effects of the use of nuclear weapons,

Taking note of the preamble to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, opened for signature on 24

September 1996, concerning the contribution to environmental protection provided by the Treaty,

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, inter alia, to consider effective methods to control radiological means of warfare, in the interest of averting the hazards of using radioactive wastes as a means of radiological warfare, and of their impact on international security and environmental preservation,

Recognizing that prevention of the nuclear arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof contributes to keeping the peace and protecting the environment,

Convinced of the general interest of mankind in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and the need to preserve the world's environment in this context,

Desirous that, in the interest of mankind, Antarctica should continue to be used for exclusively peaceful purposes and that the balance of that important ecosystem should be preserved,

Taking note of the environment-related provisions laid down in the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,

Convinced of the importance of strengthening the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction through the adoption of appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, and the drafting of proposals to be included, as appropriate, in a legally binding instrument, on the basis of the findings of the ad hoc working group set up to that effect, and which, inter alia, should take into account the necessity of ensuring the preservation of the environment,

Conscious that the international transfer of relevant technologies, services and know-how for peaceful purposes can contribute positively to abiding by environmental norms in the framework of the disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

1. Invites the Conference on Disarmament to take every necessary measure to include the relevant environmental norms and provisions in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation, taking into account the need to preserve the world's environment and to ensure the strict observance of such environmental norms and provisions during the entire process of implementation of the provisions of the aforementioned treaties and agreements, particularly during the process of destruction of the arms covered by them;

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention, as well as express provisions relating to environmental protection;

3. Expresses grave concern regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States and for preserving the environment;

4. Urges States parties to comply strictly with the provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in

the Subsoil Thereof, and calls on States that possess nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction that have not yet done so, to become parties to the Treaty, as a major contribution to international peace and the ecologically rational use of the environment;

5. Calls upon all States, especially those that have major space programmes, to contribute actively to the attainment of the goals of using outer space for peaceful purposes, preserving the world's environment and preventing the arms race in outer space and, for the sake of international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation, to refrain from acting counter to the spirit of that international legal instrument;

6. Welcomes the concrete measures taken by several countries to ensure compliance with the Antarctic Treaty, and calls upon all countries to refrain from carrying out any activity counter to the spirit of that international legal instrument;

7. Emphasizes the importance of the compliance by all States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, and calls upon them to cooperate and to preserve the environment in the process of the implementation of the Convention in all its relevant aspects;

8. Urges States parties to consider all the relevant norms related to the protection of the environment in implementing the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;

9. Calls upon States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures so as to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress in the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control".

General Assembly resolution 51/45 E
10 December 1996 Meeting 79 137-4-27 (recorded vote)

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11) by recorded vote (116-4-26), 14 November (meeting 23); draft by Colombia, for Non-Aligned Movement (A/C.1/51/L.14); agenda item 71.

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 15, 23; plenary 79.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of

Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, Israel, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan.

Studies, information and training

Disarmament Information Programme

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/76 A [YUN 1994, p. 178], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/51/219], presented information covering the implementation of the activities for the Disarmament Information Programme in 1995 and 1996, and outlined future activities for the following two years.

The Centre for Disarmament Affairs (CDA) continued to carry out its information and education activities. In addition to producing publications, CDA organized several meetings and workshops in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region through the regional centres for peace and disarmament, and participated in an international seminar on arms control and disarmament for scholars and educators (Pennsylvania, United States).

In cooperation with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, the Centre sponsored a panel, in January, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1(I) [YUN 1946-1947, p. 461], on the establishment of a commission to deal with problems raised by the discovery of atomic energy; a two-day discussion, in April, on the theme "Disarmament at a critical juncture"; and panel discussions, during Disarmament Week (October), on the NPT review process (see above, under "Nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament"), the ICJ advisory opinion (see above, under "Nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament"), implementation of CTBT (see above, under "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty"), and conventional weapons and landmines (see above under "Conventional weapons and related issues").

Activities of the Department of Public Information (DPI) included wide radio and television coverage of relevant statements made by the Secretary-General; the provision of information on disarmament in its regular publications; the distribution, loan and screening of films and videos; and answering of public inquiries. The UN information centres conducted programmes to promote public awareness of the Organization's work in disarmament.

