

Chapter VIII

Other political and security questions

The United Nations continued in 2002 to consider political and security questions relating to the Organization's efforts to support democratization worldwide, the promotion of decolonization, public information activities and the peaceful uses of outer space.

The General Assembly, in March, welcomed Mongolia's invitation to hold the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in Ulaanbaatar in June 2003, and, in November, welcomed the July Declaration of the Presidents of South American States that their region was a zone of peace and cooperation.

The Assembly requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the 1960 Declaration and to carry out actions approved by the Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (1990-2000) and the Second International Decade (2001-2010). In August, a United Nations mission visited Tokelau and Wellington, New Zealand.

In May, East Timor (renamed Timor-Leste) attained its independence; it was admitted to United Nations membership in September.

The Committee on Information discussed, as its main topic, the comprehensive review of management and operations of the Department of Public Information (DPI), which began in January and focused on areas of DPI's work that were in need of improvement. One recommendation, which was included in the Secretary-General's September report to the General Assembly on further strengthening the United Nations, was for the creation of regional hubs to rationalize the network of United Nations information centres, beginning with a Western European hub. In January, the Joint United Nations Information Committee was replaced by a new, informal and flexible mechanism called the United Nations Communications Group.

With regard to the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, the Assembly, in November, encouraged UN bodies to contribute to promoting the application of science and technology for peaceful purposes. In another November reso-

lution, on developments in information and telecommunications, the Assembly called on Member States to promote the consideration of threats in the field of information security.

Action teams established in 2001 to implement the recommendations of the Third (1999) United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space reported on progress in their work.

Due to a budget shortfall, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation postponed its fifty-first (2002) session until January 2003. In December, the Assembly requested the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to provide support for effective conduct of the Committee's work and to review and strengthen the financing of the Committee.

General aspects of international security

Support for democracies

Fifth International Conference (2003)

In follow-up to resolution 56/96 [YUN 2001, p. 526], in which the General Assembly welcomed Mongolia's decision to host the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in 2003, the Assembly, in March, welcomed Mongolia's proposal to hold the Conference from 18 to 20 June 2003 in Ulaanbaatar (see below).

Four earlier conferences on the subject had been held, in 1988, 1994 [YUN 1994, p. 250], 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 530] and 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 544].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 27 March [meeting 97], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 56/269** [draft: A/56/L.75 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 35].

Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, to be held in Ulaanbaatar in 2003

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the indissoluble links between the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights and the foundations of any democratic society,

Recognizing that the United Nations has an important role to play in providing timely, appropriate and coherent support to the efforts of Governments to achieve democratization within the context of their development efforts,

Recalling its resolution 56/96 of 14 December 2001, in which it welcomed the decision of the Government of Mongolia to host the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in 2003,

Expressing once again its deep appreciation for the support provided by Member States, the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, and other intergovernmental organizations to the Government of Benin for the holding of the Fourth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in Cotonou,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Government of Mongolia to hold the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies from 18 to 20 June 2003 in Ulaanbaatar;

2. *Invites* 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 support and collaborate in the holding of the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies;

3. *Encourages* the intergovernmental follow-up mechanism to the Cotonou Conference to cooperate actively in the preparatory process for the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies.

Regional aspects of international peace and security

Antarctica

In response to General Assembly resolution 54/45 [YUN 1999, p. 521], the Secretary-General submitted an August report, prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), on the activities of the Antarctic Treaty system and international bodies and recent developments pertaining to the Antarctic environment [A/57/346]. The information was drawn from the reports of the Twelfth Special Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) (The Hague, Netherlands, 11-15 September 2000) and the Twenty-fourth ATCM (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 9-20 July 2001), and from information made available to UNEP by the parties to the Antarctic Treaty, which was adopted in 1959 and entered into force on 23 June 1961 [UN Treaty Series, vol. 402, No. 5578].

Since the Twenty-third ATCM in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 520], Consultative Parties had carried out inspections in all areas of Antarctica to ensure observance of the Treaty's provisions and found full

compliance. Inspections also checked the implementation of the 1991 Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (Madrid Protocol). Although a high degree of awareness and understanding of the Protocol was noted in most stations, areas for improvement were identified, including fuel storage containment; material for fuel and chemical spill response; sewage treatment systems; presence of non-indigenous species; use of ozone-friendly alternatives to halon; environmental impact assessment; and reporting of emergency situations. As at July 2001, there were 29 States parties to the Madrid Protocol. Since the Protocol's entry into force in 1998, the Committee for Environmental Protection, established to advise and formulate recommendations on the Protocol's implementation, had met once each year in conjunction with consultative meetings. At the Twenty-fourth ATCM, a consensus was reached on the location of the Treaty secretariat in Buenos Aires, Argentina; modalities for the secretariat's establishment were further discussed at the Twenty-fifth Meeting (Warsaw, Poland, 10-12 September).

Fishing, sealing and whaling were regulated by the 1980 Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. In order to clarify decisions and management procedures associated with fishery development, a simplified framework was introduced, including a fishery plan, which provided a summary of information for fisheries and associated regulatory requirements.

Developments pertaining to the Antarctic environment took place in science and support activities; environmental monitoring and the preliminary state of the Antarctic environment report; environmental impact assessment procedures; safety of operations, emergency response and contingency planning; waste disposal and management; prevention of marine pollution; ozone depletion; conservation of Antarctic fauna and flora; area protection and management; sea ice and ice sheets; the question of liability arising from activities covered by the Madrid Protocol; Antarctic tourism and other non-governmental operations; and the exchange of information between the Antarctic Treaty system and the Arctic Council.

The Secretary-General stated that the Committee for Environmental Protection had become a dynamic forum to discuss and address environmental issues related to human activities in Antarctica. The establishment of an Antarctic Treaty secretariat would provide the Treaty with a central repository of information, particularly with regard to its meetings and activities. However, some issues of concern and challenges

needed to be addressed: no agreement had been reached on one or more annexes to the Madrid Protocol concerning liability for environmental damage; further enforcement and cooperation were required from all States to halt illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing for toothfish in the Southern Ocean; efforts to prevent and mitigate the environmental impact of the growing tourism industry in the region should continue; and global changes, particularly climate change and the depletion of the ozone layer, remained major threats to the integrity of the Antarctic environment.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 November [meeting 57], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First (Disarmament and International Security) Committee [A/57/503], adopted **resolution 57/51** without vote [agenda item 59].

Question of Antarctica

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/45 of 1 December 1999, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit a report consisting of the information provided by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties on their consultative meetings and on their activities in Antarctica, and on developments in relation to Antarctica,

Taking into account the debates on the question of Antarctica held since its thirty-eighth session,

Conscious of the particular significance of Antarctica to the international community, including for international peace and security, the global and regional environment, its effects on global and regional climate conditions, and scientific research,

Reaffirming that the management and use of Antarctica should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for the benefit of mankind as a whole,

Recognizing that the Antarctic Treaty, which provides, inter alia, for the demilitarization of the continent, the prohibition of nuclear explosions and the disposal of nuclear wastes, the freedom of scientific research and the free exchange of scientific information, is in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Noting with satisfaction the entry into force of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty on 14 January 1998, under which Antarctica has been designated as a natural reserve, devoted to peace and science, and the provisions contained in the Protocol regarding the protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems, including the need for environmental impact assessment in the planning and conduct of all relevant activities in Antarctica,

Welcoming the continuing cooperation among countries undertaking scientific research activities in Antarctica, which may help to minimize human impact on the Antarctic environment,

Welcoming also the increasing awareness of and interest in Antarctica shown by the international community, and convinced of the advantages to the whole of mankind of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

Reaffirming its conviction that, in the interest of all mankind, Antarctica should continue for ever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it should not become the scene or object of international discord,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of Antarctica and the role accorded by the Secretary-General to the United Nations Environment Programme in preparing his report, and also of the Twelfth Special Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, held in The Hague from 11 to 15 September 2000, the Twenty-fourth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 9 to 20 July 2001, and the Twenty-fifth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, held in Warsaw from 10 to 20 September 2002;

2. *Recalls* the statement under chapter 17 of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, that States carrying out research activities in Antarctica should, as provided for in article III of the Antarctic Treaty, continue:

(a) To ensure that data and information resulting from such research are freely available to the international community;

(b) To enhance the access of the international scientific community and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to such data and information, including the encouragement of periodic seminars and symposia;

3. *Welcomes* the invitations to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to attend Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings in order to assist such meetings in their substantive work, and urges the parties to continue to do so for future consultative meetings;

4. *Welcomes also* the practice whereby the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties regularly provide the Secretary-General with information on their consultative meetings and on their activities in Antarctica, and encourages the parties to continue to provide the Secretary-General and interested States with information on developments in relation to Antarctica, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report which shall consist of that information to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

South America

On 27 July (Guayaquil, Ecuador), the Presidents of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela and representatives of the heads of State of Guyana, Suriname and Uruguay declared South America a zone of peace and cooperation. In the Declaration, which was transmitted to the President of the Conference on Disarmament on

16 August [CD/1684], the Presidents recalled the commitment made in the Brasilia Communiqué, adopted at the first meeting of the Presidents of South American countries on 1 September 2000 [A/55/375], to establish a South American zone of peace.

By a 1 October letter [A/C.1/57/4], Colombia transmitted to the Secretary-General the text of the Andean Charter for Peace and Security, signed on 17 June at the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and of Defence of the Andean Community (Lima, Peru).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 November [meeting 50], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 57/13** [draft: A/57/L.7] without vote [agenda item 167].

South American zone of peace and cooperation

The General Assembly,

Convinced that peace, security and cooperation should be grounded in commitments that reinforce mutual trust and promote development and the overall well-being of peoples to the benefit of all humanity and, in particular, the peoples of South America,

Bearing in mind the initiatives of various Governments and regional groups in South America, such as the Andean Agreement on Peace, Security and Cooperation, contained in the Galapagos Declaration of 18 December 1989; the Declaration of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile as a Zone of Peace, signed in Ushuaia, Argentina, in July 1999; and the Lima Commitment and Andean Charter for Peace and Security, signed on 17 June 2002,

Recalling the commitment undertaken in the Brasilia Communiqué issued on 1 September 2000 to create a South American zone of peace,

Recognizing that the bases and actions for a project on the creation of a South American zone of peace and cooperation, formulated at the first meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Andean Community, MERCOSUR and Chile, held in La Paz on 17 July 2001, constitute an appropriate set of guidelines for building the zone of peace and cooperation on firm foundations, supported by the consensus of the whole region and based, among various other measures, on the fostering of trust, cooperation and ongoing consultation in the areas of security and defence, coordinated action in the relevant international forums, and transparency and a gradual limitation of arms purchases under the system established in the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and other arrangements established in the regional and international conventions related to this important topic,

Also recognizing the firm intent of the States of South America to adopt measures contributing to an effective and gradual limitation of defence expenditures in the region with the aim of having more resources available for the economic and social development of their peoples, in particular in order to devote the resources released from military budgets to combating poverty by moving forward with health and education pro-

grammes and other social benefits for inhabitants, taking into account each country's security needs and current levels of expenditure,

Recalling the principles and norms of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of American States, especially those related to international peace and security,

Also recalling the important contribution of the United Nations in the sphere of international peace and security and, in that regard, the valuable input of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean with headquarters in Lima,

Convinced that the establishment of a zone of peace and cooperation in South America will help to strengthen international peace and security and promote the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

1. *Welcomes* the Declaration of the Presidents of South America, adopted at their second meeting, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on 27 July 2002, in which they declared South America a zone of peace and cooperation;

2. *Commends* the decision of the States of South America to ban the use or threat of use of force among themselves, in keeping with the principles and relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of American States;

3. *Also commends* the decision of the States of South America to ban the siting, development, manufacture, possession, deployment, testing and use of any type of weapon of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical, biological and toxic weapons, and their transport through the countries of the South American region, in accordance with the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and other international conventions on the matter;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the commitment of the States of South America to establishing a gradual system that will lead, in the shortest time possible, to the complete eradication of anti-personnel mines in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and to implementing the recommendations of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;

5. *Welcomes* the desire of the States of South America to promote transparency and a gradual limitation of arms purchases under the system established in the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and other arrangements established in the regional and international conventions related to this important topic;

6. *Urges* all States of the other regions, particularly weapons-producing States, to cooperate decisively in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons throughout the region of South America;

7. *Calls upon* the States of the other regions to contribute to and cooperate with the objectives set forth in the Declaration regarding a South American zone of peace and cooperation.

Decolonization

The General Assembly's Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Special Committee on decolonization) held its annual session in New York in two parts—12 February and 28 March (first part), and 3, 6, 10, 17, 19, 24 and 26 June and 26 September (second part). It considered various aspects of the implementation of the 1960 Declaration, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 1514(XV) [YUN 1960, p. 49], including general decolonization issues and the situation of individual Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs). In accordance with Assembly resolution 56/74 [YUN 2001, p. 530], the Special Committee transmitted to the Assembly the report on its 2002 activities [A/57/23].

Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Pacific regional seminar

As part of its efforts to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2001-2010) [YUN 2001, p. 530], declared by the General Assembly in resolution 55/146 [YUN 2000, p. 548], the Special Committee on decolonization [A/57/23] organized a Pacific regional seminar (Nadi, Fiji, 14-16 May) to assess the situation in the Pacific NSGTs.

Participants welcomed East Timor's accession to independence on 20 May 2002 (see p. 569) and expressed the hope that the event would further strengthen the resolve of the international community to ensure the implementation of the 1960 Declaration in the remaining NSGTs. The seminar reaffirmed that the Second International Decade was an important political framework for the continued support of decolonization and the UN role in the process; called for the full implementation of the plan of action for the Decade; and recommended that the Special Committee, administering Powers and NSGTs expedite the Decade's goals as contained in resolution 55/146.

In addition to restating recommendations made at the 2000 Pacific regional seminar [YUN 2000, p. 548], the seminar recommended that the Special Committee, in conjunction with the Department of Public Information (DPI) and other relevant UN bodies, develop a programme to disseminate information and raise public awareness in NSGTs regarding the legitimate political status options available to them in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions, including the 1960 Dec-

laration. DPI should use all means of communication to promote the cause of decolonization. The Special Committee should continue to strengthen existing measures of support, formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining NSGTs and seek concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions by the specialized agencies, as detailed in Assembly resolution 56/67 [YUN 2001, p. 534]. Participants urged the Special Committee to solicit the assistance of the Economic and Social Council regarding the implementation of Council resolution 2001/28 [YUN 2001, p. 532] on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and UN institutions.

Participants welcomed as an observer at the seminar the representative of the United Kingdom and the statement regarding the United Kingdom's intention to continue to engage with the Special Committee with a view to enhancing cooperation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 57/140** [draft: A/57/L.52 & Add.1] by recorded vote (139-3-19) [agenda item 19].

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, most recently resolution 56/74 of 10 December 2001, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind the declaration of the period 2001-2010 as the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the need to examine ways to ascertain the wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the basis of resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization,

Recognizing that the eradication of colonialism has been one of the priorities of the Organization and continues to be one of its priorities for the decade that began in 2001,

Reconfirming the need to take measures to eliminate colonialism before 2010, as called for in its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000,

Reiterating its conviction of the need for the eradication of colonialism, as well as of racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

Noting with satisfaction the achievements of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Stressing the importance of the participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee,

Noting with concern that the non-participation of certain administering Powers has adversely affected the implementation of the mandate and work of the Special Committee,

Noting with satisfaction the cooperation and active participation of some administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee,

Noting that the other administering Powers have now agreed to work informally with the Special Committee,

Taking note of the consultations and agreements between the parties concerned in some Non-Self-Governing Territories and the action taken by the Secretary-General in relation to certain Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Aware of the pressing need of newly independent and emerging States for assistance from the United Nations and its system of organizations in the economic, social and other fields,

Aware also of the pressing need of many of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, many of which are small island Territories, for economic, social and other assistance from the United Nations and the organizations of its system,

Taking special note of the fact that the Special Committee held a Pacific regional seminar to review the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly their political evolution towards self-determination for the year 2002 and beyond, in Nadi, Fiji, from 14 to 16 May 2002,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1514(XV) and all other resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including its resolution 55/146, in which it declares the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon the administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all necessary steps to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned to exercise fully as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence;

2. *Reaffirms once again* that the existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. *Affirms once again its support* for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

5. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 2002, including the programme of work envisaged for 2003;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee to finalize before the end of 2003 a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

7. *Welcomes* the ongoing consultations between the Special Committee and New Zealand, as administering Power for Tokelau, with the participation of representatives of the people of Tokelau, with a view to advancing the programme of work on the question of Tokelau, and also welcomes the report of the United Nations Mission that visited Tokelau in August 2002 at the invitation of New Zealand and Tokelau;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Second International Decade in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To finalize before the end of 2003 a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

9. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of compe-

tence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that the economic activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the peoples but instead promote development, and to assist them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

11. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources, including land, and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

12. *Reiterates* that military activities and arrangements by administering Powers in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration should not run counter to the rights and interests of the peoples of the Territories concerned, especially their right to self-determination, including independence, calls upon the administering Powers concerned to terminate such activities and to eliminate the remaining military bases in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and also calls upon the administering Powers to promote alternative sources of livelihood for the peoples of the Territories concerned;

13. *Urges* all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests that the administering Powers take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economies of those Territories;

14. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions to the Territories;

15. *Calls upon* the administering Powers that have not participated formally in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its session in 2003;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the facilities and services required for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as of the other resolutions and decisions on decolonization adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 57/140:

In favour: Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Micronesia, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey.

Speaking after the vote, the United Kingdom said that it continued to find some elements of the text unacceptable, including, but not limited to, operative paragraph 12, which called on the administering Powers to eliminate the remaining military bases in NSGTs. However, it remained sincerely committed to furthering the process of informal dialogue with the Special Committee on decolonization.

On 20 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples would remain for consideration at the resumed fifty-seventh (2003) session (**decision 57/585**).

Implementation by international organizations

In a May report [A/57/73], the Secretary-General stated that he had brought General Assembly resolution 56/67 [YUN 2001, p. 534] to the attention of the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations and invited them to submit information regarding their implementation of activities in support of NSGTs. Replies received from eight agencies or institutions were summarized in a May report of the Economic and Social Council President on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on decolonization [E/2002/61]. According to the information provided, a number of specialized agencies and organizations continued to extend programmes of assistance to NSGTs from within their own budgetary resources, in addition to their respective contributions as executing agencies of projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). UNDP itself continued to

fund assistance projects in close collaboration with other agencies and organizations.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 July [meeting 40], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2002/30** [draft: E/2002/L.15] by recorded vote (33-0-21) [agenda item 9].

