Chapter VII

Disarmament

In 2003, despite continuing differences among Member States on many disarmament issues, progress was made in addressing problems relating to small arms and light weapons, and in promoting transparency in armaments.

The Conference on Disarmament did not reach consensus on a comprehensive programme of work, which made it unable, for the fifth consecutive year, to take action on its agenda items. Marked disagreements among Member States also prevented the Disarmament Commission from adopting concrete proposals on substantive issues.

Member States, UN bodies and regional and subregional organizations pressed forward with measures and activities to implement the Programme of Action adopted by the 2001 UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, including through weapons collection and destruction and other practical disarmament measures. The first biennial meeting of States on the implementation process reviewed experiences in coping with related problems. The Group of Governmental Experts established to address the issue of tracing illicit stockpiles of the weapons concluded that it was desirable to develop an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace them in a timely and reliable manner. The General Assembly established an open-ended working group to begin negotiations on the instrument and decided to convene, in 2006, a UN conference to review progress made in implementing the Programme of Action.

In April and May, the First Review Conference of the States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction reviewed the Convention’s operation and considered its role in enhancing international peace and security, as well as measures to ensure its universality. In November, the first of three scheduled annual meetings of States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction considered the adoption of national measures to implement the prohibitions set forth in the Convention and national mechanisms to establish and maintain the security and oversight of pathogenic micro-organisms and toxins. A November meeting of the States parties to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects adopted a new legally binding instrument, Protocol V, on Explosive Remnants of War and related weapons, which would be annexed to the Convention.

In August, the Group of Governmental Experts on the continuing operation and further development of the UN Register of Conventional Arms recommended a number of measures to enhance its effectiveness and global relevance. The Secretary-General established a Group of Governmental Experts mandated to undertake the second review since 1981 of the relationship between disarmament and development, for consideration in 2004.

In June, the 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT) between the United States and the Russian Federation entered into force. SORT, also known as the Moscow Treaty, established a new strategic framework for further reductions of the parties’ strategic offensive weapons.

UN role in disarmament

The Department for Disarmament Affairs of the UN Secretariat continued to support the work of Member States and treaty bodies, to service the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters and to administer the UN disarmament fellowship programme.

UN machinery

Disarmament issues before the United Nations were considered mainly through the General Assembly and its First (Disarmament and International Security) Committee, the Disarmament Commission (a deliberative body) and the Conference on Disarmament (a multilateral negotiating forum, which met in Geneva).

The Department for Disarmament Affairs of the UN Secretariat continued to support the work of Member States and treaty bodies, to service the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters and to administer the UN disarmament fellowship programme.
General Assembly issues

Fourth special session devoted to disarmament

The General Assembly had decided, by resolution 51/45 C (YUN 1996, p. 447), to convene the fourth special session of the Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1999, subject to the emergence of a consensus on its agenda and objectives, which had not been achieved.

In 2002, the Assembly, in resolution 57/61 (YUN 2002, p. 487), established an open-ended working group to consider, on the basis of Consensus, the objectives and agenda of the special session and to make substantive recommendations thereon.

Working group activities. The Open-ended Working Group to consider the objectives and agenda of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament held three sessions (New York, 10-14 March, 19-23 May and 25-27 June) [A/57/848] and conducted informal consultations during an intersessional period. The Group, in accordance with its mandate, also considered the possible establishment of a preparatory committee for the special session. The Chairman, in an effort to facilitate agreement, prepared a working paper [A/AC.268/2003/WP.3] containing salient points from various proposals and views put forth by the Non-Aligned Movement, the European Union (EU) and other delegations. As the Group was unable to reach consensus on any of the agenda items, on 27 June it adopted its report to the Assembly, which was limited to procedural questions. The Group underlined the need to refer back to the Assembly for consideration the session's objectives and agenda.

On 15 September, the Assembly took note of the Group's report (decision 57/592).

On 8 December, the Assembly, taking further note of the Group's report and of the requests made for Member States to continue consultations, decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth (2004) session the item entitled “Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament” (decision 58/521).

Disarmament Commission

In 2003, the Disarmament Commission, composed of all UN Member States, held six plenary meetings (New York, 31 March—17 April) [A/58/42] and an organizational meeting on 6 November [A/59/42], at which the Commission considered the agenda items “Ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament” (see p. 535) and “Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms” (see p. 567). The Commission did not reach consensus on concrete proposals regarding either of the two items. The Commission decided that its next substantive session would be held in April 2004 and requested its Chairman to undertake informal consultations as to the agenda items to be considered. Although the Chairman held 35 such consultations with various groups of States and delegations, a lack of consensus persisted.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/464], adopted resolution 58/67 without vote [agenda item 75 (c)].

Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,


Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Bearing in mind its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998,

1. Takes note of the report of the Disarmament Commission;
2. Reaffirms the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;
3. Also reaffirms the role of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;
4. Requests the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted “Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission”;
5. Recommends that the Disarmament Commission consider the following items at its 2004 substantive session:

(a) [To be determined]
Disarmament

(b) [To be determined];
6. Requests the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2004, namely, from 5 to 23 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament, together with all the official records of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;
8. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;
9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Report of the Disarmament Commission”.

Conference on Disarmament


The Conference again considered the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; prevention of nuclear war; prevention of an arms race in outer space; effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; new types of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and new systems of such weapons, a comprehensive programme of disarmament and transparency in armaments. Although many delegations expressed support for the proposal, the consensus sought remained elusive for the fifth consecutive year. Thus, the Conference concluded its 2003 session without reaching agreement on a programme of work. It decided to hold its 2004 session between January and September, and requested its current President and the incoming President to hold consultations during the intersessional period and to make recommendations, taking into account relevant proposals, views and discussions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/464], adopted resolution 58/66 without vote [agenda item 75 (d)].

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,
Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,
Recalling that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,
Recognizing the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete issues,
Noting, in this respect, that the Conference has a number of urgent and important issues for negotiation,
Taking note of active discussions held on the programme of work during the 2003 session of the Conference, as duly reflected in the report and the records of the plenary meetings,
Taking note also of significant contributions made during the 2003 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda in the plenary meetings, as well as of discussions held on other issues that could also be relevant to the current international security environment,
Stressing the urgent need for the Conference to commence substantive work on its agreed agenda items at this juncture,
1. Reaffirms the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;
2. Urges the Conference to fulfill that role in the light of the evolving international situation, with a view to making early substantive progress on priority items on its agenda;
3. Welcomes the strong collective interest of the Conference in commencing substantive work as soon as possible during its 2004 session;
4. Also welcomes the decision of the Conference to request its current President and the incoming President to conduct consultations during the intersessional period and, if possible, to make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, including that contained in CD/1603/Rev.1, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations, as expressed in paragraph 38 of its report.

5. Requests all States members of the Conference to cooperate with the current President and successive Presidents in their efforts to guide the Conference to the early commencement of substantive work in its 2004 session:

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the provision to the Conference of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services;

7. Requests the Conference to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Report of the Conference on Disarmament”.

Multilateral disarmament agreements

As at 31 December 2003, the following numbers of States had become parties to the multilateral agreements listed below (in chronological order, with the years in which they were initially signed or opened for signature).

(Geneva) Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare (1925): 133 parties

The Antarctic Treaty (1959): 45 parties


Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (1967) [YUN 1966, p. 41, GA res. 2222(XXI), annex]: 98 parties


Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (1968) [YUN 1968, p. 17, GA res. 2371(XXII), annex]: 189 Parties


Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (1972) [YUN 1971, p. 19, GA res. 2826 (XXVI), annex]: 151 parties

Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (1977) [YUN 1976, p. 45, GA res. 31/72, annex]: 69 parties

Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (1979) [YUN 1979, p. 111, GA res. 34/68, annex]: 10 parties


Treaty on Open Skies (1992): 30 parties


Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (1997): 21 parties


Agreement on Adaptation of the CFE Treaty (1999): 2 parties

[Nuclear disarmament]

Conference on Disarmament

In 2003, owing to the continuing impasse over its programme of work, the Conference on Disarmament was not able to establish any subsidiary body to deal with nuclear disarmament, despite the fact that the idea of setting up such a body, as suggested in the proposal put forth by five former Presidents [CD/1603/Rev.1], remained uncontested. Consequently, the question of nuclear disarmament was addressed by delegations...
during plenary meetings, with frequent references to the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) [YUN 2000, p. 487], particularly the 13 practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts towards nuclear disarmament. Many Western countries emphasized that negotiations on the fissile material cut-off treaty (see below), together with an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (see p. 547), constituted the next essential steps in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Non-aligned countries, on the other hand, emphasized that they attached the highest priority to nuclear disarmament.

Fissile material
Persisting difficulties in reaching agreement on a comprehensive programme of work (see p. 531) prevented the Conference on Disarmament from establishing an ad hoc committee on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices. As a result, the issue was discussed only in plenary meetings. Western countries had intensified efforts to stimulate substantive discussion on the item and, in that context, the Netherlands organized informal meetings on banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices on 4 April [CD/1705] and on 26 September [CD/1790], both in Geneva, while Japan submitted an August working paper on the item [CD/17H].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION
On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/462], adopted resolution 56/57 without vote [agenda item 71].

The Conference on Disarmament decision (CD/1547) of 11 August 1998 to establish, under item 1 of its agenda entitled “Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament”, an ad hoc committee which shall negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

Security assurances
The Conference on Disarmament addressed the issue of security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in the framework of overall discussions on the agenda and programme of work. During plenary meetings, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the item.

Communication. The Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 20-25 February) [A/57/759-S/2003/332] said that, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, it would pursue, as a matter of priority, the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION
On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/460], adopted resolution 58/35 by recorded vote (119-0-58) [agenda item 71].

Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons
The General Assembly,
Convinced that a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices would be a significant contribution to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation,
Towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

Convinced that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Determined to abide strictly by the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or threat of force,

Recognizing that the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of non-nuclear-weapon States need to be safeguarded against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering that, until nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international community to develop effective measures and arrangements to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from any quarter,

Recognizing that effective measures and arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons can contribute positively to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it urged the nuclear-weapon States to pursue efforts to conclude, as appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and desirous of promoting the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Document,

Recalling the relevant parts of the special report of the Committee on Disarmament submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, and of the special report of the Conference on Disarmament submitted to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session, the third special session devoted to disarmament, as well as the report of the Conference on its 1992 session,

Recalling also paragraph 12 of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980, which states, inter alia, that all efforts should be exerted by the Committee on Disarmament urgently to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting the in-depth negotiations undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons, with a view to reaching agreement on this question,

Taking note of the proposals submitted under the item in the Conference on Disarmament, including the drafts of an international convention, as well as the relevant recommendations of the Organization of the Islamic Conference,

Taking note further of the unilateral declarations made by all the nuclear-weapon States on their policies of non-use or non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear-weapon States,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as the difficulties pointed out in evolving a common approach acceptable to all,

Taking note of Security Council resolution 984(1995) of 11 April 1995 and the views expressed on it,


1. Reaffirming the urgent need to reach an early agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

2. Notes with satisfaction that in the Conference on Disarmament there is no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, although the difficulties with regard to evolving a common approach acceptable to all have also been pointed out;

3. Appeals to all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to work actively towards an early agreement on a common approach and, in particular, on a common formula that could be included in an international instrument of a legally binding character;

4. Recommends that further intensive efforts be devoted to the search for such a common approach or common formula and that the various alternative approaches, including, in particular, those considered in the Conference on Disarmament, be explored further in order to overcome the difficulties;

5. Also recommends that the Conference on Disarmament actively continue intensive negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement and concluding effective international arrangements to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons”.

VOTED ON RESOLUTION 58/35:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyz-
and current developments in nuclear disarmament; achievements between nuclear disarmament and international peace and security; and the interrelation of nuclear disarmament and the role of the United Nations.

**START and other bilateral agreements and unilateral measures**

On 1 June, the 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT) [YUN 2002, p. 495] between the Russian Federation and the United States entered into force following the completion of the ratification procedures. SORT, also known as the Moscow Treaty, established a new framework for further reductions of their strategic offensive weapons following the completion of reductions agreed upon under the 1991 Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I). SORT committed the parties to reducing the level of their deployed strategic nuclear warheads to between 1,700 and 2,200 by 31 December 2012, which superseded their agreement for reductions to between 3,000 and 3,500 under the 1993 START II process [YUN 1993, p. 117]. In a 1 June joint statement on the new strategic relationship embodied in SORT (Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation) [A/58/91-S/2005/67], Presidents George W. Bush of the United States and Vladimir V. Putin of the Russian Federation pledged to intensify efforts to confront the global threats of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and their means of delivery, declared their intention to advance concrete joint projects in the field of missile defence and reaffirmed their commitment on issues relating to space exploration.

