

32. United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

The item entitled “Dialogue among civilizations” was included as an additional item in the agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, in 1998, at the request of the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/53/233).

At its fifty-third session, the General Assembly, welcoming the collective endeavour of the international community to enhance understanding through constructive dialogue among civilizations on the threshold of the third millennium, decided to proclaim the year 2001 as the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations; invited Governments, the United Nations system, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant international and non-governmental organizations, to plan and implement appropriate cultural, educational and social programmes to promote the concept of dialogue among civilizations; and requested the Secretary-General to present a final report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session (resolution 53/22).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁶⁶ the General Assembly, *inter alia*, welcomed the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint his personal representative for the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations; invited Governments, the United Nations system, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant international and non-governmental organizations, to continue and further intensify planning and organizing appropriate cultural, educational and social programmes to promote the concept of dialogue among civilizations; requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a further substantive report on preparations for the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations; and decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled “United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations” (resolution 54/113).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/113).

33. Culture of peace

The transdisciplinary project entitled “Towards a culture of peace” was conceived within the context of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), and therefore the General Assembly, at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions, examined this question under the item entitled “Human rights questions” (resolutions 50/173 and 51/101).

The item entitled “Towards a culture of peace” was included as a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, in 1997, at the request of Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, El Salvador, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Namibia, Nicaragua, Panama, the Philippines, Senegal and Venezuela (A/52/191). At that session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a consolidated report to it at its fifty-third session containing a draft declaration and programme of action on a culture of peace (resolution 52/13).

⁶⁶ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 34):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General: A/54/546;
- (b) Draft resolution: A/54/L.60 and Add.1;
- (c) Resolution 54/113;
- (d) Plenary meetings: A/54/PV.77 and 78.

At its fifty-third session,⁶⁷ the General Assembly proclaimed the period 2001-2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World; invited the Secretary-General to submit, in consultation with Member States, relevant United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations, a report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session and a draft programme of action to promote the implementation of the Decade at local, national, regional and international levels, and to coordinate the activities of the Decade; invited Member States to take the necessary steps to ensure that the practice of peace and non-violence was taught at all levels in their respective societies; and called upon the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, and invited non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and groups, educational institutions, artists and the media actively to support the Decade for the benefit of every child of the world; and decided to consider, at its fifty-fifth session, the questions of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), under the agenda item entitled "Culture of peace" (resolution 53/25).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 53/25).

Follow-up to the United Nations Year for Tolerance

At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly took note of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance, adopted by UNESCO in 1995; invited Member States to observe the International Day for Tolerance annually on 16 November; requested UNESCO to make reports available to the Assembly on a biennial basis on the implementation of the Declaration and the Plan of Action, and decided to consider the question of the follow-up to the United Nations Year for Tolerance at its fifty-third session (resolution 51/95).

At its fifty-third session,⁶⁷ the General Assembly took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance; welcomed the role played by UNESCO in the implementation of the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance; invited Member States and competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the celebration of the International Day by means of educational activities and public information campaigns aimed at the realization of more tolerant societies; invited Member States to continue their efforts to achieve a wider application of the Declaration; and requested UNESCO to include in its report on a culture of peace, to be submitted to the

⁶⁷ References for the fifty-third session (agenda items 31 and 110 (b)):

- (a) Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting:
 - (i) Consolidated report containing a draft declaration and programme of action on a culture of peace: A/53/370 and Add.1-4;
 - (ii) Report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance: A/53/284;
- (b) Draft resolution: A/53/L.25;
- (c) Report of the Third Committee: A/53/625/Add.2;
- (d) Resolutions 53/25 and 53/151;
- (e) Meetings of the Third Committee: A/C.3/53/SR.33-41, 46-51 and 53;
- (f) Plenary meetings: A/53/PV.55 and 85.

Millennium Assembly, information on the progress made in the implementation of the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance (resolution 53/151).

Document: Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of UNESCO (resolution 53/151).

34. Oceans and the law of the sea

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea entered into force on 16 November 1994, one year after the deposit of the sixtieth instrument of ratification or accession. As at 9 June 2000, 132 States and one entity, the European Union, had deposited their instruments of ratification or accession. The Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention entered into force on 28 July 1996. The Agreement is to be interpreted and applied together with the Convention as a single instrument. Since 1984 the General Assembly has considered developments pertaining to the Convention as well as other developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea under the item entitled "Law of the sea" (resolutions 39/73, 40/63, 41/34, 42/20, 43/18, 44/26, 45/145, 46/78, 47/65, 48/28, 49/28 and 50/23) and under the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea" (resolutions 51/34, 52/26, 53/32, 54/31 and 54/33). Since 1997 the General Assembly has also considered a number of fisheries-related issues under the item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea" (resolutions 51/35, 51/36, 52/28, 52/29, 53/33 and 54/32).