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Having heard the statement by the representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541(XV) of 15 December 1960, the resolutions of the Special Committee and other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/28 of 26 July 2001,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, now transformed into the African Union, the South Pacific Forum, now known as the Pacific Islands Forum, and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration,

Welcoming the current participation in their capacity as observer of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of the regional commissions in United Nations world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, and in the twenty-seventh special session of the Assembly on children, held in New York from 8 to 10 May 2002,

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for

and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all the appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various relevant United Nations decisions,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/67 of 10 December 2001, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514(XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. *Requests* the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

9. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

10. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review, at the regular meetings of their governing bodies, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

11. *Welcomes* the continuing initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

12. *Encourages* Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

13. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, on specific Territories, so

that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

14. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

15. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee to the present resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the substantive session of 2002 of the Economic and Social Council;

16. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of resolution 574(XXVII) of 16 May 1998 calling for the necessary mechanisms for its associate members, including small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly, subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories originally participated in the capacity of observer, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies;

17. *Requests* the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the Chairman of the Special Committee, and to report thereon to the Council;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the present resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 2003;

19. *Decides* to keep these questions under continuous review.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2002/30:

In favour: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Iran, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Andorra, Austria, Cameroon, Croatia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Malta, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee [A/57/526], adopted **resolution 57/133** by recorded vote (111-0-51) [agenda items 82 & 12].

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having also considered the report of the Secretary-General on the item,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,

Recalling its resolutions 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541(XV) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/28 of 26 July 2001,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution 1514(XV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Also welcoming the current participation in the capacity of observers of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued co-

operation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/67 of 10 December 2001 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514(XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;
3. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;
4. *Reaffirms also* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;
5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;
6. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;
7. *Urges* those specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;

8. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and drought, on those Territories;

(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) The illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

10. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

11. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. *Welcomes* the continuing initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. *Encourages* Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

14. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on specific Territories, so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

15. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

17. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this question, and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

18. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the necessary measures to implement the resolution, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 57/133:

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Yugoslavia.

Military activities and arrangements in colonial countries

The Special Committee on decolonization considered military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration. It had before it Secretariat working papers containing information on, among

other subjects, military activities and arrangements in Bermuda [A/AC.109/2002/15], Guam [A/AC.109/2002/8] and the United States Virgin Islands [A/AC.109/2002/4]. On 26 June, it recommended a draft decision for adoption by the General Assembly (see below).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

In December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/57/525], adopted **decision 57/525** by recorded vote (106-53-1) [agenda items 81 & 19].

Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration

At its 73rd plenary meeting, on 11 December 2002, the General Assembly, by a recorded vote of 106 to 53, with 1 abstention, and on the recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), adopted the following text:

“1. The General Assembly, having considered the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to an item on the agenda of the Special Committee entitled ‘Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration’, and recalling its resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960 and all other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to military activities in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, reaffirms its strong conviction that military bases and installations in the Territories concerned could constitute an obstacle to the exercise by the people of those Territories of their right to self-determination, and reiterates its strong views that existing bases and installations, which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, should be withdrawn.

“2. Aware of the presence of such bases and installations in some of those Territories, the General Assembly urges the administering Powers concerned to continue to take all necessary measures not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States.

“3. The General Assembly reiterates its concern that military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration might run counter to the rights and interests of the colonial peoples concerned, especially their right to self-determination and independence. The Assembly once again calls upon the administering Powers concerned to terminate such activities and to eliminate such military bases in compliance with its relevant resolutions. Alternative sources of livelihood for the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be provided.

“4. The General Assembly reiterates that the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories and areas adjacent thereto should not be used for nuclear testing, dumping of nuclear wastes or deployment of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

“5. The General Assembly deplores the continued alienation of land in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in the small island Territories of the Pacific and Caribbean regions, for military installations. The large-scale utilization of the local resources for this purpose could adversely affect the economic development of the Territories concerned.

“6. The General Assembly takes note of the decision of some of the administering Powers to close or downsize some of those military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

“7. The General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to continue to inform world public opinion of those military activities and arrangements in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories which constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

“8. The General Assembly requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.”

RECORDED VOTE ON DECISION 57/525:

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Yugoslavia.

Abstaining: Tonga.

Economic and other activities affecting the interests of NSGTS

The Special Committee on decolonization continued consideration of economic and other activities affecting the interests of the peoples of NSGTS. It had before it Secretariat working papers containing information on, among other things, economic conditions, with particular reference to foreign economic activities, in American Samoa [A/AC.109/2002/12], Anguilla [A/AC.109/2002/3], Bermuda [A/AC.109/2002/15], the British Virgin Islands [A/AC.109/2002/9], the Cayman Islands [A/AC.109/2002/7], Guam [A/AC.109/2002/8],

Montserrat [A/AC.109/2002/17], the Turks and Caicos Islands [A/AC.109/2002/14] and the United States Virgin Islands [A/AC.109/2002/4].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/57/525], adopted **resolution 57/132** by recorded vote (156-3-3) [agenda items 81 & 19].

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories",

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,

Recalling its resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all other relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, resolutions 46/181 of 19 December 1991 and 55/146 of 8 December 2000,

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the economic stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Conscious also that foreign economic investment, when done in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories and could also make a valid contribution to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514(XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories;

3. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. *Reaffirms its concern* about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, and of their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. *Affirms* the need to avoid any economic and other activities which adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621(XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. *Reiterates* that the damaging exploitation and plundering of the marine and other natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, is a threat to the integrity and prosperity of those Territories;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

9. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the adminis-

tering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514(XV);

12. *Appeals* to the mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. *Decides* to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, including the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 57/132:

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, Marshall Islands, United States.

Abstaining: France, Micronesia, United Kingdom.

Dissemination of information

The Special Committee on decolonization held consultations in June with representatives of the Department of Political Affairs and DPI on the dissemination of information on decolonization. It also considered a report of the Secretary-General on DPI activities on the topic from June 2001 to May 2002 [A/AC.109/2002/18].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Special Committee on decolonization [A/57/23], adopted **resolution 57/139** by recorded vote (154-4-2) [agenda item 19].

Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,

Recalling its resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular resolution 56/73 of 10 December 2001,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to achieving the goals of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General in accordance with the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat;

2. *Considers it important* to continue its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options of self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to take into account the suggestions of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To continue to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To maintain a working relationship with the appropriate regional and intergovernmental organizations, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, by holding periodic consultations and exchanging information;

(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to continue to extend their cooperation in the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee to follow the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 57/139:

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, Micronesia, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: France, Netherlands.

Speaking after the vote, the United Kingdom stated that it continued to view the obligation the text placed on the Secretariat to publicize decolonization issues as an unwarranted drain on scarce UN resources.

Information on Territories

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/65 [YUN 2001, p. 540], the Secretary-General submitted a May report [A/57/74] showing the dates on which information on economic, social and educational conditions in NSGTs was transmitted to him in respect of the years 2000 to 2002, under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth

Committee [A/57/524], adopted **resolution 57/131** by recorded vote (156-0-8) [agenda item 80].

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

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and the action taken by the Special Committee in respect of that information,

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General,

Recalling its resolution 1970(XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 56/65 of 10 December 2001, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970(XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

1. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 *e* of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

4. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 1970(XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 57/131:

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain,

Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: France, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Monaco, Palau, United Kingdom, United States.

Study and training

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/68 [YUN 2001, p. 541], the Secretary-General reported on offers of study and training scholarships for inhabitants of NSGTs during the period 8 June 2001 to 10 June 2002 by the following Member States: Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom [A/57/90 & Add.1]. Fifty-four Member States and two non-member States had made such offers over the years.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/57/527], adopted **resolution 57/134** without vote [agenda item 83].

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/68 of 10 December 2001,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories, prepared pursuant to its resolution 845(IX) of 22 November 1954,

Conscious of the importance of promoting the educational advancement of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Strongly convinced that the continuation and expansion of offers of scholarships is essential in order to meet the increasing need of students from Non-Self-Governing Territories for educational and training assistance, and considering that students in those Territories should be encouraged to avail themselves of such offers,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have made scholarships available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Invites* all States to make or continue to make generous offers of study and training facilities to the inhabitants of those Territories that have not yet attained self-government or independence and, wherever possible, to provide travel funds to prospective students;

4. *Urges* the administering Powers to take effective measures to ensure the widespread and continuous dissemination in the Territories under their administration of information relating to offers of study and training facilities made by States and to provide all the necessary facilities to enable students to avail themselves of such offers;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to the present resolution.

Visiting missions

In June, the Special Committee on decolonization considered the question of sending visiting missions to NSGTs [A/57/23]. It adopted a resolution stressing the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to facilitate the full implementation of the 1960 Declaration on decolonization, called on administering Powers to receive those missions in the Territories under their administration, and asked its Chairman to enter into consultations with the administering Power of Guam to facilitate a mission to that Territory to coincide with a proposed plebiscite scheduled for September.

In draft resolutions on 11 small NSGTs (see p. 578) and on Tokelau (see p. 574), which it recommended to the General Assembly for adoption, the Committee endorsed a number of conclusions and recommendations concerning the sending of visiting missions to Territories.

In August, a mission visited Tokelau; it reported on its findings in September (see p. 574).

Puerto Rico

In accordance with the Special Committee's 2001 resolution concerning the self-determination and independence of Puerto Rico [YUN 2001, p. 541], the Committee's Rapporteur, in a May report [A/AC.109/2002/L.4], provided information on Puerto Rico, including recent political and military developments, UN action and the views of the parties concerned with regard to Puerto Rico's political status.

Based on its usual practice, the Committee acceded to requests for hearings from representatives of a number of organizations, who presented their views on 10 June [A/57/23]. The Committee adopted a resolution without vote, by

which it reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence; called on the United States to assume its responsibility of expediting a process to allow the Puerto Rican people to exercise that right; urged the United States to halt all military drills and manoeuvres on the island of Vieques and to return it to the people of Puerto Rico; and requested the Rapporteur to report in 2003 on the resolution's implementation.

Territories under review

British Overseas Territories Act 2002. On 26 February, the British Parliament enacted the British Overseas Territories Act 2002, which conferred British citizenship on British Overseas Territories citizens [A/AC.109/2002/2/Add.1]. The Act applied to all NSGTs of concern to the Special Committee that were under the administration of the United Kingdom, namely, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

East Timor

On 28 March [A/57/23], the Special Committee considered the question of East Timor and adopted a draft resolution [A/AC.109/2002/L.3] whereby it noted the recommendation by the Constituent Assembly of East Timor that the official transfer of the powers of sovereignty from the United Nations to the East Timor government institutions take place on 20 May, and decided to remove East Timor from the list of NSGTs upon its accession to independence. In an April report [A/56/894], the Special Committee recommended the resolution's adoption by the General Assembly. The Assembly acted on that recommendation in May (**resolution 56/282**) (see p. 322).

East Timor (renamed Timor-Leste) attained its independence on 20 May and, on the Security Council's recommendation (**resolution 1414 (2002)**), it was admitted to UN membership by the Assembly on 27 September (**resolution 57/3**) (see p. 1426).

(For further information on political and security developments and human rights issues relating to East Timor, see PART ONE, Chapter IV, and PART TWO, Chapter III, respectively.)

Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The Special Committee on decolonization considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) on 19 June [A/57/23], when it examined

a Secretariat working paper on constitutional and political developments, mine clearance, and economic and social conditions in that Territory [A/AC.109/2002/16 & Corr.1]. The working paper stated that, on 3 and 4 December 2001, a joint working group had held its first meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on a feasibility study on demining in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) [YUN 2001, p. 542], during which general objectives and technical, organizational and financial aspects were discussed. The meeting also agreed on practical measures and tasks to advance the preparation of the study. The Special Committee adopted a resolution [A/AC.109/2002/25] requesting Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute.

In a 4 January letter to the Secretary-General [A/56/765], Argentina transmitted a 3 January press release wherein it recalled its objective to recover sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas through peaceful means, and reaffirmed its conviction that the resumption of negotiations with the United Kingdom on the sovereignty issue would help establish a framework conducive to achieving a fair and lasting solution to the dispute. Responding on 21 January [A/56/786], the United Kingdom restated that it had no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and the others referred to by Argentina, and rejected as unfounded Argentina's claims to sovereignty.

On 17 January [A/56/777], the United Kingdom, referring to Argentina's letter of 29 October 2001 rejecting the United Kingdom's 1999 "White Paper on Partnership for Peace and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories" [YUN 2001, p. 542], stated that the United Kingdom had no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas; the White Paper did not alter the status of those Territories. On 8 October [A/57/461], Argentina reiterated its position regarding the White Paper and renewed its rejection of the designation of the Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands as British Overseas Territories, as well as any unilateral modifications of the situation while the sovereignty dispute was pending. The letter recalled several General Assembly resolutions recognizing the existence of a sovereignty dispute over those Territories and reaffirmed Argentina's sovereignty over them. In response, the United Kingdom, on 19 December

[A/57/700], rejected Argentina's 8 October letter, stating that the nomenclature applied to Overseas Territories was confirmed with Parliamentary enactment of the British Overseas Territories Act 2002 (see p. 569) and did not alter the status of those Territories.

On the bilateral level, the Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom, Geoffrey Hoon, visited the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) on 11 and 12 March. He also visited Buenos Aires and met with Argentina's Ministers of Defence and for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, and with commanders of the armed forces. He stated that the British Government and people believed that the twentieth anniversary of the 1982 conflict over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) should be characterized by a spirit of reconciliation and commemoration. Argentina's Foreign Secretary, Jorge Faurie, said that his Government appreciated the confidence implied in Mr. Hoon's visit and also the wreath Mr. Hoon deposited at the monument to Argentines killed in the 1982 conflict.

By **decision 57/511** of 11 November, the General Assembly deferred consideration of the item on the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and included it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth (2003) session.

Gibraltar

The Special Committee on decolonization took up the question of Gibraltar on 6 June [A/57/23]. Before it was a Secretariat working paper describing political developments and economic and social conditions in the Territory, and setting forth the positions of the United Kingdom (the administering Power), Gibraltar and Spain concerning Gibraltar's future status [A/AC.109/2002/11].

Following a meeting in London on 4 February, the Foreign Ministers of Spain and the United Kingdom issued a joint communiqué in which they reported progress in their discussions and stated that their common aim was to conclude a comprehensive agreement covering all outstanding issues, including cooperation and sovereignty, before the summer of 2002. Their shared objective was to overcome their differences over Gibraltar and to ensure a secure future in which the Territory could preserve its way of life and traditions, enjoy greater internal self-government, sustain and enhance prosperity, and fully benefit from harmonious cooperation with the wider region. The Foreign Ministers reiterated their invitation to the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Peter Caruana, to attend future meetings, participating with his own, distinct voice as part of the British delegation.

Addressing the House of Commons on 5 February, the British Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, underlined the commitment that any proposals affecting the sovereignty of Gibraltar would not and could not be put into effect without the consent of the people of Gibraltar in a referendum, and expressed the wish that the Government of Gibraltar be directly involved in the discussions with Spain.

On 27 February, on the basis of meetings of the Select Committee on constitutional reform, set up in 1999, Gibraltar's House of Assembly formally adopted a report containing proposed changes to the Territory's Constitution. The Chief Minister said that the object of the reform exercise had been to achieve a Constitution that "maximized self-government", in the language of UN decolonization proposals, and modernized domestic institutions accordingly. Under the changes, the European Convention on Human Rights would be incorporated into the Constitution, with a mechanism for the automatic updating of fundamental individual rights. The changes would also affect: the office of the Governor; the House of Assembly, which would have more seats and would be known as the Gibraltar Parliament; senior administrative and judicial appointments, which would no longer be made by the Governor; crown lands other than those occupied by the Ministry of Defence, which would revert to the Gibraltar Government; and references in the Constitution to the right to self-determination, which would use the language of UN instruments.

Statements by the Chief Minister of Gibraltar on the Territory's position with respect to the ongoing talks between Spain and the United Kingdom included a declaration made at an 18 March demonstration in Gibraltar, in which he declared that the future of Gibraltar, including its sovereignty, could only be decided by its people in exercise of their right to self-determination; the people of Gibraltar rejected and condemned any Anglo-Spanish declaration of agreement that made in-principle sovereignty or other concessions to Spain against their wishes; and the people of Gibraltar therefore called on the United Kingdom not to enter into any such agreements.

In an open letter published in the *Gibraltar Chronicle* on 26 March, Spain's Foreign Minister, Josep Piqué, said that Spain's historical and fully justified claim concerning sovereignty over Gibraltar was perfectly compatible with the interests of the Gibraltarians as free citizens in a democratic system. Spain and the United Kingdom had an obligation to overcome their dispute, and efforts to do so would benefit Gibraltarians and their neighbours.

After hearing statements by the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, the Leader of the Opposition in Gibraltar and the representative of Spain, the Special Committee decided to continue consideration of the question in 2003.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

In December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/57/528], adopted **decision 57/526** without vote [agenda item 19].

Question of Gibraltar

At its 73rd plenary meeting, on 11 December 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), adopted the following text:

“The General Assembly, recalling its decision 56/421 of 10 December 2001, and recalling at the same time that the statement agreed to by the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Brussels on 27 November 1984 stipulated, *inter alia*, the following:

“The establishment of a negotiating process aimed at overcoming all the differences between them over Gibraltar and at promoting cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis on economic, cultural, touristic, aviation, military and environmental matters. Both sides accept that the issues of sovereignty will be discussed in that process. The British Government will fully maintain its commitment to honour the wishes of the people of Gibraltar as set out in the preamble of the 1969 Constitution”.

takes note of the fact that, as part of this process, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland hold annual meetings alternately in each country, the most recent of which were held at Barcelona on 20 November 2001 and in London on 4 February 2002, and urges both Governments to continue their negotiations with the object of reaching a definitive solution to the problem of Gibraltar in the light of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.”

New Caledonia

In accordance with the 1998 Nouméa Accord on New Caledonia's future status [YUN 1998, p. 574], the transfer of power from France (the administering Power) continued in 2002. The Special Committee on decolonization considered the question of the Territory on 17 June [A/57/23]. Before it was a Secretariat working paper describing the political situation and economic data and developments in the Territory [A/AC.109/2002/13].

A later Secretariat working paper [A/AC.109/2003/7] reported that, according to the French Government, the new institutions established under the Nouméa Accord remained steady in

2002; steps were taken to finalize the transfer of services for labour inspection, foreign trade, primary education, and mining and energy; and the Institut de Formation des Personnels Administratifs and the Office des Postes et Télécommunications were to be transferred in early 2003. Other powers were to be transferred in a second stage, from 2004 to 2009. Among 10 new “laws of the country” adopted in 2002 were those related to social security, tax regulations in the mining and metallurgy sectors, community electricity taxes and the public maritime area.

