

36. Signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (The Treaty of Pelindaba)

Initial proceedings

Decision of 12 April 1996 (3651st meeting): statement by the President

At its 3651st meeting, held on 12 April 1996 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Security Council included the item "Signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (The Treaty of Pelindaba)" in its agenda. The President (Chile) then drew the attention of the Council to a letter dated 12 April 1996 from the representative of Egypt addressed to the Secretary-General,¹ which transmitted the text of the Cairo Declaration, adopted on the occasion of the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (The Treaty of Pelindaba) by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and heads of delegation attending the ceremony held in Cairo, Egypt, on 11 April 1996, on the occasion of the signing of the Treaty.

At the same meeting the President made the following statement on behalf of the Council:²

The Security Council notes with deep satisfaction the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (The Treaty of Pelindaba) on 11 April 1996 in Cairo and notes further the adoption of the Cairo Declaration on that occasion.

This historic event marks a successful formalization of the commitment undertaken thirty-two years ago when the leaders of Africa adopted in July 1964 in Cairo the pioneering resolution of the first ordinary session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, which declared Africa a denuclearized zone.

The Council considers that the signing of the Treaty by more than forty African countries, as well as the signing of the relevant protocols to the Treaty by the majority of the nuclear-weapon States, constitute important steps towards the effective and early implementation of the Treaty. To that end it emphasizes the importance of early ratification of the Treaty with a view to securing its rapid entry into force.

The Council, reaffirming the statement made by its President on behalf of members of the Council at the meeting held at the level of heads of State and Government on 31 January 1992 that the proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction constitutes a threat to international peace and security, considers that the signature of the Treaty of Pelindaba constitutes an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Council seizes this occasion to encourage such regional efforts, and stands ready to support efforts on the international and regional level aimed at achieving the universality of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

¹ S/1996/276.

² S/PRST/1996/17.

37. Protection for humanitarian assistance to refugees and others in conflict situations

Initial proceedings

Deliberations of 21 May 1997 (3778th meeting)

At its 3778th meeting, held on 21 May 1997 in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations, the Security Council included the item entitled "Protection for humanitarian assistance to refugees and others in conflict situations" in its agenda. Following the adoption of the agenda, the President (Republic of Korea), with the consent of the Council,

invited the representatives of Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Cuba, Germany, India, Iraq, Italy, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Slovenia, Ukraine and Zimbabwe, at their request, to participate in the discussion without the right to vote. The Council also invited the Director of the Liaison Office of the United Nations High