**Reports of Secretary-General.** Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 57/59 [YUN 2002, p. 495], 57/79 [ibid., p. 500] and 57/84 [ibid., p. 502], the Secretary-General, in a July report [A/58/102], assessed progress made towards a nuclear-weapon-free world. Noting that 2003 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Assembly’s tenth special session, the first devoted to disarmament [YUN 1978, p. 17], the Secretary-General observed that WMDs, particularly nuclear weapons, remained a grave concern and that the implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation measures continued to pose a major challenge to international peace and security. Regarding efforts being made to reduce existing nuclear arsenals and to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime, the Secretary-General said there had been some progress through measures taken by nuclear-weapon States. Despite the progress made, he added, further steps were required to advance the process of nuclear disarmament agreements and non-proliferation. Existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements needed to be reinforced by ensuring effective implementation of their provisions and universality. The Secretary-General suggested that efforts intensify towards the full implementation of the recommendations to significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war put forth in 2001 by the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters [YUN 2004, p. 474]. As to the proposal to convene an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear danger, contained in the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49], the Secretary-General stated that consultations with Member States demonstrated that the time had not yet come for consideration of interim measures for convening such a conference. However, pursuant to Assembly resolution 57/84, he would continue to encourage Member States to create the conditions that would facilitate international consensus to hold the conference.

In a September report [A/58/323] on progress made to implement the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration (see also p. 48) relating to international security and disarmament, the Secretary-General addressed the need to strengthen and complement existing WMD regimes, the threat posed by small arms and the importance of cooperation in tightening export
controls and facilitating the identification of sources of illicit weapons.

**Communications.** France and the Russian Federation adopted the French-Russian declaration on strategic issues (Paris, 10 February) [CD/T00], which expressed their determination to strengthen cooperation in combating the growing threat posed by the proliferation of WMDs and their means of delivery, and reaffirmed their commitment to the Group of Eight (G-8) major industrialized countries’ Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, launched in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 494].

The heads of State or Government of non-aligned countries, at their Thirteenth Conference (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 20-25 February) [A/57/759-S/2003/392], expressed concern at the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and called for an international conference to draw up an agreement on a phased programme for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

On 31 May, President Bush, during a State visit to Poland, announced the proliferation security initiative, designed by the United States and a number of its close allies to reinforce the fight against WMD proliferation, including through agreements to search planes and ships carrying suspect cargo and the seizure of illegal weapons or missile technologies.

The G-8 major industrialized countries (Evian, France, 1-3 June) [CD/T08] adopted a declaration recognizing the proliferation of WMDs and their means of delivery, together with the spread of international terrorism, as the preeminent threat to international peace and security: a global challenge demanding a multifaceted solution. They called for the effective control of the transfer of materials, technology and expertise that might facilitate the development or use of WMDs, and reviewed the implementation status of their 2002 initiative: the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction [YUN 2002, p. 494].

Similar declarations on the non-proliferation of WMDs were made by the European Council (Thessaloniki, Greece, 20 June) [CD/T11], and by the Asia-Europe Meeting (Bali, Indonesia, 23-24 July) [CD/T12], an informal forum for dialogue and cooperation between the 15 European Union (EU) member States and 10 Asian countries (Brunei, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Viet Nam).


The EU adopted an official strategy against the proliferation of WMDs (Brussels, Belgium, 12-13 December) [CD/T24], conceived to prevent, deter, halt and possibly eliminate proliferation programmes of concern worldwide. It was termed a “living action plan”, subject to regular revision and updating every six months.

On 19 December [A/58/664], the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stated that it had satisfied all its obligations under treaties and conventions relating to the elimination of all types of WMDs.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/462], adopted five resolutions and one decision related to nuclear disarmament. The Assembly adopted resolution 58/47 by recorded vote (114-47-17) [agenda item 73 (a)].

**Reducing nuclear danger**

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Reaffirming that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would constitute a violation of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects would seriously enhance the danger of nuclear war,

Convinced also that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Considering that, until nuclear weapons cease to exist, it is imperative on the part of the nuclear-weapon States to adopt measures that assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Concluding also that the hair-trigger alert of nuclear weapons carries unacceptable risks of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, which would have catastrophic consequences for all mankind,

Emphasizing the imperative need to adopt measures to avoid accidental, unauthorized or unexplained incidents arising from computer anomaly or other technical malfunctions,

Conscious that limited steps relating to detargeting have been taken by the nuclear-weapon States and that further practical, realistic and mutually reinforcing steps are necessary to contribute to the improvement in the international climate for negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Mindful that reduction of tensions brought about by a change in nuclear doctrines would positively impact on international peace and security and improve the
conditions for the further reduction and the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Reiterating the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and by the international community,

Recalling that in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons it is stated that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring about a conclusion of negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Recalling also the call in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to seek to eliminate the dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction and the resolve to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers,

1. Calls for a review of nuclear doctrines and, in this context, immediate and urgent steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons;

2. Requests the five nuclear-weapon States to take measures towards the implementation of paragraph 1 above;

3. Calls upon Member States to take the necessary measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to promote nuclear disarmament, with the objective of eliminating nuclear weapons;

4. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 57/84 of 22 November 2002;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to intensify efforts and support initiatives that would contribute towards the full implementation of the seven recommendations identified in the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war, and also to continue to encourage Member States to meet the conditions that would allow the emergence of an international consensus to hold an international conference as proposed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Reducing nuclear danger”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/47:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Tonga, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

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

Abstaining: Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, China, Georgia, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

The Assembly adopted resolution 58/50 by recorded vote (128-4-43) [agenda item 75 (c)].

Reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/33 D of 20 November 2000 and 57/58 and 57/59 of 22 November 2002,

Stressing the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties to the Treaty are committed under its article VI,

Recognizing that disarmament and non-proliferation are essential for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Reaffirming the necessity of strict compliance at all times and in all circumstances by all parties with their obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the necessity of upholding their commitments in the decisions and final documents agreed at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences,

Noting the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, issued at The Hague on 8 July 1996,

Reiterating the responsibility of the nuclear-weapon States for transparent, verifiable and irreversible reductions in nuclear weapons leading to nuclear disarmament,

Stressing the commitment made in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference to the further reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons,

Convinced that the further reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons constitutes an integral part of the nuclear-arms reduction and disarmament process,

Concerned about the threat posed by non-strategic nuclear weapons due to their potentiality and proximity to areas of conflict, and thus about the risk of proliferation and of use,

Concerned also about emerging approaches to the broader role of nuclear weapons as part of security strategies, including the possible development of new types of low-yield non-strategic nuclear weapons.

Taking into consideration the lack of transparency and formal agreements with regard to non-strategic nuclear weapons,

Emphasizing that further reductions of non-strategic nuclear weapons should be accorded a higher priority, as an important step towards the elimination of nuclear weapons, and be carried out in a comprehensive manner,
1. Agrees that further reductions in and elimination of non-strategic nuclear weapons should be based on unilateral initiatives and included as an integral part of the nuclear-arms reduction and disarmament process;

2. Also agrees that reductions of non-strategic nuclear weapons should be carried out in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner;

3. Further agrees on the importance of preserving and implementing the 1991 and 1992 presidential nuclear initiatives into legal instruments and to initiate negotiations on further reductions of such weapons;

4. Calls upon the Russian Federation and the United States of America to formalize their presidential nuclear initiatives into legal instruments and to initiate negotiations on further reductions of such weapons;

5. Stresses the importance of the enhancement of transparency and physical protection measures for the transport and storage of non-strategic nuclear weapons, their components and related materials through, among other means, the placing of such weapons in physically secure central storage sites, with a view to their removal and subsequent elimination by the nuclear-weapon States as a part of the nuclear disarmament process to which they are committed under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and calls upon all nuclear-weapon States in possession of such weapons to take the necessary steps in this regard;

6. Calls for further confidence-building and transparency measures to reduce the threats posed by non-strategic nuclear weapons;

7. Also calls for concrete agreed measures to reduce further the operational status of non-strategic nuclear weapons systems so as to reduce the risk of use of non-strategic nuclear weapons;

8. Stresses the need for an undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States that possess such weapons not to increase the number or types of weapons deployed and not to develop new types of these weapons or rationalizations for their use;

9. Calls for the prohibition of those types of non-strategic nuclear weapons that have already been removed from the arsenals of some nuclear-weapon States and the development of transparency mechanisms for the verification of the elimination of these weapons;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled “Reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/50:

In favour: Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Micronesia, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Uzbekistan.

The Assembly adopted resolution 58/31 by recorded vote (133-6-38) [agenda item 75 (d)].

Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: a new agenda


Convinced that the existence of nuclear weapons is a threat to the survival of humanity and that the only real guarantee against the use or threat of use of these weapons is their complete elimination and the assurance that they will never be used or produced again,

Convinced also that the retention of nuclear weapons carries the inherent risk of proliferation of those weapons and their falling into the hands of non-State actors,

Reaffirming that nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament are equally important and mutually reinforcing processes requiring continuous irreversible progress on both fronts,

Declaring that the participation of the international community as a whole is central to the maintenance and enhancement of international peace and stability, and that international security is a collective concern requiring collective engagement,

Declaring also that internationally negotiated treaties in the field of disarmament have made a fundamental contribution to international peace and security, and that unilateral and bilateral nuclear disarmament measures complement the treaty-based multilateral approach towards nuclear disarmament,

Noting the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of Nuclear Weapons, issued at The Hague on 8 July 1996,

Declaring that any presumption of the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons by nuclear-weapon States is incompatible with the integrity and sustainability of the non-proliferation regime and with the broader goal of the maintenance of international peace and security,

Declaring that each article of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is binding on the States parties at all times and in all circumstances and that it is imperative that all States parties be held fully accountable with respect to the strict compliance with their obligations under the Treaty, and that the undertakings therein on nuclear disarmament have been given and implementation of them remains imperative,

Expressing its deep concern at the limited progress made to date in implementing the thirteen steps on nuclear disarmament, and determined to implement...
these thirteen practical steps, to which all States parties agreed at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Expressing its deep concern at the continued failure of the Conference on Disarmament to deal with nuclear disarmament and to resume negotiations on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other devices, taking into consideration both nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives,

Expressing grave concern that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has not yet entered into force,

Stressing the importance of regular reporting in promoting confidence in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Noting the successful completion in September 2002 of the first phase of the Trilateral Initiative, involving the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, which aims to enable the placement of excess nuclear materials from dismantled weapons under international safeguards,

Convinced that the further reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons constitutes an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process,

Noting that, despite bilateral agreements, there is no sign of engagement of all of the five nuclear-weapon States in the multilateral process leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Declaring that it is essential that the fundamental principles of transparency, verification and irreversibility apply to all nuclear disarmament measures,

Expressing its deep concern at the continued retention of the nuclear-weapons option by those three States, India, Israel and Pakistan, that have not yet acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, in particular given the effects of regional volatility on international security, and, in this context, the continued regional tensions and deteriorating security situation in South Asia and the Middle East,

Expressing also its deep concern at the announcement by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and at its decision to restart the Yongbyon nuclear reactor without International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards,

Expressing concern that the development of missile defences could impact negatively on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and lead to a new arms race on earth and in outer space,

Stressing that no actions be taken that would lead to the weaponization of outer space,

Expressing its deep concern about emerging approaches to the broader role of nuclear weapons as part of security strategies, including rationalizations for the use, and the possible development, of new types of nuclear weapons,

Welcoming further the progress in the development of nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which the heads of State and Government resolved to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers,

Taking into consideration the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all the States parties to the Treaty are committed under article VI of the Treaty,

1. Requires that any possibility that nuclear weapons could be used represents a continued risk for humanity;

2. Calls upon all States to refrain from any action that could lead to a new nuclear-arms race or that could impact negatively on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;

3. Calls upon all States to fulfil all their obligations under international treaties and international law in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;

4. Calls upon all States parties to pursue, with determination, the full and effective implementation of the agreements reached at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the outcome of which provides the requisite plan to achieve nuclear disarmament;

5. Agrees on the importance and urgency of signatures and ratifications required to achieve the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

6. Calls for the upholding and maintenance of the moratorium on nuclear-weapon-test explosions or any other nuclear explosions pending the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

7. Underlines the urgency of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in the context of the progress achieved in implementing the international monitoring system;

8. Calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to implement the commitments made in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as in other nuclear disarmament or reductions agreements or initiatives, and to apply the principle of irreversibility by destroying their nuclear warheads and avoid keeping them in a state that lends itself to their possible redeployment;

9. Acknowledges that the reductions in the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads envisaged by the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions (“the Moscow Treaty”) represent a positive first step, and calls on the United States of America and the Russian Federation to make the Treaty verifiable, irreversible and transparent and to address non-operational warheads, thus making it an effective nuclear disarmament measure;

10. Agrees that the further reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons should be accorded a higher priority as an important step towards the elimination of nuclear weapons and be carried out in a comprehensive manner, including:

(a) Further reductions in and elimination of non-strategic nuclear weapons based on unilateral initia-
tives and as an integral part of the nuclear-arms reduc-
tion and disarmament process;
(b) The implementation of reductions in a transpar-
ent, verifiable and irreversible manner;
(c) The preservation, reaffirmation and implement-
tion of the 1991 and 1992 presidential nuclear initia-
tives of the United States of America and the Union of
Soviet Socialist Republics/Russian Federation on non-
strategic nuclear weapons;
(d) The formalization by the Russian Federation
and the United States of America of their presidential
nuclear initiatives into legal instruments and the initia-
tion of negotiations on further reductions of such
weapons;
(e) The enhancement of special security and physi-
cal protection measures for fissile materials and storage
of non-strategic nuclear weapons, their components
and related materials through, inter alia, the placing of
such weapons in physically secure central storage sites
with a view to their removal, and in the subsequent elimi-
nation by the nuclear-weapon States as a part of the
nuclear disarmament process to which they are com-
mitted under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of
Nuclear Weapons, as well as the necessary steps to be
taken by all nuclear-weapon States in possession of
such weapons in this regard;
(f) The achievement of further confidence-building
and transparency measures to reduce the threats posed
by non-strategic nuclear weapons;
(g) The achievement of concrete agreed measures
to reduce further the operational status of non-
strategic nuclear weapons systems so as to reduce the
risk of use of non-strategic nuclear weapons;
(h) The undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States
that possess these weapons not to increase the number
or types of weapons deployed and not to develop new
types of these weapons or rationalizations for their use;
(i) The prohibition of those types of non-strategic
nuclear weapons that have already been removed from
the arsenals of some nuclear-weapon States and the
development of transparency mechanisms for the veri-
fication of the elimination of these weapons;
II. Calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to increase
their transparency and accountability with regard to
their nuclear weapons arsenals and their implementa-
tion of disarmament measures;
12. Agrees that the Conference on Disarmament
should establish, without delay, an appropriate ad hoc
committee to deal with nuclear disarmament;
13. Agrees that the Conference on Disarmament
should resume negotiations on a non-discriminatory;
mutual and internationally and effectively verifi-
able treaty banning the production of fissile material
for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices,
taking into consideration both nuclear disarmament
and nuclear-arms non-proliferation objectives;
14. Agrees that the Conference on Disarmament
should complete the examination and updating of the
mandate on the prevention of an arms race in outer
space in all its aspects, as contained in its decision of
13 February 1992, and re-establish an ad hoc commit-
tee as early as possible;
15. Calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to under-
take the necessary steps towards the seamless integra-
tion of all five nuclear-weapon States into a process
leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons;
16. Notes that the third and, as appropriate, fourth
meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005
Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, taking into ac-
count the deliberations and results of the previous
sessions, should make every effort to produce a report
containing recommendations to the Review Confer-
ence;
17. Stresses the importance of regular reporting in
promoting confidence in the Treaty on the Non-
Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
18. Calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to respect
fully their existing commitments with regard to
security assurances pending the conclusion of multi-
laterally negotiated legally binding security assurances
for all non-nuclear-weapon States parties;
19. Notes the proposals on security assurances that
have been submitted to the States parties to the Treaty
on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and
calls upon the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Re-
view Conference to allow time to thoroughly consider
the matter of security assurances at its third meeting so
as to make recommendations to the Review Confer-
ence on how to take the matter forward;
20. Calls upon those three States, India, Israel and
Pakistan, which are not yet parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and which op-
erate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, to accede to
the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States promptly and
without condition, to bring into force the required
comprehensive safeguards agreements, together with
additional protocols, consistent with the Model Proto-
col. Additional to the Agreement(s) between State(s)
and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the
Application of Safeguards approved by the Board of
Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency
on 15 May 1997, for ensuring nuclear non-proliferation
and to reverse clearly and urgently any policies to pur-
sue any nuclear weapons development or deployment
and refrain from any action that could undermine
regional and international peace and security and the
efforts of the international community towards
nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear
weapons proliferation;
21. Reaffirms the conviction that the establishment
of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free
zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at
among the States of the regions concerned enhances
global and regional peace and security, strengthens
the nuclear non-proliferation regime and contributes to-
wards realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament;
22. Expresses concern at tensions in the Middle East
and South Asia, and renews support for the establish-
mment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons
and other weapons of mass destruction and of a
nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;
23. Calls upon those States that have not yet done so
to conclude full-scope safeguards agreements with the
International Atomic Energy Agency and to conclude
additional protocols to their safeguards agreements on
the basis of the Model Protocol;
24. Calls upon the Democratic People’s Republic of
Korea to reconsider its recent announcements, with a
view to being in full compliance with the provisions of
the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear
Weapons, and in this connection supports all diplo-
mative efforts for an early, peaceful resolution of the situation and for the establishment of an area free of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula;

25. Stresses that the International Atomic Energy Agency must be able to verify and ensure that nuclear facilities of the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are being used for peaceful purposes only, and calls on States to cooperate fully and immediately with the Agency in resolving issues arising from the implementation of their respective obligations towards it;

26. Calls upon the Russian Federation and the United States of America to approach the International Atomic Energy Agency to carry out the verification requirements set forth in the Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement signed by the two States on the basis of the model legal framework that has been agreed on and that is now available to be used in new verification agreements between the Agency and each of the two States;

27. Calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to make arrangements for the placing, as soon as practicable, of fissile material no longer required for military purposes under International Atomic Energy Agency or other relevant international verification and to make arrangements for the disposition of such material for peaceful purposes in order to ensure that such material remains permanently outside military programmes;

28. Affirms that a nuclear-weapon-free world will ultimately require the underpinning of a universal and multilaterally negotiated legally binding instrument or a framework encompassing a mutually reinforcing set of instruments;

29. Acknowledges the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 57/39, and requests him to prepare a report, within existing resources, on the implementation of the present resolution;

30. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session an item entitled “Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: a new agenda”, and to review the implementation of the present resolution at that session.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/56:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, India, Israel, Pakistan, United Kingdom, United States. Abstaining: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Korea, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

The First Committee adopted the twentieth preambular paragraph by a separate recorded vote of 117 to 6, with 39 abstentions; the Assembly retained it by a recorded vote of 128 to 6, with 41 abstentions.

The Assembly adopted resolution 58/56 by recorded vote (112-45-20) [agenda item 73 (g)].

Nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,


Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Bearing in mind that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1922 and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1993 have already established legal regimes on the complete prohibition of biological and chemical weapons, respectively, and determined to achieve a nuclear weapons convention on the prohibition of the development, testing, production, stockpiling, loan, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, and to conclude such an international convention at an early date,

Recognizing that there now exist conditions for the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons, and stressing the need to take concrete practical steps towards achieving this goal,

Bearing in mind paragraph 50 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, calling for the urgent negotiation of agreements for the cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapons systems, and for a comprehensive and phased programme with agreed time frames, wherever feasible, for the progressive and balanced reduction of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, leading to their ultimate and complete elimination at the earliest possible time,

Reaffirming the conviction of the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that the Treaty is a cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament and the importance of the decision on strengthening the review process for the Treaty, the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, the decision on the extension of the Treaty and the resolution on the Middle East, adopted by the
**Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the**

**tember 2003,**

weapons with a specified framework of time,

programme for the complete elimination of nuclear

highest priority, an ad hoc committee on nuclear dis -

25 February 2003, calling upon the Conference on Dis-

Aligned Countries, held at Kuala Lumpur from 20 to

Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-

pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotia-

Court that there exists an obligation for all States to

Nuclear Weapons

T reaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions ("the Mos-

limitation, and encouraging them to take further such

measures,

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic

Arms (START I), to which Belarus, Kazakhstan,

the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United

States of America are States parties,

the entry into force of the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions ("the Mos-

between the United States of America and the Russian Federation as a significant step to-

wards reducing their deployed strategic nuclear

delivery systems;

the nuclear-weapon States, as an in-

terim measure, to de-alert and deactivate immediately

their nuclear weapons and to take other concrete meas-

ures to reduce further the operational status of their

nuclear-weapon systems;

upon the nuclear-weapon States to undertake the step-by-step reduction of the nuclear

threat and to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to achieving the total elimination

of these weapons;

the nuclear-weapon States, pending the achievement of the total elimination of nuclear

weapons, to agree on an internationally and legally binding instrument on a joint undertaking not to be

the first to use nuclear weapons, and calls upon all

States to conclude an internationally and legally binding instrument on security assurances of non-use and

non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-
nuclear-weapon States;

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, States should refrain from the use

or the threat of use of nuclear weapons in settling their disputes in international relations,

Seized of the danger of the use of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, in terrorist

acts and the urgent need for concerted international efforts to control and overcome it,

1. Recognizes that, in view of recent political developments, the time is now opportune for all the

classical nuclear-weapon States to take effective disarmament measures with a view to achieving the elimination of

these weapons;

2. Reaffirms that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are substantively interrelated, and

mutually reinforcing, that the two processes must go hand in hand and that there is a genuine need for a sys-
tematic and progressive process of nuclear disarmament;

3. Welcomes and encourages the efforts to establish new nuclear-weapon-free zones in different parts of

the world on the basis of agreements or arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the regions con-

cerned, which is an effective measure for limiting the further spread of nuclear weapons geographically and

contributes to the cause of nuclear disarmament;

4. Recognizes that there is a genuine need to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines and

security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination;

5. Urges the nuclear-weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, pro-
duction and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems;

6. Also urges the nuclear-weapon States, as an in-
terim measure, to de-alert and deactivate immediately their nuclear weapons and to take other concrete meas-

ures to reduce further the operational status of their nuclear-weapon systems;

7. Reiterates its call upon the nuclear-weapon States to undertake the step-by-step reduction of the nuclear

threat and to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to achieving the total elimination

of these weapons;

8. Calls upon the nuclear-weapon States, pending the achievement of the total elimination of nuclear

weapons, to agree on an internationally and legally binding instrument on a joint undertaking not to be the

first to use nuclear weapons, and calls upon all States to conclude an internationally and legally binding

instrument on security assurances of non-use and non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-
nuclear-weapon States;
9. **Urges** the nuclear-weapon States to commence pluriateral negotiations among themselves at an appropriate stage on further deep reductions of nuclear weapons as an effective measure of nuclear disarmament;

10. **Underlines** the importance of applying the principle of irreversibility to the process of nuclear disarmament, nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures;

11. **Underscores** the importance of the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States, in the Final Document of the Review Conference, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in New York from 24 April to 19 May 2000, to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties are committed unreservedly;

12. **Calls** for the full and effective implementation of the thirteen steps for nuclear disarmament contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

13. **Urges** the nuclear-weapon States to carry out further reductions of non-strategic nuclear weapons, based on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process;

14. **Calls** for the immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; and the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator and the mandate contained therein;

15. **Urges** the Conference on Disarmament to agree on a programme of work which includes the immediate commencement of negotiations on such a treaty with a view to their conclusion within five years;

16. **Calls** for the conclusion of an international legal instrument or instruments on adequate security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States;

17. **Also calls** for the early entry into force and strict observance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

18. **Expresses its regret** that the Conference on Disarmament was unable to establish an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament at its 2003 session, as called for in General Assembly resolution 57/79;

19. **Reiterates its call** upon the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee to deal with nuclear disarmament early in 2004 and to commence negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament leading to the eventual total elimination of nuclear weapons;

20. **Calls** for the convening of an international conference on nuclear disarmament in all its aspects at an early date to identify and deal with concrete measures of nuclear disarmament;

21. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

22. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Nuclear disarmament”.

**RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/56:** 220 in favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, India, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Sweden, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

The Assembly adopted resolution 58/59 by recorded vote (164-2-14) [agenda item 73].
eration, which should serve as a step for further nuclear disarmament, and the efforts for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation by the international community.