(a) Consideration of elements relating to oceans and seas, including improvement of coordination and cooperation

At its fifty-fourth session,⁶⁸ the General Assembly, *inter alia*, called upon all States that had not done so to become parties to the Convention and the Agreement; called upon States to harmonize as a matter of priority their national legislation with the provisions of the Convention; noted with satisfaction the continued contribution of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with Part XV of the Convention, and underlined its important role and authority concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement; noted the current work of the International Seabed Authority; noted the progress in the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf; requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the institutional capacity of the Organization adequately responded to the needs of States, the newly established institutions under the Convention and other competent international organizations by providing timely advice, information and assistance, taking into account the special needs of developing countries; also requested the Secretary-General to continue to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to him in the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, and to ensure that the performance of such activities was not adversely affected by savings as might be realized under the approved budget for the Organization; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution, including other developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, in connection with his annual comprehensive

⁶⁸ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda items 40 (a) and (c)):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General: A/54/429 and Corr.1;
- (b) Draft resolutions: A/54/L.31 and Add.1 and A/54/L.32 and Add.1;
- (c) Resolutions 54/31 and 54/33;
- (d) Plenary meetings: A/54/PV.60-62.

report on oceans and the law of the sea, and to provide the report in accordance with the modalities set out in resolution 54/33 (resolution 54/31).

At the same session, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, endorsed the recommendations made by the Commission on Sustainable Development through the Economic and Social Council under the sectoral theme of “Oceans and seas” regarding international coordination and cooperation; decided, consistent with the legal framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the goals of chapter 17 of Agenda 21, to establish an open-ended informal consultative process in order to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly of developments in ocean affairs by considering the Secretary-General’s report on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it, with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced; decided that the meetings within the framework of the consultative process would take place for one week each year and that in 2000 they would be held from 30 May to 2 June; highlighted the importance of the participation of developing countries in the consultative process, and encouraged States and international organizations to support efforts in that regard; requested the Secretary-General to provide the consultative process with the necessary facilities for the performance of its work and to arrange for support to be provided by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, in cooperation with other relevant parts of the Secretariat, including the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as appropriate; also requested the Secretary-General, working in cooperation with the heads of relevant organizations of the United Nations, to include in his annual comprehensive report to the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea, suggestions on initiatives that could be undertaken to improve coordination and cooperation and achieve better integration on ocean affairs; further requested the Secretary-General to undertake measures aimed at: ensuring more effective collaboration and coordination between relevant parts of the Secretariat and the United Nations system as a whole on ocean affairs and the law of the sea, and improving the effectiveness of the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and to include information on progress in that regard in his next report on oceans and the law of the sea; noted the importance of coordination and cooperation at the national level in order to promote an integrated approach on ocean affairs so as, *inter alia*, to facilitate the effective participation of States in the consultative process and other international forums; requested the Secretary-General to bring the resolution to the attention of heads of intergovernmental organizations, the specialized agencies and funds and programmes of the United Nations engaged in activities relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, and the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, and underlined the importance of their participation in the consultative process and of their input to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea; and invited Member States, as part of their participation in relevant competent bodies of intergovernmental organizations engaged in activities relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, to encourage their participation in the consultative process and their contribution to the report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/33).

Document: Reports of the Secretary-General (resolutions 54/31 and 54/33), A/55/61.

(b) **Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high seas, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments**

At its fifty-third session,⁶⁹ the General Assembly, *inter alia*, reaffirmed the importance it attached to compliance with its resolutions 46/215, 49/116, 49/118 and 52/29, and urged States and other entities to enforce fully such measures; urged all authorities of members of the international community that had not done so to take greater enforcement responsibility to ensure full implementation of the global moratorium on all large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas, including enclosed seas and semi-enclosed seas, and to impose appropriate sanctions, consistent with their obligations under international law, against acts contrary to the terms of resolution 46/215; called upon States that had not done so to take measures, including measures to deter reflagging to avoid compliance with applicable obligations, to ensure that fishing vessels entitled to fly their flags did not fish in areas under the national jurisdiction of other States unless duly authorized by the authorities of the States concerned and in accordance with the conditions set out in the authorization, and did not fish on the high seas in contravention of the applicable conservation and management rules; urged States, relevant international organizations and regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to take action, including through assistance to developing countries, to reduce by-catches, fish discards and post-harvest losses consistent with international law and relevant international instruments, including the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on further developments relating to the implementation of resolution 52/29, the status and implementation of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas and efforts undertaken in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, taking into account the information provided by States, relevant specialized agencies, in particular FAO, and other appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and arrangements and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (resolution 53/33).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 53/33).

35. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

This item was included in the agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, in 1991, at the request of Cuba (A/46/193).

The General Assembly considered the question at its forty-sixth to fifty-third sessions (decision 46/407 and resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10 and 53/4).

⁶⁹ References for the fifty-third session (agenda item 38 (b)):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General: A/53/473;
- (b) Draft resolution: A/53/L.45 and Add.1;
- (c) Resolution 53/33;
- (d) Plenary meetings: A/53/PV.68 and 69.

At its fifty-fourth session,⁷⁰ the General Assembly reiterated its call on all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the resolution in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, *inter alia*, reaffirmed the freedom of trade and navigation; once again urged States that had and continued to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regime; and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law and to submit it to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session (resolution 54/21).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/21).

36. Bethlehem 2000

In response to a decision taken by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People at its 237th meeting, on 16 April 1998, the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan, Cuba, Malta and Senegal to the United Nations, members of the Bureau of the Committee, addressed a letter to the Secretary-General on 15 May 1998 (A/53/141), requesting the inclusion of an item entitled “Bethlehem 2000” in the provisional agenda of the fifty-third session. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly decided to include the item in the agenda of its fifty-third session. It discussed the item at that session (resolution 53/27).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁷¹ the General Assembly expressed support for the Bethlehem 2000 project and commended the efforts undertaken by the Palestinian Authority in that regard; noted with appreciation the assistance given by the international community in support of the project, and called for the acceleration of assistance and engagement by the international community as a whole, including private sector participation; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize the United Nations system to increase efforts to ensure the success of the Bethlehem 2000 project (resolution 54/22).

No advance documentation is expected.

37. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the special session of the General Assembly in this regard¹

At its forty-seventh session, in 1992, the General Assembly decided to convene a World Summit for Social Development at the level of heads of State or Government (resolution 47/92). The Summit was held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995.

⁷⁰ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 33):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General: A/54/259;
- (b) Draft resolution: A/54/L.11;
- (c) Resolution 54/21;
- (d) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.50.

⁷¹ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 36):

- (a) Draft resolution: A/54/L.20 and Add.1;
- (b) Resolution 54/22;
- (c) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.51.

The item entitled “Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development” was included in the agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly at the request of Denmark (A/50/192). At the same session, the Assembly decided to hold a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and to consider further actions and initiatives (resolution 50/161).

The General Assembly considered the item at its fifty-first to fifty-third sessions (resolutions 51/202, 52/25 and 53/28).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁷² the General Assembly emphasized the urgency of placing the goals of social development, as contained in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, at the centre of economic policy-making, including policies influencing domestic and global market forces and the global economy; also emphasized the need for revitalized economic and social development everywhere within a framework that placed people at the centre of development and aimed to meet human needs rapidly and more effectively by, *inter alia*, enhancing positive interaction between economic and social policies, and stressed the need for strong, sustained political will at the national, regional and international levels to invest in people and their well-being in order to achieve the objectives of social development; took note of the progress of preparatory activities in connection with holding a special session of the Assembly in 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit; recalled General Assembly decision 54/405, by which the special session would be entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the special session (resolution 54/23).

At its thirty-eighth session, in February and March 2000, the Commission for Social Development adopted resolution 38/1 and the agreed conclusions annexed thereto, on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, and decided to transmit them to the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session, at its second session in April 2000.

Also at its fifty-fourth session,⁷² the General Assembly took decisions concerning arrangements for the special session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives (decision 54/404); the title of the special session (decision 54/405); the provisional agenda for the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session (decision 54/406); and arrangements regarding participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session (decision 54/407).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (resolution 54/23).

38. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

⁷² References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 37):

- (a) Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives: Supplement No. 45 (A/54/45 and Corr.1 and Add.1);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General: A/54/220;
- (c) Draft resolution: A/54/L.16 and Add.1;
- (d) Resolution 54/23 and decisions 54/404 to 54/407;
- (e) Plenary meetings: A/54/PV.28, 30, 31 and 51.