During the week of 22 January, the delegations of the integrationist *Rassemblement pour la Calédonie dans la République* (RPCR), led by Territorial President Pierre Frogier, the pro-independence *Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste* (FLNKS), led by Pascal Naouna, and representatives of France held a second meeting of signatories of the Nouméa Accord in Paris. According to the French Government, discussions focused on the FLNKS demand for a special session of the French Congress to pass the constitutional revision to limit voter eligibility in New Caledonian elections (see below), which was opposed by RPCR; and the FLNKS view that the exercise of government was insufficiently collegial and that the signatories should meet more frequently. The parties also followed up on issues agreed on at the first meeting of the Committee of Signatories [YUN 2000, p. 562], including primary and secondary education, professional and technical training and the evolution of the “*cadres avenir*” (managers for the future) project; external relations; Kanak identity and culture; control of the Territory's utility companies; and environmental protection. At the closing of the meeting, French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin said that, despite criticisms regarding the functioning of institutions, particularly relations between the majority and the minority, progress had been made and that the few continuing problems should be viewed against the backdrop of the overall success of the Nouméa Accord. He also stated during the meeting that he expected the long-awaited special session of the French Congress to decide on voter eligibility to take place as soon as possible. However, following his defeat in the French presidential elections in April, FLNKS feared that the Nouméa Accord provision on eligibility might not go ahead. In July, the UN Human Rights Committee rejected allegations by an association of voters in New Caledonia that their exclusion from the voter registry for a future referendum was discriminatory and that the cut-off dates for voters were excessive.

In November, the sole government member representing the pro-independence Union

calédonienne (UC), Gérard Cortot, resigned over the lack of collegiality or power-sharing in the Government, and the subsequent resignation of his UC alternates triggered a snap election under provisions of the Territory's Organic Law. The territorial Congress endorsed a motion to reduce to 10 the number of members of the next Government—one fewer than the outgoing Government—and, on 28 November, it elected virtually the same Cabinet as the one that was forced to resign, with Pierre Frogier of RPCR and Déwé Gorodey of FLNKS re-elected as President and Vice-President, respectively; the one UC seat was again occupied by Mr. Cortot. However, in a significant change, Kanak leader Roch Wamytan, who had resigned the vice-presidency in 2001 in an earlier collegiality dispute, returned to one of the two FLNKS seats. The political scene was also affected by internal divisions within RPCR and FLNKS.

Ethnic confrontations between Kanaks and settlers from the French territory of Wallis and Futuna continued to cause tension in 2002. A Kanak man died from bullet wounds received during disturbances in January, and further clashes occurred after his funeral in February. A senior French police officer was severely wounded during outbursts of sporadic violence in March and April. The French High Commissioner said that the inter-ethnic tensions revealed the fragility of the Nouméa process and urged the communities concerned to work with the State and local institutions to redress the social and economic imbalance in the Territory. In November, after many meetings, the chiefs of the Kanak and Wallisian communities agreed to resolve their differences peacefully. The French Government continued to urge New Caledonia to draw up a formal agreement on the status of Wallisians and, in December, the Minister for Overseas Territories signed a 25-million-euro development agreement with Wallis and Futuna aimed at stemming the outflow of the islanders.

On 17 June, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the question of New Caledonia [A/AC.109/2002/23], deciding to keep under continuous review the Nouméa Accord process and to report to the General Assembly in 2003.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/57/528], adopted **resolution 57/136** without vote [agenda item 19].

Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia,

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541(XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

1. *Welcomes* the significant developments that have taken place in New Caledonia, as exemplified by the signing of the Nouméa Accord of 5 May 1998 between the representatives of New Caledonia and the Government of France;

2. *Urges* all parties involved, in the interest of all of the people of New Caledonia, to maintain, in the framework of the Nouméa Accord, their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

3. *Notes* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord aimed at taking more broadly into account the Kanak identity in the political and social organization of New Caledonia, and also those provisions of the Accord relating to control of immigration and protection of local employment;

4. *Also notes* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, such as international organizations in the Pacific region, the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization, in accordance with their regulations;

5. *Further notes* the agreement between the signatories of the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations;

6. *Welcomes* the fact that the administering Power invited to New Caledonia, at the time the new institutions were established, a mission of information which comprised representatives of countries of the Pacific region;

7. *Calls upon* the administering Power to transmit information regarding the political, economic and social situation of New Caledonia to the Secretary-General;

8. *Invites* all parties involved to continue to promote a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of

all New Caledonians according to the letter and the spirit of the Nouméa Accord, which is based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

9. *Welcomes* measures that have been taken to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields, and encourages further such measures in accordance with the spirit of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords;

10. *Also welcomes* the importance attached by the parties to the Matignon and Nouméa Accords to greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

11. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Melanesian Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous culture of New Caledonia;

12. *Notes* the positive initiatives aimed at protecting the natural environment of New Caledonia, notably the "Zonéco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

13. *Acknowledges* the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French and territorial authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the countries members of the Pacific Islands Forum;

14. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the accession by New Caledonia to the status of observer in the Pacific Islands Forum, continuing high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region and high-level visits by delegations from New Caledonia to countries members of the Pacific Islands Forum;

15. *Decides* to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;

16. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of New Caledonia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

Tokelau

On 17 June, the Special Committee on decolonization considered the question of Tokelau (the three small atolls of Nukunonu, Fakaofu and Atafu in the South Pacific), administered by New Zealand [A/57/23]. Before it was a Secretariat working paper covering constitutional and political developments, and economic and social conditions in the Territory, and setting out the positions of New Zealand and Tokelau on the Territory's future status [A/AC.109/2002/6].

Triennial elections for Faipule (the representative of each village/atoll) and other delegates to the General Fono (Tokelau's national representative body) were held from 16 to 22 January; each of the three incumbent Faipule was re-elected. Eleven of the other elected delegates, more than

half the composition of the General Fono, had not held office before. In February, Nukunonu's Faipule, Pio Tuia, was installed as *Ulu-o-Tokelau* (titular head of the Territory), a position that was rotated annually among the three Faipule.

The Council of Faipule and the Territory's New Zealand-appointed Administrator held a strategy session (Samoa, 11-16 March) to map out the direction for Tokelau in the next three years. The Council adopted a vision statement on the quality of life for people living in Tokelau and identified commercial fisheries, successful businesses and critical infrastructure as three areas of national priority with economic development potential. The Council also worked on defining the obligations and commitments of the future partnership with New Zealand (see below), discussed constitutional development, and developed a legislative programme that focused on such key areas as criminal and business law and shipping and safety standards for dangerous goods (electricity, gas, fuel and pesticides).

On 17 June, the *Ulu-o-Tokelau* told the Special Committee that Tokelau was expanding its system of governance in preparation for the transition to self-government. While the territory had the ingredients for a national Government, the traditional foundation also needed to be strengthened. Tokelau was making decisions about the powers and responsibilities that should be accorded to village institutions, while recognizing the need for a national institution like the General Fono. The *Ulu* said that no one should doubt Tokelau's determination to build a small, self-governing nation in accordance with UN principles, but that much help was needed and Tokelau sought guaranteed assistance from both New Zealand and the United Nations. Tokelau looked forward to redefining its relationship with New Zealand and determining the level and nature of guarantees in that relationship. The *Ulu* said that the administering Power was giving serious consideration to a request for the opening of an office in Wellington to facilitate dialogue and more effective support during the nation-building phase.

A further statement by the *Ulu-o-Tokelau* on Tokelau's progress towards self-determination, made in August during the Special Committee's Visiting Mission (see p. 574), was annexed to the Mission's report.

A later Secretariat working paper [A/AC.109/2003/10] indicated that a report on the implementation of the Modern House of Tokelau project [YUN 1998, p. 575] was issued in May. It listed progress in 2000-2001 in the project's four main areas of good governance (the strengthening of village-based governance structures, a review of information technology needs and the establish-

ment of the Tokelau Employment Commission and three FM radio stations); capacity development; and the Friends of Tokelau organization, established to link outside individuals and organizations to Tokelau's development.

On 25 June [A/AC.109/2002/27], New Zealand invited the Special Committee on decolonization to visit Tokelau and Wellington, New Zealand, in August. The Mission, which visited Tokelau from 15 to 17 August [A/AC.109/2002/31], strongly recommended that both Tokelau and New Zealand consider developing an educational programme to inform the population of the nature of self-determination in preparation for a decision on the matter. It noted that Tokelau wished to move at its own pace towards self-determination, while it addressed economic development issues and clarified its relationship with New Zealand. New Zealand preferred to reach the best outcome through the Modern House project and the proposed relationship framework (see below), rather than rushing to settle the matter. The Mission also recommended that a study be conducted, with the support of the Special Committee, on the three options for Tokelau's future status (free association, integration with New Zealand and independence) and their implications for Tokelau.

On 26 September, the Special Committee approved the Mission's report and authorized its direct submission to the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly as well as its introduction before the Fourth Committee.

New Zealand informed the Secretariat that a draft "Principles of Partnership" document, which was annexed to the Mission's report, was further discussed by the Administrator and the Council of Faipule (Apia, Samoa, 1-3 October) and during the Administrator's visit to the Territory (20-29 November), when he received feedback on the document from the General Fono. Formal meetings on the relationship framework were held in Wellington from 9 to 13 December [A/AC.109/2003/10].

New Zealand stated that the draft had been positive in generating much discussion on the Territory, but there were still many aspects to be clarified. Tokelau observed that the document did not deal with such practical issues as the level of economic support, and it questioned the inclusion of a section on shared values and wondered about its consequences. New Zealand said that the draft responded to Tokelau's expressed wish for greater certainty about the nature of the relationship, and stated that it had no intention of prejudging the direction chosen by Tokelau for its self-determination. It was agreed that New Zealand would respond in writing to Tokelau's

questions and comments, and that discussions would continue in 2003.

Speaking before the Fourth Committee on 1 October, New Zealand said that, while it welcomed the recommendations of the Special Committee's Visiting Mission to Tokelau and New Zealand, a more detailed explanation of the three decolonization options would be required before an act of self-determination. New Zealand expected to work closely with Tokelau to elaborate the details of the options once the Modern House structure was firmly established and the relationship framework was concluded. It welcomed the Mission's recommendation that a study be conducted on the three options but believed that such a study would be most effective if it built on the initial discussions between New Zealand and Tokelau about those options and on the existing bilateral process. New Zealand was committed to educating the people of Tokelau about their options, but it wished to work with the Fourth Committee and with Tokelau to determine the appropriate time and method for providing detailed educational material to Tokelau.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/57/528], adopted **resolution 57/137** without vote [agenda item 19].

Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to Tokelau,

Recalling the solemn declaration on the future status of Tokelau, delivered by the *Ulu-o-Tokelau* (the highest authority on Tokelau) on 30 July 1994, which states that an act of self-determination in Tokelau is now under active consideration, together with the constitution of a self-governing Tokelau, and that the present preference of Tokelau is for a status of free association with New Zealand,

Recalling also its resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular General Assembly resolution 56/71 of 10 December 2001,

Recalling further the emphasis placed in the solemn declaration on the terms of Tokelau's special relationship with New Zealand, including the expectation that the form of help that Tokelau could continue to expect from New Zealand in promoting the well-being of its people, besides its external interests, would be clearly established within the framework of that relationship,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Noting also with appreciation the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization,

Recalling the dispatch in 1994 of a United Nations visiting mission to Tokelau,

Welcoming the dispatch in August 2002 of a United Nations Mission to Tokelau, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand and the representatives of Tokelau,

Having examined the report of the United Nations Mission to Tokelau, 2002,

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting also that, as a case study pointing to successful cooperation for decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

1. *Notes* that Tokelau remains firmly committed to the development of self-government and to an act of self-determination that would result in Tokelau assuming a status in accordance with the options on future status for Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in principle VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 1541(XV) of 15 December 1960;

2. *Also notes* the desire of Tokelau to move at its own pace towards an act of self-determination;

3. *Further notes* the inauguration in 1999 of a national Government based on village elections by universal adult suffrage;

4. *Acknowledges* Tokelau's goal to return authority to its traditional leadership, and its wish to provide that leadership with the necessary support to carry out its functions in the contemporary world;

5. *Also acknowledges* the progress made towards that goal under the Modern House of Tokelau project, and Tokelau's view that that project, in its governance and economic development dimensions, is seen by its people as the means to achieving their act of self-determination;

6. *Further acknowledges* Tokelau's initiative in devising a strategic economic development plan for the period 2002-2004 to advance its capacity for self-government;

7. *Notes* that, consistent with the expressed desires of past traditional leaders and the principles of the Modern House of Tokelau, Tokelau has established a local public service employer which enabled the New Zealand State Services Commissioner to withdraw from his role as employer of the Tokelau Public Service as from 30 June 2001;

8. *Welcomes* the initiation of the dialogue with the administering Power and the Territory in June 2001 with a view to the development of a programme of work for Tokelau in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/147 of 8 December 2000;

9. *Acknowledges* the continuing support which New Zealand has committed to the Modern House of Tokelau project in 2002-2003, and the cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme in aligning its programmes under the project;

10. *Notes* that the Constitution of a self-governing Tokelau will continue to develop as a part and as a consequence of the building of the Modern House of Tokelau, and that both have national and international importance for Tokelau;

11. *Acknowledges* Tokelau's need for continued reassurance given the cultural adjustments that are taking place with the strengthening of its capacity for self-government and, given that local resources cannot adequately cover the material side of self-determination, the ongoing responsibility of Tokelau's external partners to assist Tokelau in balancing its desire to be self-reliant to the greatest extent possible with its need for external assistance;

12. *Notes* the special challenge inherent in the situation of Tokelau, among the smallest of the small Territories, and how a Territory's exercise of its inalienable right to self-determination may be brought closer, as in the case of Tokelau, by the meeting of that challenge in innovative ways;

13. *Acknowledges* the desire of the partners to reaffirm their commitment to each other, and the efforts being made in the context of the draft programme of work for Tokelau to identify the principles underpinning the relationship between New Zealand and Tokelau with a view to establishing a dynamic basis for its future development;

14. *Welcomes* the assurance of the Government of New Zealand that it will meet its obligations to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status;

15. *Also welcomes* the cooperative attitude of the other States and Territories in the region towards Tokelau, its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

16. *Further welcomes* Tokelau's associate membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its recent accession to associate membership in the Forum Fisheries Agency;

17. *Approves* the report of the United Nations Mission to Tokelau, 2002;

18. *Notes* that a study to review the options for Tokelau's future self-determination is recommended in the report, and also notes the willingness expressed by the United Nations Development Programme to assist in this regard upon request from Tokelau;

19. *Calls upon* New Zealand and Tokelau to consider developing an education programme to inform the population of Tokelau about the nature of self-determination, including the three options of integration, free association and independence, so that it may be better prepared to face a future decision on this matter, and requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to provide all available assistance in this regard;

20. *Calls upon* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue to provide assistance to

Tokelau as it further develops its economy and governance structures in the context of its ongoing constitutional evolution;

21. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

Western Sahara

The Special Committee on decolonization considered the question of Western Sahara on 6 June [A/57/23]. A Secretariat working paper [A/AC.109/2002/10] detailed the Secretary-General's good offices with the parties concerned and action taken by the General Assembly and the Security Council (see p. 209). The Special Committee transmitted the relevant documentation to the Assembly's fifty-seventh (2002) session to facilitate the Fourth Committee's consideration of the question. The Secretary-General's report was submitted to the Assembly in July [A/57/206].

Island Territories

In June, the Special Committee on decolonization [A/57/23] considered working papers on American Samoa [A/AC.109/2002/12], Anguilla [A/AC.109/2002/3], Bermuda [A/AC.109/2002/15], the British Virgin Islands [A/AC.109/2002/9], the Cayman Islands [A/AC.109/2002/7], Guam [A/AC.109/2002/8], Montserrat [A/AC.109/2002/17], Pitcairn [A/AC.109/2002/2], St. Helena [A/AC.109/2002/5], the Turks and Caicos Islands [A/AC.109/2002/14] and the United States Virgin Islands [A/AC.109/2002/4], describing political developments and economic and social conditions in each of those 11 island Territories. On 26 June, the Committee approved a two-part consolidated draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly (see below).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December, [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/57/528], adopted **resolutions 57/138 A** and **B** without vote [agenda item 19].

Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

A

General

The General Assembly,

Having considered the questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter referred to as "the Territories",

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard

to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolution,

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the sentiments of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options of self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Recalling its resolution 1541(XV) of 15 December 1960, containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing its concern that, more than forty years after the adoption of the Declaration, there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Acknowledging the significant achievements by the international community towards the eradication of colonialism in accordance with the Declaration, and conscious of the importance of continuing effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2010 and the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Noting the positive constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories about which the General Assembly has received information, while also acknowledging the need for recognition to be given to expressions of self-determination by the peoples of the Territories consistent with practice under the Charter,

Recognizing that in the decolonization process there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination as enunciated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 1514(XV), 1541(XV) and other resolutions,

Welcoming the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that it continues to take seriously its obligations under the Charter to develop self-government in the dependent Territories and, in cooperation with the locally elected Governments, to ensure that their constitutional frameworks continue to meet the wishes of the people, and the emphasis that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories to decide their future status,

Welcoming also the stated position of the Government of the United States of America that it supports fully the principles of decolonization and takes seriously its obligations under the Charter to promote to the utmost the well-being of the inhabitants of the Territories under United States administration,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the necessity of promoting economic stability and diversifying and strengthening

further the economies of the respective Territories as a matter of priority,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation and, in this connection, bearing in mind the programmes of action of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the International Conference on Population and Development, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and other relevant world conferences,

Aware of the usefulness both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of appointed and elected representatives of the Territories in the work of the Special Committee,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced also that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory, and that the views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained under the supervision of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in resolutions 1514(XV), 1541(XV) and other resolutions of the General Assembly,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and considering that the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers should be kept under review,

Mindful also that, by holding a Pacific regional seminar at Nadi, Fiji, from 14 to 16 May 2002, the Special Committee was able to hear the views of the representatives of the Territories, as well as Governments and organizations in the region, in order to review the political, economic and social conditions in the Territories,

Mindful further that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to embark actively on a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining an understanding of the options of self-determination,

Mindful, in this connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions

and at Headquarters and other venues, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate, and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in their success, while recognizing the need for reviewing the role of those seminars in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Mindful also that some Territories have not received a United Nations visiting mission for a long time and that no visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, and regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

Noting that some territorial Governments have made efforts towards achieving the highest standards of financial supervision, and noting also that some territorial Governments have expressed concern about insufficient dialogue between them and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development on that matter,

Concerned that in 2001 economic growth slowed in many Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular in the tourism and construction sectors,

Recalling the ongoing efforts of the Special Committee in carrying out a critical review of its work with the aim of making appropriate and constructive recommendations and decisions to attain its objectives in accordance with its mandate,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the peoples of the Territories to self-determination, including, if they so wish, independence, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514(XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Reaffirms also* that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments, to facilitate programmes of political education in the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541(XV);

3. *Reaffirms further* that, in the process of decolonization, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right;

4. *Requests* the administering Powers to transmit to the Secretary-General information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter and other updated information and reports, including reports on the wishes and

aspirations of the peoples of the Territories regarding their future political status as expressed in fair and free referendums and other forms of popular consultation, as well as the results of any informed and democratic processes consistent with practice under the Charter that indicate the clear and freely expressed wish of the people to change the existing status of the Territories;

5. *Stresses* the importance for it to be apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and to enhance its understanding of their conditions;

6. *Reaffirms* that United Nations visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and requests the administering Powers and the elected representatives of the peoples of the Territories to assist the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in this regard;

7. *Reaffirms also* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and recommends that priority continue to be given, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, to the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

8. *Requests* the administering Powers, in consultation with the peoples of the Territories, to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories under their administration against any environmental degradation, and requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in those Territories;

9. *Calls upon* the administering Powers, in cooperation with the respective territorial Governments, to continue to take all necessary measures to counter problems related to drug trafficking, money-laundering and other offences;

10. *Notes* the cooperative efforts of some Non-Self-Governing Territories to address the problem of illegal drugs, with a focus on demand reduction, education, treatment and legal issues;

11. *Notes with concern* that the plan of action for the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism was not fully implemented by 2000, and stresses the importance of implementing the plan of action for the Second Decade, in particular through the development of work programmes for the decolonization of each Non-Self-Governing Territory, on a case-by-case basis, including periodic analyses of each Territory and the review of the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of the Territories;

12. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to enter into constructive dialogue with the Special Committee before the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly to develop a framework for the implementation of the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for the period 2001-2010;

13. *Notes* the particular circumstances that prevail in the Territories concerned, and encourages the political evolution in them towards self-determination;

14. *Urges* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in a world free of colonialism during the twenty-first century, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

15. *Invites* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to initiate or to continue to take all necessary measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social life of the Territories, and calls for closer cooperation between the Special Committee and the Economic and Social Council in furtherance of the provision of assistance to the Territories;

16. *Notes* that some Non-Self-Governing Territories have expressed concern at the procedure followed by one administering Power, contrary to the wishes of the Territories themselves, namely, amending or enacting legislation for the Territories through Orders in Council, while recognizing that such Orders in Council were necessary for the administering Power to fulfil its international treaty obligations;

17. *Takes note* of statements made by the elected representatives of the Territories concerned emphasizing their willingness to cooperate with all international efforts aimed at preventing abuse of the international financial system and to promote regulatory environments with highly selective licensing procedures, robust supervisory practices and well-established anti-money-laundering regimes;

18. *Calls* for an enhanced and constructive dialogue between the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the territorial Governments concerned, with a view to achieving the highest standards of financial supervision, and requests the administering Powers to assist those Territories in this matter;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of decolonization resolutions since the declaration of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

20. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the small Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session with recommendations on appropriate ways to assist the peoples of the Territories in exercising their right to self-determination.

B

Individual Territories

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

I

American Samoa

Taking note of the report by the administering Power that most American Samoan leaders express satisfaction with the Territory's present relationship with the United States of America,

Noting that the leaders of American Samoa, including the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, are freely and fairly elected by the people, and that the general elections held in the Territory in 2000 resulted in the re-election of the incumbent Governor and Lieutenant Governor,

Taking note with interest of the statement made on the political status of American Samoa by the Lieutenant

Governor of American Samoa at the Pacific regional seminar, held at Nadi, Fiji, from 14 to 16 May 2002,

Noting that the Government of the Territory continues to have financial, budgetary and internal control problems, but that it has recently taken steps to increase revenues and decrease government expenditures,

Noting also that the Territory, similar to isolated communities with limited funds, continues to experience a lack of adequate medical and other infrastructural facilities,

Aware of the efforts of the Government of the Territory to control and reduce expenditures, while continuing its programme of expanding and diversifying the local economy,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Notes* that the Department of the Interior of the United States of America provides that the Secretary of the Interior has administrative jurisdiction over American Samoa;

3. *Takes note with interest* of the statement delivered by the Territory's delegate to the United States Congress at the Caribbean regional seminar, held at Havana from 23 to 25 May 2001, in which he indicated that he was not aware that the administering Power had selected American Samoa to be reviewed under the case-by-case informal method adopted 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 and the administering Power;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in the economic and social development of the Territory, including measures to rebuild financial management capabilities and strengthen other governmental functions of the Government of the Territory;

5. *Welcomes* the invitation extended to the Special Committee by the Governor of American Samoa to send a visiting mission to the Territory;

II Anguilla

Conscious of the commitment of both the Government of Anguilla and the administering Power to a new and closer policy of dialogue and partnership through the Strategic Country Programme 2000-2003,

Aware of the efforts of the Government of Anguilla to continue to develop the Territory as a viable offshore centre and well-regulated financial centre for investors, by enacting modern company and trust laws, as well as partnership and insurance legislation, and computerizing the company registry system,

Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in tackling the problems of drug trafficking and money-laundering,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power and all States, organizations and United Nations agencies to continue to assist the Territory in social and economic development;

3. *Welcomes* the Country Cooperation Framework of the United Nations Development Programme for the period 1997-1999 and its extension currently being implemented following consultations with the territorial Government and key development partners in the United Nations system and the donor community, and also welcomes the inclusion of the Territory by the United Nations Development Programme in its 2001-2003 subregional cooperation framework for the countries members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and Barbados;

4. *Takes note* of the assessment by the Caribbean Development Bank, in its 2000 report on the Territory, that growth slowed to 1 per cent in 2000 from 7.5 per cent in 1999 as a result of damage caused by hurricane Lenny; that tourism, the largest contributor to the gross domestic product, declined following the closure of several hotels, with the resultant negative impact on employment; that the cessation of aluminium transshipment to Europe eroded government revenue; and that medium-term growth prospects remained favourable given the expected recovery in the tourism sector;

5. *Notes* that the Caribbean Development Bank, in its study entitled "International and regional economic background in 2001 and prospects", noted that the Territory experienced improved performance in 2001, when a 2 per cent rate of expansion represented a recovery from the contraction in 2000 caused by hurricane damage;

6. *Welcomes* the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Caribbean Development Bank and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to conduct a country poverty assessment for the Territory;

7. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the constitutional reform process, which puts emphasis on public information and education and is expected to create a participatory environment in which changes to the Constitution effective in the Territory can be formulated and recommended to the administering Power, pursuant to the recommendations as stated in its White Paper entitled "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories";

8. *Further welcomes* the convening in the Territory in June 2002 of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Authority of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, in which the Territory enjoys associate membership;

III Bermuda

Noting the results of the independence referendum held on 16 August 1995, and conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties of the Territory on the future status of the Territory,

Noting also the discussions between the Territory and the administering Power on internal constitutional changes,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue to work with the Territory for its socio-economic development;

3. *Welcomes* the agreement reached in June 2002 between the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Territory formally transferring the former military base lands to the territorial Government, and the provision of financial resources to address some of the environmental problems;

4. *Also welcomes* the accession of the Territory to associate membership in the Caribbean Community;

IV British Virgin Islands

Noting the last constitutional review in the Territory, conducted by the administering Power in 1993-1994, the coming into force of the amended Constitution, and the appointment by the territorial Government of a committee to assess the implications of independence for the implementation of a recommendation of the 1993 review,

Noting also the results of the constitutional review of 1993-1994, which made it clear that a prerequisite to independence must be a constitutionally expressed wish of the people as a result of a referendum,

Taking note of the motion adopted by the Legislative Council in March 2002, requesting the administering Power to appoint a commission to review the Constitution with the aim of modernizing it, paying specific attention to the creation of a sixth ministerial post, the standing of the Territory's "belonger" status and the devolution of power from the representative of the administering Power to the elected Government,

Noting that the Territory continues to emerge as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres, and that the financial services sector is becoming the cornerstone of the Government's recurrent budget, accounting for over 50 per cent of government revenue, and also noting the establishment of the Financial Services Commission,

Noting also the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money-laundering, and further noting that the Territory hosted a meeting of the British Overseas Territories' Drug Prevention Conference in January 2002,

Noting further that the Territory commemorated its annual British Virgin Islands-United States Virgin Islands Friendship Day on 11 May 2002 in official ceremonies held in Tortola,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Requests* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and all financial institutions to continue to provide the Territory with assistance for socio-economic development and the development of human resources, bearing in mind the vulnerability of the Territory to external factors;

3. *Takes note* of the adoption by the Legislative Council of the Territory of the Corporal Punishment

Abolition Act 2000, which brought to an end the exercise of such a power by the court or other authority;

4. *Welcomes* the completion of the airport terminal facility, which was the largest capital project of the Government;

5. *Also welcomes* the convening in the Territory in 2001 of a summit of elected leaders of Caribbean Territories, which addressed issues of constitution and governance, immigration and nationality, human rights, social development, civil aviation and safety, and environmental issues;

V Cayman Islands

Noting the formation for the first time of a political party in the Territory and the subsequent change of government in November 2001,

Aware that the Territory has one of the highest per capita incomes in the region, a stable political climate and virtually no unemployment,

Noting the actions taken by the territorial Government to implement its localization programme to promote increased participation by the local population in the decision-making process in the Cayman Islands,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking, money-laundering and related activities, and noting the measures taken by the authorities to deal with those problems,

Noting also that the Territory has emerged as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

Noting further the approval by the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly of the Territory's Vision 2008 Development Plan, which aims to promote development that is consistent with the aims and values of Caymanian society,

Welcoming the convening in the Territory in September 2001 of the Human Rights Today Caribbean Symposium,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Takes note* of the adoption by the Legislative Assembly in 2001 of a referendum law, which confirmed that only a referendum makes it possible for the electorate to give a clear judgement on a single issue of immediate relevance and that the Constitution of the Cayman Islands can be amended only through a referendum;

3. *Requests* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to provide the territorial Government with all required expertise to enable it to achieve its socio-economic aims;

4. *Requests* the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to continue to facilitate the expansion of the current programme of securing employment for the local population, in particular at the decision-making level;

5. *Welcomes* the implementation of the Country Cooperation Framework of the United Nations Development Programme for the Territory, which is designed to ascertain national development priorities and United Nations assistance needs;

6. *Notes* the negative impact on the economy of the Territory of the slowdown in economic performance in the world, as well as the determination of the new Government to modernize the economic structure and intensify the implementation of its financial management initiative;

7. *Welcomes* the accession of the Territory to associate membership in the Caribbean Community;

8. *Also welcomes* the completion of the report of the Constitutional Review Commission, which conducted an extensive review of the current Constitution, and the recommended changes, following public discussions with community groups and individuals, pursuant to the recommendations of the administering Power as stated in its White Paper entitled "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories";

VI Guam

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Recalling also its resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular, General Assembly resolutions 56/72 A and B of 10 December 2001,

Recalling further the requests by the elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned, pending the self-determination of the Chamorro people and taking into account their legitimate rights and interests,

Aware that negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act are no longer continuing and that Guam has established the process for a self-determination vote by the eligible Chamorro voters,

Cognizant that the administering Power continues to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

Aware of the potential for diversifying and developing the economy of Guam through commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities,

Noting the proposed closing and realigning of four United States Navy installations on Guam and the request for the establishment of a transition period to develop some of the closed facilities as commercial enterprises,

Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory, and noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific regional seminar for sending a visiting mission to Guam,

Taking note with interest of the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in Guam provided by the representatives of the Territory to the Pacific regional seminar, held at Nadi, Fiji, from 14 to 16 May 2002,

Concerned that the latest census figures in the Territory show that the percentage of persons living in poverty increased from 14 per cent in 1990 to 23 per cent in 2000,

1. *Requests* the administering Power to work with Guam's Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination with a view to facilitating Guam's decolonization and to keep the Secretary-General informed of the progress to that end;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as supported by Guam voters in the plebiscite of 1987 and as provided for in Guam law, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government of Guam to enter into negotiations on the matter, and requests the administering Power to inform the Secretary-General of progress to that end;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to continue to assist the elected territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

4. *Also requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory;

5. *Further requests* the administering Power to continue to recognize and respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam, and to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the question of immigration;

6. *Requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes specifically intended to promote the sustainable development of economic activities and enterprises, noting the special role of the Chamorro people in the development of Guam;

7. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue to support appropriate measures by the territorial Government aimed at promoting growth in commercial fishing and agricultural and other viable activities;

VII Montserrat

Noting that elections to the Legislative Council were held in the Territory in 2001, resulting in the assumption of office by the New People's Liberation Movement,

Taking note with interest of the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in Montserrat provided by the elected representative of the Territory to the Caribbean regional seminar, held at Havana from 23 to 25 May 2001,

Noting that the last visiting mission to the Territory was dispatched in 1982,

Noting with concern the dire consequences of a volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the Territory's population to safe areas of

the island and to areas outside the Territory, in particular Antigua and Barbuda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and which continues to have a negative impact upon the economy of the island,

Welcoming the continued assistance provided to the Territory by States members of the Caribbean Community, in particular Antigua and Barbuda, which has offered safe refuge and access to educational and health facilities, as well as employment for thousands who have left the Territory,

Noting the efforts of the administering Power and the Government of the Territory to meet the emergency situation caused by the volcanic eruption, including the implementation of a wide range of contingency measures for both the private and the public sectors in Montserrat,

Noting also the coordinated response measures taken by the United Nations Development Programme and the assistance of the United Nations disaster management team,

Noting with concern that a number of the inhabitants of the Territory continue to live in shelters because of volcanic activity,

Welcoming the inclusion of the Territory by the United Nations Development Programme in its 2001-2003 subregional cooperation framework for the countries members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and Barbados,

Noting the establishment in 2001 of the Montserrat Financial Services Commission, which is responsible for the licensing and supervision of all financial services, with the exception of domestic banks,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system as well as regional and other organizations to continue to provide urgent emergency assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

3. *Welcomes* the support of the Caribbean Community in the construction of housing in the safe zone to alleviate a shortage caused by the environmental and human crisis of the eruption of the Montsoufriere volcano, as well as the material and financial support from the international community to help alleviate the suffering caused by the crisis;

4. *Also welcomes* the Chief Minister's 2002 budget presentation, in which he noted that in 2001, for the first time in seven years, the economy of Montserrat experienced positive growth, from a negative rate of 5.43 per cent in 2000 to 0.4 per cent in 2001, the implementation of several major public works projects accounting for growth in the construction sector;

5. *Takes note* of the statement of the Chief Minister that his Government would explore the possibilities of securing additional finance from sources other than the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and that the main sources under consideration were the Caribbean Development Bank and the European Investment Bank;

6. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Constitutional Review Commission, which will embark on a public education programme on the Constitution, ascertain the views of the population and make recommendations to the administering Power on changes which may be envisaged, pursuant to the recommendations as stated in its White Paper entitled "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories";

VIII

Pitcairn

Taking into account the unique nature of Pitcairn in terms of population and area,

Welcoming the participation of an expert from Pitcairn for the first time in the Pacific regional seminar, held at Nadi, Fiji, from 14 to 16 May 2002,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue its discussions with the representatives of Pitcairn on how best to support their economic security;

IX

St. Helena

Taking into account the unique character of St. Helena, its population and its natural resources,

Noting that a Commission of Inquiry into the Constitution appointed at the request of the Legislative Council of St. Helena reported its recommendations in March 1999, and that the Legislative Councillors are currently considering its recommendations,

Aware of the establishment by the territorial Government of the Development Agency in 1995 to encourage private sector commercial development on the island,

Also aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial authorities to improve the socio-economic conditions of the population of St. Helena, in particular in the sphere of food production, continuing high unemployment and limited transport and communications, and calls for continuing negotiations to allow access to Ascension Island by civilian charter flights,

Noting with concern the problem of unemployment on the island and the joint action of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with it,

1. *Welcomes* the commitment of the administering Power to consider carefully suggestions for specific proposals for constitutional change made by territorial Governments, as stated in its White Paper entitled "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories";

2. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

3. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant regional and international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socio-economic development challenges, including the high unemployment and the limited transport and communications problems;

X

Turks and Caicos Islands

Noting that the People's Democratic Movement was elected to power in the Legislative Council elections held in March 1999,

Also noting the efforts by the Government of the Territory to strengthen financial management in the public sector, including efforts to increase revenue,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking and related activities, as well as its problems caused by illegal immigration,

Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money-laundering,

Welcoming the assessment by the Caribbean Development Bank in its 2000 report that the economic performance of the Territory remained strong, with an increase in gross domestic product estimated at 8 per cent, reflecting strong growth in the tourism and construction sectors,

Also welcoming the convening in the Territory in January 2002 of the fourteenth meeting of the Bureau of the Caribbean Community, a regional organization in which the Territory enjoys associate membership,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Invites* the administering Power to take fully into account the wishes and interests of the Government and the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the governance of the Territory;

3. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Constitutional Review Commission, which will embark on a public education programme on the Constitution, ascertain the views of the population and make recommendations to the administering Power on changes which may be envisaged, pursuant to the recommendations as stated in its White Paper entitled "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories";

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power and the relevant regional and international organizations to continue to provide assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory;

5. *Also calls upon* the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money-laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

6. *Welcomes* the first Country Cooperation Framework approved by the United Nations Development Programme for the period 1998-2002, which should, inter alia, assist in the development of a national integrated development plan that will put in place proce-

dures for determining the national development priorities over ten years, the focus of attention being on health, population, education, tourism and economic and social development;

XI

United States Virgin Islands

Taking note with interest of the statements made and the information provided by the representative of the Governor of the Territory to the Pacific regional seminar, held at Nadi, Fiji, from 14 to 16 May 2002,

Noting the continuing interest of the territorial Government in seeking associate membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and observer status in the Caribbean Community and the current request by the Territory to the administering Power for the delegation of authority to proceed,

Noting also the necessity of further diversifying the economy of the Territory,

Noting further the efforts of the Government of the Territory to promote the Territory as an offshore financial services centre,

Recalling the dispatch in 1977 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

Noting that the Territory commemorated its annual British Virgin Islands-United States Virgin Islands Friendship Day on 11 May 2002 in official ceremonies on St. Thomas,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

3. *Further requests* the administering Power to facilitate the participation of the Territory, as appropriate, in various organizations, in particular the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Community and the Association of Caribbean States;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that continuing measures being taken by the elected territorial Government have eased the fiscal crisis, and calls upon the administering Power to continue to provide every assistance required by the Territory to further alleviate the difficult economic situation, including, inter alia, the provision of debt relief and loans;

5. *Notes with interest* the entering into force in 2001 of the joint memorandum of cooperation on the exchange of artefacts between the Territory and Denmark, the Territory's former administering Power, as a companion agreement to the 1999 memorandum for the repatriation of archival material from the Danish colonial period, consistent with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance on 8 September 2001, and requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, under its records and archives management programme, to assist the Territory in carrying out its archival and artefacts initiative;

6. *Notes* the position of the territorial Government opposing the assumption by the administering Power

of submerged land in territorial waters, having regard to relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the ownership and control of natural resources, including marine resources, by the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and its calls for the return of those marine resources to the people of the Territory;

7. *Notes with concern* that the last census figures for the Territory indicate that 32.5 per cent of the population is living in poverty, and that 47 per cent of children on St. Croix and 33 per cent of children on St. Thomas live in poverty.