Reaffirming the conviction that further advancement in nuclear disarmament will contribute to consolidating the international regime for nuclear non-proliferation, ensuring international peace and security,

Welcoming the continuation of a moratorium on nuclear-weapon-test explosions or any other nuclear explosions since the last nuclear test,

Welcoming also the successful adoption of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and stressing the importance of implementing its conclusions,

Welcoming further the constructive discussions at the second session, held from 28 April to 9 May 2003, of the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to be held in 2005,

Welcoming the successful convening of a series of seminars and conferences aiming at further reinforcement of International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, including the International Conference on Wider Adherence to Strengthened International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards, held in Tokyo on 9 and 10 December 2002, and sharing the hope that, by making utmost use of the outcomes from the foregoing seminars and conferences, the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards system will be further strengthened, by means of universalization of safeguards agreements and the additional protocols,

Encouraging the Russian Federation and the United States of America to continue their intensive consultations in accordance with the Joint Declaration on the New Strategic Relationship between the two States,

Welcoming the Final Declaration of the third Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, convened in Vienna from 3 to 5 September 2003, and sharing the hope that, by making utmost use of the outcomes from the foregoing seminars and conferences, the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards system will be further strengthened, by means of universalization of safeguards agreements and the additional protocols,

Stressing the importance of preventing terrorists from acquiring or developing nuclear weapons or related materials, radioactive materials, equipment and technology and underlining the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in this regard,

Stressing the importance of education on disarmament and non-proliferation for future generations, and welcoming the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session,

1. Reaffirm the importance of achieving the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and calls upon States not parties to the Treaty to accede to it as non-nuclear-weapons States without delay and without conditions;

2. Reaffirm the importance for all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to fulfil their obligations under the Treaty;

3. Stress the central importance of the following practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and para-

graphs 3 and 4 (c) of the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty:

(a) The importance and urgency of signatures and ratifications, without delay and without conditions, in accordance with constitutional processes, to achieve the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as well as a moratorium on nuclear-weapon-test explosions or any other nuclear explosions pending the entry into force of that Treaty;

(b) The establishment of an ad hoc committee in the Conference on Disarmament as early as possible during its 2004 session to negotiate a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, in accordance with the report of the Special Coordinator of 1995 and the mandate contained therein, taking into consideration both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives, with a view to its conclusion within five years and, pending its entry into force, a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons;

(c) The establishment of an appropriate subsidiary body with a mandate to deal with nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament as early as possible during its 2004 session in the context of establishing a programme of work;

(d) The inclusion of the principle of irreversibility to apply to nuclear disarmament, nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures;

(e) An unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States, as agreed at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties to the Treaty are committed under article VI of the Treaty;

(f) Deep reductions by the Russian Federation and the United States of America in their strategic offensive arsenals, while placing great importance on the existing multilateral treaties, with a view to maintaining and strengthening strategic stability and international security;

(g) Steps by all the nuclear-weapon States leading to nuclear disarmament in a way that promotes international stability, and based on the principle of undiminished security for all:

(i) Further efforts by all the nuclear-weapon States continue to reduce their nuclear arsenals unilaterally;

(ii) Increased transparency by the nuclear-weapon States with regard to their nuclear weapons capabilities and the implementation of agreements pursuant to article VI of the Treaty and as voluntary confidence-building measures to support further progress on nuclear disarmament

(iii) The further reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons, based on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process;

(iv) Concrete agreed measures to reduce further the operational status of nuclear weapons systems;
(v) A diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination;
(vi) The engagement, as soon as appropriate, of all the nuclear-weapon States in the process leading to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons;
(h) Reaffirmation that the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under effective international control;
4. Recognizes that the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons will require further steps, including deeper reductions by all the nuclear-weapon States in the process of working towards achieving their elimination;
5. Invites the nuclear-weapon States to keep the Members of the United Nations duly informed of the progress or efforts made towards nuclear disarmament;
6. Notes that the First Committee, at its 71st plenary meeting, on 8 December 2003, by a recorded vote of 133 to 6, with 38 abstentions, and on the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee will be convened in 2004;
7. Welcomes the ongoing efforts in the dismantlement of nuclear weapons, notes the importance of the safe and effective management of the resultant fissile materials, and calls for arrangements by all the nuclear-weapon States to place, as soon as practicable, fissile material designated by each of them as no longer required for military purposes under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreements and additional protocols, and facilitating the entry into force of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols, and calls for the early and full implementation of that resolution;
8. Stresses the importance of further development of the verification capabilities, including International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, that will be required to provide assurance of compliance with nuclear disarmament agreements for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world;
9. Calls upon all States to redouble their efforts to prevent and curb the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, confirming and maintaining policies of non-proliferation in order, inter alia, to prevent those materials from falling into the hands of terrorists;
10. Also calls upon all States to maintain the highest possible standards of security, safe custody, effective control and physical protection of all materials that could contribute to the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in order, inter alia, to prevent those materials from falling into the hands of terrorists;
11. Welcomes the adoption of resolution GC(47)/RES/9 at its 23 September 2003 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in which it is recommended that States members of the Agency continue to consider implementing the elements of the plan of action outlined in resolution GC(47)/RES/19, adopted on 22 September 2000 by the General Conference of the Agency, and in the Agency’s updated plan of action of April 2003, with the aim of facilitating the entry into force of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols, and calls for the early and full implementation of that resolution;
12. Encourages the constructive role played by civil society in promoting nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/59:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Iceland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia, Morocco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Repub- lic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
Against: India, United States.
Abstaining: Bhutan, Brazil, China, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sweden.

The Assembly adopted decision 58/517 [agenda item 73 (c)].

United Nations conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament

At its 71st plenary meeting, on 8 December 2003, the General Assembly, by a recorded vote of 133 to 6, with 38 abstentions, and on the recommendation of the First Committee, recalling its resolution 57/109 of 22 November 2002, decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “United Nations conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/517:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Iceland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Repub- lic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
Against: India, United States.
Abstaining: Bhutan, Brazil, China, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sweden.
ABM Treaty and other missile issues

In 2003, Member States continued to express concern over the United States unilateral withdrawal, effective 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 504], from the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM Treaty). Delegates at the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of NPT (see p. 549) maintained that the withdrawal brought an additional element of uncertainty to international security, impacting negatively on strategic stability and would have negative consequences for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Other missile-related issues, particularly the proliferation of long-range ballistic missiles and United States efforts to build a missile defence system [YUN 1999, p. 498], remained an area of concern. On 20 May, the United States, in a statement on its national policy on ballistic missiles, announced plans to begin deploying its missile defence capabilities in 2004, as a starting point for fielding improved and expanded versions of such systems at a later stage. In response to perceived threats in the region, Australia announced, on 4 December, that it had in principle decided to join the United States missile defence system, and, on 19 December, the Government of Japan announced that it would build a missile defence system based on technology from the United States. In June, Defence Ministers of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member States announced that the organization had secured funding for a new missile defence feasibility study, to be launched in October to examine alternatives for protecting NATO territory and forces from missile threats, determine the best mix of systems and capabilities to obtain a NATO missile defence and recommend options for system elements that were consistent with NATO and national missile defence capabilities.

The subscribing States to the international code of conduct against ballistic missile proliferation, also known as the Hague code of conduct, adopted in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 504], held their first (Vienna, 24-25 June) and second (New York, 2-3 October) regular meetings [A/58/955-S/2003/1091]. In June, they discussed, among other things, the exchange of annual declarations on national ballistic missile and space launch vehicle policies and pre-launch notifications. In October, they discussed the standardization and qualitative improvement of the annual declarations and pre-launch notifications of ballistic missiles and space launch vehicles. The subscribing States held an outreach seminar (New York, 1 October), aimed at strengthening the profile of the code by reaching out to non-subscribing States, the media, interested non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other external parties. At year’s end, subscribing States numbered 109. In December, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya declared its agreement to restrict the range of its missiles to no more than 300 kilometres, in line with standards agreed upon under the Missile Technology Control Regime.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 57/71 [YUN 2002, p. 505], the Secretary-General, in a July report with later addenda [A/58/117 & Add.1,2], presented the views of 10 Member States on the issue of missiles in all its aspects.

Communication. In January [CD/1690], the Russian Federation stated that the abandonment of the principles of the ABM Treaty, from which the United States had withdrawn unilaterally, could only lead to a worsening of strategic stability, a new arms race, including the proliferation of WMDs and their missile delivery systems, and the diversion of resources from efforts to combat real-present-day challenges and threats, particularly international terrorism.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee (A/58/602), adopted resolution 58/37 by recorded vote (119-3-57) [agenda item 73 (m)].

Missiles

The General Assembly, recalling its resolutions 54/54 F of 1 December 1999, 55/38 A of 29 November 2000, 56/24 B of 29 November 2001 and 57/71 of 22 November 2002, reaffirming the role of the United Nations in the field of arms regulation and disarmament and the commitment of Member States to take concrete steps to strengthen that role, recognizing the need to promote regional and international peace and security in a world free from the scourge of war and the burden of armaments, convinced of the need for a comprehensive approach towards missiles, in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner, as a contribution to international peace and security, bearing in mind that the security concerns of Member States at the international and regional levels should be taken into consideration in addressing the issue of missiles,
Underlining the complexities involved in considering the issue of missiles in the conventional context,
Expressing its support for the international efforts against the development and proliferation of all
weapons of mass destruction,
Considering that the Secretary-General, in response to resolution 55/53 A, with the assistance of a Panel of
Governmental Experts, submitted a report for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh
session on the issue of missiles in all its aspects, submitted pursuant to resolution 57/71;
1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General containing the replies from Member States on the report
on the issue of missiles in all its aspects, submitted pursuant to resolution 57/71;
2. Requests the Secretary-General further to seek the views of Member States on the report on the issue of missiles in all its aspects and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;
3. Also requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a Panel of Governmental Experts, to be established in 2004 on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, to explore further the issue of missiles in all its aspects and to submit a report for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;
4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Missiles”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/37:
In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bela-
rus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroun, Cape
Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba,
Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada,
Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan,
Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lib-
yan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico,
Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman,
Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia,
Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic,
Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago,
Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela,
Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
Against: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia,
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia,
Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liech-
tenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand,
Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda,
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Singa-
pore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,
Turkey, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan.

Conference on facilitating entry into force
The third Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of CTBT (Vienna, 3-5 September)
[CTBT-Art.XIV/2003/5] was convened in accordance with article XIV of the Treaty, which stipulated that if the Treaty had not entered into force three years from the date it had opened for signature [YUN 1996, p. 492], the depositary should convene a conference at the request of a majority of ratifying States to consider and decide by consensus measures to facilitate an early entry into force. The first such Conference took place in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 972], and the second, in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 492].

On 5 September, the Conference adopted a Final Declaration and measures to promote the Treaty’s entry into force. Participants called on States that had not done so to sign and ratify the Treaty promptly, particularly those whose ratification was needed to enable the Treaty to take effect. They agreed to select one of the ratifying States as coordinator, to be assisted by a special representative, to promote cooperation and further signatures and ratifications, and recommended that ratifying States consider establishing a trust fund, financed through voluntary contributions, to support an outreach programme to promote the Treaty. They further recommended that the provisional technical secretariat of the Preparatory Committee for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty Organization (CTBTO) (see p. 548) continue to provide States with legal assistance regarding the ratification process and implementation measures, and asked it to act as a focal point where information about the activities of ratifying and signatory States could be collected, in order to promote the Treaty’s entry into force.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION
On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee
[A/58/468], adopted resolution 58/71 by recorded vote (173-1-4) [agenda item 79].

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The General Assembly, Reiterating that the cessation of nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions constitutes an effective nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measure,

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Status
As at 31 December 2003, 170 States had signed the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
(CTBT), adopted by General Assembly resolution 50/243 [YUN 1996, p. 454], and 108 had ratified it. During the year, instruments of ratification were deposited by Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Eritrea, Honduras, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania and Oman. In accordance with article XIV, CTBT was to enter into force 180 days after the 44 States possessing nuclear reactors, listed in annex 2 of the Treaty, had deposited their instruments of ratification. By year’s end, 32 of those States had ratified the Treaty.

Recalling the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted by its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, was opened for signature on 24 September 1996.

Stressing that a universal and effectively verifiable Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation,

Encouraged by the signing of the Treaty by one hundred and sixty-nine States, including forty-one of the forty-four needed for its entry into force, and welcoming the ratification of one hundred and seven States, including thirty-two of the forty-four needed for its entry into force, among which there are three nuclear-weapon States,

Recalling its resolution 57/100 of 22 November 2002,

Welcoming the Final Declaration of the third Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held at Vienna from 3 to 5 September 2003, pursuant to article XIV of the Treaty,

1. Stresses the importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions and in accordance with constitutional processes, to achieve the earliest entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

2. Welcomes the contributions by the States signatories to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in particular to its efforts to ensure that the Treaty’s verification regime will be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty upon its entry into force, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty;

3. Urges States to maintain their moratoriums on nuclear-weapons test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, pending the entry into force of the Treaty;

4. Urges all States that have not yet signed the Treaty to sign and ratify it as soon as possible and to refrain from acts that would defeat its object and purpose;

5. Urges all States that have signed but not yet ratified the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to accelerate their ratification processes with a view to their earliest successful conclusion;

6. Urges all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.”

Political and security questions

Preparatory Commission for the CTBT Organization

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, established in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 452], continued to develop the Treaty’s verification regime. Steady progress was made in establishing the International Monitoring System (IMS) [YUN 1999, p. 472], the global network of 337 facilities in 90 countries designed to track and detect nuclear explosions prohibited by CTBT via a global satellite communication system, and to transmit relevant information to the International Data Centre (IDC) in Vienna. During the year, 12 additional facilities were certified, bringing the total to 67. Site surveys were completed for 91 per cent of IMS stations, of which 32 per cent substantially met specifications. Some 70 secure signatory accounts (one for each requesting signatory State) had been established, with over 490 users authorized to access IMS data and IDC products. The development of the draft on-site inspections operational manual remained a priority task for the Commission’s provisional technical secretariat.