This item was included in the agenda of the forty-first session of the General Assembly in 1986, at the request of Brazil (A/41/143 and Corr.1).

The General Assembly considered the question at its forty-second to fifty-third sessions (resolutions 42/16, 43/23, 44/20, 45/36, 46/19, 47/74, 48/23, 49/26, 50/18, 51/19, 52/14 and 53/34).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁷³ the General Assembly, *inter alia*, reaffirmed the importance of the purposes and objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic as a basis for the promotion of cooperation among the countries of the region; called upon all States to cooperate in the promotion of the objectives established in the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from any action inconsistent with those objectives and with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the Organization, in particular actions that might create or aggravate situations of tension and potential conflict in the region; welcomed the progress towards the full entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba); affirmed the importance of the South Atlantic to global maritime and commercial transactions and its determination to preserve the region for all peaceful purposes and activities protected by international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; requested the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to render all appropriate assistance that States members of the zone might seek in their joint efforts to implement the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic; and requested the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of resolution 41/11 and subsequent resolutions on the matter under review and to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, taking into account, *inter alia*, the views expressed by Member States (resolution 54/35).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/35).

39. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

The question of support by the United Nations system for the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies was included in the agenda of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, in 1994, at the request of 38 Member States (A/49/236 and Add.1). The item was considered at the forty-ninth to fifty-third sessions (resolutions 49/30, 50/133, 51/31, 52/18 and 53/31).

⁷³ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 41):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General: A/54/447;
- (b) Draft resolution: A/54/L.35 and Add.1;
- (c) Resolution 54/35;
- (d) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.63.

At its fifty-fourth session,⁷⁴ the General Assembly expressed its appreciation for the activities carried out by the United Nations system, and endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General; took note with satisfaction of the seminars, workshops and conferences on democratization and good governance organized in 1999, as well as those currently being planned, under the auspices of the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies; noted with satisfaction that the Fourth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies would be held at Cotonou, Benin, from 4 to 6 December 2000; stressed the importance of support by Member States, the United Nations system, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations for the holding of the Conference; invited the Secretary-General, Member States, the relevant specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute actively to the follow-up process of the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies on Democracy and Development; and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/36).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/36).

40. The situation in the Middle East¹

Various aspects of the situation in the Middle East have been dealt with by the United Nations, particularly by the General Assembly and the Security Council, since 1947. Following the hostilities of June 1967, the Security Council, in November 1967, set forth principles for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East (resolution 242 (1967)).

The General Assembly considered the item on the situation in the Middle East at its twenty-fifth to twenty-seventh sessions from 1970 to 1972 (resolutions 2628 (XXV), 2799 (XXVI) and 2949 (XXVII)), and at its thirtieth to fifty-third sessions, from 1975 to 1998 (resolutions 3414 (XXX), 31/61, 31/62, 32/20, 33/29, 34/70, 35/207, 36/226 A and B, 37/123 A to F, 38/180 A to E, 39/146 A to C, 40/168 A to C, 41/162 A to C, 42/209 A to D, 43/54 A to C, 44/40 A to C, 45/83 A to C, 46/82 A and B, 47/63 A and B, 48/58, 48/59 A and B, 49/87 A and B, 49/88, 50/21, 50/22 A to C, 51/27, 51/28, 51/29, 52/53, 52/54, 53/37 and 53/38).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁷⁵ the General Assembly determined that the decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem was illegal and therefore null and void; deplored the transfer by some States of their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem in violation of Security Council resolution 478 (1980) and their refusal to comply with the provisions of that resolution; called once more upon those States to abide by the provisions of the relevant United Nations resolutions; and requested the

⁷⁴ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 39):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General: A/54/492;
- (b) Draft resolutions: A/54/L.23 and A/54/L.33 and Add.1;
- (c) Amendments to draft resolution A/54/L.23: A/54/L.46;
- (d) Resolution 54/36;
- (e) Plenary meetings: A/54/PV.64 and 87.

⁷⁵ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 43):

- (a) Reports of the Secretary-General: A/54/457-S/1999/1050 and A/54/495;
- (b) Draft resolutions: A/54/L.40 and Add.1, A/54/L.41 and Add.1;
- (c) Resolutions 54/37 and 54/38;
- (d) Plenary meetings: A/54/PV.66-68.

Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/37).