Information

UN public information

The General Assembly's Committee on Information, at its twenty-fourth session (New York, 22 April–2 May) [A/57/21], continued to consider UN information policies and activities and to evaluate and follow up efforts made and progress achieved in information and communications. The major report before the Committee dealt with the reorientation of UN activities in the field of public information and communications. Other reports covered public information activities for the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations (2001), the integration of United Nations information centres (UNICs) with UNDP field offices, the role of the Department of Public Information (DPI) in UN peacekeeping, the continued multilingual development, maintenance and enrichment of the UN web site, and the 2001 activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (see below).

By **decision 57/524** of 11 December, the Assembly increased the Committee's membership from 98 to 99.

Reorientation of information and communications activities

In response to General Assembly resolutions 56/64 B [YUN 2001, p. 559] and 56/253 [ibid., p. 1297], the Secretary-General submitted a March report to the Committee on Information [A/AC.198/2002/2] containing a preliminary outline of the principal issues and findings that had emerged from a comprehensive review of DPI's management and operations, which began in January with the pro bono assistance of a management consultancy firm. The review provided an opportunity for DPI to take further steps to rationalize its activities and outputs, enhance its efficiency and effectiveness, and maximize the use of its resources. It was also intended to complete DPI's reorientation process, which was begun in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 567]. A key objective of the review was to address areas of dissat-

isfaction expressed by some Secretariat departments with the communications support provided to them by DPI.

The review found that, despite the Department's progress in the course of its reorientation, critical deficiencies continued to affect adversely its ability to deliver its work programme effectively and with the greatest impact. The fundamental problem identified related to ambiguity regarding DPI's mission, as well as a lack of definition in the target audiences for its various activities. DPI had been given more than 120 mandates by the General Assembly, and undertook more than 60 formal activities, as well as numerous ad hoc requests from within the Secretariat. That proliferation of mandates created a heavy workload, but also contributed to the fragmentation of DPI activities. A thorough top-to-bottom examination of DPI was conducted in order to realign its core competencies with the list of mandates and activities it carried out in accordance with the 2002-2005 medium-term plan [YUN 2000, p. 577]. Areas of duplication and fragmentation of functions were singled out for further examination, along with opportunities for greater coordination within the Secretariat as a whole to avoid overlap.

A proposed mission statement for DPI said that its function was to manage and coordinate UN communications content—generated by the activities of the Organization and its component parts—and to convey that content strategically, especially through appropriate intermediaries, to achieve the greatest public impact. DPI's major challenges in positioning itself for greater impact included developing more focused messages, with less fragmentation of its output; better identifying target audiences and attracting new audiences; prioritizing the allocation of its limited resources among the mandated activities; identifying programmes and activities to be improved or eliminated; and establishing a departmental structure to accomplish those goals. It would use the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 49], as its template for improvement, paying particular attention to the major issues emphasized by the Secretary-General, including poverty, conflict prevention, sustainable development, human rights, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the battle against international terrorism and the needs of Africa.

The report examined services provided by DPI to Member States, including those of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, the Cartographic Section, distribution of major publications, public services programmes, training seminars, and the provision of daily press releases in English and

French. It questioned whether such services detracted from DPI's potential impact or were, in the view of Member States, essential components of the Department's core mission.

The report analysed specific areas of DPI's work and made recommendations for improvement covering such areas as changing DPI's structure so as to provide a more direct interface with the substantive departments; incorporating performance management as a vital part of all major DPI activities and programmes, and placing greater emphasis on impact evaluation; consideration of organizational changes to consolidate functions within DPI or more functions outside the Department; consolidation of the production of DPI publications within the Department's organizational structure, which would await the larger review of UN publications and information materials called for in General Assembly resolution 56/253 [YUN 2001, p. 1297]; better leverage of information technology; the services provided by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library; DPI's conference-related workload; direct outreach activities; and the costs of maintaining UNICs and field offices, which accounted for 35 per cent of the DPI budget. With regard to the last issue, the report stated that it would be premature to draw definitive conclusions as the UNICs were under review by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). However, it suggested that, in order to maximize the limited resources available, the creation of regional centre "hubs", as suggested in 1997 by the Task Force on the Reorientation of United Nations Public Information Activities [YUN 1997, p. 567], would need to be considered, especially in areas where regionalization would be facilitated by linguistic commonalities. The report also questioned whether the Organization needed to maintain UNICs in high-cost developed countries where, in contrast to the situation in the developing world, the population had greater access to a wide range of information sources.

The report concluded that, under a more focused and targeted mission, DPI would be better able to develop proactively a more effective and efficient communications strategy for the United Nations; articulate the best way for the Department to realign its programme and activities to fulfil the UN communications strategy; and jointly decide with the Committee on Information whether those strategies and programmes best served the Organization. A key issue was the extent to which financial considerations should determine the continuance of a mandated programme. It would not be possible to continue all of the current DPI work programme and simultaneously emphasize priority tasks.

Annexed to the report were specific details on DPI's work with regard to communications strategies, United Nations houses, the work of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the UN web site, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 56/64 B [YUN 2001, p. 559].

Agenda for further change

In his September report on strengthening the United Nations: an agenda for further change [A/57/387 & Corr.1] (see p. 1352), the Secretary-General, building on his earlier report to the Committee on Information (see above), proposed a new operating model for DPI, a new operating concept for UNICs, and a thorough impact assessment for each of the Department's major product and service lines. He also proposed changes to the Secretariat's publications programme and its delivery of library services. DPI's new structure would comprise: a Division of Strategic Communications, which would devise, disseminate and evaluate UN messages around priority themes; an Outreach Division, which would group together services to delegations, liaison with civil society and activities for the general public; and a strengthened News and Media Division, which would incorporate DPI's web-site operation. The Cartographic Section would be transferred to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

To better match DPI programmes with the needs of target audiences, the Secretary-General proposed that DPI, assisted by OIOS, conduct a three-year, systematic evaluation of the impact and cost-effectiveness of all of its activities. As to UNICs, the Secretary-General proposed to rationalize the network around regional hubs, starting with the creation of a Western European hub.

The Secretary-General noted that an in-depth review of all UN library activities had highlighted a lack of integrated management and a need for modernization. Therefore, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library in New York would assume responsibility for setting policy and coordinating the work of all UN libraries; DPI, in conjunction with the Department of Management, would prepare a comprehensive plan for the integration of the UN library services at various locations through the use of information and communications technologies; and DPI would formulate and implement a plan to improve electronic access to UN collections, facilitate the transfer of paper collections to electronic files and provide training to depositary librarians.

A review of all published materials suggested considerable fragmentation and duplication, and the Publications Board had not proved to be an effective instrument for ensuring quality and process control. Therefore, the Executive Com-

mittees established in 1998 in the four core areas of peace and security, development cooperation, international economic and social affairs and humanitarian affairs [YUN 1998, p. 1249] would plan and coordinate all publications within their respective thematic areas in order to reduce the number of and improve the coherence, focus and scheduling among UN publications; DPI would do the same for its titles. The Publications Board would be reconstituted as a standard-setting body, with appropriate membership and terms of reference; the feasibility and cost of online publications delivery, supplemented by a print-on-demand capability, would be reviewed; and the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* should no longer be produced by the United Nations.

In **resolution 57/300**, the General Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's agenda for further change and addressed the proposals for the reform of DPI contained therein (see p. 1353).

DPI activities

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/64 B [YUN 2001, p. 559], the Secretary-General submitted a July report on questions relating to information [A/57/157] covering DPI's recent activities and the implementation of the resolution's recommendations. During the preceding year, DPI had worked to project the voice of the Secretary-General on key international issues and to convey the message that the United Nations was indispensable to the world's people. Following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 60], the Department moved quickly to inform the world of the Organization's response and, among other things, created a special web page in all official languages on UN actions to address terrorism.

DPI extended its use of new information technologies to deliver news and information on the United Nations to all regions. The Internet-based United Nations News Service had established itself as a gateway to up-to-date news and information on the Organization for a growing number of media organizations. DPI's Internet site was backed by a parallel e-mail service that brought news directly to the desks of re-disseminators in the media, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and civil society. That initiative was an integral part of the Department's efforts to improve the access of media outlets in developing countries to important news stories and information sources, thereby responding to the General Assembly's call to maintain and improve its activities in areas of special need in those countries. Mindful of the importance of multilingualism in its work, DPI had a

number of information products and services available in the six official languages, such as the daily live radio programmes (see below), the *UN Chronicle* and the United Nations News Centre.

DPI continued to strengthen the coordination and management of the UN web site and offered guidance to many other content-providing areas, both inside and outside the Secretariat. The new Working Group on Internet Matters, chaired by DPI, had also helped to increase interdepartmental cooperation in that area. The Information Technology Section was renamed the United Nations Web-site Section, and was moved to DPI's News and Media Division in June, in order to take advantage of increased synergies with the radio, television and print media. Many parliamentary documents had been linked directly to the new Official Document System (ODS), thus eliminating the need to post them again to the UN web site. The Department continued to build on the successful development of its in-house web-casting capability, which provided services for the International Conference on Financing for Development in March (see p. 953). The Department organized two training seminars to assist permanent missions in New York to design and maintain their own web sites, resulting in the establishment of 16 web sites for Spanish-speaking missions and nine for francophone missions, all linked to the UN web site. DPI was developing a web site to promote awareness of the Millennium Development Goals [YUN 2000, p. 51] using "The UN Works" concept. The Cyberschoolbus, the web site for young people and teachers, continued to update and improve its popular profiles of Member States, develop new educational materials, and translate its English content into other official languages, with an emphasis on Arabic, Chinese and Russian. The redesigned United Nations News Centre portal featured enhanced navigational tools and database-driven functions; its French-language version had been launched and work was under way to develop versions in other official languages. The Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General provided transcripts of all the Secretary-General's remarks to the press via the UN web site, issued official statements and updated his daily appointments and travel records.

The live radio project continued to reach large audiences worldwide with its daily 15-minute current affairs news magazine, and its programmes—produced in nine non-official and six official languages—were also posted on the UN web site for any station to download. Additional resources for the project, totalling \$2,372,000, were appropriated for the 2002-2003 biennium, but DPI was unable to absorb further costs. While

no positive responses had been received from Member States to a request for financial contributions for the project, several Member States provided access for DPI to carry the live broadcasts on their national radio networks. United Nations television continued to produce and distribute coverage of meetings, press conferences and special events at Headquarters, and was used in all live webcasts.

As a result of a new review and evaluation process to ensure that all DPI-associated NGOs continued to fulfil the criteria for association, the number of associated NGOs decreased from about 1,600 to 1,400, and the Department was taking a more proactive role in inviting qualified organizations to apply for association.

In cooperation with substantive departments, DPI implemented thematic information programmes to promote UN action in the priority areas set out in the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49], as well as a number of conferences and special sessions held during the year. A February report of the Secretary-General [A/AC.198/2002/3] described activities carried out by the Department to promote the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations (2001) [YUN 2001, p. 1013] and to publicize the findings of the Group of Eminent Persons appointed by the Secretary-General for the Year.

Library services

The Dag Hammarskjöld Library made great progress in improving its web site in the six official UN languages, increasing its access to electronic information and providing training for permanent mission personnel, Secretariat staff and depository libraries. A test version of the new UNBIS thesaurus file, in the six official languages, was posted on the web site and thesaurus data were also transmitted to ODS.

By the end of May, the number of UN depository libraries had grown to 408, and 98 depository libraries had converted their hard-copy entitlements of documents to ODS access. The Library continued to expand its accessibility to UN staff worldwide and, in many cases, to permanent missions, through consortium purchasing with other UN system agencies. Budget reductions resulted in cutbacks in the Library's subscriptions to multilingual resource services and in the acquisition of multilingual print materials.

DPI continued to expand its cartographic and geographic products and services, including cartographic presentations in support of briefings by the Secretariat at Security Council meetings. The posting of new and revised peacekeeping and general maps on the cartographic web site for free access by Member States and the Secretariat

continued, as did the coordinated development and maintenance of a common UN geographic database.

UN information centres

To maximize their outreach and impact, the United Nations information centres continued to work with a variety of partners, including Governments, local authorities, media, educational institutions, NGOs and other civil society organizations, as well as UN system partners at the country level. A number of centres translated and produced local language versions of DPI press kits for major UN conferences and other events, including the International Conference on Financing for Development (see p. 953). DPI continued to encourage and support efforts by the UN information centres, services and offices to establish their own web sites; such sites had become an indispensable source of information for journalists, students, academics and the public at large.

In 2002, the Committee on Information considered a February report of the Secretary-General on the integration of UNICs with field offices of UNDP: continued implementation of the views of host Governments [A/AC.198/2002/4], prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 56/64 B [YUN 2001, p. 559], which included proposals for the continuation of the integration exercise. The report stated that 17 UNICs were currently formally integrated with UNDP field offices. Since the exercise was launched in 1992, there had been some confusion with regard to the aims and the implementation process, giving rise to concerns among host countries and within DPI and UNDP. In 2001, DPI and UNDP created a joint working group to review all aspects of cooperation in the area of public information at the field level, with the objectives of projecting a unified image of the United Nations and strengthening cooperation through resource-sharing and closer teamwork. There was no current proposal pending for the integration of any UNIC with a field office of UNDP, but any such future measure would be reviewed by DPI and UNDP and would be required to meet feasibility and cost-effectiveness requirements prior to implementation.

Development of UN web sites

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/64 B [YUN 2001, p. 559], the Secretary-General submitted to the Committee on Information a March report on the continued multilingual development, maintenance and enrichment of the UN web site [A/AC.198/2002/6]. Updating the cur-

rent situation, the report stated that use of the web sites in languages other than English was slowly but steadily increasing. As to the question of linguistic parity, however, resources had still not been identified for the feasibility study, proposed in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 576], on the complete redesign and restructuring of the sites to make them more user-friendly and flexible.

Multilingual development and enrichment of the web site had been slower than expected due primarily to a lack of resources, and other options for translation and web-site creation were being explored. DPI had entered into agreements with two universities in Spain, which agreed to provide translations into Spanish of parts of the UN web site free of charge, and it was hoped that similar agreements could be reached with regard to the other official languages. A rapid way of adding a large number of documents to the web site in all official languages would be to make available the contents of ODS for free access through the UN web site. Machine-assisted translation might be considered in the future, but current translation software was inadequate for the production of texts of publishable quality and would need to be backed up by a team of editors for each language. The Working Group on Internet Matters had established task teams to enhance the guidelines on UN Internet publishing to include the issue of availability of multilingual materials on the UN web site.

Two possible courses of action were presented in the report: action 1: replicate all materials on the English web site in the other language sites; action 2: allow the web sites to develop independently in each language, on the basis of the resource capacities of author departments and offices. While the latter action appeared to be the most cost-effective and prudent, it was also noted that most content-providing offices had not been able to create their web sites in the non-working languages of the Secretariat (Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish). The report recommended that Member States approve action 2 with the understanding that, given the level of resources available for translation in the author departments, full linguistic parity would not be achieved for some time.

In response to resolution 56/253 [YUN 2001, p. 1297], the Secretary-General submitted an August report on strengthening DPI, within existing capacity, to support and enhance the UN web site in all the Organization's official languages [A/57/355]. The report stated that while language diversity of DPI staff contributed directly to the quest for linguistic parity, that diversity could only have limited impact unless other DPI activities were curtailed. DPI's current resource capacity was

barely at maintenance level and was therefore not adequate to sustain the rapid expansion in web-site use. To keep pace with the expansion and the daily addition of new material in all official languages, while continuing to manage and maintain the growing web site effectively, additional resources of \$1,297,500 would be required to provide for two Professional staff members for each language, which was the minimum requirement to ensure full language coverage. There was no room within the current DPI budget to absorb such costs.

The report again presented the two proposals for action contained in the Secretary-General's March report to the Committee on Information, and noted that while the integration of ODS with the UN web site would significantly enhance the site's multilingual nature, it would also dramatically increase its management and maintenance requirements. Given the Department's inability to redeploy more of its resources without adversely affecting currently mandated programmes, strengthening the multilingual development of the web site appeared to be achievable only if the requisite resources were identified. The report noted that the Committee on Information, at its 2002 session, was unable to reach a decision on the issue of parity on the web site and the estimated required resources, and that it requested a new report on the most practical, efficient and cost-effective means of achieving linguistic parity on the web site. The General Assembly was asked to determine whether excluding press releases and treaties, among other elements, from translation requirements, together with past materials, would address its concerns regarding parity. Based on that decision, content-providing offices could formulate resource requirements for translation, revision, editing, formatting and posting of their material on the web site, and budgetary provisions might be gradually built into the respective capacities of each of those offices.

ACABQ report. Having considered the Secretary-General's August report (above), the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), in October [A/57/7/Add.2], stated that, in view of the ongoing review of DPI (see p. 584) and consideration by the General Assembly of the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report on the strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change [A/57/387 & Corr.1] (see p. 1352), it recommended that the Secretary-General implement his proposal on the web site (action 2) and report on the possible budgetary requirements in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2002-2003.

By **decision 57/579** of 20 December, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to proceed with the implementation of his proposal on strengthening the web site through redeployment of resources within DPI, giving priority to the required language posts, and to report on the status of implementation to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth (2003) session. He was also asked to keep the question of equality among the six official languages on the web site under review and to submit proposals aimed at achieving full equality.

DPI and peacekeeping

In response to resolution 56/64 B [YUN 2001, p. 559], the Secretary-General submitted to the Committee on Information a March report on DPI's role in UN peacekeeping [A/AC.198/2002/5], which stated that DPI continued to provide planning and operational support to peacekeeping missions and to a growing number of political and peace-building missions. As increased attention to peacekeeping and political missions had made it nearly impossible for the Department to support all of the missions adequately, priority was being given to those missions requiring immediate assistance.