The Preparatory Commission held its twentieth (24–25 June) [CTBT/PC-20/1] and twenty-first (10–15 November) [CTBT/PC-21/1] sessions, both in Vienna, to consider the reports of its working groups and to discuss organizational, budgetary and other matters. The Commission adopted its 2004 programme budget, totalling $95 million, of which $45 million was earmarked for the IMS network. The remainder would be used to develop IDC, the global communications infrastructure, and procedures and guidelines for on-site inspection and evaluation once the Treaty entered into force.

Note by Secretary-General. In September [A/58/385], the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly of the availability of the report of the Commission’s Executive Secretary covering 2002.

Non-Proliferation Treaty

Status

As at 31 December, the number of States party to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), adopted by the General
Assembly in resolution 2373(XXII) [YUN 1968, p. 17], stood at 188. In 2003, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) withdrew from the Treaty (see p. 301) and Timor-Leste acceded to it. NPT entered into force on 5 March 1970.

2005 review conference


As decided by the NPT parties in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 507], the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference held its second session (Geneva, 28 April–9 May) [NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/50] to consider the implementation of the Treaty’s provisions relating to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, disarmament and international peace and security; safeguards and nuclear-weapon-free zones; and the right of States parties to research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Also discussed were the decision on the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and the resolution on the Middle East, both adopted at the 1995 Review Conference, the final document of the 2000 Review Conference and the safety and security of peaceful nuclear programmes. Documents before the Committee included a note by the Secretariat on the estimated cost of the 2005 Review Conference [NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/1]; a statement by the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean regarding its work [NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/5/Rev.1]; a report by CTBTO updating the work of its Preparatory Commission (see p. 548) [NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/4]; a joint statement by the Russian Federation and the United States on SORT (see p. 555) [NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/21]; reports by the New Agenda Coalition (see p. 536 et seq.) [NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/16] and by 25 other States on implementation of NPT and of the 1995 decision [NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/2, 5, 7, 8, 10 & Corr.1, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 39, 41, 42]; reports by 14 States on steps they had taken to promote the establishment of the Middle East as a zone free of nuclear weapons [NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/6, 9, 12, 15, 20, 30, 31, 35, 36, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48]; and numerous working papers. The Committee’s third session was scheduled to take place from 26 April to 7 May 2004.

Communication. A ministerial declaration by the Foreign Ministers of the New Agenda Coalition countries (Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden) (New York, 23 September) [A/C.1/58/4] expressed concern at the lack of progress in implementing the 13 practical steps on nuclear disarmament to which all NPT States parties agreed at the 2000 Review Conference [YUN 2000, p. 487].

IAEA safeguards

As at 31 December, the Model Protocol Additional to Safeguards Agreements strengthening the safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), approved by the IAEA Board of Governors in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 486], had been signed by 79 States, including the five nuclear-weapon States, and the European Atomic Energy Community, and was in force or being provisionally applied in 38 States.

The IAEA General Conference [GC(47)/RES/11], as in previous years, requested concerned States and other parties to safeguards agreements that had not done so to sign the additional protocols promptly. Encouraging those that had signed the protocols to bring them into force, the Conference advocated cooperation among member States to facilitate exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information for implementing those protocols. It recommended member States that had implemented elements of a plan of action outlined in a 2000 resolution of the Conference [YUN 2000, p. 505] and recommended that other member States consider doing the same to facilitate the entry into force of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols.

On 17 March, IAEA inspectors in Iraq withdrew upon notice from the United States Government that coalition forces were about to begin hostilities. Agency inspectors returned to Iraq in June to re-verify the nuclear material subject to safeguards following reports of looting at a nuclear storage facility south of Baghdad. They found that, although some uranium compounds could have been dispersed, neither the quantity nor the material involved was sensitive from a proliferation perspective, as was confirmed by the General Conference [GC(47)/DEC/12]. (See also p. 319.)

IAEA was not able to verify that the DPRK had declared all the nuclear material subject to Agency safeguards, nor could it provide any assurance of its diversion given that the DPRK had prevented IAEA inspectors from carrying out any verification activities within the country in 2003. On 19 September [GC(47)/RES/12], the General Conference, deploiring the DPRK’s continuing unwillingness to accept the dialogue proposed by IAEA, urged it to reconsider its actions, to dismantle completely any nuclear weapons programme promptly and to accept comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

During the year, IAEA took action regarding the implementation of NPT safeguards agreements in Iran and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.
On 12 September [GOV/2003/10], the Board of Governors, referring to Iran’s failure to meet its safeguards obligations with respect to the reporting of nuclear material, facilities and activities, decided it was essential and urgent that Iran remedy that failure and cooperate to ensure verification of its compliance. In November [GOV/2003/81], the Board noted that Iran had taken specific actions as requested, welcomed its decision to voluntarily suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, and requested it to adhere to that decision.

Following Libya’s revelation that it had been engaged in an undeclared development of uranium enrichment capability and had obtained nuclear weapon design documents, IAEA conducted verification activities to ascertain the extent of the country’s programme. However, on 19 December [A/58/664-SC/2003/196], Libya announced its decision to eliminate all materials, equipment and programmes relevant to the production of internationally proscribed weapons, including nuclear weapons, and agreed to pursue with IAEA a policy of full transparency and active cooperation.

**Note by Secretary-General.** In August [A/58/32], the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly of the availability of the forty-seventh report of IAEA [GC(47)/2] for 2002.

**Communications.** On 17 January [CD/1696], Peru transmitted the text of a communiqué issued by countries of the Permanent Body for Political Consultation and Coordination (Rio Group) (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela), which regretted the DPRK’s decision to withdraw from NPT and the IAEA safeguards system (see p. 549).

On 14 February [A/57/735-S/2003/182], the Secretary-General conveyed to the Presidents of the General Assembly and of the Security Council the text of a 12 February resolution of the IAEA Board of Governors, which declared that the DPRK was in further non-compliance with its obligations under its safeguards agreement pursuant to NPT.

On 8 October [A/58/131], Cuba announced that it had signed, in September, the comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA and the Additional Protocol thereto, in order to expedite the fulfillment of its obligations as a State party to NPT and to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) (see p. 555).

**Middle East**

In 2003, the General Assembly (see below) and the IAEA General Conference [GC(47)/RES/13] took action regarding the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. While the Assembly once again called on the non-party in the region to place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards, IAEA continued to emphasize the need for States in the region to accept the application of full-scope Agency safeguards to all their nuclear activities.

**Pursuant to Assembly resolution 57/97 [YUN 2002, p. 508], the Secretary-General reported in October [A/58/137 (Part II)] that, apart from the IAEA resolution on the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East, which was annexed to his report, he had not received any additional information since 2002.**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/465], adopted resolution 58/68 by recorded vote (162-4-10) [agenda item 76].

**The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East**

*The General Assembly,*

_Bearing in mind_ its relevant resolutions,

_Taking note_ of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the latest of which is resolution GC(47)/RES/13, adopted on 19 September 2003,

_Cognizant_ that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region of the Middle East would pose a serious threat to international peace and security,

_Mindful_ of the immediate need for placing all nuclear facilities in the region of the Middle East under full-scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

_Recalling_ the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995, in which the Conference urged universal adherence to the Treaty as an urgent priority and called upon all States not yet parties to the Treaty to accede to it at the earliest date, particularly those States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities,

_Recognizing_ with satisfaction that, in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Conference undertook to make determined efforts towards the achievement of the goal of universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, called upon those remaining States not parties to the Treaty to accede to it, thereby accepting an international legally binding commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices and to accept International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards on all their nuclear activities, and underlined the necessity of universal adherence to the Treaty and of strict compliance by all parties with their obligations under the Treaty,
Recalling the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995, in which the Conference noted with concern the continued existence in the Middle East of un safeguarded nuclear facilities, reaffirmed the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty and called upon all States in the Middle East that had not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place all their nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards,

Noting that Israel remains the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Concerned about the threats posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons to the security and stability of the Middle East region,

Stressing the importance of confidence-building measures, in particular the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in order to enhance peace and security in the region and to consolidate the global non-proliferation regime,

Emphasizing the need for all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and, as a means of promoting this objective, inviting the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards,

Noting that one hundred and sixty-nine States have signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, including a number of States in the region:

1. Welcomes the conclusions on the Middle East of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
2. Reaffirms the importance of Israel’s accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East;
3. Calls upon that State to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons without further delay and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, and to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;
5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/68:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, United States.

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Mauritius, Malaysia, Malawi, Mali, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

The First Committee adopted the sixth preambular paragraph by a separate recorded vote of 142 to 2, with 11 abstentions. The Assembly retained the paragraph by a recorded vote of 162 to 2, with 10 abstentions.

Prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons

In 2003, the Conference on Disarmament was unable to undertake negotiations on a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, as called for in General Assembly resolution 57/94 [YUN 2002, p. 509].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/465, adopted resolution 58/64 by recorded vote (118-46-13) [agenda item 74 (f)],

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

The General Assembly, 

Convinced that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to the survival of mankind,

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons,

Convinced that a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of nuclear weapons would contribute to the elimination of the nuclear threat and to the climate for negotiations leading to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons, thereby strengthening international peace and security,

Conscious that some steps taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America towards a reduction of their nuclear weapons and the improvement in the international climate can contribute towards the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recalling that, in paragraph 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General
Assembly, whose twenty-fifth anniversary is being marked this year, it is stated that all States should actively participate in efforts to bring about conditions in international relations among States in which a code of peaceful conduct of nations in international affairs could be agreed upon and that would preclude the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Reaffirming that any use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, as declared in its resolutions 160(X) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December 1981,

Determined to achieve an international convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction,

Stressing that an international convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time,

Noting with regret that the Conference on Disarmament, during its 2003 session, was unable to undertake negotiations on this subject as called for in General Assembly resolution 57/94 of 22 November 2002,

1. Reiterates its request to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances;

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly on the results of those negotiations.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/64:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belaruse, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundí, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras.

Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

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

Abstaining: Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Belarus, Belgium, Bermuda, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/462], adopted resolution 58/46 by recorded vote (124-26-22) [agenda item 75 (g)].

Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons

The General Assembly,


Convinced that the continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to all humanity and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for all life on Earth, and recognizing that the only defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the certainty that they will never be produced again,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Mindful of the solemn obligations of States parties, undertaken in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, particularly to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear-arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Emphasizing the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, adopted at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Recalling the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, and expressing its satisfaction at the increasing number of States that have signed and ratified the Treaty,

Recognizing with satisfaction that the Antarctic Treaty and the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba are gradually freeing the entire southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons,

Stressing the importance of strengthening all existing nuclear-related disarmament, arms control and reduction measures,
Recognizing the need for a multilaterally negotiated and legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the threat or use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming the central role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, and regretting the lack of progress in disarmament negotiations, particularly nuclear disarmament, in the Conference during its 2003 session,

Emphasizing the need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time,

Expressing its deep concern at the lack of progress in the implementation of the thirteen steps to implement article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons agreed to at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Desiring to achieve the objective of a legally binding prohibition of the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, threat or use of nuclear weapons and their destruction under effective international control,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, issued on 8 July 1996,

Taking note of the relevant portions of the report of the Secretary-General relating to the implementation of resolution 57/85,

1. Underlines once again the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control;

2. Calls once again upon all States immediately to fulfill that obligation by commencing multilateral negotiations leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination;

3. Requests all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they have taken on the implementation of the present resolution and nuclear disarmament, and requests the Secretary-General to apprise the General Assembly of that information at its fifty-ninth session;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/46:

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uzbekistan.

The First Committee adopted paragraph 1 by a recorded vote of 140 to 4, with 5 abstentions. The Assembly retained the paragraph by a recorded vote of 165 to 4, with 3 abstentions.

Radioactive waste

In September [GC(47)/RES/7], the IAEA General Conference requested the Agency to develop an action plan addressing the safety of the transport of radioactive material based on the findings of the IAEA International Conference on the Safety of Transport of Radioactive Material (Vienna, 7-11 July). It urged member States that did not have national regulatory documents governing the transport of radioactive materials by sea to adopt them.

The first Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Vienna, 3-14 November) to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management [YUN 1997, p. 487], which entered into force in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 487], reviewed States parties national reports and discussed, among other issues, the need for all countries to have in place a long-term strategy for managing spent fuel and radioactive waste.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/462], adopted resolution 58/40 without vote [agenda item 73 (b)].

Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind resolutions CM/Res.1153(XLVI) of 1988 and CM/Res.1225(L) of 1989, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, concerning the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa,

Welcoming resolution GCXXXIV/RES/530 establishing a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste, adopted on 21 September 1990 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-fourth regular session,
Taking note of the commitment by the participants in the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, to ban the dumping at sea of radioactive wastes,

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1965, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, inter alia, to consider effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare,

Aware of the potential hazards underlying any use of radioactive wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and its implications for regional and international security, in particular for the security of developing countries,

Recalling all its resolutions on the matter since its forty-third session in 1988, including its resolution 51/45 of 10 December 1996,

Also recalling resolution GC(45)/RES/10 adopted by consensus on 21 September 2001 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its forty-fifth regular session, in which States shipping radioactive materials are invited to provide, as appropriate, assurances to concerned States, upon their request, that the national regulations of the shipping State take into account the Agency’s transport regulations and to provide them with relevant information relating to the shipment of such materials; the information provided should in no case be contradictory to the measures of physical security and safety,

Welcoming the adoption at Vienna, on 5 September 1997, of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, as recommended by the participants at the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security,


Noting that the first Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management was convened in Vienna from 3 to 4 November 2005,

Desiring of promoting the implementation of paragraph 76 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

1. Takes note of the part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to a future convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons;

2. Expresses grave concern regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States;

3. Calls upon all States to take appropriate measures with a view to preventing any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States;

4. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention;

5. Also requests the Conference on Disarmament to intensify efforts towards an early conclusion of such a convention and to include in its report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session the progress recorded in the negotiations on this subject;


7. Expresses the hope that the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste will enhance the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories;

8. Appeals to all Member States that have not yet taken the necessary steps to become party to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management to do so as soon as possible;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled “Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes”.

*The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament became the Committee on Disarmament as from the tenth special session of the General Assembly. The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

**Nuclear-weapon-free zones**

**Africa**

As at 31 December, 22 States had ratified the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) [YUN 1995, p. 205], which was opened for signature in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 486]. China, France and the United Kingdom had ratified Protocols I and II thereto, and France had also ratified Protocol III. The Russian Federation and the United States had signed Protocols I and II. The Treaty had 55 signatories.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/454], adopted resolution 58/30 without vote [agenda item 65].

**African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty**

*(Treaty of Pelindaba)*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/53 of 10 December 1996 and 56/17 of 29 November 2001 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity,

Recalling also the signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) at Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling further the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion, which emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Taking note of the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of
the Council on 12 April 1996, affirming that the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

1. Calls upon African States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) as soon as possible so that it may enter into force without delay;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the nuclear-weapon States that have signed the Protocols that concern them, and calls upon those that have not yet ratified the Protocols concerning them to do so as soon as possible;

3. Calls upon the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty that have not yet done so to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, de jure or de facto, internationally responsible and that lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

4. Calls upon the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that have not yet done so to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9(b) of and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba when it enters into force, and to conclude additional protocols to their safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled “African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty”.

Asia

Central Asia

In 2003, the five Central Asian States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) continued consultations with the five nuclear-weapon States on the draft text of a treaty for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. Four of the nuclear five had submitted their comments on the draft earlier in the year, and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (see p. 588), in collaboration with IAEA, organized several meetings to help the regional States examine those comments. The process resulted in a proposal for a revised treaty text.

On 8 December, the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth (2004) session the item entitled “Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia” (decision 58/318).

Mongolia

In a report to the NPT Preparatory Committee (see p. 549), Mongolia described its nuclear-weapon-free status as a reaffirmation of its commitment to the goals of nuclear non-proliferation and highlighted ongoing efforts to institutionalize that status at the international level [NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II.40].

South-East Asia

In 2003, the States parties to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) continued to focus on establishing an institutional framework to implement the Treaty. Consultations with nuclear-weapon States on the Treaty’s Protocols, with a view to securing their accession, also continued within the organizational framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Some progress was made, as China and ASEAN countries reached agreements on the Protocols. With no new ratifications, the number of States that had ratified the Treaty remained at 10.

Latin America and the Caribbean

The eighteenth regular session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) (Havana, Cuba, 5–6 November) [A/58/455], adopted resolution 58/31 (as orally amended) without vote [agenda item 66].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) was opened for signature at Mexico City on 14 February 1967,
Recalling also that, in its preamble, the Treaty of Tlatelolco states that military demilitarized zones are not an end in themselves but rather a means for achieving general and complete disarmament at a later stage.

Recalling further that, in its resolution 2280(XII) of 5 December 1967, it welcomed with special satisfaction the Treaty of Tlatelolco as an event of historic significance in the efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote international peace and security.

Recalling that in 1990, 1991 and 1992 the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean approved and opened for signature a set of amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, with the aim of enabling the full entry into force of that instrument.

Highlighting that, with the ratification of Cuba, the Treaty of Tlatelolco is now in force for thirty-three sovereign States of the region, thereby consolidating the first nuclear-weapon-free zone established in a densely populated region.

Noting with satisfaction the interest that the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean has manifested to promote mechanisms of cooperation and consultation in other nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Reaffirming the importance of strengthening the Agency as the appropriate legal and political forum for ensuring cooperation with the agencies of other regions, and with mechanisms of cooperation and consultation in other nuclear-weapon-free zones,

1. Welcomes the fact that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) is now in force for the sovereign States of the region, and that this fact was officially acknowledged by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean at its eighteenth session, held at Havana on 5 and 6 November 2003, and takes note of the results of the aforementioned session of the General Conference, including the adoption of the Havana Declaration;

2. Urges the countries of the region that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification of the amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco approved by the General Conference of the Agency in its resolutions 267(E-V), 268(XII) and 290(E-VII); and

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled “Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)”.

Middle East

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/55 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East [YUN 2002, p. 584], the Secretary-General, in a July report with later addendum [A/58/137 (Part I) & Add.1 & Add.1/Add.1], reported on the resolution’s implementation. He said he was encouraged by new developments, including the presentation of the road map; an international plan for peace in the Middle East developed by the Quartet—the coordinating mechanism for international peace efforts in the region, comprising the Russian Federation, the United States, the EU and the United Nations [YUN 2002, p. 425] (see pp. 467 and 475). The Secretary-General hoped that recent developments in the region would have a positive influence towards securing a stable environment that would facilitate the establishment of the zone. The report included the views of Egypt, Israel, Italy (on behalf of the EU), Mexico and Venezuela.

In September, the IAEA General Conference, in a resolution on the Middle East [GC(47)/RES/15], called on all parties directly concerned to take the steps required for the implementation of the proposal for a mutually and effectively verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/459], adopted resolution 58/34 without vote [agenda item 70].

1. Urges the countries of the region that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification of the amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco approved by the General Conference of the Agency in its resolutions 267(E-V), 268(XII) and 290(E-VII); and

2. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled “Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)”.

May 9 2005
Disarmament


Welcoming the adoption by the Disarmament Commission at its 1999 substantive session of a text entitled

agreements and the activities of the multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security in promoting mutual confidence and security in the Middle East, including the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone;
5. Invites all countries of the region, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, to declare their support for establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, to declare their support for establishing such a zone, consistent with paragraph 7 of resolution 46/30 and taking into account the evolving situation in the region, and to seek from those States their views on the measures outlined in chapters III and IV of the study annexed to his report of 10 October 1990 or other relevant measures, in order to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;
11. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;
12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

South Pacific

In 2003, the number of States that had ratified the 1985 South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) [YUN 1985, p. 38] remained at 17. China and the Russian Federation had ratified Protocols 2 and 3, and France and the United Kingdom had ratified all three Protocols.

Under Protocol 1, the States internationally responsible for territories situated within the zone would undertake to apply the relevant prohibitions of the Treaty to those territories; under Protocol 2, the five nuclear-weapon States would provide security assurances to parties or territories within the same zone; and under Protocol 3, the five would not carry out nuclear tests in the zone.

Southern hemisphere and adjacent areas

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/462], adopted resolution 58/49 by recorded vote (168-3-8) [agenda item 73 (o)].

Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas

The General Assembly,

Welcoming the adoption by the Disarmament Commission at its 1999 substantive session of a text entitled...
"Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned."

Determined to pursue the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Determined also to continue to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to the process of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, with a view to strengthening international peace and security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the provisions on nuclear-weapon-free zones of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Stressing the importance of the treaties of Tlatelolco, Bang overlay and Pelindaba establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the Antarctic Treaty, to, inter alia, achieve a world entirely free of nuclear weapons,

Underlining the value of enhancing cooperation among the nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaty members by means of mechanisms such as joint meetings of States parties, signatories and observers to those treaties,

Recalling the applicable principles and rules of international law relating to the freedom of the high seas and the rights of passage through maritime space, including those of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

1. Welcomes the continued contribution that the Antarctic Treaty and the treaties of Tlatelolco, Bang overlay and Pelindaba are making towards freeing the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons;

2. Also welcomes the ratification by all original parties of the Treaty of Bang overlay and calls upon eligible States to adhere to the treaty and the protocols thereto;

3. Further welcomes the efforts towards the completion of the ratification process of the Treaty of Bang overlay, and calls upon the States of the region that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the treaty, with the aim of its early entry into force;

4. Calls upon all concerned States to continue to work together in order to facilitate adherence to the protocols to nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties by all relevant States that have not yet done so;

5. Welcomes the steps taken to conclude further nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, and calls upon all States to consider all relevant proposals, including those reflected in its resolutions on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East and South Asia;

6. Affirms its conviction of the important role of nuclear-weapon-free zones in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and in extending the areas of the world that are nuclear-weapon-free, and, with particular reference to the responsibilities of the nuclear-weapon States, calls upon all States to support the process of nuclear disarmament and to work for the total elimination of all nuclear weapons;

7. Calls upon the States parties and signatories to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Bang overlay, Bangkok and Pelindaba, in order to pursue the common goals envisaged in those treaties and to promote the nuclear-weapon-free status of the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas, to explore and implement further ways and means of cooperation among themselves and their treaty agencies;

8. Welcomes the vigorous efforts being made among States parties and signatories to those treaties to promote their common objectives, and considers that an international conference of States parties and signatories to the nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties might be held to support the common goals envisaged in those treaties;

9. Encourages the competent authorities of the nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties to provide assistance to the States parties and signatories to those treaties so as to facilitate the accomplishment of these goals;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/49:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, 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, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Bhutan, Georgia, India, Israel, Marshall Islands,Micronesia, Russian Federation, Spain.

The First Committee adopted paragraph 5 and its last three words, "and South Asia", by separate recorded votes of H3 to 1, with 11 abstentions, and 142 to 2, with 11 abstentions, respectively. The Assembly retained paragraph 5 and its last three words by recorded votes of 163 to 2, with 9 abstentions, and 159 to 3, with 9 abstentions, respectively.

Bacteriological (biological) and chemical weapons

Bacteriological (biological) weapons

The potential use of chemical and biological weapons and related materials and technology by
terrorists continued to be of concern to the international community. Calls were made for further strengthening of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC) and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, and for efforts by States parties to implement national measures that would respond to those calls.

**Meeting of States parties**

As decided in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 504] by the Fifth Review Conference of the States parties to BWC, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 5826(XXVI) [YUN 1991, p. 19], the first of three annual meetings of States parties to the Convention was convened (Geneva, 10-14 November) [BWC/MSP/2003/1 (vols. I & II)]. Working sessions focused on national measures to implement the prohibitions set forth in the Convention, national mechanisms to establish and maintain the security and oversight of pathogenic micro-organisms and toxins, enforcement, biosafety evaluation and the implementation of biosafety procedures, identification and licensing/registration, and efforts by relevant international organizations. The States parties noted that, notwithstanding the differing legal and constitutional arrangements among them, they had all adopted similar basic approaches and shared common principles. They agreed on the value of reviewing, enacting or updating national legal measures to ensure effective implementation of the Convention’s prohibitions and enhance the security of pathogens and toxins; the positive effect of cooperation between States parties with differing legal and constitutional arrangements; the need for those in a position to do so to consider assisting others in framing and/or expanding their legislation and controls in the fields of national implementation and biosafety; and the need for comprehensive and concrete national measures to secure pathogen collections and the control of their use for peaceful purposes. Participants considered a number of working papers submitted by States parties, of which a list was annexed to the meeting’s report, as were statements, presentations and other contributions that the experts had considered.

**Expert meeting** In accordance with a decision of the Fifth Review Conference [YUN 2002, p. 504], the meeting of States parties (see above) was preceded by a preparatory expert meeting (Geneva, 18-29 August) [BWC/MSP.2003/MX/4 (Parts I & II)], which discussed issues relevant to the agenda items of the meeting of States parties. The expert meeting heard national statements and thematic presentations from delegates. On 29 August, the meeting adopted its report, to which was annexed a list of the working papers, presentations and other contributions that the experts had considered.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/499], adopted resolution 58/72 without vote [agenda item 80].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and fifty States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, including all of the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Welcoming the reaffirmation made in the Final Declaration of the Fourth Review Conference that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and their development, production and stockpiling are effectively prohibited under article I of the Convention,

Recalling the decision reached at the Fifth Review Conference to hold three annual meetings of the States parties of one week duration each year commencing in 2005 until the Sixth Review Conference and to hold a two-week meeting of experts to prepare for each meeting of the States parties,

1. Notes with satisfaction the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, reaffirms the call upon all signa-
tory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

2. Welcomes the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

3. Recalls the decision reached at the Fifth Review Conference, and calls upon the States parties to the Convention to participate in its implementation;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, including all necessary assistance to the annual meetings of the States parties and the meetings of experts;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction”.

