violence in defence of their own interests and were generally economically powerful people at either the national or local level.

CEH presented a series of recommendations relating to reparatory measures, including the creation of a national reparation programme for the victims and their relatives, a search for the disappeared and an active exhumation policy; measures to foster a culture of mutual respect and observance of human rights; measures to strengthen the democratic process; and the promotion of peace and national harmony. In order to fulfil its recommendations, CEH recommended that the Guatemalan Congress establish a body responsible for implementing and monitoring its recommendations under the name of "Foundation for Peace and Harmony". It presented the Foundation's mandate, composition, appointment procedure, constitution, installation, period of operation, human and material resources and financing. CEH asked the Secretary-General to lend his support, through MINUGUA, so that its recommendations might be implemented. It also asked him to appoint the Foundation's independent member and to establish an international mechanism to provide the Foundation with technical support and to channel donations from the international community.

The Secretary-General stated in November that human rights organizations, a large part of organized civil society and URNG had endorsed the report [A/54/526]. The Government, although it appreciated the Commission's work, disagreed with the recommendation to establish a commission to purify the armed forces and a foundation to follow up the implementation of CEH recommendations, on the grounds that their mandates would duplicate the mandates of other entities involved in the peace process. With regard to the Foundation, the Government later stated that it was open to other options involving the participation of representatives of organized social sectors. On 9 April, under the auspices of the Council for Human Rights, a large group of organizations of civil society agreed to form the Multi-institutional Forum for Peace and Harmony, to advance the implementation of the Commission's recommendations and, especially, the establishment of a Foundation for Peace and Harmony.

Regarding the Commission's request to the Secretary-General, MINUGUA had helped disseminate the report and had used its good offices to secure an agreement between the Government and organizations of civil society on setting up the Foundation. The Secretary-General expressed his intention to appoint the independent member and establish the international technical support mechanism once the Foundation's rules of procedure had been determined. He was of the opinion that it was essential to establish a forum made up of State bodies and organizations of civil society to assume jointly the task of reconciliation. The forum could give priority to actions recommended by CEH, including promotion of and support for historical research; the search for the disappeared; measures to honour and preserve the memory of the victims; compensation for the victims; the initiation of a policy of exhumation; the promotion of a culture of mutual respect; and the formulation and promotion of a legislative agenda based on the CEH report.

MINUGUA

The mandate of MINUGUA, which was extended to 31 December 1999 by General Assembly resolution 53/93 [YUN 1998, p. 221], included verification of all agreements signed by the Government of Guatemala and URNG covering human rights, the parties' compliance with the ceasefire, separation and concentration of the respective forces, and disarmament and demobilization of former URNG combatants. The Mission's functions also comprised good offices, advisory and support services and public information. The parties to the agreements had requested that the duration of the mandate of MINUGUA be the same as that of the implementation timetable, namely four years, up to 31 December 2000.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 53/93, the Secretary-General submitted a September report [A/54/555] covering the state of implementation of the peace agreements (see p. 201) and the structure and staffing of MINUGUA. He said that the Mission's configuration was well suited to the multiple and varied tasks with which it was charged, and, therefore, he proposed that only a modest change in its regional structure be made in 2000. The change, which would contemplate a geographical redeployment of the Mission's regional structure and not a change in geographical coverage, would result in a more flexible distribution of resources. Accordingly, the Mission would close three sub-offices and increase its capacity for flexibility by introducing an additional (third) mobile office. The number of coordinators and political affairs officers (8 and 25, respectively) would remain unchanged. The Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly authorize the renewal of MINUGUA's mandate for a further period of one year, until 31 December 2000. He noted that the financial requirements, inclusive of support staff and op-