

At its fifty-fourth session,¹¹² the General Assembly adopted six resolutions under the item (resolutions 55/55 A to F).

In the first resolution, entitled “Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa”, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to lend their support to the establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa; requested the Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1197 (1998), to provide the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa with the necessary support in making operational the early-warning mechanism and the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa; appealed to Member States and to governmental and non-governmental organizations to make additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/55 A).

In its second resolution, entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa”, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, appealed once again to all States as well as to international governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the programmes of activities of the Regional Centre and facilitate their implementation; requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Regional Centre with all necessary support, within existing resources, for better achievements and results; also requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the establishment of close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the Organization of African Unity, in particular in the area of peace, security and development, and to continue to assist the Director of the Regional Centre in his efforts to stabilize the financial situation of the Centre and revitalize its activities; and further requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/55 B).

In its third resolution, entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific”, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, appealed to Member States, in particular those within the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to strengthen the programme of activities of the Regional Centre and the implementation

¹¹² References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 77):

- (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament: Supplement No. 27 (A/54/27);
- (b) Reports of the Secretary-General:
 - (i) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (A/54/255 and Add.1);
 - (ii) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (A/54/310 and Add.1);
 - (iii) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (A/54/332 and Add.1);
 - (iv) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (A/54/364);
- (c) Note by the Secretary-General on United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament (A/54/324);
- (d) Report of the First Committee: A/54/564;
- (e) Resolutions 54/55 A to F;
- (f) Meetings of the First Committee: A/C.1/54/PV.3-27;
- (g) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.69.

thereof; requested the Secretary-General to provide the Regional Centre with all necessary support, within existing resources, in carrying out its programme of activities; invited the Secretary-General to initiate consultations with the Government of the Kingdom of Nepal as well as with other Member States concerned and interested organizations to assess the possibility of enabling the Centre to operate effectively from Kathmandu; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/55 C).

In its fourth resolution, entitled “Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons”, the General Assembly reiterated its request to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations, in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances; and requested the Conference on Disarmament to report to the Assembly on the results of those negotiations (resolution 54/55 D).

In its fifth resolution, entitled “United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament”, the General Assembly reaffirmed that, in order to achieve positive results, it was useful for the three regional centres to carry out dissemination and educational programmes that promoted regional peace and security; appealed to Member States in each region and those that were able to do so, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to the regional centres in their respective regions to strengthen their programmes of activities and implementation; requested the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities; and also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/55 E).

In its sixth resolution, entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean”, the General Assembly urged all the States of the region to make greater use of the potential of the Centre to meet the current challenges facing the international community; appealed to Member States, in particular those within the Latin American and Caribbean region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to strengthen the programme of activities of the Regional Centre and the implementation thereof; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/55 F).

At its fifty-third session,¹¹³ the General Assembly adopted under the item resolutions 53/78 E and G.

In its resolution 53/78 E, entitled “United Nations Disarmament Information Programme”, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, recommended that the Programme focus its efforts:(a) to inform, to educate and to generate public understanding of the importance of multilateral action and support for it; (b) to facilitate unimpeded access to and an exchange of information on ideas between the public sector and public interest groups and organizations; and (c) to organize meetings to facilitate exchange of views and information between

¹¹³ References for the fifty-third session (agenda item 72 (a) and (b)):

- (a) Reports of the Secretary-General: A/53/161 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and A/53/426;
- (b) Report of the First Committee: A/53/585;
- (c) Resolutions 53/78 E and G;
- (d) Meetings of the First Committee: A/C.1/53/PV.3-12 and 14-31;
- (e) Plenary meeting: A/53/PV.79.

governmental and non-governmental sectors and between governmental and other experts; and invited all Member States to make contributions to the Fund (resolution 53/78 E).

In its resolution 53/78 G, entitled “United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services”, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, reaffirmed its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly and the report of the Secretary-General approved by the Assembly in its resolution 33/71 E; expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Germany and Japan for inviting the 1997 and 1998 fellows to study selected activities in the field of disarmament, thereby contributing to the fulfilment of the overall objectives of the programme; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to implement annually the Geneva-based programme within existing resources (resolution 53/78 G).

Documents:

- (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament, Supplement No. 27 (A/55/27);
- (b) Reports of the Secretary-General (resolutions 53/78 E and G and 54/55 A to F).

76. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

- (a) Report of the Disarmament Commission**
- (b) Report of the Conference on Disarmament**
- (c) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters**
- (d) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research**
- (e) Disarmament Week**

At its tenth special session, in 1978, the General Assembly decided that an item entitled “Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session” should be included in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third and subsequent sessions (resolution S-10/2, para. 115).

At its thirty-third to fifty-third sessions, the General Assembly continued its consideration of the item (resolutions 33/71 A to H, 34/83 A to M, 35/152 A to J, 36/92 A to M, 37/78 A to K, 38/183 A to P, 39/148 A to R, 40/18 and 40/152 A to Q, 41/86 A to R, 42/42 A to N, 43/78 A to M, 44/119 A to H, 45/62 A to G, 46/38 A to D, 47/54 A to G, 48/77 A and B, 49/77 A to D, 50/72 A to C, 51/47 A to C, 52/40 A to C and 53/79 A and B; and decisions 34/422, 39/423, 40/428, 41/421, 44/432 and 47/422).