Chemical weapons

Chemical weapons convention

In 2003, Afghanistan, Cape Verde, Guatemala and Kyrgyzstan ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC); Andorra, Belize, Palau, Timor-Leste and Tonga acceded to the Convention and Sao Tome and Principe accepted it. At year’s end, the total number of States parties stood at 158, with 165 signatories. CWC was adopted by the Conference on Disarmament in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 65] and entered into force in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 499].


The eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention (The Hague, 20-24 October) [C-8/7] considered, among other issues, the status of the Convention’s implementation, fostering international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities, agreements on the privileges and immunities of OPCW, ensuring the Convention’s universality, and administrative and budgetary matters. The Conference adopted decisions on the extension of deadlines for destruction of category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles; understandings regarding declarations under article VI of the Convention relating to activities not prohibited; and administrative, financial and oversight matters, including OPCW’s programme and budget for 2004 and other issues relevant to its work. The Conference approved procedures for revising the technical specifications for approved equipment and a plan of action regarding the implementation of obligations assumed under article VII of the Convention. It decided to hold its ninth session in November/December 2004.

Review Conference

The First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention (The Hague, 28 April-9 May) [RC-1/5] reviewed the Convention’s operation since its entry into force. The Conference considered the role of the Convention in enhancing international peace and security, measures to ensure its universality, implementation of its provisions, including general obligations and verification provisions, chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities, activities not prohibited under CWC, national implementation measures, assistance and protection against chemical weapons, economic and technological development, the protection of confidential information and the functioning of OPCW. On 9 May, the Conference adopted its report, which contained its agreed assessment of those issues. It adopted a Political Declaration [RC-1/5] and recommended that the OPCW Executive Council develop and implement an action plan to further encourage adherence to the Convention. Regarding the impact of science and technology on prohibited activities, the Conference noted that, although definitions contained in the Convention relating to chemical weapons and their production facilities adequately covered relevant developments, science was rapidly advancing and new chemicals might need to be assessed within the context of the schedules of chemicals set out in the Convention. The Conference also addressed the importance of effective verification of chemical weapons stockpiles and recommended that the Council intensify its study of how to further optimize the OPCW verification system, with a view to providing recommendations that could possibly take effect in 2004.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/462], adopted resolution 58/52 without vote [agenda item 75 (6)].
Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of chemical weapons, in particular resolution 57/82 of 22 November 2002, adopted without a vote, in which it noted with appreciation the ongoing work to achieve the objective and purpose of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,

Determined to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that since the adoption of resolution 57/82, eleven additional States have ratified the Convention or acceded to it, bringing the total number of States parties to the Convention to one hundred and fifty-eight,

1. Emphasizes that the universality of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction is fundamental to the achievement of its objective and purpose;

2. Underlines that the Convention and its implementation contribute to enhancing international peace and security, and emphasizes that its full, universal and effective implementation will contribute further to that purpose by excluding completely, for the sake of all humankind, the possibility of the use of chemical weapons;

3. Stresses that the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention is in itself an important contribution to the efforts of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

4. Emphasizes the necessity of universal adherence to the Convention, and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention without delay;

5. Notes with appreciation the outcome of the First Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, convened in The Hague from 28 April to 9 May 2003, and the Political Declaration, in which the States parties reaffirm their commitment to achieving the objective and purpose of the Convention;

6. Stresses the importance of the Convention that all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities, including previously declared possessor States, should be among the States parties to the Convention, and welcomes progress to that end;

7. Notes that the effective application of the verification system builds confidence in compliance with the Convention by States parties;

8. Stresses the importance of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in verifying compliance with the provisions of the Convention as well as in promoting the timely and efficient accomplishment of all its objectives;

9. Urges all States parties to the Convention to meet in full and on time their obligations under the Convention and to support the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in its implementation activities;

10. Notes the undertaking of the States parties to foster international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities of the States parties and the importance of that cooperation and its contribution to the promotion of the Convention as a whole;

11. Notes with appreciation the ongoing work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to achieve the objective and purpose of the Convention, to ensure the full implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with it, and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States parties;

12. Welcomes the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons within the framework of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the Organization, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction”.

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

In 2003, OPCW continued efforts to achieve the objective and purpose of CWC. Between the Convention’s entry into force in 1997 and 31 July 2003, OPCW inventoried and verified the non-diversion of over 8 million chemical munitions and bulk agent, of which it monitored the destruction of over 22 per cent. No fewer than 70,000 metric tonnes of chemical agent, otherwise classified as exceedingly lethal weapons, had been secured, of which 11 per cent was verifiably destroyed, while over two thirds of former production facilities for those weapons had been destroyed or converted to peaceful purposes.

The OPCW Executive Council, at its thirty-second (18-21 March), thirty-third (24-26 June), thirty-fourth (23-26 September) and thirty-fifth (2-5 December) sessions, addressed issues relating to deadlines for the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, the conversion to peaceful purposes of related production facilities, the optimization of verification activities, the agenda of the First Review Conference of the States Parties (see p. 560) and administrative and financial questions. The Council adopted decisions on the list of new validated data for inclusion in the OPCW central analytical database and privileges and immunities agreements between OPCW and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cyprus and Slovakia.
Secretary-General, in July [A/58/138], transmitted initiatives undertaken at the regional and sub-regional levels to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons [A/CONF.192/BMS/2003/CRP.99]; and the report of the Group of Governmental Experts to study the feasibility of developing an international instrument to help identify and trace such weapons (see above).

Reports of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 57/10 [YUN 2002, p. 522] and 57/72 [ibid., p. 523], the Secretary-General, in an August report [A/58/207] covering the period from July 2002 to July 2003, summarized national, subregional and regional activities undertaken in Africa, in response to States’ requests for UN assistance in curbing the illicit trade in small arms and to collect and dispose of them. He also described other activities undertaken by the UN system and by States to implement the Programme of Action. The Secretary-General concluded that, during the period under review, Member States, international and regional organizations and civil society had remained strongly committed to implementing the Programme of Action, and had used the First Biennial Meeting of States (see above) to consolidate existing partnerships and to forge new ones around programmes focusing on concrete action. The UN system, through the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism, relevant departments, agencies and funds, and with the support of interested partners, was determined to continue to play its role in global efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Annexed to the report were the views of nine States on further steps they had taken to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating brokering in those weapons.

In a September report [A/58/323] on progress towards implementing the UN Millennium Declaration, as set out in Assembly resolution 55/2 [YUN 2000, p. 49], the Secretary-General said small arms, which were readily available at very low cost, even in the most remote corners of the world, were continuing to be used to kill millions of people. However, with the cooperation of all countries, it should be possible to tighten export controls and facilitate the identification of the sources of illicit weapons through the use of markings.

In response to presidential statement S/PRST/2002/30 [YUN 2002, p. 521], the Secretary-General, in a December report [S/2003/127], described initiatives undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in his 2002 report regarding the Security Council’s contribution to dealing with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in situations under its consideration [YUN 2002, p. 521]. He stated that significant pro-
gress had been achieved in implementing the recommendations on tracing illicit weapons; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in post-conflict situations; control of the export and transit of small arms and light weapons; and transparency in armaments. Efforts were being made to implement recommendations on the Interpol Weapons and Explosives Tracking System, the small arms advisory service and links between illicit weapons and illicit exploitation of natural and other resources. Considering further recommendations, he noted that the issue of end-user certificates and illicit brokering activities had emerged as areas of common efforts by the Council and the Assembly. Although progress on the enforcement of Council resolutions and sanctions and on coercive measures against Member States that deliberately violated arms embargoes depended on the political will of Member States, further efforts by the Council were required to stimulate Member States to fulfill their obligations and to assist them in strengthening their capacity to address the issue. The implementation of the recommendation on the use of arms embargoes presented a mixed picture, for while some of those embargoes were employed to consolidate the peace process in certain conflict situations, the restriction on ammunition supply to areas of instability required more attention and vigorous action in order to achieve the desired objectives. The recommendation on the need to finance disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes through the assessed budgets for peacekeeping remained an issue of concern, as voluntary funding available for relevant activities, particularly at the early stages, was often very limited.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 8 December (meeting 71), the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee (A/58/402), adopted resolution 58/38 without vote [agenda item 75].

**Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them**

*The General Assembly,*

*Noting with satisfaction the conclusions of the United Nations advisory missions dispatched by the Secretary-General to the affected countries of the subregion to study the most appropriate way of halting the illicit circulation of small arms and collecting them,*

Welcoming the designation of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat as a centre for the coordination of all activities of United Nations bodies concerned with small arms,

*Congratulating the Secretary-General for his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, and bearing in mind the statement on small arms made by the President of the Security Council on 24 September 1999,*

Welcoming the recommendations resulting from the meetings of the States of the subregion held at Banjul, Algiers, Bamako, Yamoussoukro and Niamey to establish close regional cooperation with a view to strengthening security,

*Welcoming also the decision taken by the Economic Community of West African States to renew the Declaration of a Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa, adopted by the heads of State and Government of the Community at Abuja on 31 October 1998,*

Recalling the Algiers Declaration adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held at Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999,

*Emphasizing the need to advance efforts towards wider cooperation and better coordination in the struggle against the illicit proliferation of small arms through the common understanding reached at the meeting on small arms held at Oslo on 13 and 14 July 1998 and the Brussels Call for Action adopted by the International Conference on Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development, held at Brussels on 12 and 13 October 1998,*

*Recalling also the decision of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in Africa, held at Addis Ababa from 7 to 14 May 2000,*

*Recognizing the important role that the organizations of civil society play in detection, prevention and raising public awareness, in efforts to curb the illicit traffic in small arms,*

I. *Notes with satisfaction the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa, held at Abuja on 8 and 9 May 2000, and encourages the Secretary-General to pursue his efforts in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/75 of 15 December 1994 and the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions, aimed at curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and collecting such arms in the affected States that so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the African Union;*
2. Welcomes the decision of the Economic Community of West African States to renew the Declaration of a Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa for a three-year period, until October 2004, and encourages the international community to support the implementation of the moratorium;

3. Encourages the establishment in the countries of the Sahel-Saharan subregion of national commissions to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms, and invites the international community to lend its support wherever possible to ensure the smooth functioning of the commissions;

4. Also encourages the involvement of organizations and associations of civil society in the efforts of the national commissions to combat the illicit traffic in small arms and their participation in the implementation of the moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa as well as in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;

5. Further encourages cooperation among State organs, international organizations and civil society in combating the illicit traffic in small arms and supporting operations to collect the said arms in the subregions;

6. Calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support to strengthen the capacity of civil organizations to take action to combat the illicit trade in small arms;

7. Takes note of the conclusions of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Economic Community of West African States, held at Bamako on 24 and 25 March 1999, on the modalities for the implementation of the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development, and welcomes the adoption by the meeting of a plan of action;


9. Invites the Secretary-General and those States and organizations that are in a position to do so to provide technical and financial support to strengthen the capacity of civil organizations to take action to combat the illicit trade in small arms;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to consider the matter and to report to it at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them".

On 23 December [meeting 79], the Assembly, also on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/462], adopted resolution 58/241 without vote [agenda item 75 (w)].

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

The General Assembly
Reaffirming its resolution 57/72 of 22 November 2002.


Emphasizing the importance of early and full implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 7 to 11 July 2003;

Welcoming the adoption by consensus of the report of the First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 7 to 11 July 2003;

Welcoming also the efforts by Member States to submit, on a voluntary basis, national reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action,

Noting with satisfaction regional efforts being undertaken in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 57/72,

Welcoming the report on the feasibility of developing an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons, prepared by the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 56/24 V.

Conscious of its decision to convene a conference, no later than 2006, to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, the date and venue to be decided by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

1. Decides to convene a United Nations conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York for a period of two weeks between June and July 2006;

2. Also decides that a session of the preparatory committee for the conference is to be held in New York for a period of two weeks in January 2006, and that, if necessary, a subsequent session may be held;

3. Further decides to convene in 2005 the second biennial meeting of States as stipulated in the Programme of Action to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action;

4. Determines that it is feasible to develop an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons;

5. Notes that the character of the international instrument will be determined in the course of negotiations;

6. Also notes that the international instrument should be complementary to, and not inconsistent with, the existing commitments of States under relevant international instruments;

7. Further notes that the international instrument should take into account the national security and legal interests of States;
8. Decides to establish an open-ended working group, to meet in three sessions of two weeks each, to negotiate an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons;

9. Also decides that the open-ended working group shall hold an organizational session in New York on 3 and 4 February 2004 in order to set the dates for its substantive sessions;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the open-ended working group with the assistance and services that may be required for the discharge of its tasks;

11. Also requests the Secretary-General to hold broad-based consultations, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by Member States in a position to do so, with all Member States, interested regional and subregional organizations, international agencies and experts in the field, on further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons, taking into consideration the views of States provided to the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the outcome of his consultations;

12. Continues to encourage all initiatives to mobilize resources and expertise to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action and to provide assistance to States in its implementation;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to collate and circulate data and information provided by States on a voluntary basis, including national reports, on the implementation by those States of the Programme of Action, and encourages Member States to submit such reports;

14. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

15. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects”.

