and the donor community in the new stage of consolidating peace and democracy in Central America, and urges them to continue to support Central American efforts to achieve those goals, bearing in mind the global framework of the new regional development strategy, which is in keeping with the collective aspirations and needs of the Central American peoples;

12. Notes with appreciation the demonstrations of international solidarity and support for the region’s reconstruction and transformation efforts following the severe damage caused by hurricane Mitch, which will enable the region to attain normality and continue its efforts to consolidate democracy and attain sustainable development;

13. Reaffirms the need to maintain sustained assistance to the region in order to create the conditions needed for balance between the challenges of reconstruction, economic growth and equitable social development that will ensure firm and lasting peace in the region, and stresses the need to improve preparedness and the integration of natural disaster reduction components into development planning;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to lend his full support to the initiatives and activities of the Central American Governments, particularly their efforts to consolidate peace and democracy through the implementation of a new, comprehensive sustainable development programme and the initiative to establish the Central American Union, emphasizing, inter alia, the potential repercussions of natural disasters, in particular of hurricane Mitch, for the peace processes and the vulnerable economies of the region, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

15. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled “The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development”.

On 23 December, the Assembly, by decision 54/465, decided that the agenda item on the situation in Central America remained for consideration during its resumed fifty-fourth (2000) session.

Guatemala

In 1999, the peace process in Guatemala continued to be implemented and gained greater support and acceptance throughout all sectors of society, despite delays and setbacks in fiscal, judicial and military reforms and a worsening human rights situation. The year also witnessed two major events as far as reconciliation and parliamentary representation were concerned: the presentation of the report of the Commission for Historical Clarification, established in 1994 to clarify the human rights violations and acts of violence connected with the armed conflict [YUN 1996, p. 168] and the 1996 Agreement on the Implementation, Compliance and Verification Timetable for the Peace Agreements (the Timetable Agreement) [YUN 1997, p. 176], signed by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG). The Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly reports by the MINUGUA Director covering the Mission’s activities throughout 1999. The Assembly renewed the mandate of the Mission until 31 December 2000.

Commission for Historical Clarification

On 23 April, the Secretary-General transmitted the executive summary, conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Commission for Historical Clarification (CEH), “Guatemala: Memory of Silence” [A/53/928]. The report contained the results of the investigation carried out by CEH on human rights violations and acts of violence that had been committed during the 34-year civil war. The Commission registered a total of 42,275 victims, of whom 23,671 were victims of arbitrary execution and 6,159 of forced disappearance. Eighty-three per cent of the victims were identified as Mayan and 17 per cent were Ladino. Together with the results of other studies of political violence in Guatemala, CEH estimated that the number of persons killed or disappeared reached over 200,000. Human rights violations and acts of violence attributable to State actions represented 93 per cent of those registered by CEH, and were especially severe from 1978 to 1984, a period during which 91 per cent of the CEH documented violations were committed. Eighty-five per cent of the violations and acts registered by CEH were attributable to the Army alone and 18 per cent to the Civil Patrols, which were organized by the armed forces. Acts of violence attributable to the guerrillas represented 3 per cent of the registered violations. Human rights violations committed by the State included massacres of the Mayan people, forced disappearances, arbitrary executions, rape of women, the use of death squads, the denial of justice and forced and discriminatory military recruitment. CEH concluded that State agents, within the framework of counter-insurgency operations carried out between 1981 and 1983, committed acts of genocide against groups of Mayan people. Guerrilla groups had carried out arbitrary executions, massacres, forced disappearances and kidnapping and forced recruitment. Private individuals also committed acts of