

43. 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 development¹

The item entitled “The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives” was included in the agenda of the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly, in 1983, at the request of the Government of Nicaragua (A/38/242).

The General Assembly considered the question at its thirty-eighth to forty-sixth sessions (resolutions 38/10 and 39/4, decision 40/470, and resolutions 41/37, 42/1, 43/24, 44/10, 45/15 and 46/109 A and B).

At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session an 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” (resolution 47/118). The Assembly also considered the item at its forty-eighth to fifty-third sessions (resolutions 48/161, 49/137, 50/132, 51/197, 52/176 and 53/94).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁷⁸ the General Assembly, *inter alia*, commended the efforts of the peoples and the Governments of the Central American countries to re-establish peace and democracy throughout the region and promote sustainable development by implementing the commitments adopted at the summit meetings, and supported the decision of the presidents that Central America should become a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development; requested the Secretary-General, the bodies and programmes of the United Nations system and the international community to continue to support and verify in Guatemala the implementation of all the peace agreements; recognized the importance of the Central American Integration System as the body set up to coordinate and harmonize efforts to achieve integration, a process aimed at establishing the Central American Union, and called upon the international community to extend generous and effective cooperation with a view to improving the competence and efficiency of the Central American Integration System; encouraged the Central American Governments to continue to carry out their historic responsibilities by fully implementing the commitments they had assumed under national, regional or international agreements; reiterated its deep appreciation to the Secretary-General, his special representatives, the groups of countries for the peace processes in El Salvador (Colombia, Mexico, Spain, United States of America and Venezuela), and Guatemala (Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, United States of America and Venezuela), to the Support Group for Nicaragua (Canada, Mexico, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden), to the European Union and to other countries that had contributed significantly and to the international community in general for its support and

⁷⁸ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 47):

- (a) Reports of the Secretary-General:
 - (i) Implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/94: A/54/311;
 - (ii) Renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala: A/54/355;
 - (iii) Fourth report of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala: A/54/526;
- (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the tenth report on human rights of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala: A/54/688;
- (c) Draft resolutions A/54/L.24/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1 and A/54/L.27 and Add.1;
- (d) Reports of the Fifth Committee: A/54/651 and A/54/662;
- (e) Resolutions 54/99 and 54/118;
- (f) Meetings of the Fifth Committee: A/C.5/54/SR.41 and 44;
- (g) Plenary meetings: A/54/PV.56, 73 and 80.

solidarity in the building of peace, democracy and development in Central America; reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation in the new stage of consolidating peace and democracy in Central America; noted 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; reaffirmed 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 would ensure firm and lasting peace in the region; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to lend his full support to the initiatives and activities of the Central American Governments, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/118).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/118).

United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala

The item was included in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, in 1994 (resolution 48/267).

The General Assembly considered the question at its forty-eighth to fifty-third sessions (resolutions 48/267, 49/236, 49/955, 49/236 B, 50/220, 451/198 B, 52/175 and 53/93).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁷⁸ the General Assembly, *inter alia*, underscored the fact that key reforms remained outstanding, including the fiscal, judicial, military and electoral reforms, and stressed the critical importance of continued compliance with the peace agreements in 2000; encouraged the Government to implement its decision to adopt a new military doctrine and disband the current Presidential Military Staff, in keeping with the peace agreements; underscored the fact that meeting the tax revenue targets set in the Agreement on Social and Economic Aspects and Agrarian Situation was essential to the sustainability of the implementation of the peace agreements; noted that, while significant achievements had been registered in the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights, important shortcomings persisted, and called upon the Government to redouble its efforts in the promotion of human rights, taking into account the recommendations contained in the reports on human rights of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala; called upon the Government to follow up on the recommendations of the Commission for Historical Clarification, with a view to promoting national reconciliation, upholding the right to truth and providing redress, in accordance with Guatemalan law, for the victims of human rights abuses and violence committed during the 36-year armed conflict; welcomed the commitment to the implementation of the peace agreements made by the presidential candidates of the major political parties and their support for the extension of the mandate of the Mission; encouraged the parties and all sectors of Guatemalan society to continue efforts to achieve the goals of the peace agreements; invited the international community to continue to take the implementation of the peace agreements as the framework for technical and financial assistance programmes and projects; stressed the role of the Mission as a key instrument in the consolidation of peace, promotion of the observance of human rights and building of confidence in the implementation of the peace agreements; decided to authorize the renewal of the mandate of the Mission from 1 January to 31 December 2000; and requested the Secretary-General to submit an updated report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, with his assessment and recommendations with regard to the peace process after 31 December 2000, and to keep the Assembly fully informed of the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/99).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/99).

