

Chapter I

International peace and security

The United Nations continued in 1992 to safeguard international peace and security. During the year, a record number of 12 peace-keeping operations were deployed in various regions of the world, with nearly 40,000 authorized military personnel serving under United Nations command.

For the first time ever, the Security Council held a summit at the level of heads of State and Government to consider its responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security. It adopted conclusions concerning the commitment to collective security, peacemaking and peace-keeping, and disarmament, arms control and weapons of mass destruction. The Secretary-General responded to the summit with "An Agenda for Peace", outlining concepts and measures of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping, to which he added the concept of post-conflict peace-building. The Council examined "An Agenda for Peace" in detail throughout the year, as did the General Assembly at its 1992 regular session.

The Assembly's consideration of that item resulted in the adoption of resolution 47/120, which dealt with the peaceful settlement of disputes, preventive diplomacy and confidence-building measures, including fact-finding, an early-warning mechanism and humanitarian assistance.

On the basis of the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, the Assembly, by resolution 47/71, adopted a series of recommendations and conclusions on peace-keeping matters, such as personnel, material and technical resources and financing.

Both the Council and the Assembly condemned the rising number of attacks against United Nations staff serving in various peace-keeping operations. The Assembly put forward a number of recommendations to help protect peace-keeping personnel better.

The Security Council, in January, urged the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to respond to requests in connection with two aerial incidents—the bombing in December 1988 of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie in southern Scotland and the crash in September 1989 of Union de transports aériens flight 772 over the Ténéré desert in the Niger—in which Libyan nationals were alleged to have been involved. In March 1992, the Council imposed an air and arms embargo against the Jamahiriya.

Maintenance of international security and strengthening of the international security system

Heads of State and Government Security Council summit

For the first time in its history, the Security Council on 31 January met at the level of heads of State and Government. The meeting, convened at the initiative of the United Kingdom in its capacity as Council President for January, was attended by 13 heads of State or Government (Austria, Belgium, Cape Verde, China, Ecuador, France, India, Japan, Morocco, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela) and 2 Foreign Ministers (Hungary and Zimbabwe) of the Council's 15 members. In a statement by the President at the conclusion of the day-long meeting, the Council asked the Secretary-General to recommend ways to strengthen and make more efficient the United Nations capacity for preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping, within the framework and provisions of the United Nations Charter. The Council also reaffirmed its commitment to the Charter's collective security system to deal with threats to peace and reverse acts of aggression.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

Following statements by the Secretary-General and all the Council members, the Council's action came in the form of a statement by the Council President on behalf of the members:(1)

Meeting number. SC 3046.

"The Security Council met at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York on 31 January 1992, for the first time at the level of heads of State and Government. The members of the Council considered, within the framework of their commitment to the United Nations Charter, 'The responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security'.

"The members of the Security Council consider that their meeting is a timely recognition of the fact that there are new favourable international circumstances under which the Security Council has begun to fulfil more effectively its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.