At its fifty-fourth session,¹¹⁴ the General Assembly adopted two resolutions under the item (resolutions 54/56 A and B).

In the first resolution, entitled “Report of the Disarmament Commission”, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items of its agenda; taking into account the adopted “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”; recommended that the Commission, at its 1999 organizational session, adopt the following items for consideration at its 2000 substantive session: (a) to be considered at the organizational session of the Disarmament Commission in accordance with General Assembly decision 52/492; (b) to be considered at the organizational session of the Disarmament Commission (in accordance with General Assembly decision 52/492); and requested the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2000 and to submit a substantive report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session (resolution 54/56 A).

In the second resolution, entitled “Report of the Conference on Disarmament”, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, welcomed the decision of the Conference on Disarmament on 5 August 1999 to admit five new members, and noted that the Conference recognized the importance of continuing consultations on the question of the expansion of its membership; also welcomed the strong collective interest of the Conference on Disarmament in commencing substantive work as soon as possible during its 2000 session; further welcomed the undertaking by the current President of the Conference on Disarmament to conduct consultations jointly with the incoming President during the inter-sessional period to try to achieve that goal; and encouraged the Conference on Disarmament to continue the ongoing review of its agenda and methods of work (resolution 54/56 B).

Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

At its fifty-fourth session,¹¹⁴ the General Assembly decided to request the Secretary-General to adjust the language in the mandate of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters as set out in paragraph 45 of the report of the Secretary-General (decision 54/418).

Disarmament Week

This sub-item is included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth session pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/72 B of 12 December 1995.

¹¹⁴ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 78):

- (a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament: Supplement No. 27 (A/54/27);
- (b) Report of the Disarmament Commission: Supplement No. 42 (A/54/42);
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/54/218 and Corr.1);
- (d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute and the report of the Board of Trustees of the Institute: A/54/201;
- (e) Report of the First Committee: A/54/565;
- (f) Resolutions 54/56 A and B and decision 54/418;
- (g) Meetings of the First Committee: A/C.1/54/PV.3-27;
- (h) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.69.

Documents:

- (a) Report of the Disarmament Commission, Supplement No. 42 (A/55/42);
- (b) Report of the Conference on Disarmament, Supplement No. 27 (A/55/27);
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General: Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (resolution 38/183 O);
- (d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (resolution 39/148 H).

77. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

This item, previously referred to as “Israeli nuclear armament”, was included in the agenda of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, in 1979, at the request of Iraq (A/34/142). The Assembly considered the question at each session from the thirty-fourth to the fifty-third (resolutions 34/89, 35/157, 36/98, 37/82, 38/69, 39/147, 40/93, 41/93, 42/44, 43/80, 44/121, 45/63, 46/39, 47/55, 48/78, 49/78, 50/73, 51/48, 52/41 and 53/80).

At its fifty-fourth session,¹¹⁵ the General Assembly called upon the only State in the region that was not party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to accede to the Treaty without further delay and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, and to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/57).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/57).

78. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

The General Assembly first considered this question at its twenty-seventh session, in 1972, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament” (resolution 29/32 A (XXVII)). At its twenty-eighth to fifty-third sessions, the Assembly discussed the question under agenda items relating to certain conventions; it welcomed the adoption, on 10 October 1980, of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I), the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) and the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III). The Convention was opened for signature on 10 April 1981 and entered into

¹¹⁵ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 79):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General: A/54/459;
- (b) Report of the First Committee: A/54/566;
- (c) Resolution 54/57;
- (d) Meetings of the First Committee: A/C.1/54/PV.3-27;
- (e) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.69.

force, with the three annexed Protocols, on 2 December 1983 (resolutions 3076 (XXVIII), 3255 A and B (XXIX), 3464 (XXX), 31/64, 32/152, 33/70, 34/82, 35/153, 36/93, 37/79, 38/60, 39/56, 40/84, 41/50, 42/30 and 43/67, decision 44/430, and resolutions 45/64, 46/40, 47/56, 48/79, 49/79, 50/74, 51/49, 52/42 and 53/81).

At its fifty-fourth session,¹¹⁶ the General Assembly, *inter alia*, expressed its satisfaction that the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV) had entered into force on 30 July 1998, commended it to all States with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to that instrument at an early date and called, in particular, upon all States parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects that had not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocol; welcomed the entry into force on 3 December 1998 of the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II), and called, in particular, upon all States parties to the Convention that had not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocol; called upon all States parties that had not yet done so to notify the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and the Protocols thereto, of their consent to be bound by the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV), and by the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II); called upon all States parties to amended Protocol II to address at the Conference, *inter alia*, the issue of holding the second annual conference in 2000; recalled the decision of States parties to the Convention to convene the next review conference no later than 2001, preceded by the preparatory committee; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to inform the General Assembly periodically of ratifications and acceptances of and accessions to the Convention and the Protocols thereto (resolution 54/58).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/58).

79. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

At its thirty-sixth session, in 1981, the General Assembly, in the course of its consideration of the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", considered that further efforts were necessary for the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and cooperation (resolution 36/102).

At its thirty-seventh session, the General Assembly decided to include the present item in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session (resolution 37/118).

At its thirty-eighth to fifty-third sessions, the General Assembly continued its consideration of this question (resolutions 38/189, 39/153, 40/157, 41/89, 42/90, 43/84, 44/125, 45/79, 46/42, 47/58, 48/81, 49/81, 50/75, 51/50, 52/43 and 53/82).

¹¹⁶ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 80):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General: A/54/162;
- (b) Report of the First Committee: A/54/567;
- (c) Resolution 54/58;
- (d) Meetings of the First Committee: A/C.1/54/PV.3-27;
- (e) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.69.

At its fifty-fourth session,¹¹⁷ the General Assembly, *inter alia*, called upon all States of the Mediterranean region that had not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, thus creating the necessary conditions for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region; encouraged all States of the region to favour the necessary conditions for strengthening the confidence-building measures among them by promoting genuine openness and transparency on all military matters, by participating, *inter alia*, in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures and by providing accurate data and information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms; and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (resolution 54/59).

Document: Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/59).

80. Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was opened for signature at Tlatelolco, Mexico, in February 1967, was welcomed by the General Assembly at its twenty-second session (resolution 2286 (XXII)).

The item entitled “Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2286 (XXII) concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)” was included in the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the Assembly, in 1974, at the request of 18 Latin American States (A/9692).

The General Assembly considered the question at its twenty-ninth, thirtieth, thirty-second, tenth special, thirty-third to forty-fifth and forty-seventh to fifty-third sessions (resolutions 3262 (XXIX), 3473 (XXX), 32/76, S-10/2, para. 63 (b), 33/58, 34/71, 35/143, 36/83, 37/71, 38/61, 39/51, 40/79, 41/45, 42/25, 43/62, 44/104, 45/48, 47/61, 48/85, 49/83, 50/77, 51/52, 52/45 and 53/83).

At its fifty-fourth session,¹¹⁸ the General Assembly urged the countries of the region that had not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification of the amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco approved by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in its resolutions 267 (E-V), 268 (XII) and 290 (E-VII) (resolution 54/60).

No advance documentation is expected.

¹¹⁷ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 81):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General: A/54/261;
- (b) Report of the First Committee: A/54/568;
- (c) Resolution 54/59;
- (d) Meetings of the First Committee: A/C.1/54/PV.3-27;
- (e) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.69.

¹¹⁸ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 82):

- (a) Report of the First Committee: A/54/569;
- (b) Resolution 54/60;
- (c) Meetings of the First Committee: A/C.1/54/PV.3-27;
- (d) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.69.

81. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Various aspects of the question of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons have been considered by the General Assembly at different times under several items. At the twenty-first to twenty-third sessions, from 1966 to 1968, the question was considered under the item “General and complete disarmament” (see item 74). An item entitled “Question of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons” was included in the agenda of the Assembly for the first time at its twenty-fourth session.

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction entered into force on 26 March 1975.

The General Assembly considered the question at its twenty-fourth to fifty-third sessions (resolutions 2603 (XXIV), 2662 (XXV), 2826 (XXVI), 2933 (XXVII), 3077 (XXVIII), 3256 (XXIX), 3465 (XXX), 31/65, 32/77, 33/59 B, 34/72, 35/144 A to C, 36/96 A to C, 37/98 A, C and D, 38/187 A to C, 39/65 A to E, 40/92 A to C, 41/58 A to D, 42/37 A to C, 43/74 A to C, 44/115 A to C, 45/57 A to C, 46/35 A to C, 47/39, 48/65, 49/86, 50/79, 51/54, 52/47 and 53/84).

At its fifty-fourth session,¹¹⁹ the General Assembly, *inter alia*, reaffirmed the decision of the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention urging the conclusion of the negotiations by the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint as soon as possible before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference and urging it to submit its report, which should be adopted by consensus, to the States parties to be considered at a special conference; noted with satisfaction the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as might be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, as well as the decisions contained in the final report of the Special Conference, including all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Group and the special conference that was to consider the report of the Ad Hoc Group, in accordance with its mandate, as confirmed by the Fourth Review Conference (resolution 54/61).

No advance documentation is expected.

82. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The question of the cessation of nuclear tests, independently of agreement on other disarmament measures, was discussed by the General Assembly as early as the ninth session, in 1954.

At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested the Committee on Disarmament to take the necessary steps, including the establishment of a working group, to initiate

¹¹⁹ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 83):

- (a) Report of the First Committee: A/54/570;
- (b) Resolution 54/61;
- (c) Meetings of the First Committee: A/C.1/54/PV.3-27;
- (d) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.69.

substantive negotiations on a comprehensive test-ban treaty as a matter of highest priority at the beginning of its 1981 session and to determine the institutional and administrative steps necessary for establishing, testing and operating an international seismic monitoring network and effective verification system (resolution 35/145 B).