At the same session, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, declared that Israel had failed so far to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981); declared also that the Israeli decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and had no validity whatsoever, as confirmed by the Security Council in its resolution 497 (1981), and called upon Israel to rescind it; determined once more that the continued occupation of the Syrian Golan and its de facto annexation constituted a stumbling block in the way of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region; called upon Israel to resume the talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and to respect the commitments and undertakings reached during the previous talks; demanded once more that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/38).

Documents: Report of the Secretary-General (resolutions 54/37 and 54/38).

41. Question of Palestine¹

This item, which had been on the agenda of the second and third sessions of the General Assembly, was included in the agenda of the twenty-ninth session, in 1974, at the request of 55 Member States (A/9742 and Corr.1 and Add.1-4). At that session, the Assembly invited the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the representative of the Palestinian people, to participate in its deliberations on the question of Palestine in plenary meetings (resolution 3210 (XXIX)). At the same session, the Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in Palestine, emphasizing that their realization was indispensable for the solution of the question of Palestine (resolution 3236 (XXIX)). The Assembly also invited the PLO to participate, in the capacity of observer, in its sessions and its work and in all international conferences convened under its auspices; and considered that the PLO was similarly entitled with regard to all international conferences convened by other organs of the United Nations (resolution 3237 (XXIX)).

At its thirtieth session, the General Assembly called for the invitation of the PLO to participate on an equal footing with other parties in all efforts, deliberations and conferences on the Middle East that were held under the auspices of the United Nations and to take part in the Geneva Peace Conference on the Middle East as well as in all other efforts for peace (resolution 3375 (XXX)). At the same session, the Assembly established the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; requested the Committee to consider and recommend to the Assembly a programme of implementation, designed to enable the Palestinian people to exercise the rights previously recognized; and requested the Security Council to consider the question of the exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights (resolution 3376 (XXX)).

At its thirty-first and subsequent sessions, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee (resolutions 31/20, 32/40 A, 33/28 A, 34/65 A, 35/169 A, 36/120 A, 37/86 A, 38/58 A, 39/49 A, 40/96 A, 41/43 A, 42/66 A, 43/175 A, 44/41 A, 45/67 A, 46/74 A, 47/64 A, 48/158 A, 49/62 A, 50/84 A, 51/23, 52/49 and 53/39).

At its thirty-second session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish within the Secretariat a Special Unit on Palestinian Rights, which would prepare, under the Committee's guidance, studies and publications relating to the inalienable rights

of the Palestinian people and would organize, in consultation with the Committee, commencing in 1978, the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (resolution 32/40 B). The Assembly later requested that the Special Unit be redesignated as the Division for Palestinian Rights, with an expanded mandate of work.

At its thirty-sixth session, the General Assembly decided to convene, under the auspices of the United Nations, an International Conference on the Question of Palestine, and authorized the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to act as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference (resolution 36/120 C).

The International Conference on the Question of Palestine, held at Geneva from 29 August to 7 September 1983, called, *inter alia*, for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, as well as the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other concerned States, on an equal footing. At its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Conference (resolution 38/58 C).

At its forty-third session, the General Assembly acknowledged the proclamation of the State of Palestine by the Palestine National Council on 15 November 1988; affirmed the need to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their sovereignty over their territory occupied since 1967; and decided that, effective as at 15 December 1988, the designation "Palestine" should be used in place of the designation "Palestine Liberation Organization" in the United Nations system, without prejudice to the observer status and functions of the PLO within the United Nations system, in conformity with relevant United Nations resolutions and practice (resolution 43/177).

Since its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly has welcomed the developments in the peace process, in particular the convening at Madrid, on 30 October 1991, of the Peace Conference on the Middle East (resolution 46/75) and subsequent negotiations, and the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization on 13 September 1993 (resolution 48/158 A), as well as the subsequent implementation agreements; and has reaffirmed a number of principles for the achievement of a final settlement and comprehensive peace (resolution 48/158 D).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁷⁶ the General Assembly considered that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People could continue to make a valuable contribution to international efforts to promote the Middle East peace process and to mobilize international support for and assistance to the Palestinian people during the transitional period; authorized the Committee to continue to promote the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, to make such adjustments in its approved programme of work as it might consider appropriate and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session and thereafter; and requested the Committee to continue to extend its cooperation to Palestinian and other non-governmental organizations (resolution 54/39).