44. Global implications of the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers

At the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, in 1998, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations requested, in a letter dated 15 May 1998 addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/52/910), that item 95 (c) entitled “Macroeconomic policy questions: science and technology for development”, be reopened to consider the implications of the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers. The Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session an item entitled “Global implications of the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers” and to complete its action under that agenda item before the deadline of 31 December 1999 (resolution 52/233).

The General Assembly considered the item at its fifty-third session (resolution 53/86).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁷⁹ noting that the year 2000 effects were not limited to 1 January 2000, the General Assembly requested all Member States to continue their efforts to solve the year 2000 problem; requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations system monitored sources of funding to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to address the problem and disseminate funding information to Member States; urged Member States to take “best practices” measures, such as virus scanning, against the additional potential risk of malicious software and to emphasize the importance of contingency planning for service restoration in the event of service outages; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a final report on the evaluation of the outcome of the steps taken within the United Nations system and with Member States to resolve the year 2000 problem (resolution 54/114).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/114).

45. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina¹

Various aspects of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been dealt with by the Security Council and by the General Assembly. The issue was included in the agenda of the forty-sixth session of the Assembly, in 1991, at the request of Turkey (A/46/237). The General Assembly considered the question at its forty-sixth to fifty-third sessions (resolutions 46/242, 47/121, 48/88, 49/10, 51/213, 52/150 and 53/35 and decision 50/492).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁸⁰ the General Assembly, *inter alia*, expressed its full support for the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which constituted the key mechanism for the achievement of a durable and just peace; welcomed the adoption of the New York Declaration, in which the Joint Presidency agreed to important steps for moving forward the process of fully implementing the Peace Agreement;

⁷⁹ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 45):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General: A/54/525;
- (b) Draft resolution: A/54/L.61 and Add.1;
- (c) Resolution 54/114;
- (d) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.79.

⁸⁰ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 42):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General: A/54/549;
- (b) Draft resolution: A/54/L.63/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1;
- (c) Resolution 54/119;
- (d) Plenary meetings: A/54/PV.80 and 81.

stressed the importance of the summit meeting of heads of State and government to launch the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe in Sarajevo on 29 and 30 July 1999; endorsed the concept of “ownership” as presented by the High Representative, whereby the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina should assume more responsibility in the process of implementation of the Peace Agreement; recognized that the role of the international community remained essential; underlined that the assistance provided by the international community remained strictly conditional upon compliance with the Peace Agreement and subsequent obligations, including cooperation with the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and facilitation of the return of refugees and displaced persons; insisted upon the need to surrender all indictees to the International Tribunal for trial; called upon all parties to improve substantially their cooperation with the international community in order to establish the conditions necessary for the return of refugees and displaced persons; welcomed the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 18 of resolution 53/35, commended him for its thoroughness and candour and deplored the appalling magnitude of the human tragedy that occurred before and after the fall of Srebrenica and Zepa; stressed the importance of establishing, strengthening and expanding throughout all of Bosnia and Herzegovina free and pluralistic media; reaffirmed the conclusions of the Peace Implementation Council on the importance of reform of the media in Bosnia and Herzegovina and endorsed the decision of the High Representative of 30 July 1999 on the restructuring of the public broadcasting system; supported the efforts of the High Representative to counter obstructionist conduct against the Peace Agreement and reconciliation efforts, and noted the decision of the High Representative of 29 November 1999 to remove 22 Bosnian public officials; reaffirmed its support for the principle that all statements and commitments made under duress, in particular those regarding land and property, were wholly null and void, and supported the effective engagement of the Commission for Real Property Claims of Displaced Persons and Refugees, in compliance with its mandate; endorsed the package of property law reforms imposed by the High Representative on 27 October 1999; stressed the need for a more comprehensive approach to economic reform; emphasized the importance of economic revitalization and reconstruction for the successful consolidation of the peace process; noted that corruption and the lack of transparency seriously hampered the economic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina, emphasized the importance of combating corruption and welcomed the important contribution made in that regard by the Customs and Fiscal Assistance Office; supported the efforts by the High Representative and the Commander of the Stabilization Force to weaken the continued political and economic influence of remaining parallel nationalist structures obstructing the peace implementation; welcomed the final arbitration award on Brcko, expressed its support for its implementation and stressed that the obligation to cooperate fully with the Supervisor for Brcko was an essential obligation for the two entities; also welcomed the commitment made by the Joint Presidency at the summit meeting on the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe to reduce by 15 per cent the military budgets, equipment and personnel strength of the two entities, effective 31 December 1999, with a significant reduction thereafter; and stressed the need for timely information about the level of cooperation and compliance with the International Tribunal and its orders, the status and programme for the return of refugees and displaced persons to and within Bosnia and Herzegovina and the status and implementation of the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control (resolution 54/119).