Despite its limited resources, DPI continued to collaborate with the information components of various peace missions to promote UN peacekeeping, peacemaking and peace-building. The Department also continued its consultations and coordination with other Secretariat departments in the planning of new missions and support of existing ones. For example, a DPI representative participated in the work of the Integrated Management Task Force for Afghanistan, established in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 264], and prepared an assessment of needs for the media sector in Afghanistan. DPI continued to screen and recommend candidates for public information posts in UN peacekeeping missions. Consultations were under way to formulate standard operating procedures for public information components in peace missions and on other projects, including start-up kits, new information technologies, rapid deployment and a conceptual design for an integrated process for establishing a new field information operation. However, without additional staff resources, it would be difficult for the Department to implement some complex tasks effectively. Despite the General Assembly's endorsement of DPI's information support functions, the number of staff dedicated to public information in peacekeeping remained the same. For that reason, and as a follow-up to a 2001 ACABQ recommendation regarding the establishment of a technical unit within DPI dedicated to

public information programmes in peacekeeping [YUN 2001, p. 74], the Secretary-General's report on funding requirements for peacekeeping from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 would include a provision for additional resources for DPI to enhance its capacity to backstop peacekeeping operations (see p. 75).

JUNIC and UNCG

The Committee on Information [A/57/21] had before it the Secretary-General's report on the 2001 activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) [A/AC.198/2002/7]. The Committee noted that, as part of the reform of its functioning [YUN 2001, p. 1364], the Administrative Committee on Coordination, renamed the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, abolished its permanent subsidiary bodies, including JUNIC. As from January 2002, inter-agency coordination in public information matters was carried out through a new informal and flexible mechanism—the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG), composed of the heads of public information and communications of the UN system organizations.

At its first annual session (Rome, Italy, 27-28 June) [A/AC.198/2003/6], UNCG identified two major communications challenges: developing a flexible and task-oriented approach to coordinating information work; and finding new, more effective tools to tell their story in an increasingly competitive media environment. It also identified the following elements as key to formulating an information strategy for the United Nations and its system of organizations: the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49] and Millennium Development Goals should serve as the framework for overall communications strategies; issues of global concern were clearly connected with the twin strategic objects of peace and security, and development; and since, in the post-11 September political environment, the Western press, especially in the United States, appeared to be placing a strong emphasis on terrorism, UN system information programmes had to adapt by developing strategies to make other compelling issues accessible to the media and the public.

The Group decided to continue to hold, in addition to its annual session, weekly meetings at United Nations Headquarters and meetings of its issue-specific task forces. In 2002, task forces dealt with the International Conference on Financing for Development (see p. 953); the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 821); the International Year of Freshwater 2003 (see p. 1028); and the World Summit on the

Information Society, to be held in 2003 and 2005 (see p. 836).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/57/523], adopted **resolutions 57/130 A and B** without vote [agenda item 79].

Questions relating to information

A

Information in the service of humanity

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the comprehensive and important report of the Committee on Information,

Also taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information,

Urges all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, deeply concerned by the disparities existing between developed and developing countries and the consequences of every kind arising from those disparities that affect the capability of the public, private or other media and individuals in developing countries to disseminate information and communicate their views and their cultural and ethical values through endogenous cultural production, as well as to ensure the diversity of sources and their free access to information, and recognizing the call in this context for what in the United Nations and at various international forums has been termed “a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process”:

(a) To cooperate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows at all levels by increasing assistance for the development of communication infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with due regard for their needs and the priorities attached to such areas by those countries, and in order to enable them and the public, private or other media in developing countries to develop their own information and communication policies freely and independently and increase the participation of media and individuals in the communication process, and to ensure a free flow of information at all levels;

(b) To ensure for journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them;

(c) To provide support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from public, private and other media in developing countries;

(d) To enhance regional efforts and cooperation among developing countries, as well as cooperation between developed and developing countries, to strengthen communication capacities and to improve the media infrastructure and communication technology in the developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information;

(e) To aim at, in addition to bilateral cooperation, providing all possible support and assistance to the developing countries and their media, public, private or other, with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already adopted within the United Nations system, including:

- (i) The development of the human and technical resources that are indispensable for the improvement of information and communication systems in developing countries and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;
 - (ii) The creation of conditions that will enable developing countries and their media, public, private or other, to have, by using their national and regional resources, the communication technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, especially for radio and television broadcasting;
 - (iii) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;
 - (iv) The facilitation, as appropriate, of access by the developing countries to advanced communication technology available on the open market;
- (f) To provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which should support both public and private media.

B

United Nations public information policies and activities

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its decision to consolidate the role of the Committee on Information as its main subsidiary body mandated to make recommendations to it relating to the work of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat,

Concurring with the view of the Secretary-General that the fundamental premise underlying the reorientation efforts of the Department of Public Information remains General Assembly resolution 13(I) of 13 February 1946, establishing the Department, which states in paragraph 2 of annex I that the activities of the Department should be so organized and directed as to promote to the greatest possible extent an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations among the peoples of the world,

Concurring also with the view of the Secretary-General that the contents of public information and communications should be placed at the heart of the strategic management of the United Nations and that a culture of communications should permeate all levels of the Organization, as a means of fully informing the peoples of the world of the aims and activities of the United Nations, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in order to create broad-based global support for the United Nations,

Stressing that the primary mission of the Department of Public Information is to provide, through its out-

reach activities, accurate, impartial, comprehensive and timely information to the public on the tasks and responsibilities of the United Nations in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization with the greatest transparency,

Reaffirming that the Department of Public Information must prioritize its work programme while respecting existing mandates and in line with rule 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, to focus its message and concentrate its efforts better and, as a function of performance management, to match its programmes with the needs of its target audiences, on the basis of improved feedback and evaluation mechanisms,

Stating that the comprehensive review of the work of the Department of Public Information, being prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001, and the embracing of a strategic direction which the Department has to consider as a result, provide an opportunity to take further steps to rationalize in order to maintain, eliminate, enhance or reduce its activities and output, to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness, to maximize the use of its resources and, finally, to establish a departmental structure to accomplish these goals,

Expressing its concern that the gap in the information and communication technologies between the developed and the developing countries has continued to widen and that vast segments of the population in developing countries are not benefiting from the present information and technology revolution, and, in this regard, underlining the necessity of rectifying the imbalances of the global information and technology revolution in order to make it more just, equitable and effective,

Recognizing that developments in the information and communication technology revolution open vast new opportunities for economic growth and social development and can play an important role in the eradication of poverty in developing countries, and, at the same time, emphasizing that it also poses challenges and risks and could lead to the further widening of disparities between and within countries,

Stating that the present developments and rapid changes in the field of information and communication technology have a tremendous impact on the functioning of the United Nations and the Department of Public Information in particular, which may necessitate suitable adjustments in the manner in which the mandate of the Department is implemented, as a key element in the reform and revitalization of the United Nations in a new information age,

Recognizing that the mix of means used by the Department of Public Information to disseminate its message remains a key area for review and, in this regard, that the Department should rely on reaching the public through existing external media to a greater degree than at present,

Recalling its resolution 56/262 of 15 February 2002 on multilingualism, and emphasizing the importance of making appropriate use of the official languages of the United Nations in the activities of the Department of Public Information, aiming to eliminate the dispar-

ity between the use of English and the other five official languages,

Welcoming Azerbaijan and Monaco to membership in the Committee on Information,

I

Introduction

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 13(I), in which it established the Department of Public Information, and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions related to the activities of the Department;

2. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in respect of the public information policies and activities of the United Nations, to continue to implement fully the recommendations contained in paragraph 2 of its resolution 48/44 B of 10 December 1993 and other mandates as established by the General Assembly;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 as a guideline that sets out the overall orientation of the public information programme for the Organization's goals through effective communication;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive review of the management and operations of the Department of Public Information and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, and encourages the Secretary-General to submit wide-ranging innovative proposals for the Department that should take into account the issue raised in the current resolution;

5. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, following the priorities laid down by the General Assembly and using the United Nations Millennium Declaration as its guide, to pay particular attention to such major issues as the eradication of poverty, conflict prevention, sustainable development, human rights, the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic, the battle against international terrorism and the needs of the African continent;

6. *Concurs* with the Secretary-General on the need to enhance the technological infrastructure of the Department of Public Information to widen its outreach and to improve the United Nations web site;

7. *Acknowledges* the important work carried out by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its collaboration with news agencies and broadcasting organizations in developing countries in disseminating information on priority issues;

II

General activities of the Department of Public Information

8. *Notes* the efforts made by the Department of Public Information, in the context of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the reorientation of United Nations activities in the field of public information and communications and the ongoing comprehensive review, to articulate to Member States the challenges it faces in improving its efficiency and productivity, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue the reorientation exercise, including wide-ranging and possibly new innovative proposals, taking into account broad principles and directions contained in the present resolution, and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its twenty-fifth session;

9. *Reaffirms* that the Department of Public Information is the focal point for information policies of the United Nations and the primary news centre for information about the United Nations and its activities and those of the Secretary-General, and encourages a closer integration of functions between the Department and those offices providing spokesman services for the Secretary-General;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the reorientation process, to continue to exert all efforts to ensure that publications and other information services of the Secretariat, including the United Nations web site and the United Nations News Service, contain comprehensive, objective and equitable information about the issues before the Organization and that they maintain editorial independence, impartiality, accuracy and full consistency with resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly;

11. *Notes* the submission by the Secretary-General of his report on the reorientation of United Nations activities in the field of public information and communications, and welcomes the progress achieved since the commencement of the reorientation exercise in enhancing the performance and effectiveness of the Department of Public Information in accordance with the mandates established by the General Assembly and the recommendations of the Committee on Information;

12. *Welcomes* the movement of the Department of Public Information towards a new "evaluation culture" of increased performance management, based on, inter alia, an annual programme impact review, as well as feedback from Member States, where appropriate;

13. *Welcomes also* the intention of the Department of Public Information to examine further areas of duplication and fragmentation of functions in the structure of the Department as well as opportunities for greater coordination within the Secretariat as a whole and within the United Nations system in order to avoid overlapping of efforts in the implementation of its mandates and activities;

14. *Notes* the intention of the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive review of the management and operations of the Department of Public Information and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session in accordance with resolution 56/253, and recognizes that the comprehensive review of the Department is intended to facilitate the process of reorientation;

15. *Requests* the Committee on Information to examine thoroughly the comprehensive review once it has been finalized and to submit its recommendations thereon to the General Assembly, and stresses in this context the importance of respecting the principal competence of the Committee to undertake the examination of the review and submit its recommendations prior to consideration by any other body;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure, to the extent possible, that recommendations relating to the programme of work of the Department of Public Information originate and are considered in the Committee on Information;

17. *Takes note* of the proposed mission statement of the Department of Public Information, and emphasizes the importance, when implementing the mandates established by the General Assembly, of direct

outreach activities to Member States and the public and the use of such intermediaries as the media, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions;

18. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, while maintaining the information programmes and activities mandated by the General Assembly until any alternative future decision has been taken on this matter upon the recommendation of the Committee on Information, to continue the study and consideration of certain organizational changes;

19. *Urges* the Department of Public Information to continue to exhibit transparency to the greatest extent possible, so as to increase awareness of the impact of its programmes and activities;

20. *Emphasizes* that, through its reorientation, the Department of Public Information should maintain and improve its activities in the areas of special interest to developing countries and, where appropriate, other countries with special needs, including countries in transition, and that such reorientation contributes to bridging the existing gap between the developing and the developed countries in the crucial field of public information and communications;

21. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue consultations with the Committee on Information before taking any decision on the possible changing of its title;

22. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to strengthen the coordination between the Department of Public Information and other departments of the Secretariat, and emphasizes that public information capacities and activities in other departments should function under the guidance of the Department;

23. *Welcomes* the initiatives that have been taken by the Department of Public Information to strengthen the public information system of the United Nations, and, in this regard, stresses the importance of a coherent and results-oriented approach being taken by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the programmes and funds of the United Nations system involved in public information activities and the provision of resources for their implementation, and that feedback from Member States on the relevance and effectiveness of its programme delivery should be taken into account;

24. *Welcomes also* the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee in 2001, commends the Department of Public Information on its active and constructive participation in the Committee, particularly its efforts in promoting inter-agency coordination in the field of public information, encourages the Department to play a key role in the newly established United Nations Communications Group, takes note of the efforts being undertaken by the Group to develop further several key initiatives, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at successive sessions on the activities of the Group;

25. *Recognizes* the need for the Department of Public Information to increase its outreach activities in all regions, and reiterates the need to include, in the orientation of United Nations activities in the field of public information and communications, an analysis of the present reach and scope of the Department's ac-

tivities, identifying the widest possible spectrum of audiences and geographical areas that are not covered adequately and may require special attention, including the appropriate means of communication, and bearing in mind local language requirements;

26. *Appreciates* the continued efforts of the Department of Public Information in issuing daily press releases, and requests the Department to continue providing this invaluable service to both Member States and representatives of the media, while considering possible means of improving their production process and streamlining their format, structure and length, keeping in mind the views of Member States and the fact that other departments may be providing similar or overlapping services in this regard;

III

Multilingualism and public information

27. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring the full, equitable treatment of all the official languages of the United Nations in all activities of the Department of Public Information, and stresses the importance of fully implementing its resolution 52/214 of 22 December 1997, in section C of which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the texts of all new public documents in all six official languages, and information materials of the United Nations, are made available daily through the United Nations web site and are accessible to Member States without delay;

28. *Reaffirms its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Public Information has appropriate staffing capacity in all official languages of the United Nations to undertake all its activities;

29. *Reminds* the Secretary-General of the need to include in future programme budget proposals for the Department of Public Information the importance of using all six official languages in its activities;

IV

Promotional campaigns

30. *Recognizes* that promotional campaigns aimed at supporting special sessions and international conferences of the United Nations are part of the core responsibility of the Department of Public Information, and welcomes the efforts of the Department to examine creative ways by which it can organize and implement these campaigns in partnership with the substantive departments concerned;

31. *Recognizes also* the need for enhanced publicity through a targeted strategy to be developed by the Department of Public Information on the forthcoming special sessions, international conferences and promotional campaigns of the United Nations pertaining to global issues, using the United Nations Millennium Declaration as its guide;

32. *Supports* the efforts of the Department of Public Information, while ensuring respect for the priorities established by the General Assembly, to focus its promotional campaigns also on the major issues identified by the Secretary-General, referred to in paragraph 5 above;

33. *Appreciates* the work of the Department of Public Information in promoting, through its campaigns, issues of importance to the international community, such as sustainable development, children, HIV/AIDS and decolonization, as well as the dialogue among civilizations and the consequences of the Chernobyl disas-

ter, and encourages the Department, in cooperation with the countries concerned and with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate measures to enhance world public awareness of these and other important global issues;

34. *Encourages* the Department of Public Information to continue to work within the United Nations Communications Group to coordinate the implementation of communication strategies with the heads of information of the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system;

V

Bridging the digital divide

35. *Welcomes* the decision, endorsed in its resolution 56/183 of 21 December 2001, to convene the World Summit on the Information Society at Geneva in December 2003 and at Tunis in December 2005;

36. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the establishment of the United Nations Information Technology Service, the Health InterNetwork and the Information and Communications Technology Task Force with a view to bridging the digital divide and as a response to the continuing gulf between developed and developing countries, welcomes the contribution of the Department of Public Information in publicizing the efforts of the Secretary-General to close the digital divide as a means of spurring economic growth and as a response to the continuing gulf between developed and developing countries, and, in this context, requests the Department further to enhance its role;

VI

United Nations information centres

37. *Stresses* that the United Nations information centres and information components should continue to play a significant role in disseminating information about the work of the Organization to the peoples of the world, including in the areas outlined in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and emphasizes that the information centres, as the "field voice" of the Department of Public Information, should promote public awareness of and mobilize support for the work of the United Nations at the local level, bearing in mind that information in the local languages has the strongest impact on the local populations;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his comprehensive review of the management and operations of the Department of Public Information the results of the ongoing review by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat on this matter and information on the involvement of the Department in the United Nations houses initiative;

39. *Notes* the efforts by some United Nations information centres to develop their own web pages in local languages, and encourages the Department of Public Information to provide resources and technical facilities, in particular to those information centres whose web pages are not yet operational, to develop web pages in the respective local languages of their host countries, and encourages host Governments to respond to the needs of the information centres;

40. *Welcomes* the efforts by the Department of Public Information to restore additional resources to those United Nations information centres that have suffered reductions in staffing and other resources as a result of

budget reduction exercises undertaken in the past several years;

41. *Recalls* the appeal made by the Secretary-General to the host Governments of United Nations information centres to facilitate the work of the centres in their countries by providing rent-free or rent-subsidized premises, while taking into account the economic condition of the host Governments and bearing in mind that such support should not be a substitute for the full allocation of financial resources for the information centres in the context of the programme budget of the United Nations;

42. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Department of Public Information to review the allocation of both staff and financial resources to United Nations information centres with a view to possibly transferring resources from information centres in developed countries to those in developing countries;

43. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Integration of United Nations information centres with field offices of the United Nations Development Programme: continued implementation of the views of host Governments", welcomes the consistent implementation by the Department of Public Information of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly with respect to the integration of United Nations information centres with the field offices of the United Nations Development Programme, and reaffirms that any proposal in this regard should be implemented only if feasible and on a case-by-case basis, while maintaining the operational and functional independence of the information centres, taking into account the views of the host countries to ensure that the information functions and the autonomy of the centres are not adversely affected, to meet the integration policy's stated objective of improving the provision of information by the United Nations;

44. *Notes* the possibility of creating regional information centre "hubs", especially but not exclusively in areas where linguistic commonalities facilitate regionalization, stresses the need for the Committee on Information to consider proposed guidelines and criteria relating to the advisability of implementing this option, and stresses also that, subject to the General Assembly endorsing the guidelines and criteria, such "hubs" should be created in a flexible manner, if feasible, on a case-by-case basis and only with the express approval of all host countries concerned;

VII

Role of the Department of Public Information in United Nations peacekeeping

45. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Department of Public Information in United Nations peacekeeping;

46. *Commends* the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen the public information capacity of the Department of Public Information for the establishment and functioning of the information components of peacekeeping operations and of political and peace-building missions of the United Nations, including its promotional efforts and other information support activities, and requests the Secretariat to continue to ensure the involvement of the Department from the planning stage of future operations through interdepartmental consultations and coordination with other

departments of the Secretariat, in particular with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations;

47. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to strengthen its capacity to contribute significantly to the functioning of information components in United Nations peacekeeping operations, including through the development of a coherent information strategy with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations;

48. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing the public information capacity of the Department of Public Information in the field of peacekeeping operations and its role in the selection process of spokespersons for United Nations peacekeeping operations or missions, and, in this regard, encourages the Department to second spokespersons who have the necessary skills to fulfil the tasks of the operations or missions and to consider views expressed, especially by host countries, when appropriate, in this regard;

VIII

Dag Hammarskjöld Library

49. *Notes* the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to make the Dag Hammarskjöld Library a virtual library with world outreach, making United Nations information and other acquired materials accessible electronically to a growing number of readers and users, and notes also the efforts of the Secretary-General to enrich on a multilingual basis the stock of books and journals in the Library, including publications on peace and security and development-related issues, to ensure that the Library continues to be a broadly accessible resource for information about the United Nations and its activities;