The General Assembly continued to consider this question at its thirty-sixth through fiftieth sessions (resolutions 36/85, 37/73, 38/63, 39/53, 40/81, 41/47, 42/27, 43/64, 44/107, 45/51, 46/29, 47/47, 48/70, 49/70, 50/65 and 50/245).

At its resumed fiftieth session, on 10 September 1996, the General Assembly adopted the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, as contained in document A/50/1027. On 24 September 1996, the Secretary-General, as its depositary, opened the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty for signature at United Nations Headquarters.

At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly took note of part VII of the report of the First Committee (decision 51/413).

At its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions, the General Assembly decided to include the item in the provisional agenda of its succeeding session (decisions 52/414 and 53/422).

At its fifty-fourth session,¹²⁰ the General Assembly, *inter alia*, endorsed the Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and, in particular: (a) called upon all States that had not yet signed the Treaty to sign and ratify it as soon as possible and to refrain from acts that would defeat its purpose in the meanwhile; and (b) called upon all States that had signed but not yet ratified the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification was needed for its entry into force, to accelerate their ratification processes with a view to their early successful conclusion; welcomed the contributions by States signatories to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in particular to its efforts to ensure that the Treaty's verification regime would be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty at entry into force, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty; and urged States to maintain their moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions (resolution 54/63).

No advance documentation is expected.

83. Effects of atomic radiation

At its tenth session, in 1955, the General Assembly established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, consisting of 15 Member States, and requested it to assemble, study and disseminate information on observed levels of ionizing radiation and radioactivity in the environment, and on the effects of such radiation upon man and his environment (resolution 913 (X)).

At its twenty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided to increase the membership of the Scientific Committee to a maximum of 20 (resolution 3154 C (XXVIII)) and, at its forty-first session, it decided to increase the membership to a maximum of 21 (resolution 41/62 B). At present, the Committee is composed of the following 21 Member States:

¹²⁰ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 85):

- (a) Report of the First Committee: A/54/572;
- (b) Resolution 54/63;
- (c) Meetings of the First Committee: A/C.1/54/PV.3-27;
- (d) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.69.

Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sudan, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

Substantive scientific reports reviewing in detail the levels, doses, effects and risks of ionizing radiation were submitted by the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly at the following sessions: thirteenth (A/3838), seventeenth (A/5216), nineteenth (A/5814), twenty-first (A/6314 and Corr.1), twenty-fourth (A/7613 and Corr.1), twenty-seventh (A/8725 and Corr.1), thirty-second (A/32/40), thirty-seventh (A/37/45), forty-first (A/41/16), forty-third (A/43/45), forty-eighth (A/48/46) and forty-ninth (A/49/46). Shorter reports on progress of work were also submitted at the intervening sessions.

At its fifty-fourth session,¹²¹ the General Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work on ionizing radiation from all sources; endorsed its plans for future scientific review activities on behalf of the Assembly; including publication of its next comprehensive report in 2000; requested the Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of radiation and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session; requested the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the Committee's work and for the dissemination of its findings; expressed its appreciation for the assistance rendered to the Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, IAEA and non-governmental organizations, and invited them to increase their cooperation; welcomed the readiness of Member States to provide the Committee with relevant information on the effects of atomic radiation in affected areas, and invited the Committee to analyse and give due consideration to such information, particularly in the light of its own findings; and invited Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, to help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the Assembly (resolution 54/66).

Document: Report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, Supplement No. 46 (A/55/46).

84. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The item relating to the peaceful uses of outer space was first included in the agenda of the General Assembly at its thirteenth session, in 1958. At that session, the Assembly established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, composed of 18 members (resolution 1348 (XIII)).

At its fourteenth session, the General Assembly set up a permanent body, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (resolution 1472 A (XIV)), whose original membership of 24 was ultimately expanded to 61 at the forty-ninth session (resolutions 1721 E (XVI), 3182 (XXVIII), 32/196 B, 35/16 and 49/33). The Committee established a Legal

¹²¹ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 86):

- (a) Report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation: Supplement No. 46 (A/54/46);
- (b) Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): A/54/573;
- (c) Resolution 54/66;
- (d) Meetings of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): A/C.4/54/SR.20 and 21;
- (e) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.71.

Subcommittee and a Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. At present, the Committee is composed of the following 61 Member States: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia.¹²²

The Committee has considered the work of its subsidiary bodies and reported each year to the General Assembly. The discussions and recommendations of the Committee have led to the formulation and adoption of several important international legal instruments, including the Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space (resolution 1962 (XVIII)), the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 2222 (XXI)), the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 2345 (XXII)), the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (resolution 2777 (XXVI)), the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 3235 (XXIX)), the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 34/68), the Principles Governing the Use by States of Artificial Earth Satellites for International Direct Television Broadcasting (resolution 37/92), the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space (resolution 41/65), Principles relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (resolution 47/68) and the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries (resolution 51/122).