No advance documentation is expected.

46. The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security¹

On 3 January 1980, a number of Member States requested an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security. The Council met from 5 to 9 January 1980, and on 9 January decided, in view of the lack of unanimity of its permanent members, to call for an emergency special session of the General Assembly to examine the matter (resolution 462 (1980)).

The item was included in the agenda of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, in 1980, at the request of 35 Member States (A/35/144 and Add.1). At that session, the Assembly adopted a resolution on the question (resolution 35/37).

At its thirty-sixth to forty-sixth sessions, the General Assembly continued its consideration of the item (resolutions 36/34, 37/37, 38/29, 39/13, 40/12, 41/33, 42/15, 43/20, 44/15, 45/12 and 46/23).

At its forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions, the General Assembly did not consider the item but decided to retain it on the agenda of those sessions (decisions 47/467 and 48/484). No decision was taken on this item at the forty-ninth session.

At its fiftieth to fifty-fourth sessions, the General Assembly considered this item in conjunction with the question of emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan (see item 20 (d) above).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁸¹ the General Assembly, *inter alia*, stressed that the main responsibility for finding a political solution to the conflict lay with the Afghan parties; called upon all Afghan parties to cease immediately all armed hostilities, to renounce the use of force and to engage, without delay or preconditions, in a political dialogue under United Nations auspices aimed at achieving a lasting political settlement of the conflict; strongly condemned the fact that foreign military support to the Afghan parties continued unabated through 1999, and called upon all States to refrain strictly from any outside interference and to end immediately the supply of arms, ammunition, military equipment, training or any other military support to all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan; supported the intention of the Secretary-General to redouble the efforts of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan to achieve a durable and equitable political settlement by facilitating an immediate and durable ceasefire and the resumption of a dialogue between the Afghan parties; welcomed the establishment of the Civil Affairs Unit within the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/189 A).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/189 A).

⁸¹ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda items 20 (f) and 50):

- (a) Reports of the Secretary-General: A/54/378-S/1999/994 and A/54/536-S/1999/1145 and A/54/791-S/2000/205;
- (b) Letter dated 23 November 1999 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly transmitting a summary of the report of the United Nations investigation team for Afghanistan: A/54/626;
- (c) Report of the Fifth Committee: A/54/671;
- (d) Report of the Advisory Committee: A/54/667;
- (e) Draft resolution: A/54/L.58;
- (f) Resolution 54/189 A;
- (g) Meeting of the Fifth Committee: A/C.5/54/SR.47;
- (h) Plenary meetings: A/54/PV.78 and 84.

47. Assistance in mine action

The item entitled “Assistance in mine action”, which was, until the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, called “Assistance in mine clearance”, was first included in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, in 1993, at the request of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the 12 States Members of the European Union) (A/48/193). The Assembly considered the item at that session (resolution 48/7) and at each subsequent session (resolutions 49/215, 50/82, 51/149, 52/173 and 53/26).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁸² the General Assembly appealed to Governments, regional organizations and other donors to continue their support to mine action through further contributions; welcomed recent approaches with regard to the establishment of mine-action coordination centres, encouraged the further establishment of such centres, especially in emergency situations, and also encouraged States to support the activities of mine-action coordination centres and trust funds established to coordinate assistance in mine action under the auspices of the Mine Action Service; urged Member States, regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to continue to extend full assistance and cooperation to the Secretary-General; emphasized the importance of recording the location of mines, of retaining all such records and making them available to concerned parties upon cessation of hostilities, and welcomed the strengthening of the relevant provisions in international law; called upon Member States to provide the necessary information and technical and material assistance, and to locate, remove, destroy or otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines, booby traps and other devices in accordance with international law; urged Member States and regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to provide technological assistance to mine-infested countries and to promote scientific research and development on humanitarian mine-action techniques and technology, encouraged them to continue to support ongoing activities to promote appropriate technology, as well as international operational and safety standards for humanitarian mine-action activities; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the progress achieved (resolution 54/191).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/191).

48. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti¹

This item was included in the agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, in 1991, at the request of Honduras (A/46/231).

The General Assembly considered the item at its forty-sixth to fifty-third sessions (resolutions 46/7, 47/20 A and B, 48/27 A and B, 49/27 A and B, 50/86 A and B, 51/196 A and B, 52/174 and 53/95).

⁸² References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 35):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General: A/54/445;
- (b) Draft resolution: A/54/L.71;
- (c) Resolution 54/191;
- (d) Plenary meetings: A/54/PV.57, 58 and 84.

At its fifty-fourth session,⁸³ the General Assembly affirmed the will of the United Nations to continue to accompany Haiti in its democratic, economic and social development; decided, at the request of the President of Haiti, to establish the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti to consolidate the results achieved by the International Civilian Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti and previous United Nations missions; decided that the initial mandate of the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti would begin at the closing of the United Nations Civilian Police Mission and continue until 6 February 2001 and that the mandate of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti would continue until the commencement of the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti; decided, pursuant to the request of the Government of Haiti, that the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti would have, in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General, the mandate of supporting the democratization process, assisting the Haitian authorities in the reform and strengthening of the Haitian system of justice, supporting the efforts of the Government of Haiti to professionalize the Haitian National Police, supporting the efforts of the Government of Haiti aimed at the full observance of human rights, and providing technical assistance for the organization of democratic elections and collaborating with the Government of Haiti in the coordination of bilateral and multilateral assistance; underlined the importance of full coordination and transparency, including among multilateral and bilateral contributors, and decided that the Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the Mission would have overall authority over all United Nations activities in Haiti and, as appropriate, act as the focal point for coordinating the activities of the international community and facilitating its continuing dialogue with key political and social actors in Haiti; endorsed the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council contained in resolution 1999/11, *inter alia*, its request that the Secretary-General take the necessary steps, in agreement with the Government of Haiti, and making use of the appropriate United Nations presence there, to develop on a priority basis a long-term strategy and programme of support for Haiti; recommended that the United Nations Resident Coordinator continue to be the Deputy to the Representative of the Secretary-General, that continued use be made of the resident coordinator system, including completion of a Common Country Assessment, and that preparations be made for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework; requested the Secretary-General to coordinate with the Government of Haiti and interested Member States on modalities to ensure support from the international community for the electoral processes under way in Haiti, and requested the United Nations Development Programme to continue its work relating to support of the Haitian electoral processes; authorized the Secretary-General to utilize the amounts allocated in the regular budget for the International Civilian Mission in Haiti, under its current mandate, for activities

⁸³ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 48):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti: (A/54/625);
- (b) Letter dated 31 July 1999 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the President of the General Assembly (A/54/274-E/1999/116);
- (c) Letter dated 22 November 1999 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly transmitting the report of the needs assessment mission to Haiti (A/54/629);
- (d) Letter dated 31 March 2000 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly (A/54/819);
- (e) Report of the Fifth Committee: A/54/665;
- (f) Report of the Advisory Committee: A/54/659;
- (g) Draft resolution: A/54/L.36;
- (h) Resolution 54/193;
- (i) Meetings of the Fifth Committee: A/C.5/54/SR.44 and 46;
- (j) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.84.

undertaken by the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti; requested the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund for the Mission, and invited Member States to make voluntary contributions; and also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the Mission to the Assembly every four months (resolution 54/193).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/193), A/55/154.

49. The situation in East Timor during its transition to independence

At its fifteenth session, in 1960, the General Assembly decided that the Territories under Portuguese administration were Non-Self-Governing Territories within the meaning of Chapter XI of the Charter and requested the Government of Portugal to transmit to the Secretary-General, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XI, information on the conditions prevailing in the Territories, which included Timor (resolution 1542 (XV)).

Thereafter, the Assembly annually reviewed the question of Territories under Portuguese administration, until its thirtieth session when, under that item, it adopted a separate resolution on the question of Timor (resolution 3485 (XXX)).

At its thirty-first session, the General Assembly considered the question of Timor under the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", and decided to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session an item entitled "Question of East Timor" (resolution 31/53).

At its thirty-second to thirty-sixth sessions, the General Assembly continued its consideration of the item (resolutions 32/34, 33/39, 34/40, 35/27 and 36/50).

At its thirty-seventh session, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General to initiate consultations with all parties directly concerned, with a view to exploring avenues for achieving a comprehensive settlement of the problem; requested the Special Committee to keep the situation in the Territory under active consideration and to render all assistance to the Secretary-General with a view to facilitating the implementation of the resolution (resolution 37/30).