In a November addendum [A/51/219/Add.1] to his report, the Secretary-General stated that as at 30 June 1996, the balance remaining in pledges

and contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Disarmament Information Programme amounted to \$377,582, of which \$254,166 was in convertible and \$123,416 in non-convertible currencies.

Unlike in previous years, no Pledging Conference for the Programme was convened, as the Secretary-General had not been requested by the General Assembly to do so. On 11 October, the Secretary-General invited all States wishing to do so to make contributions to the various disarmament trust funds and to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/46 A**.

United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, by which the World Disarmament Campaign was launched,

Bearing in mind its various resolutions on the subject, including resolution 47/53 D of 9 December 1992, in which it decided, inter alia, that the World Disarmament Campaign should be known thereafter as the "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme" and the World Disarmament Campaign Voluntary Trust Fund as the "Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme",

Recalling its resolution 49/76 A of 15 December 1994,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General of 19 July 1996 on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme,

Deeply concerned by the continuing decrease in contributions to the Programme, which has already affected a number of activities, beginning with the suspension of publications such as the Disarmament Newsletter and Topical Papers,

1. Takes note with concern of the report of the Secretary-General of 19 July 1996 on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

2. Commends the Secretary-General for his efforts to make effective use of the limited resources available to him in disseminating as widely as possible information on arms limitation and disarmament to Governments, the media, non-governmental organizations, educational communities and research institutes, and in carrying out a seminar and conference programme;

3. Stresses the importance of the Programme, as a significant instrument in enabling developing countries to participate fully in the deliberations and negotiations on disarmament in the various United Nations bodies;

4. Notes with appreciation the contributions to the efforts of the Programme by the United Nations information centres and the regional centres for disarmament;

5. Recommends that the Programme focus its efforts:

(a) To inform, to educate and to generate public understanding of the importance of multilateral action and support for it, including action by the United Na-

tions and the Conference on Disarmament, in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, in a factual, balanced and objective manner, in particular through the continuing publication in all official languages of The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook and Disarmament: A Periodic Review by the United Nations, and the updating of the Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements;

(b) To facilitate unimpeded access to and an exchange of information on ideas between the public sector and public interest groups and organizations, and to provide an independent source of balanced and factual information that takes into account a range of views to help further an informed debate on arms limitation, disarmament and security;

(c) To organize meetings to facilitate exchanges of views and information between governmental and non-governmental sectors and between governmental and other experts in order to facilitate the search for common ground;

6. Invites all Member States to contribute to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

7. Commends the Secretary-General for supporting the efforts of universities, other academic institutions and non-governmental organizations active in the educational field in widening the worldwide availability of disarmament education, and invites him to continue to support and cooperate with educational institutions and non-governmental organizations engaged in such efforts, without cost to the regular budget of the United Nations;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated by the system for the following two years;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme".

General Assembly resolution 51/46 A

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.12) without vote, 14 November (meeting 23); 14-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.8); agenda item 72 (a).

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-14, 23; plenary 79.

Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

The Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, which advised the Secretary-General on the disarmament studies programme and implementation of the Disarmament Information Programme and served as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, held only one session in 1996 (Geneva, 1-5 July) [A/51/352], owing to the Organization's financial crisis.

The Board discussed the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty; the strengthened review process of NPT; microdisarmament and anti-personnel landmines; and the fourth special session of the General Assembly on disarmament (see above, under "UN role in disarmament"). It also discussed issues relat-

ing to "preventive disarmament" as a contribution to conflict prevention.

In its capacity as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, the Advisory Board reviewed the Director's report covering the period from July 1995 to June 1996 (see below).

By a note of 21 November [A/C.5/51/33], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly for approval the recommendation of the UNIDIR Board of Trustees for a subvention of \$213,000 for 1997 from the UN regular budget. By **resolution 51/221 A, section II**, of 18 December, the Assembly approved the subvention.

UN Institute for Disarmament Research

By a September note [A/51/364], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the UNIDIR Director's report covering activities from July 1995 to June 1996, and the report of the Board of Trustees concerning the 1997 work programme. During the period under review, the research programme continued to focus on collective security, regional security studies and non-proliferation studies. In addition, it addressed UNIDIR's contribution to the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (see above, under "UN role in disarmament").

Disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

In 1996, 19 fellows participated in the UN disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme, which began on 8 September in Geneva and ended on 1 November in New York [A/51/553]. It included lectures and briefings; speaking, drafting and simulation exercises; research projects; and study visits to IAEA (Vienna) and the Preparatory Commission for the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) (The Hague), as well as to Germany and Japan.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/46 F**.

United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision, contained in paragraph 108 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, to establish a programme of fellowships on disarmament, as well as its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly, the second special session devoted to disarmament, in which it decided, inter alia, to continue the programme,

Noting with satisfaction that the programme has already trained an appreciable number of public officials selected from geographical regions represented in the United Nations system, most of whom are now in positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament affairs in their respective countries or Governments,

Recalling all the annual resolutions on the matter since the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in 1982, including resolution 50/71 A of 12 December 1995,

Noting with satisfaction that the programme, as designed, continues to enable an increased number of public officials, in particular from the developing countries, to acquire more expertise in the sphere of disarmament,

Believing that the forms of assistance available to Member States, in particular to developing countries, under the programme will enhance the capabilities of their officials to follow ongoing deliberations and negotiations on disarmament, both bilateral and multilateral,

1. Reaffirms its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly and the report of the Secretary-General approved by the Assembly in its resolution 33/71 E of 14 December 1978;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Germany and Japan for inviting the 1996 fellows to study selected activities in the field of disarmament, thereby contributing to the fulfilment of the overall objectives of the programme;

3. Commends the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme has continued to be carried out;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to implement annually the Geneva-based programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services".

General Assembly resolution 51/46 F

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.12) without vote, 14 November (meeting 23); 37-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.32); agenda item 72 (b).

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 17, 23; plenary 79.

Regional centres for peace and disarmament

In response to General Assembly resolution 50/71 C [YUN 1995, p. 231], the Secretary-General reported [A/51/403] on his efforts to seek new alternative sources of financing for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. He stated that there were possibilities to integrate the operational and administrative functioning of the centres with projects and activities of existing UN development programmes. The Secretary-General noted that consultations with the United Nations Development Programme were under way.

The Secretary-General's report included an account of the Centres' activities covering the period from July 1995 to June 1996.

Africa

The activities of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, established in Lome, Togo, in 1986 [YUN 1986, p. 85], continued to be curtailed owing to financial constraints. However, the Centre continued to organize monthly informal meetings at which political leaders, NGO representatives, academics and the general public could discuss and propose solutions for issues relating to peace, security and disarmament in Africa. The Centre's documentation reference library increased and diversified its holdings through an inter-library loan system linking it with several research and academic institutions. The Centre widened distribution of its quarterly bilingual publication, *The African Peace Bulletin/Bulletin African de la Paix*. Moreover, it provided substantive and organizational support to two ministerial meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

Latin America/Caribbean

As to the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, established in Lima, Peru, in 1987 [YUN 1987, p. 88], the Secretary-General stated that he was obliged to suspend its activities at the end of June owing to insufficient funds to cover the costs of the salary of its only staff member and of the planned operational activities for the second half of 1996. Activities involving the region were being carried out through UN Headquarters. Up until then, the Centre had published issues of a Spanish-language bulletin and regularly distributed disarmament and security-related publications of its own or from other UN offices throughout the region, and continued to open its reference library to researchers and students.

The Secretary-General strongly appealed to Member States, as well as to international and national organizations and foundations, to make substantial contributions to the centres.

Asia and Pacific

Pursuant to Assembly resolution 50/71 D [YUN 1995, p. 232], the Secretary-General submitted an October report [A/51/445] describing the activities of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific established in Kathmandu, Nepal, in 1989 [YUN 1989, p. 88]. Despite limited financial resources available during the reporting period (August 1995 to July 1996), the

Centre organized two major regional meetings. The first regional meeting, "Priority issues on the current disarmament agenda: global and regional concerns" (Kathmandu, 21-24 February), focused on nuclear disarmament issues such as the status of the negotiations on CTBT, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, nuclear-weapon-free zones and transfer of technology. The second regional event was a conference on disarmament issues entitled "Common efforts towards a safer and nuclear-weapon-free world" (Hiroshima, Japan, 17-20 July), which addressed such issues as CTBT, the role of nuclear weapons and deterrence in the post-cold-war era, and nuclear safety. In addition, the Centre assisted the United Nations Association of Japan in organizing a symposium (Kanazawa, Japan, 3-5 June), which dealt with issues in the subregion, including the development of common and shared values, economic and technical cooperation and non-military challenges in north-east Asia.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December, the General Assembly adopted **resolution 51/46 E**.