At its thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions, the General Assembly endorsed the wide-ranging recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held in 1982, and requested the Committee to consider the implementation of those recommendations (resolutions 37/89, 37/90 and 38/80). At its thirty-ninth to fifty-first sessions, the Assembly reiterated that request (resolutions 39/96, 40/162, 41/64, 42/68, 43/56, 44/46, 45/72, 46/45, 47/67, 48/39, 49/34, 50/27, 51/123 and 52/56).

The General Assembly continued its consideration of the item at its fifty-third session (resolution 53/45).

¹²² Malaysia and Peru were also appointed as members of the Committee. They will rotate every two years, as from 1 January 1995, with the Republic of Korea and Cuba, respectively.

At its fifty-fourth session,¹²³ the General Assembly, *inter alia*, noting with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held at Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999 as a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space open to all States Members of the United Nations, welcomed the new approach taken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in composing the agendas of the Legal Subcommittee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee; endorsed the recommendations of the Committee concerning the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session and that of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session; agreed that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole to consider the future work of the Subcommittee in the light of the recommendations of UNISPACE III; agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space at its thirty-seventh session to conduct its work in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session; agreed that the technical report on space debris submitted by the Subcommittee to the Committee should be widely distributed, that the Subcommittee should assess the effectiveness of existing space debris mitigation practices and the extent to which they were being implemented, and that efforts to model and characterize the debris environment should continue; noted with satisfaction that significant progress had been achieved in furthering the goals of the Network of Space Science and Technology Education and Research Institutions for Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and establishing regional centres for space science and technology education in the other regions; endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2000, as proposed by the Expert on Space Applications; urged all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes; requested the Committee to resume its consideration, at its forty-third session, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session; requested the Committee to resume its consideration, at its forty-third session, of the item entitled “Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status”, and also requested the Committee to continue its work, in accordance with the resolution, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities and to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future (resolution 54/67).

At the same session, the General Assembly endorsed the resolution entitled “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development” as reflected in the report of UNISPACE III; urged Governments, organs, organizations and programmes within the United Nations system as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and industries conducting space-related activities to take the necessary action for the effective implementation of the Vienna Declaration; called upon all concerned to

¹²³ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 87):

- (a) Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: Supplement No. 20 (A/54/20);
- (b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) (A/CONF.184/6): A/54/476;
- (c) Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): A/54/574;
- (d) Resolutions 54/67 and 54/68;
- (e) Meetings of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): A/C.4/54/SR.2 and 14-16;
- (f) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.71.

implement the recommendations made by UNISPACE III as reflected in its report; declared 4 to 10 October World Space Week to celebrate each year at the international level the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition; requested the Secretary-General to invite all States to contribute voluntarily to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and, in his letter of invitation, to identify priority project proposals, on the basis of recommendations of the Committee; agreed that the Committee and its secretariat should identify new and innovative funding sources for implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III; requested the Secretary-General to recommend measures to ensure that the Office was provided with adequate resources to implement the actions listed in the resolution, based on the recommendations of UNISPACE III; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (resolution 54/68).

Documents:

- (a) Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: Supplement No. 20 (A/55/20);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) (resolution 54/68).

85. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

At its third session, in 1948, the General Assembly initiated United Nations assistance to Palestine refugees (resolution 212 (III)). At that session, the Assembly established the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, composed of France, Turkey and the United States of America (resolution 194 (III)).

At its fourth session, the General Assembly established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (resolution 302 (IV)). Since May 1950, the Agency, which is supported by voluntary contributions, has been providing education, training, health, relief and other services to Arab refugees from Palestine. In 1967 and 1982, the functions of the Agency were widened to include humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis and as a temporary measure, to other displaced persons in serious need of immediate assistance, as a result of the 1967 and subsequent hostilities (resolutions 2252 (ES-V) and 37/120 B). The Agency's mandate has been extended several times, most recently until 30 June 2002 (resolution 53/46).

By its resolution 302 (IV), the General Assembly established an Advisory Commission to advise and assist the Director (now Commissioner-General) of the Agency in the execution of its programme. At present, the Advisory Commission of UNRWA is composed of the following 10 Member States: Belgium, Egypt, France, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. In the same resolution, the Director (now Commissioner-General) of the Agency was requested to submit to the Assembly an annual report on the work of the Agency and to the Secretary-General such other reports as the Agency might wish to bring to the attention of the United Nations or its appropriate organs.

At its twenty-fifth session, the General Assembly, in view of the Agency's deteriorating financial situation, established the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations

Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to study all aspects of the financing of the Agency (resolution 2656 (XXV)). The Working Group submitted recommendations to the Assembly at its twenty-fifth session and every subsequent session, and the Assembly has annually extended the Working Group's mandate. The Working Group is composed of the following nine Member States: France, Ghana, Japan, Lebanon, Norway, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

At its fifty-fourth session,¹²⁴ the General Assembly adopted seven resolutions under this item (resolutions 54/69 to 54/75).