From the thirty-eighth to the fifty-third sessions, the General Assembly maintained the item on its agenda while deciding at each session to defer its consideration to the subsequent session (decisions 38/402, 39/402, 40/402, 41/402, 42/402, 43/402, 44/402, 45/402, 46/402, 47/402, 48/402, 49/402, 50/402, 51/402, 52/402 and 53/402).

At its fifty-third session, the General Assembly had before it a progress report of the Secretary-General (A/53/349), which highlighted the search for a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor. At the same session, in May 1999, the Assembly considered the question of East Timor under the agenda item entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999"; authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the initial requirements of United Nations activities related to East Timor; reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters; and expressed its concern at the tendency of its substantive Committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters (decision 53/472).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁸⁴ the General Assembly had before it a progress report of the Secretary-General, which described the successful conclusion of his good offices on the question of East Timor that had lasted 17 years. The report stated that those efforts had culminated in the conclusion in New York on 5 May 1999 of a set of agreements involving the Governments of Indonesia and Portugal as well as the United Nations, which was presented to the Assembly and the Security Council in a report of 5 May 1999 (A/53/951-S/1999/513). On the basis of those agreements a United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) conducted a popular consultation on 30 August 1999, by which the people of East Timor were asked whether they would accept or reject a special autonomous status proposed by Indonesia. The different phases of the popular consultation were described in the progress report, including the massive turnout at the time of voter registration despite the continuing campaign of violence, and the participation in the ballot of 98.6 per cent of those registered. It stated that 78.5 per cent voted to reject and 21.5 per cent voted to accept the proposed special autonomy with Indonesia. The report further described the deterioration of the security situation following the announcement of the result of the ballot as pro-integration militias conducted organized, coordinated operations, ransacking towns and forcibly displacing hundreds of thousands of East Timorese. It stated that there had been consistent reports, from United Nations staff, credible international observer groups and the media, of the direct involvement of the Indonesian military and police personnel in the campaign. Following the frequent discussions of the Secretary-General with the President of Indonesia, the visit of a Security Council delegation to Indonesia to relay the Council's concerns about the continuing violence, the participation of 52 Member States in an open Security Council debate to address the situation as well as the visit to the region by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the President of Indonesia invited an international peacekeeping force to cooperate with Indonesia in restoring peace and security in East Timor.

On 15 September 1999, the Security Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, authorized the establishment of a multinational force empowered to use all necessary measures to restore peace and security in East Timor. An International Force, East Timor (INTERFET), led by Australia, began to deploy on 20 September. In his progress report, the Secretary-General stated that on 20 October, the Indonesian People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) recognized the result of the popular consultation in East Timor and revoked the law integrating the Territory with Indonesia. Indonesia transferred its authority over East Timor to the United Nations. In accordance with the agreements of 5 May 1999, the Security Council established the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). Sergio Vieira de Mello was appointed the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Transitional Administrator for East Timor and assumed his post on 16 November. The report described the concerted international effort that was being undertaken during East Timor's transition to independence to address the massive

⁸⁴ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 96):

- (a) Progress report of the Secretary-General on the question of East Timor: A/54/654;
- (b) Identical letters dated 31 January 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council and the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights transmitting the report of the International Commission of Inquiry on East Timor: A/54/726-S/2000/59;
- (c) Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): A/54/583;
- (d) Draft resolution: A/54/L.73;
- (e) Resolution 54/194 and decision 54/422;
- (f) Meetings of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): A/C.4/54/SR.4 and 5;
- (g) Plenary meetings: A/54/PV.71 and 84.

humanitarian, human rights and reconstruction problems created by the post-ballot destruction in East Timor.

Also at its fifty-fourth session,⁸⁴ the General Assembly welcomed the successful conduct of the popular consultation of the East Timorese people on 30 August 1999 and took note of its outcome, which began a process of transition to independence under the authority of the United Nations; and decided to conclude its consideration of the item entitled “Question of East Timor” and to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session a new item entitled “The situation in East Timor during its transition to independence” (resolution 54/194).

No advance documentation is expected.

50. Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa¹

This item was included as an additional item in the agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, in 1998, at the request of Namibia (A/53/231).

In April 1998, at the request of the Security Council, the Secretary-General had submitted a report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318).

