

Chapter I

Africa

During 1994, while Africa made notable advances towards peace and democracy, it also experienced some serious set-backs. On the positive side, through United Nations efforts, apartheid South Africa was transformed into a united, democratic and non-racial society with the coming into force in April of the new interim constitution, which guaranteed universal adult suffrage to all South Africans. The country held its first democratic general elections in April, which were won by the African National Congress, whose leader, Nelson Mandela, on 10 May became the first President of a new, non-racial South Africa. The question of the elimination of apartheid, which had been on the General Assembly's agenda since 1946, was accordingly removed and the Special Committee against Apartheid dissolved. The Security Council terminated the mandatory arms embargo and ended all other measures it had imposed against South Africa. It also terminated the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa. The General Assembly welcomed South Africa's return to the community of nations and called on specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system to re-establish full membership of South Africa.

Significant progress was also made to settle other regional conflicts. In Angola, a peace agreement, the Lusaka Protocol, was signed between the Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola on 20 November, marking a significant step towards lasting peace and national reconciliation. In Mozambique, the peace process came to a successful conclusion, with the holding of elections in October, leading to the election of Joaquim Chissano as President and the inauguration of the new National Assembly. As a result, the United Nations Operation in Mozambique began a phased withdrawal. The territorial dispute between Chad and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya over the "Aouzou Strip" was settled by a 3 February Judgment of the International Court of Justice, and the United Nations monitored the peaceful withdrawal of the Libyan administration and forces from the area. Cameroon and Nigeria referred their territorial dispute over the sovereignty of the Bakassi Peninsula to the Court for resolution. The General Assembly urged the Secretary-General to make available his good offices in the search for a peaceful negotiated solution to the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte.

The situation in other parts of Africa remained bleak and deteriorated. Indeed, 1994 marked one

of the worst years for peace and security in Africa and severely strained the United Nations peace-keeping capacity and its humanitarian efforts as conflicts erupted and escalated in Burundi and Rwanda. The Rwandan conflict especially created one of the worst humanitarian crises of the century in Africa. Thousands of the country's population were the victims of systematic genocide and gross human rights violations and over 2 million people fled from the continued violence and insecurity. The dimension of the crisis caused the Security Council to authorize a multinational force, led by France, to create a humanitarian protection zone. The Council also established an International Tribunal for the prosecution of persons responsible for gross violations of international humanitarian law in Rwanda.

The Security Council recognized that the lack of progress in the peace process and in national reconciliation in Somalia, in particular the lack of sufficient cooperation from the Somali parties over security issues, had fundamentally undermined United Nations objectives there. In those circumstances, the Council could not justify continuation of the United Nations Operation in Somalia beyond March 1995. It therefore extended its mandate for a final period until 31 March 1995 and authorized its military forces to protect the Mission and the withdrawal of its personnel and assets. In Liberia, despite the signing of the Akosombo Agreement on 12 September for the restoration of the civil Government, disarmament and national reconciliation, the security situation deteriorated with no sign of an early end to the civil war.

In December, the General Assembly noted the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and efforts to strengthen that cooperation. It urged the United Nations to help OAU strengthen its conflict resolution capacity and ensure the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

South Africa and the end of apartheid

The elimination of apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial democratic society in South