In the first resolution, entitled "Assistance to Palestine refugees", the General Assembly welcomed the increased cooperation between the Agency and international and regional organizations, States and relevant agencies and non-governmental organizations; urged all Member States to extend and expedite aid and assistance with a view to the economic and social development of the Palestinian people and the occupied territories; reiterated its deep concern regarding the persisting critical financial situation of the Agency; noted with profound concern that the continuing shortfall in the finances of the Agency had a significant negative influence on the living conditions of the Palestinian refugees most in need and that it therefore had possible consequences for the peace process; called upon all donors, as a matter of urgency, to take the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency, including the remaining costs of moving the headquarters to Gaza, encouraged contributing Governments to contribute regularly and to consider increasing their contributions, and urged non-contributing Governments to contribute (resolution 54/69).

In the second resolution, entitled "Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East", the General Assembly requested the Working Group to continue its efforts, in cooperation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General, to find a solution to the financial situation of the Agency; and welcomed the new, unified budget structure for the biennium 2000-2001, which could contribute significantly to improved budgetary transparency of the Agency (resolution 54/70).

In the third resolution, entitled "Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities", the General Assembly endorsed the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the Agency to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis and as a temporary measure, to persons in the area who were

¹²⁴ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 88):

- (a) Report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA: Supplement No. 13 (A/54/13 and Add.1);
- (b) Report of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA: A/54/477;
- (c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine: A/54/338;
- (d) Reports of the Secretary-General:
 - (i) Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues: A/54/345;
 - (ii) Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees: A/54/376;
 - (iii) Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities: A/54/377;
 - (iv) University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees: A/54/385;
- (e) Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): A/54/575;
- (f) Resolutions 54/69 to 54/75;
- (g) Meetings of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): A/C.4/54/SR.17-19;
- (h) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.71.

currently displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities; and requested the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General, to report to the Assembly before its fifty-fifth session on the progress made with regard to the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/71).

In the fourth resolution, entitled “Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees”, the General Assembly urged all States to respond to the appeal in its resolution 32/90 F in a manner commensurate with the needs of Palestine refugees for higher education, including vocational training; invited the relevant specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue, within their respective spheres of competence, to extend assistance for higher education to Palestine refugee students; appealed to all States, specialized agencies and the United Nations University to contribute generously to the Palestinian universities; appealed to all States, specialized agencies and other international bodies to contribute towards the establishment of vocational training centres for Palestine refugees; requested the Agency to act as the recipient and trustee for the special allocations for grants and scholarships and to award them to qualified Palestine refugee candidates; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/72).

In the fifth resolution, entitled “Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East”, the General Assembly called upon Israel to accept the *de jure* applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and to abide by Articles 100, 104 and 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations with regard to the safety of the personnel of the Agency, the protection of its institutions and the safeguarding of the security of the facilities of the Agency in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem; called once again upon Israel to compensate the Agency for damages to its property and facilities resulting from actions by the Israeli side; requested the Commissioner-General of the Agency to proceed with the issuance of identification cards for Palestine refugees and their descendants in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; noted that the new context created by the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by Israel and the PLO and subsequent implementation agreements had had major consequences for the activities of the Agency, which was thenceforth called upon, in close cooperation with the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, the specialized agencies and the World Bank, to continue to contribute towards the development of economic and social stability in the occupied territory; noted also that the functioning of the Agency remained essential in all fields of operation; expressed concern about the remaining austerity measures, which had affected the quality and level of some services of the Agency; reiterated its request to the Commissioner-General to consider the possibility of modernizing the archives of the Agency; and urged all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to continue and to increase their contributions to the Agency so as to ease current financial constraints and to support the Agency in maintaining the provision of the most basic and effective assistance to the Palestine refugees (resolution 54/73).

In the sixth resolution, entitled “Palestine refugees’ properties and their revenues”, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel, expressed its appreciation for the work done to preserve and modernize the existing records of the Commission, and

requested the Secretary-General to complete the task; called once more upon Israel to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the resolution; called upon all the parties concerned to provide the Secretary-General with any pertinent information in their possession concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel that would assist him in the implementation of the resolution; urged the Palestinian and Israeli sides, as agreed between them, to deal with the important issue of Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues in the framework of the final status negotiations of the Middle East peace process; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/74).

In the seventh resolution, entitled "University of Jerusalem 'Al-Quds' for Palestine refugees", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary measures for establishing the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds", in accordance with Assembly resolution 35/13 B; called once more upon Israel, the occupying Power, to cooperate in the implementation of the resolution and to remove the hindrances that it had put in the way of establishing the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds"; 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 54/75).

Documents:

- (a) Report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA: Supplement No. 13 (A/55/13 and Add.1);
- (b) Report of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA (resolution 54/70);
- (c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine (resolutions 512 (VI) and 54/74);
- (d) Reports of the Secretary-General (resolutions 54/71, 54/72, 54/74 and 54/75).

86. Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

At its twenty-third session, in 1968, the General Assembly established the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (resolution 2443 (XXIII)). At present, the Special Committee is composed of the following three Member States: Malaysia, Senegal and Sri Lanka.

At its twenty-fifth session, the General Assembly renewed the mandate of the Special Committee (resolution 2727 (XXV)).