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his comprehensive review of the management and operations of the Department of Public Information the results of the overall review of library services of the United Nations system, including the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, the libraries in the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna, the libraries in the regional commissions, departmental libraries, libraries at United Nations information centres and depository libraries called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253;

51. *Notes* the training courses conducted by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library for the representatives of Member States and Secretariat staff on Cyberseek, web search, the Intranet, United Nations documentation, UN-I-QUE and the Official Document System of the United Nations;

IX

Traditional means of communication: radio, television and publications

52. *Stresses* that radio remains one of the most cost-effective and far-reaching traditional media available to the Department of Public Information and an important instrument in United Nations activities, such as development and peacekeeping;

53. *Recalls* paragraph 47 of its resolution 56/64 B, in which it decided, building upon the success of the pilot project on the development of an international radio broadcasting capacity for the United Nations as well as the scope of its programme distribution and established partnerships, to expand the international

radio broadcasting capacity of the United Nations in all six official languages;

54. *Appreciates* that the Department of Public Information, as stated in paragraph 32 of the report of the Secretary-General on the reorientation of United Nations activities in the field of public information and communications, has managed to establish partnerships with over 265 radio stations to carry its broadcasts, with a potential to reach as many as 180 million listeners worldwide;

55. *Looks forward* to the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the Committee on Information at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the United Nations international radio broadcasting capacity, including information that can be obtained from the local, national and regional radio partners about the estimated number of listeners reached and the cost-effectiveness of radio as an instrument in United Nations activities, so that the Committee may decide on the future of this capacity;

56. *Notes* the efforts being made by the Department of Public Information to disseminate programmes directly to broadcasting stations all over the world in the six official languages as well as in other languages, and, in this regard, stresses the need for impartiality and objectivity concerning information activities of the United Nations;

57. *Emphasizes* that United Nations Radio and Television should take full advantage of the technological infrastructure made available in recent years, including satellite platforms, information and communication technologies and the Internet, and requests the Secretary-General, as a part of the reorientation of the Department of Public Information, to consider a global strategy for broadcasting, taking into account existing technologies;

58. *Notes* the importance of the continued implementation by the Department of Public Information of the ongoing programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries and countries in transition as mandated by the General Assembly, and encourages the Department to consider how best to maximize the benefits derived from the programme by reviewing, inter alia, its duration and the number of its participants;

59. *Reiterates* that all publications of the Department of Public Information, in accordance with existing mandates, should fulfil an identifiable need, should not duplicate other publications of the United Nations system and should be produced in a cost-effective manner, and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to include in his comprehensive review of the management and operations of the Department the relevant results of the larger review of United Nations publications and information materials called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253;

X

United Nations web site

60. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the continued development, maintenance and enrichment of the United Nations web site in the six official languages, and notes the possible courses of action outlined therein;

61. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the efforts of the Department of Public Information in creating a high-

quality, user-friendly and cost-effective web site, noting that this is especially noteworthy considering the scope of the undertaking, the budget constraints within the United Nations and the remarkably rapid expansion of the World Wide Web, reaffirms that the web site remains a very useful tool for media, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, Member States and the general public, and welcomes the creation of the United Nations web site on terrorism;

62. *Notes with concern* that the multilingual development and enrichment of the United Nations web site has been slower than expected because of a lack of resources, among other factors;

63. *Notes* that content-providing offices have not, in general, been making their materials on the United Nations web site available in all six official languages;

64. *Stresses* the need for adopting a decision on the multilingual development, maintenance and enrichment of the United Nations web site, considering, inter alia, the possibility of organizational restructuring towards separate language units for each of the six official languages within the Department of Public Information, in order to achieve full parity among the official languages of the United Nations;

65. *Reaffirms its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure, until such a decision has been taken and implemented, to the extent possible and while maintaining an up-to-date and accurate web site, the equitable distribution of financial and human resources within the Department of Public Information allocated to the United Nations web site among all official languages on a continuous basis, and to make every possible effort to ensure that all materials contained on the web site that do not change and do not need regular maintenance are made available in all six official languages;

66. *Reaffirms* the need to achieve full parity among the six official languages on the United Nations web site, and, in this regard, takes note of the proposal of the Secretary-General, as contained in paragraph 33 of his report, to translate into all official languages all English materials and databases posted on the United Nations web site by the respective content-providing offices of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-fifth session on the most practical, efficient and cost-effective means of implementing this proposal;

67. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-fifth session proposals relating to the designation of a date by which all supporting arrangements would be in place for the implementation of this concept and after which parity would continue and relating to the exemption from translation of specific items on the web site;

68. *Stresses* the importance of access for the public to the United Nations treaty collection and United Nations parliamentary documentation;

69. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, through the Department of Public Information, to continue to take full advantage of recent developments in information technology, including the Internet, in order to improve, in a cost-effective manner, the expeditious dissemination of information on the United Nations, in accordance with the priorities established by the Gen-

eral Assembly and taking into account the linguistic diversity of the Organization;

70. *Notes* that the High-Level Committee on Management of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination has requested its Technical Adviser to prepare and submit to it a preliminary study on the issue of one central Internet portal for the United Nations system, and requests the Department of Public Information, as the manager of the Organization's web site, to convey the considerations of the Committee on Information on this matter and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its twenty-fifth session;

71. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the re-engineering of the Optical Disk System, now called the Official Document System of the United Nations, and on the simultaneous availability of parliamentary documentation in electronic form in the six official languages on the United Nations web site;

72. *Commends* the Information Technology Services Division of the Office of Central Support Services of the Secretariat on its efforts in ensuring that the required technological infrastructure is in place to accommodate the imminent linkage of the Official Document System to the United Nations web site, and commends also the Department of Public Information for addressing issues of content management relating to the System;

73. *Notes* that the integration of the Official Document System with the United Nations web site will significantly enhance the multilingual nature of the United Nations web site and will lead to efficiencies throughout all Secretariat departments through the elimination of duplicate formatting and posting of documents;

74. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-fifth session on the impact on the functioning of the Official Document System following implementation of the full multilingual support function and on the feasibility of providing free, public access to the System through a linkage with the United Nations web site, including options with a view to revising the current subscription policy established in General Assembly resolution 51/211 F of 15 September 1997, and expresses its intention to take a decision on the subscription policy during the main part of its fifty-eighth session;

75. *Notes with interest* the electronic mail-based United Nations News Service distributed worldwide by e-mail by the Department of Public Information, appreciates the plan of the Department to provide this service in all official languages in 2002, and emphasizes that extra care needs to be taken to ensure that news-breaking stories and news alerts are accurate, impartial and free of any bias;

XI

Final remarks

76. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-fifth session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution;

77. *Requests* the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

78. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

On 20 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on questions relating to information would remain for consideration during its resumed fifty-seventh (2003) session (**decision 57/585**).

Review of public information activities

The General Assembly, at its resumed fifty-sixth (2002) session, considered a 2001 report of the Secretary-General [YUN 2001, p. 565] reviewing public information activities in the Secretariat outside DPI [A/C.5/56/17].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 27 March [meeting 97], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee [A/56/736/Add.1], adopted **resolution 56/276** without vote [agenda item 123].

Review of public information activities in the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the review of public information activities in the United Nations Secretariat outside the Department of Public Information,

1. *Notes* the report of the Secretary-General, and looks forward to the submission to the relevant inter-governmental bodies of the comprehensive review referred to in paragraph 150 of its resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001, along with the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Information and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. *Decides* that the comprehensive review referred to in paragraph 1 above should address also the language versions of publications issued outside the Department of Public Information.

Information and communications in the context of international security

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/19 [YUN 2001, p. 565], the Secretary-General, in a July report with later addendum [A/57/166 & Add.1], transmitted the views of four Member States on the general appreciation of the issues of information security; the definition of basic notions related to information security, including unauthorized interference with or misuse of information and telecommunication systems and information resources; and the context of relevant international concepts aimed at strengthen-

ing the security of global information and telecommunication systems.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 22 November [meeting 57], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/57/505], adopted **resolution 57/53** without vote [agenda item 61].

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/70 of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999, 55/28 of 20 November 2000 and 56/19 of 29 November 2001,

Recalling also its resolutions on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, in which, inter alia, it recognized that scientific and technological developments could have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needed to be maintained and encouraged,

Noting that considerable progress has been achieved in developing and applying the latest information technologies and means of telecommunication,

Affirming that it sees in this process the broadest positive opportunities for the further development of civilization, the expansion of opportunities for co-operation for the common good of all States, the enhancement of the creative potential of humankind and additional improvements in the circulation of information in the global community,

Recalling, in this connection, the approaches and principles outlined at the Information Society and Development Conference, held in Midrand, South Africa, from 13 to 15 May 1996,

Bearing in mind the results of the Ministerial Conference on Terrorism, held in Paris on 30 July 1996, and the recommendations that it made,

Noting that the dissemination and use of information technologies and means affect the interests of the entire international community and that optimum effectiveness is enhanced by broad international cooperation,

Expressing concern that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of States to the detriment of their security in both civil and military fields,

Considering that it is necessary to prevent the use of information resources or technologies for criminal or terrorist purposes,

Noting the contribution of those Member States that have submitted their assessments on issues of information security to the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 of resolutions 53/70, 54/49, 55/28 and 56/19,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General containing those assessments,

Welcoming the initiative taken by the Secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in convening an international meeting of experts in Geneva in August 1999 on developments in the

field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, as well as its results,

Considering that the assessments of the Member States contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the international meeting of experts have contributed to a better understanding of the substance of issues of international information security and related notions,

Confirming the request to the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 4 of its resolution 56/19,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to promote further at multilateral levels the consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security, as well as possible measures to limit the threats emerging in this field, consistent with the need to preserve the free flow of information;

2. *Considers* that the purpose of such measures could be served through the examination of relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunications systems;

3. *Invites* all Member States to continue to inform the Secretary-General of their views and assessments on the following questions:

(a) General appreciation of the issues of information security;

(b) Definition of basic notions related to information security, including unauthorized interference with or misuse of information and telecommunications systems and information resources;

(c) The content of the concepts mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present resolution;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, and to conduct a study on the concepts referred to in paragraph 2 of the present resolution, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts, to be established in 2004, appointed by him on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and with the help of Member States in a position to render such assistance, and to submit a report on the outcome of the study to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security".

Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

On 22 November [meeting 57], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/57/506], adopted **resolution 57/54** by recorded vote (90-48-21) [agenda item 62].

Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for

civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged,

Concerned that military applications of scientific and technological developments can contribute significantly to the improvement and upgrading of advanced weapons systems and, in particular, weapons of mass destruction,

Aware of the need to follow closely the scientific and technological developments that may have a negative impact on international security and disarmament, and to channel scientific and technological developments for beneficial purposes,

Cognizant that the international transfers of dual-use as well as high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes are important for the economic and social development of States,

Also cognizant of the need to regulate such transfers of dual-use goods and technologies and high technology with military applications through multilaterally negotiated, universally applicable, non-discriminatory guidelines,

Expressing concern about the growing proliferation of ad hoc and exclusive export control regimes and arrangements for dual-use goods and technologies, which tend to impede the economic and social development of developing countries,

Recalling that in the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998, it was noted with concern that undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes persist,

Emphasizing that internationally negotiated guidelines for the transfer of high technology with military applications should take into account the legitimate defence requirements of all States and the requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, while ensuring that access to high-technology products and services and know-how for peaceful purposes is not denied,

1. *Affirms* that scientific and technological progress should be used for the benefit of all mankind to promote the sustainable economic and social development of all States and to safeguard international security, and that international cooperation in the use of science and technology through the transfer and exchange of technological know-how for peaceful purposes should be promoted;

2. *Invites* Member States to undertake additional efforts to apply science and technology for disarmament-related purposes and to make disarmament-related technologies available to interested States;

3. *Urges* Member States to undertake multilateral negotiations with the participation of all interested States in order to establish universally acceptable, non-discriminatory guidelines for international transfers of dual-use goods and technologies and high technology with military applications;

4. *Encourages* United Nations bodies to contribute, within existing mandates, to promoting the application of science and technology for peaceful purposes;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 57/54:

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Yugoslavia.

Abstaining: Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Fiji, Georgia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, South Africa, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan.

Peaceful uses of outer space

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (Committee on Outer Space), at its forty-fifth session (Vienna, 5-14 June) [A/57/20], discussed ways and means to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes, the spin-off benefits of space technology, and space and society. It examined the implementation of the recommendations of the Third (1999) United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) [YUN 1999, p. 556], and reviewed the work of its two subcommittees, one concerned with scientific and technical issues and the other with legal questions. Annexed to the Committee's report was the Declaration of Cartagena de Indias and the Plan of Action, which were adopted at the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 14-17 May).

Implementation of UNISPACE III recommendations

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/51 [YUN 2001, p. 571], the Committee on Outer Space established a working group to prepare a report to enable the Assembly, in accordance with its resolution 54/68 [YUN 1999, p. 557], to review and appraise, in 2004, the implementation of the outcome of UNISPACE III and to consider further actions and initiatives. The Working Group was also asked to make recommendations

to the Committee on the format, scope and organizational aspects of that review.

The Working Group recommended that, in order for the Assembly to review progress on the UNISPACE III recommendations, a separate item on that subject, to be considered in plenary, should be included in the Assembly's agenda for its fifty-ninth session in 2004. The Working Group agreed that preparation of the 2004 report required: assessment of progress made in implementing the UNISPACE III recommendations; evaluation and identification of areas where action was needed for cooperation in space activities at international, regional and sub-regional levels to enhance economic, social and cultural development; consideration of further actions to be taken on the basis of recommendations made by the action teams established by the Committee in 2001 (see below) and identification of a few concrete actions that could be taken after the Assembly's 2004 review; and identification of those UNISPACE III recommendations that had not been implemented and of the way ahead for the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. The Working Group recommended that it be reconvened by the Committee at its forty-sixth session in 2003. The Committee endorsed the Working Group's recommendations [A/57/20].

In accordance with Assembly resolution 56/51, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-ninth session [A/AC.105/786] (see below), requested its Working Group of the Whole to consider the implementation of the UNISPACE III recommendations, including the progress of the action teams established by the Committee on Outer Space in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 568] and the results of a survey conducted among UN system and other organizations having observer status with the Committee in order to identify the recommendations for which they wished to be members of action teams. The Working Group agreed that an action team on creating, within the framework of the Committee, a consultative mechanism to facilitate the participation of youth in cooperative space activities should be established and requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to invite Member States to indicate whether they wished to lead or participate in action teams, if established, on creating awards to recognize outstanding contributions in space activity and any other remaining recommendations. It recommended that a briefing be held with the participation of the chairmen of the action teams, in conjunction with the forty-fifth (2002) session of the Committee, for interested non-governmental entities concerning activities conducted by the action teams, and that the Office for Outer Space Affairs prepare an updated report on the imple-

mentation of UNISPACE III recommendations in tabular form for submission to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its annual sessions.

The Committee on Outer Space, at its June session [A/57/20], endorsed the Working Group's recommendations. It noted that all action teams had reported on their work and submitted their work plans to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session. It also noted, however, that some action teams were experiencing difficulty in receiving feedback from Member States in response to questionnaires they had circulated. The Committee noted that some Governments were implementing various UNISPACE III recommendations through the adoption of national space policies.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 56/51 [YUN 2001, p. 671], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/57/213] on action taken by the Committee on Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies to implement the UNISPACE III recommendations, implementation of the plan of action of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and action taken to further enhance inter-agency coordination and cooperation.

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on Outer Space, at its thirty-ninth session (Vienna, 25 February–8 March) [A/AC.105/786], considered the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the implementation of the UNISPACE III recommendations. It also dealt with matters relating to the remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment; the use of nuclear power sources in outer space; mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among UN system entities; implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system; space debris; the examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications; international cooperation in limiting obtrusive space advertising that could interfere with astrological observations; and the mobilization of financial resources to develop capacity in space science and technology applications.

UN Programme on Space Applications

The United Nations Programme on Space Applications, as mandated by General Assembly res-

olution 37/90 [YUN 1982, p. 163], continued to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to establish or strengthen their capacity in space science and technology through long-term training fellowships, technical advisory services, regional and international training courses and conferences, and to promote cooperation between developed and developing countries.

The United Nations Expert on Space Applications [A/AC.105/790 & Corr.1] stated that Programme strategy in the area of disaster management, the aim of which was to assist developing countries to use space technology to deal with disasters successfully, focused on pilot projects, training, integration and funding. In 2002, regional workshops were organized for Africa and Asia and the Pacific. Programme efforts in developing indigenous capability continued to focus on the establishment and operation of regional centres for space science and technology education in developing countries and a Network of Space Science and Technology Education and Research Institutions for Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

The Programme held 13 training courses, workshops and conferences in 2002; the European Space Agency (ESA) continued to support the Programme's long-term fellowships for in-depth training. Various technical advisory services to activities promoting regional cooperation continued to be provided.

Having considered the February 2002 report of the Expert on Space Applications [A/AC.105/773], which described activities in 2001, those scheduled for 2002 and those proposed for 2003, the Subcommittee again expressed concern over the Programme's limited financial resources and appealed to Member States for voluntary contributions.

The General Assembly, in **resolution 57/116** (see p. 602), endorsed the Programme on Space Applications for 2003, as proposed by the Expert.

Cooperation

The Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, at its twenty-second session (Rome, 23-25 January) [A/AC.105/779], discussed the coordination of plans and programmes in the practical application of space technology and related areas and the promotion of space technology applications in the implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development [YUN 1992, p. 672]. It also reviewed electronic information networking in the UN system and the implementation of the UNISPACE III recommendations.

The Meeting noted that both the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization were active users of space-based products, and agreed that further efforts should be made to encourage those and other UN agencies concerned to participate in the Meeting. It noted that the cost of Earth observation data was an obstacle to its use by UN system organizations; the United Nations Office for Project Services was negotiating access to such data at reduced cost, and some satellite data distributors provided free access to some data sets for use in education and research and for other purposes. The Office for Outer Space Affairs was in consultation with ESA to make the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters accessible by all UN system organizations.

The Meeting recommended that, in future years, organizations inform it about observances such as international years, so that other organizations could take note of those themes in the development of related activities, and that those UN system organizations that had not already done so should be requested to designate an official focal point on outer space activities. Having considered a draft of the Secretary-General's report on the coordination of outer space activities within the UN system: programme of work for 2002, 2003 and future years [A/AC.105/780], the Meeting agreed that it should, in the near future, review the structure of that report in order to streamline the information contained therein.

The Meeting agreed that information-sharing among UN system organizations in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 821) had resulted in cross-fertilization of their activities and created synergies to promote the usefulness of space applications in sustainable development. It stressed that further efforts should be made by all organizations to ensure that space-related activities would be incorporated as cross-cutting issues in their preparatory activities for the Summit. The Office for Outer Space Affairs should analyse the outcome of the Summit with the assistance of UN system organizations to identify recommendations that could be better implemented using space science and technology.