At its fifty-third session, the General Assembly considered the item (resolution 53/92).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁸⁵ the General Assembly, *inter alia*, requested all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in their respective areas and sectors to work towards the implementation of agreed conclusions 1999/2 adopted by the Economic and Social Council; requested the President of the General Assembly to establish the open-ended ad hoc working group to monitor the implementation of the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report to the General Assembly and the Security Council on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, to prepare for discussions at the fifty-fifth session of the Assembly; requested that the ad hoc working group monitor the implementation of agreed conclusions 1999/2 and of Economic and Social Council decision 1999/270, as well as poverty eradication, debt relief, the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and support to countries in post-conflict situations; requested the President of the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session to establish the ad hoc working group, to serve as its ex officio chairman, to designate two vice-chairpersons and to convene an organizational meeting of the ad hoc working group not later than March 2000 to decide on modalities and develop arrangements for the effective functioning of the ad hoc working group; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution (resolution 54/234).

In response to General Assembly resolutions 53/92 and 54/234, the President of the General Assembly established in March 2000 an Open-ended Working Group of the General

⁸⁵ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 46):

- (a) Reports of the Secretary-General: A/54/133-E/1999/79 and A/54/796-S/1999/1008;
- (b) Draft resolution: A/54/L.75 and Add.1;
- (c) Resolution 54/234;
- (d) Plenary meetings: A/54/PV.74, 75, 87 and 89.

Assembly to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report of 1998 to the Security Council and the General Assembly on Africa. Chaired by the President of the General Assembly with the Permanent Representatives of Singapore and Spain as Co-Vice-Chairmen, the Working Group will submit a report to the Assembly at the fifty-fifth session on its work. The report will contain information on the organizational aspects of the Working Group and focus on the substantive work of the Group, including its findings and recommendations.

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/234).

51. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The item entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)" was included in the agenda of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in 1982, at the request of 20 Member States (A/37/193).

The General Assembly considered the question at its thirty-seventh to forty-fifth sessions (resolutions 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25; and decisions 38/405, 39/404, 40/410, 41/414, 42/410, 43/409, 44/406 and 45/424).

At its forty-sixth to fifty-third sessions, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item and to include it in the provisional agenda of its subsequent session (decisions 46/406, 47/408, 48/408, 49/408, 50/406, 51/407, 52/409 and 53/414).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁸⁶ the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session (decision 54/412).

No advance documentation is expected.

52. Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

The Security Council established the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia by its resolution 827 (1993) of 25 May 1993. Pursuant to that resolution, this item was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, in 1994.

In accordance with article 34 of the statute of the International Tribunal, the President of the Tribunal submits an annual report to the Security Council and the General Assembly.

At its forty-ninth to fifty-third sessions, the General Assembly took note of the first, second, third, fourth and fifth annual reports of the International Tribunal (decisions 49/410, 50/408, 51/409, 52/408 and 53/416).

⁸⁶ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 52):

- (a) Decision 54/412;
- (b) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.46.

At its fifty-fourth session,⁸⁷ the General Assembly took note of the sixth annual report of the International Tribunal, covering the activities of the Tribunal during the period from 28 July 1998 to 31 July 1999 (decision 54/413).

Document: Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the seventh annual report of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

53. Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

The International Tribunal for Rwanda was established on 8 November 1994 by the Security Council in resolution 955 (1994), to which the statute of the Tribunal was annexed. By resolution 977 (1995), the Council decided that the seat of the Tribunal would be Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, and by resolution 989 (1995) it established the list of candidates for the position of judge of the Tribunal, for election by the General Assembly, pursuant to article 12 of the statute of the Tribunal.

At its resumed forty-ninth session in May 1995, the General Assembly elected the six judges of the two Trial Chambers of the International Tribunal for Rwanda (decision 49/324). A third Trial Chamber was established by the Security Council in resolution 1165 (1998).

This item was included in the agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly pursuant to Security Council resolution 955 (1994).

Under article 32 of its statute, the International Tribunal for Rwanda submits an annual report to the General Assembly. At its fifty-first to fifty-third sessions, the Assembly took note of the first, second and third annual reports of the Tribunal (decisions 51/410, 52/412 and 53/413).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁸⁸ the General Assembly took note of the fourth annual report of the International Tribunal, covering the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 (decision 54/414).

Document: Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the fifth annual report of the International Tribunal for Rwanda.

⁸⁷ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 53):

- (a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the sixth annual report of the International Tribunal: A/54/187-S/1999/846;
- (b) Decision 54/413;
- (c) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.48.

⁸⁸ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 51):

- (a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the fourth annual report of the International Tribunal: A/54/315-S/1999/943;
- (b) Decision 54/414;
- (c) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.48.