At its twenty-sixth to fifty-third sessions, the General Assembly continued its consideration of the item on the basis of reports of the Special Committee and requested the Committee to continue its work (resolutions 2851 (XXVI), 3005 (XXVII), 3092 A and B (XXVIII), 3240 A to C (XXIX), 3525 A to D (XXX), 31/106 A to D, 32/91 A to C, 33/133 A to C, 34/90 A to C, 35/122 A to F, 36/147 A to G, 37/88 A to G, 38/79 A to H, 39/95 A to H, 40/161 A to G, 41/63 A to G, 42/160 A to G, 43/58 A to G, 44/48 A to G, 45/74 A to G, 46/47 A to G, 47/70 A to G, 48/41 A to D, 49/36 A to D, 50/29 A to D, 51/131 to 51/135, 52/64, 53/53 and 53/55).

At its fifty-fourth session,¹²⁵ the General Assembly adopted five resolutions under this item (resolutions 53/76 to 54/80).

In the first resolution, entitled “Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories”, the General Assembly deplored those Israeli policies and practices which violated the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories; requested the Special Committee to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross and to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arose thereafter; and requested the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with all necessary facilities to investigate the Israeli policies and practices referred to in the resolution, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the tasks entrusted to him (resolution 54/76).

In the second resolution, entitled “Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories”, the General Assembly demanded that Israel accept the *de jure* applicability of the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, and comply scrupulously with the provisions of the Convention; called upon States parties to the Convention to exert all efforts in order to ensure respect for its provisions by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/77).

In the third resolution, entitled “Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan”, the General Assembly called upon Israel to accept the *de jure* applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 49; demanded complete cessation of the construction of the new settlement at Jebel Abu-Ghneim and of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/78).

In the fourth resolution, entitled “Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem”, the General Assembly determined that all measures and actions taken by Israel in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, were illegal and had no validity and that such measures should cease immediately;

¹²⁵ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 89):

- (a) Reports of the Secretary-General: A/54/181, A/54/182, A/54/183, A/54/184 and A/54/185;
- (b) Notes by the Secretary-General: A/54/325 and A/54/73 and Add.1;
- (c) Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): A/54/576;
- (d) Resolutions 54/76 to 54/80;
- (e) Meetings of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): A/C.4/54/SR.8, 9 and 19;
- (f) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.71.

demanded that Israel cease all practices and actions which violated the human rights of the Palestinian people; called upon Israel to accelerate the release of all remaining Palestinians arbitrarily detained or imprisoned, in line with agreements reached; called for complete respect by Israel of all fundamental freedoms of the Palestinian people; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/79).

In the fifth resolution, entitled “The occupied Syrian Golan”, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, called upon Israel to comply with the relevant resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981); also called upon Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and in particular to desist from the establishment of settlements; called upon Israel to desist from imposing its citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to desist from its repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan; called once again upon Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 54/80).

Documents:

- (a) Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the Special Committee (resolution 54/76);
- (b) Reports of the Secretary-General (resolutions 54/76 to 54/80).

87. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects³

At its nineteenth session, in February 1965, the General Assembly established the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which was to undertake a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including ways of overcoming the financial difficulties of the United Nations (resolution 2006 (XIX)). At present, the Special Committee is composed of the following Member States: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The General Assembly considered the question at its twentieth to fifty-fourth sessions (resolutions 2053 (XX), 2220 (XXI), 2308 (XXII), 2451 (XXIII), 2576 (XXIV), 2670 (XXV), 2835 (XXVI), 2965 (XXVII), 3091 (XXVIII), 3239 (XXIX), 3457 (XXX), 31/105,

32/106, 33/114, 34/53, 35/121, 36/37, 37/93, 38/31, 39/97, 40/163, 41/67, 42/161, 43/59 A and B, 44/49, 45/75, 46/48, 47/71, 47/72, 48/42, 48/43, 49/37, 50/30, 51/136, 52/69, 53/58 and 54/81.

At its fifty-fourth session¹²⁶ the General Assembly, *inter alia*, endorsed the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee in its report (A/54/87); urged Member States, the Secretariat and relevant organs of the United Nations to take all necessary steps to implement them; reiterated that Member States that became personnel contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations in future years or participated in the Special Committee for three consecutive years as observers should, upon request in writing, become members at the following session of the Special Committee; and decided to keep the item open during the fifty-fourth session (resolution 54/81 A).

At its fifty-fourth session in May 2000,¹²⁶ the General Assembly decided that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and should review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in that field; and requested the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session (resolution 54/81 B).

Document: Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (resolutions 54/81 A and B).

88. Questions relating to information

At its thirtieth session, in 1975, the General Assembly decided to consider at its thirty-third session an item entitled “United Nations public information policies and activities” (resolution 3535 (XXX)). At its thirty-third session, the Assembly considered the item as a sub-item under “Questions relating to information” and decided to establish a Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities, consisting of 41 Member States (resolution 33/115 C).