With regard to the implementation of UNISPACE III recommendations, the Meeting stressed that the action teams should utilize existing international coordination and cooperation mechanisms; the teams were invited to take stock of mechanisms and programmes related to their work in order to develop better linkage, synergy and collaboration among them.

Scientific and technical issues

In 2002, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee [A/AC.105/786] again emphasized the importance of providing non-discriminatory access to state-of-the-art remote sensing data and to derived information at reasonable cost and in a timely manner, and of capacity-building, in particular to meet the needs of developing countries. It also emphasized the importance of remote sensing systems for advancing sustainable development, and noted that the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see p. 821) would present an opportunity to promote the use of space applications for that purpose.

The Subcommittee noted the finalization of a report of its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, which reviewed international documents and national processes potentially relevant to the peaceful uses of nuclear power sources in outer space [A/AC.105/781]. It agreed that the Working Group should be requested to continue its work until the Subcommittee's fortieth (2003) session, and to develop a set of potential options for consideration by the Subcommittee on any additional steps that might be deemed appropriate regarding space nuclear power sources, including drawing up a further multi-year programme of work.

The Subcommittee noted examples of existing and proposed satellite and data distribution systems that could be used for disaster management, identified and discussed the gaps in such systems, and noted initiatives to develop expertise in using space-based technologies for disaster management.

In accordance with its multi-year work plan on space debris [YUN 2001, p. 570], the Subcommittee focused on impact hazards and shielding. The Subcommittee invited the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee to present its proposals on space debris mitigation at the Subcommittee's 2003 session, during which the proposals would be reviewed and their utilization discussed. The Subcommittee agreed that Member States should pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources on board, with space debris and to other aspects of space debris; Member States and international organizations should make available the results of national research on space debris, including information on minimizing its creation.

The Committee on Outer Space [A/57/20] agreed that it was important that States making use of nuclear power sources conduct their activities in full accordance with the 1992 Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space [YUN 1992, p. 116].

The Committee stressed the importance of operational access to global satellite databases for preventing natural disasters, especially in developing countries, and the need to close gaps in the coverage of remote sensing satellites in order to provide reliable information to all disaster-affected areas.

In response to the Committee's request that Member States report on national and international research concerning the safety of space objects with nuclear power sources, the Secretariat submitted replies received from six States in two notes on the subject [A/AC.105/770/Add.1 & A/AC.105/789].

Another related document submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee was a Secretariat note [A/AC.105/778 & Add.1] containing information received from 20 Member States on their space activities.

Legal Subcommittee

The Legal Subcommittee, at its forty-first session (Vienna, 2-12 April) [A/AC.105/787], considered the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment, which was adopted and opened for signature in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 570], and the preliminary draft protocol on matters specific to space assets (formerly "matters specific to space property") of that Convention. The ad hoc consultative mechanism established in 2001 to review issues related to the Convention and the draft protocol [ibid.] met in Rome (28-29 January) and agreed that appropriate language should be incorporated into the text of the space protocol to ensure the integrity of and respect for the rights and obligations of States in accordance with the principles embodied in UN outer space treaties. It was noted that a number of issues remained to be resolved within the framework of the space protocol, and that, in keeping with the 2001 Diplomatic Conference to Adopt a Mobile Equipment Convention and an Aircraft Protocol [ibid.], States members of the Committee on Outer Space should be encouraged to contribute to the drafting of the space protocol at all stages.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/51 [YUN 2001, p. 571], the Legal Subcommittee established a three-year (2002-2004) working group, the terms of reference of which included a review of the status and application of the five UN treaties on outer space and obstacles to their universal acceptance, as well as the promotion of space law, especially through the UN Programme on Space Applications (see p. 599). The treaties in question were: the 1966 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and

Other Celestial Bodies, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2222(XXI) [YUN 1966, p. 41]; the 1967 Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, adopted in resolution 2345(XXII) [YUN 1967, p. 33]; the 1971 Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, contained in resolution 2777(XXVI) [YUN 1971, p. 52]; the 1974 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, contained in resolution 3235(XXIX) [YUN 1974, p. 63]; and the 1979 Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, contained in resolution 34/68 [YUN 1979, p. 111]. The Working Group welcomed the contribution to the development of space law through numerous events undertaken by NGOs and intergovernmental organizations, and agreed that efforts should be made to encourage and promote the widest distribution of information on those and other activities on space law.

The Subcommittee re-established its Working Group on the definition and delimitation of outer space, which reviewed and amended the questionnaire on aerospace objects and agreed that it should be circulated to all Member States. In response to a 2001 Working Group request [YUN 2001, p. 571], the Secretariat submitted a January report giving a historical summary on the consideration of the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space [A/AC.105/769 & Corr.1], which synthesized the Legal Subcommittee's decisions and recommendations since it began its formal consideration of the issue in 1967, and included decisions and recommendations of the Committee on Outer Space that had a direct impact on the discussions and work of the Subcommittee in that regard.

The Subcommittee's Working Group to review the concept of the "launching State" concluded its three-year work plan in 2002. During the final year, the Working Group reviewed measures to increase adherence to and promote the full application of the 1971 Liability Convention and the 1974 Registration Convention. It noted with concern the relatively low level of participation in those treaties, although almost all spacefaring nations had ratified or implemented the instruments, and some intergovernmental organizations had declared their acceptance of the rights and obligations provided for in the Conventions. The Group hoped that Member States that had not done so would consider binding themselves to the Conventions, and stressed that they offered important benefits to all countries. It recommended that States conducting space activities consider implementation of national laws to

authorize and continue supervision of the activities of their nationals in outer space, in addition to their international obligations under the two Conventions and other international agreements. The Working Group, noting that not all objects launched into outer space had been registered in the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space, encouraged States parties to the Registration Convention and intergovernmental organizations that had accepted the Convention's rights and obligations to implement it in a manner that would assist in the identification of space objects, ensure that the Register was as complete as possible, and avoid duplication.

In January, the Secretariat submitted a report reviewing the concept of the "launching State" [A/AC.105/768]. The report, which was requested by the Legal Subcommittee in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 587], contained a synthesis of State practice in applying the concept, including measures for indemnifying the Government and government payment of claims exceeding liability insurance amounts; issues identified by States and international organizations regarding the concept's application; and elements that could be included in national space legislation and licensing regimes.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/57/519], adopted **resolution 57/116** without vote [agenda item 75].

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/122 of 13 December 1996, 54/68 of 6 December 1999 and 56/51 of 10 December 2001,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space, as the province of all mankind, for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space in order to meet emerging new challenges,

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, and bearing in mind the importance of article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

Recognizing that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, bearing in mind the importance of article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, should contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Considering that space debris is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the further development of peaceful space exploration and applications as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, which contributes to international cooperation, and the importance of further developing the legal framework to strengthen international cooperation in this field,

Convinced of the importance of the recommendations in the resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development", adopted by 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,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III,

Convinced that the use of space science and technology and their applications, in such areas as telemedicine, tele-education and Earth observation, contribute to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the United Nations that address various aspects of economic, social and cultural development, inter alia, poverty eradication,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-fifth session,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its forty-fifth session;

2. *Urges* States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties as well as incorporating them in their national legislation;

3. *Notes* that, at its forty-first session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space continued its work, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/51;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the successful completion of the three-year work plan by the Working Group of the Legal Subcommittee concerning the review of the concept of the "launching State", and takes note of its recommendations;

5. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its forty-second session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries:

- (a) Consider the following as regular agenda items:
 - (i) General exchange of views;
 - (ii) Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space;
- (iii) Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law;

(iv) Matters relating to:

- a. The definition and delimitation of outer space;
- b. The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union;

(b) Consider the following single issues/items for discussion:

- (i) Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;
- (ii) Examination of the preliminary draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment, opened for signature at Cape Town, South Africa, on 16 November 2001:
 - a. Considerations relating to the possibility of the United Nations serving as supervisory authority under the preliminary draft protocol;
 - b. Considerations relating to the relationship between the terms of the preliminary draft protocol and the rights and obligations of States under the legal regime applicable to outer space;

6. *Notes* that the Legal Subcommittee, at its forty-second session, will submit its proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee at its forty-third session, in 2004;

7. *Notes also* that, in the context of paragraph 5 (a) (ii) above, the Legal Subcommittee will reconvene its Working Group, which will meet for three years, from 2002 to 2004, with the terms of reference as agreed upon by the Legal Subcommittee;

8. *Notes further* that, in the context of paragraph 5 (a) (iii) above, the group of experts designated by interested Member States to identify which aspects of the report on the ethics of space policy of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization might need to be studied by the Committee and to draft a report, in consultation with other international organizations and in close liaison with the World Commission, will submit its report to the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-second session;

9. *Notes* that, in the context of paragraph 5 (a) (iv) above, the Legal Subcommittee will reconvene its working group on the item only to consider matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space;

10. *Notes with appreciation* that, in the context of paragraph 5 (b) (ii) above, the Governments of France and Italy hosted the intersessional meetings within the framework of the ad hoc consultative mechanism established in accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 56/51;

11. *Agrees* that the Legal Subcommittee should establish a working group to consider the questions reflected in paragraphs 5 (b) (ii) a and b above separately;

12. *Notes* that, in accordance with the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, which were endorsed by the Gen-

eral Assembly in paragraph 11 of its resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, the Committee, at its forty-fifth session, considered the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the third term, starting in 2003, and held informal consultations on the matter;

13. *Notes also* that, in accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its forty-fifth session, the Government of Austria convened and facilitated and will continue to convene and facilitate intersessional informal consultations, including the chairpersons of the regional groups, on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the third term with a view to reaching consensus before the forty-sixth session of the Committee;

14. *Agrees* that, on the basis of agreements to be reached among the members of the Committee on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the third term, the election of the officers of the Committee for the third term should be conducted at the beginning of the forty-sixth session of the Committee;

15. *Notes* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-ninth session, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/51;

16. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fortieth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries:

- (a) Consider the following items:
 - (i) General exchange of views and introduction to reports submitted on national activities;
 - (ii) United Nations Programme on Space Applications;
 - (iii) Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III);
 - (iv) Matters relating to remote-sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment;
- (b) Consider the following items in accordance with the work plans adopted by the Committee:
 - (i) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;
 - (ii) Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system;
 - (iii) Implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system;
 - (iv) Space debris;
- (c) Consider the following single issues/items for discussion:
 - (i) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries;

- (ii) Mobilization of financial resources to develop capacity in space science and technology applications;

- (iii) The use of space technology for the medical sciences and public health;

17. *Notes* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fortieth session will submit its proposal to the Committee for a draft provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Subcommittee, in 2004;

18. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with member States, be invited to arrange a symposium on applications of satellite navigation and their benefits to developing countries, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the fortieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee;

19. *Agrees* that, in the context of paragraphs 16 (a) (ii) and (iii) and 17 above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fortieth session should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole;

20. *Also agrees* that, in the context of paragraph 16 (b) (i) above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fortieth session should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;

21. *Invites* the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities to contribute to the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in the context of paragraph 16 (b) (ii) above, and agrees that the Inter-Agency Meeting should continue to report to the Subcommittee and the Committee on the work conducted at its annual session;

22. *Endorses* the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2003, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications;

23. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995, the African regional centres for space science and technology education, in the French language and in the English language, located in Morocco and Nigeria, respectively, and the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific continued their education programmes in 2002 and that progress has been achieved in furthering the goals of the Network of Space Science and Technology Education and Research Institutions of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and in establishing the regional centres for space science and technology education in Latin America and the Caribbean, as a result of the substantive progress achieved during the meetings held in Mexico and Brazil in 2002, as well as in Western Asia;

24. *Recognizes* the agreement reached at the Space Conferences of the Americas for the Latin American countries as a mechanism to promote cooperation and coordination in space activities in the region, notes with satisfaction the success of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 14 to 17 May 2002, which adopted the Declaration of Cartagena de Indias and the Plan of Action, and encourages other regions to convene periodically regional conferences with a view to achieving convergence of positions on issues of common concern in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space among States Members of the United Nations;

25. *Urges* all Governments, entities of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental entities conducting space-related activities to take the necessary action for the effective implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, in particular its resolution entitled “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development”, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

26. *Notes with satisfaction* the work conducted by the eleven action teams that the Committee had established at its forty-fourth session under the voluntary leadership of Member States to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III, and agrees that Member States should provide full support to the action teams in conducting their work;

27. *Agrees* that, in accordance with paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 55/122 of 8 December 2000, the Committee should include in the agendas of its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions an item on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III;

28. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Committee has started to prepare a report under the agenda item on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III for submission to the General Assembly, so that the Assembly may review and appraise, at its fifty-ninth session, in 2004, in accordance with paragraph 16 of its resolution 54/68, the implementation of the outcome of UNISPACE III and consider further actions and initiatives, and agrees that, in this context, the Working Group established by the Committee to prepare the above-mentioned report should be reconvened at the forty-sixth session of the Committee;

29. *Agrees* that the review by the General Assembly of the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III should be conducted in plenary meetings at the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly, under a separate agenda item entitled “Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space”, in addition to the item entitled “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”;

30. *Urges* all Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications to support activities to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III, in particular the priority project proposals as recommended by the Committee at its forty-third session;

31. *Recommends* that more attention be paid and political support be provided to all matters relating to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth’s environment;

32. *Considers* that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, also considers that, to the extent possible, infor-

mation thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

33. *Urges* 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;

34. *Emphasizes* the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, including mitigation of the consequences of disasters, in particular in the developing countries;

35. *Agrees* that the benefits of space technology and its applications should be prominently brought to the attention of conferences organized within the United Nations system to address global issues relating to social, economic and cultural development and that the use of space technology should be promoted towards achieving the objectives of those conferences and implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

36. *Notes* that the Government of Chile has offered to host an international conference on biotechnology in 2003 to promote the use of space technology in enhancing food security, as part of the contributions to the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

37. *Notes with satisfaction* the efforts made by the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee as well as the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat and the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities to bring the benefits of space science and technology and their applications to the attention of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

38. *Urges* entities of the United Nations system, particularly those participating in the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, to examine, in cooperation with the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to the implementation of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”);

39. *Takes note* of Algeria’s interest in and contributions to the work of the Committee and of its request to become a member of the Committee, as well as of the support for that request expressed by the Group of 77 and other regional groups and Member States, and decides, on an exceptional basis, to accept its membership in accordance with paragraph 41 of General Assembly resolution 56/51;

40. *Welcomes* the interest of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in membership in the Committee and the endorsement of its candidature by the Group of African States, and requests the Committee to continue the consideration of the matter constructively during its next session, taking into account the principle of consensus;

41. *Endorses* the decision of the Committee to grant permanent observer status to the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites and to the Spaceweek International Association;

42. *Requests* the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

43. *Also requests* the Committee to continue to consider, at its forty-sixth session, the item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status";

44. *Further requests* the Committee to continue to consider, at its forty-sixth session, the item entitled "Space and society";

45. *Commends* the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue on its achievements during its twenty years of service to the global community in using space technology to assist aviators and mariners in distress around the globe;

46. *Agrees* that the Committee should continue to consider a report on the activities of the System as a part of its consideration of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications under the item entitled "Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee", and invites Member States to report on their activities regarding the System;

47. *Invites* the Committee to expand the scope of international cooperation relating to the social, economic, ethical and human dimension in space science and technology applications;

48. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other international organizations to continue and, where appropriate, enhance their cooperation with the Committee and to provide it with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

49. *Requests* the Committee to consider and identify new mechanisms of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, in accordance with the preamble to the present resolution, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.

Effects of atomic radiation

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), in a June report [A/57/46], stated that progress on its new programme of work [YUN 2001, p. 574] had been delayed because of inadequate financial support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which the General Assembly had requested, most recently in resolution 56/50 [YUN 2001, p. 575], to contribute to the Committee's work. The budget shortfall of approximately \$150,000 for the 2002-2003 biennium was crucial for hiring consultants to assist the Secretariat in the preparation of documents and for dissemi-

nating the Committee's findings. In a 31 January letter to UNEP's Executive Director, which was appended to the report, the UNSCEAR Chairperson summarized the budget crisis and requested the necessary funding. UNEP had responded that it was not possible to provide such funding from its budget.

The Scientific Committee therefore decided to address the budget shortfall by rescheduling the fifty-first session from 2002 to 27 to 31 January 2003, thus placing its work on a one-year hiatus. That measure would enable 2003 funds to be coupled with 2002 funds to allow one full-scale meeting during the biennium. The Committee saw that solution as a stopgap measure only, as the one meeting every two years was not sufficient to ensure the timely development of new radiation risk assessments.

To illustrate the steady deterioration in UNEP's support for the Scientific Committee, the report indicated that the Committee's total budget allocation for 2002-2003 was \$674,000, compared to \$1,200,800 for 1992-1993 and \$928,600 for 1994-1995 (uncorrected for inflation). The Committee requested the Assembly to direct UNEP to meet its obligations under resolution 56/50.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 11 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee [A/57/518], adopted **resolution 57/115** without vote [agenda item 74].

Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913(X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 56/50 of 10 December 2001, in which, inter alia, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the Scientific Committee,

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which mankind and the environment are exposed,

Noting the views expressed by Member States at its fifty-seventh session with regard to the work of the Scientific Committee,

Noting with satisfaction that some Member States have expressed particular interest in becoming members of the Scientific Committee, and expressing its intention to consider the issue further at its next session,

Conscious of the continuing need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on mankind and the environment,

Noting with concern that, owing to insufficient resources, the Scientific Committee was not able to hold a regular session in 2002, and that, as a result, it was not able to address its new programme of work effectively,

1. *Commends* the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past forty-seven years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation, and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. *Reaffirms* the decision to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee;

3. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important activities to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources, and invites the Scientific Committee to submit its programme of work to the General Assembly;

4. *Endorses* the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

5. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of ionizing radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their cooperation in this field;

8. *Invites* the Scientific Committee to continue its consultations with scientists and experts from interested Member States in the process of preparing its future scientific reports;

9. *Welcomes*, in this context, the readiness of Member States to provide the Scientific Committee with relevant information on the effects of ionizing radiation in affected areas, and invites the Scientific Committee to analyse and give due consideration to such information, particularly in the light of its own findings;

10. *Invites* 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, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly;

11. *Urges* the United Nations Environment Programme to review and strengthen the present funding of the Scientific Committee, pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 56/50, so that the Committee can discharge the responsibilities and mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly;

12. *Emphasizes* the need for the Scientific Committee to hold regular sessions on an annual basis so that its report can reflect the latest developments and findings in the field of ionizing radiation and thereby provide updated information for dissemination among all States.