⁷⁶ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 44):

- (a) Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People: Supplement No. 35 (A/54/35);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General: A/54/457-S/1999/1050;
- (c) Draft resolutions: A/54/L.42 and Add.1, A/54/L.43 and Add.1, A/54/L.44 and Add.1 and A/54/L.45 and Add.1;
- (d) Resolutions 54/39 to 54/42;
- (e) Plenary meetings: A/54/PV.65, 66 and 68.

At the same session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat with the necessary resources and to ensure that it continued its programme of work, in consultation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, including the organization of meetings in various regions with the participation of all sectors of the international community, further development of the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine, provision of information materials, provision of assistance in completing the project on the modernization of the records of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, and the annual training programme for staff of the Palestinian Authority and arrangements for the International Day of Solidarity and an annual exhibit (resolution 54/40).

Also at its fifty-fourth session, the General Assembly considered that the special information programme on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information was very useful; and requested the Department, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to continue the programme for the biennium 2000-2001, and to promote the Bethlehem 2000 Project (resolution 54/41).

At the same session, the General Assembly expressed its full support for the ongoing Middle East peace process, and stressed the need for the scrupulous implementation of the agreements reached; called upon the concerned parties, the co-sponsors of the peace process and other interested parties, as well as the entire international community, to exert all the necessary efforts and initiatives to ensure the success of the peace process; stressed the need for: (a) the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination, and (b) the withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967; also stressed the need for resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees in conformity with Assembly resolution 194 (III); urged Member States to expedite the provision of assistance to the Palestinian people; emphasized the importance for the United Nations to play a more active role in the current peace process; and requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts, in consultation with the Security Council, for the promotion of peace in the region and to submit progress reports on developments in that matter (resolution 54/42).

Documents:

- (a) Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Supplement No. 35 (A/55/35);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/42).

42. Special session of the General Assembly in 2001 for follow-up to the World Summit for Children

This item was included in the agenda of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, in 1996, pursuant to Assembly resolution 51/186 of 16 December 1996, adopted under the item entitled "Operational activities for development". At that session, the Assembly continued the consideration of the item (resolution 53/193).

At its fifty-fourth session,⁷⁷ the General Assembly decided to convene the special session of the General Assembly to review the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children at the highest possible level; invited the participation of heads of State and Government in the special session; decided that the special session should be convened in September 2001; also decided that the special session would undertake a renewed commitment and consider future action for children in the next decade; decided to establish an open-ended preparatory committee, also open to States members of the specialized agencies, to address organizational issues; strongly encouraged the full and effective participation of Member States, and invited the heads of State and Government to consider assigning personal representatives to the preparatory committee; requested the preparatory committee to convene one organizational session on 7 and 8 February 2000 and one substantive session from 30 May to 2 June 2000 and to propose to the General Assembly its requirements for further meetings in 2001; requested the Secretary-General, with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund, to assist the preparatory committee in providing substantive input to the preparatory process and at the special session; invited all other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system actively to participate in the preparations for the special session; requested the Secretary-General to ensure an effective and coordinated system-wide response to the preparations for the special session; invited Governments and relevant organizations, in particular UNICEF, as well as regional and subregional organizations, to undertake reviews of progress achieved since the World Summit for Children, and encouraged appropriate national, regional and international preparatory activities; reaffirmed its requests to the Secretary-General to submit to the special session, through the preparatory committee, a review of the implementation and results of the World Declaration and Plan of Action, including appropriate recommendations for further action; decided to invite States members of the specialized agencies that were not Members of the United Nations to participate in the work of the special session in the capacity of observers; stressed the importance of the full participation of the least developed countries in the special session and the preparations for the session, and invited Governments to make appropriate contributions to a trust fund to be established by the Secretary-General for that purpose; requested the Secretary-General to assist national Governments, at their request, in their assessment of and reporting on the implementation of the Plan of Action; also requested the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with UNICEF, to mount a public information programme to raise awareness of children's needs and rights and of the special session, its objectives and significance, and encouraged Governments to do the same on a national basis; and further requested the Secretary-General to submit a report during the main part of the fifty-fifth session on the state of the preparations for the special session (resolution 54/93).

Documents:

- (a) Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly in 2001 for Follow-up to the World Summit for Children on its organizational session: A/55/43 (Part I), and on its first substantive session: A/55/43 (Part II). The final report will be issued as Supplement No. 43 (A/55/43);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/93).

⁷⁷ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 101 (a)):

- (a) Draft resolution: A/54/L.51 and Add.1;
- (b) Resolution 54/93;
- (c) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.72.