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 D of 3 December 1986, 42/39 J of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 D of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, and its resolution 46/36 F of 6 December 1991 and 47/52 G of 9 December 1992 on regional disarmament, including confidence-building measures,

Reaffirming its resolutions 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994 and 50/71 C of 12 December 1995 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Mindful of the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations stipulating that a function of the General Assembly is to consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms limitation,

Taking into account the guidelines for international arms transfers adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 substantive session,

Welcoming the activities carried out by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, which have contributed substantially to understanding and cooperation among the African States and have thereby strengthened its role in the areas of peace, disarmament, security and development,

Bearing in mind the financial situation of the Regional Centre as described by the Secretary-General in his report on the activities of the Regional Centre,

Underlining, therefore, the need to provide the Regional Centre with financial stability so as to facilitate

the effective planning and implementation of its programmes of activities,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the Member States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations that have, so far, contributed to the Trust Fund of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;

2. Commends the activities carried out by the Regional Centre in identifying and broadening the understanding of pressing disarmament and security issues in the African region;

3. Reaffirms its support for the further operation and strengthening of the Regional Centre, and encourages it to continue to intensify its efforts in promoting cooperation with subregional and regional organizations, as well as among the African States, in order to facilitate the development of effective measures of confidence-building, arms limitation and disarmament, with a view to promoting peace and security;

4. Appeals once again to Member States, mainly to African countries, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make regular and appropriate voluntary contributions in order to revitalize the Regional Centre, strengthen its programmes of activities and facilitate the effective implementation of such programmes;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in the light of the current financial situation of the Regional Centre, to intensify his efforts in exploring new ways and means of funding, and to continue to provide all necessary support to the Regional Centre for better achievements and results;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Director of the Regional Centre is, as far as possible and within existing resources, locally based in order to revitalize the activities of the Regional Centre;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", on the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, and on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 51/46 E

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.12) without vote, 14 November (meeting 23); draft by Togo, for African Group (A/C.1/51/L.26/Rev.1); agenda item 72 (d).

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 17, 23; plenary 79.

Also on 10 December, the Assembly adopted **resolution 51/46 B**.

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989, by which it established the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and renamed it the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, with headquarters at

Kathmandu and with the mandate of providing, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General, in which he expresses his belief that the mandate of the Regional Centre not only remains valid but is even more relevant today in the changed international environment,

Commending the useful activities carried out by the Regional Centre in encouraging regional and subregional dialogue for the enhancement of openness, transparency and confidence-building, as well as the promotion of disarmament and security through the organization of regional meetings, which has come to be widely known within the Asia-Pacific region as the "Kathmandu process",

Noting that trends in the post-cold-war era have emphasized the function of the Regional Centre in assisting Member States as they deal with new security concerns and disarmament issues emerging in the region,

Recognizing the need for the Regional Centre to pursue effectively its expanded function,

Expressing its appreciation to the Regional Centre for its organization of substantive regional meetings at Kathmandu and at Hiroshima, Japan, in 1996,

Appreciating highly the important role Nepal has played as the host nation of the headquarters of the Regional Centre,

1. Reaffirms its resolution 50/71 D of 12 December 1995, in particular its strong support for the continued operation and further strengthening of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific as an essential promoter of the regional peace and disarmament dialogue in the Asia-Pacific region known as the "Kathmandu process";

2. Expresses its appreciation for the political support and financial contribution received by the Regional Centre;

3. Appeals to Member States, in particular those within the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the programme of activities of the Regional Centre and its implementation;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the Regional Centre in carrying out its programme of activities;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific".

General Assembly resolution 51/46 B

10 December 1996 Meeting 79 Adopted without vote

Approved by First Committee (A/51/566/Add.12) without vote, 14 November (meeting 23); 18-nation draft (A/C.1/51/L.10); agenda item 72 (d).

Meeting numbers. GA 51st session: 1st Committee 3-8, 10-13, 15, 23; plenary 79.