At its thirty-fourth session, the General Assembly decided to maintain the Committee and rename it the Committee on Information (resolution 34/182). The Assembly continued to consider the item at its thirty-fifth to fifty-third sessions (resolutions 35/201, 36/149 A and B, 37/94 A and B, 38/82 A and B, 39/98 A and B, 40/164 A and B, 41/68 A to E, 42/162 A and B, 43/60 A and B, 44/50, 45/76 A and B, 46/73 A and B, 47/73 A and B, 48/44 A and B, 49/38 A and B, 50/138 A and B, 51/138 A and B, 52/70 A and B, and 53/59 A and B). In addition, the Assembly took a number of decisions on membership of the Committee on Information during that period (decisions 43/418, 44/418, 45/422, 46/423, 47/424,

¹²⁶ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 90):

- (a) Reports of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations: A/54/87 and A/54/839;
- (b) Reports of the Secretary-General:
 - (i) Enhancement of African peacekeeping capacity: A/54/63-S/1999/171;
 - (ii) Implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations: A/54/670;
- (c) Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): A/54/577 and Add.1;
- (d) Resolutions 54/81 A and B;
- (e) Meetings of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): A/C.4/54/SR.10-13 and 25;
- (f) Plenary meetings: A/54/PV.71 and 97.

47/322, 48/318, 49/416, 50/311, 50/411, 52/318 and 53/418). For the current composition of the Committee, see decision 54/318.

At its fifty-fourth session¹²⁷ the General Assembly urged all countries, organizations of the United Nations system and all others concerned, *inter alia*, to cooperate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows by increasing assistance for the development of communication infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries; to ensure for journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them; and to provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (resolution 54/82 A).

At the same session, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, emphasized that the Department of Public Information should maintain and improve its activities for developing countries and others with special needs, including countries in transition; requested the Secretary-General to focus particularly on educational institutions as key partners of the United Nations efforts to inform the peoples of the world of its aims and activities; noted with appreciation the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen the public information capacity of the Department of Public Information in peacekeeping and other field operations of the United Nations, and requested the Secretariat to continue to ensure the involvement of the Department from the planning stage of such future operations; reaffirmed the importance Member States attached to the role of United Nations information centres, in particular in developing countries and countries in transition; noted with concern that, while the co-location of United Nations information centres with field offices of the United Nations Development Programme had, to some extent, been able to enhance the United Nations image, it had frequently resulted in higher maintenance costs and leadership and staff problems, and that the integration policy had not in all cases functioned efficiently, effectively and in a cost-effective manner; requested the Secretary-General to carry out a case-by-case review and report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-second session; welcomed the requests by Croatia, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Jamaica and Kyrgyzstan for information centres or information components; recognized the continuing enhanced cooperation between the Department of Public Information and the University for Peace in Costa Rica as a focal point for promoting United Nations activities and disseminating United Nations information materials, and requested the Secretary-General to report on those activities; fully supported wide, accurate, equal and prompt coverage of United Nations activities through the continuation and improvement of United Nations press releases, stressed the importance of having those press releases issued in all United Nations official languages, and requested other relevant bodies of the General Assembly to give due consideration to this matter; stressed that radio was one of the most cost-effective and far-reaching media available to the Department of Public Information and an important instrument in United Nations activities, such as development and peacekeeping; underlined the continuing importance of traditional and mass media to disseminate information on the United Nations, and encouraged the Secretary-General, through the Department of Public Information, to continue to take full advantage of recent developments in

¹²⁷ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 91):

- (a) Report of the Committee on Information: Supplement No. 21 (A/54/21 and Add.1);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General: A/54/415;
- (c) Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): A/54/578;
- (d) Resolutions 54/82 A and B and decisions 54/318 and 54/420;
- (e) Meetings of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): A/C.4/54/SR.22-24;
- (f) Plenary meeting: A/54/PV.71.

information technologies in order to improve, in a cost-effective manner, the dissemination of information on the United Nations; requested the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-second session and to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the resolution; and requested the Committee on Information to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session (resolution 54/82 B).

At its fifty-fourth session,¹²⁷ the General Assembly decided to increase the membership of the Committee on Information from 93 to 95 members (decision 54/420) and to appoint Liberia and Mozambique as members of the Committee (decision 54/318).

Documents:

- (a) Report of the Committee on Information, Supplement No. 21 (A/55/21);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/82 B).

89. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

Under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, Member States administering Non-Self-Governing Territories are required to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General statistical and other information relating to conditions in the Territories for which they are responsible. The information is examined by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which, under the terms of General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), is requested to take that information fully into account in considering the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned.

At its fifty-fourth session,¹²⁸ the General Assembly reaffirmed that, in the absence of a decision by the Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory had attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory; requested the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information was drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned; and requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session (resolution 54/83).

Documents:

- (a) Report of the Special Committee, Supplement No. 23 (A/55/23);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 54/83), A/55/77 and Add.1.

¹²⁸ References for the fifty-fourth session (agenda item 92):

- (a) Report of the Special Committee: Supplement No. 23 (A/54/23 (Part II), chap. VIII, and A/54/23 (Part III), chap. XIII);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General: A/54/343;
- (c) Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): A/54/579;
- (d) Resolution 54/83;
- (e) Meetings of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee): A/C.4/54/SR.3-7;
- (f) Plenary meeting: A/53/PV.71.