(For regional initiatives regarding implementation of the Programme of Action, see pp. 573-579.)

Convention on excessively injurious conventional weapons and Protocols


The accessions of Burkina Faso and Honduras and the acceptance of Chile brought the number of States parties to 93 as at 31 December.

The Group of Governmental Experts established by the Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention [YUN 2001, p. 504] to consider the issues of explosive remnants of war, mines other than anti-personnel mines, small-calibre weapons and ammunition, and promotion of compliance with the Convention and its annexed Protocols, held its fourth (10-14 March) [CCW/GGE/IV/2], fifth (16-27 June) [CCW/GGE/V/2] and sixth (17-24 November) [CCW/GGE/VI/2] sessions, all in Geneva. The Group discussed issues relating to the weapons under consideration and working papers and presentations from delegations, international organizations and other experts. On 24 November, the Group endorsed the recommendations of its working groups on explosive remnants of war and on mines other than anti-personnel mines, which were annexed to the report on its sixth session, as was the text of a proposed protocol on explosive remnants of war, which the Group recommended for adoption by the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention (see below). The Group agreed that intersessional work of five weeks would be undertaken in three sessions during 2004, on dates to be decided by the Meeting of States Parties, which was scheduled to be held in conjunction with the Sixth (2004) Annual Conference of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II.

The Fifth Annual Conference of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II (Geneva, 26 November) [CCW/AP.II/CONF.5/2] reviewed the operation and status of amended Protocol II, considered other major related issues and examined national reports received from 50 States parties. The Conference adopted a final document containing conclusions and recommendations, and an appeal to States that had not done so to accede to amended Protocol II as soon as possible. It recommended that the Secretary-General, as depositary, and the President of the Conference exercise their authority to achieve the goal of universality of the Protocol and called on the High Contracting Parties to promote wider adherence. The Sixth Annual Conference was scheduled to take place in 2004, on dates to be decided by the Meeting of the States Parties (see below).

As decided by the Meeting of the States Parties in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 525], the States parties met...

Welcoming the results of the Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and commending the efforts of the President of the Conference,

Recalling with satisfaction the decision by the Second Review Conference to commission follow-up work under the oversight of the Chairman-designate of a meeting of States parties to the Convention and in this context the decision to establish an open-ended group of government experts with two separate coordinators on explosive remnants of war and on mines other than anti-personnel mines,

Welcoming the additional ratifications and acceptances of or accessions to the Convention and to its Protocols to the Convention, as adopted in 2001,

Recalling the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the elaboration of the Convention and the Protocols thereto

Noting that the rules of procedure of the First Annual Conference of States Parties to Amended Protocol II provide for the invitation of States not parties to the Protocol, the International Committee of the Red Cross and interested non-governmental organizations to take part in the Conference,

Welcoming the particular efforts of various international, non-governmental and other organizations in raising awareness of the humanitarian consequences of explosive remnants of war,

Welcoming also the results of the Fourth Annual Conference of States Parties to Amended Protocol II, held at Geneva on 11 December 2002.

1. Calls upon all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,

2. Calls upon all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocols to the Convention;

3. Calls upon all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to notify the depositary at an early date of their consent to be bound by the amendment extending the scope of the Convention and the

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/466], adopted resolution 58/69 without vote [agenda item 77].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/98 of 22 November 2002 and previous resolutions referring to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,

Recalling with satisfaction the adoption, on 10 October 1990, of the Convention, together with the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I), the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) and the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III), which entered into force on 2 December 1993,


Welcoming the results of the Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and commending the efforts of the President of the Conference,

Recalling with satisfaction the decision by the Second Review Conference to commission follow-up work under the oversight of the Chairman-designate of a meeting of States parties to the Convention and in this context the decision to establish an open-ended group of government experts with two separate coordinators on explosive remnants of war and on mines other than anti-personnel mines,

Welcoming the additional ratifications and acceptances of or accessions to the Convention and to its Protocols to the Convention, as adopted in 2001,

Recalling the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the elaboration of the Convention and the Protocols thereto.

Noting that the rules of procedure of the First Annual Conference of States Parties to Amended Protocol II provide for the invitation of States not parties to the Protocol, the International Committee of the Red Cross and interested non-governmental organizations to take part in the Conference,

Welcoming the particular efforts of various international, non-governmental and other organizations in raising awareness of the humanitarian consequences of explosive remnants of war,

Welcoming also the results of the Fourth Annual Conference of States Parties to Amended Protocol II, held at Geneva on 11 December 2002.

1. Calls upon all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and the Protocols thereto, as amended, as well as the amendment of article I extending the scope of the Convention, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to these instruments at an early date, and calls upon successor States to take appropriate measures so that ultimately adherence to these instruments will be universal;

2. Calls upon all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocols to the Convention;

3. Calls upon all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to notify the depositary at an early date of their consent to be bound by the amendment extending the scope of the Convention and the
Protocols thereto to include armed conflicts of a non-
international character;

4. Notes the decision of the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention held on 12 and 13 December 2002 that the Working Group on Explosive Remnants of War would continue its work in 2003 with the mandate to negotiate an instrument on post-conflict remedial measures of a generic nature that would reduce the risks of explosive remnants of war and to explore and determine whether these negotiations could successfully address preventive generic measures for improving the reliability of munitions and, separate from these negotiations, to continue to consider the implementation of existing principles of international humanitarian law and to further study, on an open-ended basis, possible preventive measures aimed at improving the design of certain specific types of munitions, including sub-munitions, with a view to minimizing the humanitarian risk of these munitions’ becoming explosive remnants of war;

5. Also notes the decision of the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention that the Working Group on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines would continue its work in 2003 with the mandate to explore the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines, and consider the most appropriate way to reduce the risks posed by the irresponsible use of mines other than anti-personnel mines, including sub-munitions, with a view to minimizing the humanitarian risk of these munitions’ becoming explosive remnants of war;

6. Further notes the decision of the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention that the Chairman-designate should continue to undertake consultations during the intersessional period on possible options to promote compliance with the Convention and the Protocols thereto, taking into account proposals put forward;

7. Expresses support for the work conducted by the Group of Governmental Experts, and encourages the Chairman-designate and the Group to conduct work expeditiously with a view to submitting a possible proposal for an instrument on explosive remnants of war to States parties for consideration at their meeting on 27 and 28 November 2003 and with a view to submitting to the States parties’ reports on mines other than anti-personnel mines and on compliance;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention to be held on 27 and 28 November 2003, as well as for any possible continuation of work after the Meeting, should the States parties deem it appropriate;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, to continue to inform the General Assembly periodically, by electronic means, of ratifications and acceptances of and accessions to the Convention and the Protocols thereto;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects”.

Practical disarmament

The group of interested States, established in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 33] to examine and support concrete projects of practical disarmament, met three times during 2003 to address practical disarmament measures in Kenya, Mozambique and Slovenia, and to continue its consideration of the disarmament education project conceived jointly by the Department for Disarmament Affairs (DDA) and the Hague Appeal for Peace, an NGO. In so doing, the group accorded priority attention to the provisions of the Programme of Action adopted by the UN Conference on small arms [YUN 2001, p. 499]. The group also reassessed its purpose and operation after five years of activities and would continue to do so in the light of the conclusions of the first biennial meeting of States, held to consider efforts to implement the Programme of Action (see p. 502), in order to better position itself to assist Member States to implement the Programme of Action.

Disarmament Commission action. In 2003 [A/58/42], the Disarmament Commission allocated to Working Group II the item entitled “Practical confidence-building measures (CBMs) in the field of conventional arms”. Based on intersessional informal consultations, the Chairman submitted a working paper, which the Group adopted as a basis for discussion, during which many delegations put forth proposals on the item. Subsequently, the Chairman submitted four revised versions of his working paper, on which the Group was unable to achieve consensus. The paper discussed the scope of CBMs, the significance of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter within the context of CBMs, the status of existing CBMs in the field of conventional arms and the way forward in addressing the subject, including measures to strengthen and improve confidence among States.

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/81 [YUN 2002, p. 526], the Secretary-General, in August [A/58/207], presented an overview of the activities of States, including the group of interested States and regional and subregional organizations, regarding practical disarmament measures during the period from July 2002 to July 2003. The report focused on efforts to implement the Programme of Action, and concluded that Member States, international and regional organizations and civil society had remained strongly committed to doing so.

On 8 December, the Assembly took note of the Secretary-General’s report and, taking into consideration the work of the group of interested States (see above), deferred consideration of the item entitled “Consolidation of peace through
practical disarmament measures” until its fifty-ninth (2004) session and decided to consider it biennially in the future; the Assembly included the item in the provisional agenda of its 2004 session (decision 58/519).

Transparency

Conference on Disarmament. In 2003, the issue of transparency in armaments was considered during plenary meetings of the Conference on Disarmament (A/58/203), within the context of discussions on how to achieve consensus on a comprehensive programme of work. A joint proposal on the item put forth by five former Presidents of the Conference (see p. 531) had envisaged, among other things, the appointment of a special coordinator to seek the views of Conference members on the most appropriate way to deal with transparency in armaments. However, owing to the persisting lack of agreement over the programme of work, the Conference did not establish or re-establish any mechanism to deal with the subject.

UN Register of Conventional Arms


The report presented information provided by 119 Governments on imports and exports in 2002 in the seven categories of conventional arms (battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, large-calibre artillery systems, attack helicopters, combat aircraft, warships and missiles and missile launchers). Governments also provided information on procurement from national production and military holdings, on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and on transparency measures related to weapons of mass destruction. The report indicated a slight reduction in the number of submissions compared with the previous year.

In response to the Assembly’s request in resolution 57/75 that the Secretary-General implement the recommendations contained in the 2000 report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the continuing operation and further development of the Register [YUN 2000, p. 324], the report outlined regional activities undertaken by the Secretariat during the year, through DDA, in collaboration with Governments and regional organizations, to enhance familiarity and greater participation in the Register.

Group of Governmental Experts. In response to resolution 57/75, the Secretary-General transmitted an August report [A/58/274] on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, prepared by the Group of Governmental Experts he had appointed and which had concluded its work in three sessions held between March and August (New York). The report summarized periodic reviews of the Register undertaken since its establishment, analysed available data on reporting, including reporting patterns among regions, assessed the Register’s operation and examined in some detail issues related to its further development, including the expansion of its scope and technical adjustments to the seven categories of arms covered. The Group concluded that, although the Register had made significant progress since its inception and had entered a period of increased participation, renewed efforts were required to ensure regular reporting and progress towards universal participation, as well as continued attention to its further development and increased relevance. Wide variations in the level of participation among and within some regions called for targeted regional and subregional efforts to encourage wider participation. The Group’s recommendations, designed to enhance the effectiveness of the Register, included technical adjustments to two of the seven categories of conventional arms covered. In that context, it proposed the lowering of the reporting threshold for artillery pieces from 100- to 75-millimetre-calibre systems, including man-portable air-defence systems in the category of missiles and missile launchers. The Group addressed a number of other recommendations to Member States towards achieving the shared goals of the instrument and proposed that the General Assembly consider providing additional resources to strengthen the Secretariat’s role in that regard. In December, the Assembly endorsed the report and the Group’s recommendations and decided to adapt the Register’s scope in conformity with the Group’s recommendations (see below).

General Assembly Action

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/462], adopted resolution 58/54 by recorded vote (150-0-27) [agenda item 75 (g)].

Transparency in armaments

The General Assembly,


Continuing to take the view that an enhanced level of transparency in armaments contributes greatly to confidence-building and security among States and that the establishment of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms constitutes an important step forward in the promotion of transparency in military matters.

Welcomes the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the Register, which includes the returns of Member States for 2002.

Welcomes the response of Member States to the request contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 46/36 L to provide data on their imports and exports of arms, as well as available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through the national production and relevant policies.

Stressing that the continuing operation of the Register and its further development should be reviewed in order to secure a Register that is capable of attracting the widest possible participation,

1. Reaffirms its determination to ensure the effective operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, as provided for in paragraphs 7 to 10 of resolution 46/36 L;

2. Endorses the report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and the recommendations ensuing from the consensus report of the 2003 group of government experts contained therein;

3. Decides to adapt the scope of the Register in conformity with the recommendations contained in the 2003 report of the Secretary-General;

4. Calls upon Member States, with a view to achieving universal participation, to provide the Secretary-General by 31 May annually with the requested data and information for the Register, including nil reports if appropriate, on the basis of resolutions 46/36 L and 47/52 L, the recommendations contained in paragraph 64 of the 1997 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, the recommendations contained in paragraph 94 of the 2000 report of the Secretary-General, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Algeria, Bahrain, China, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Oman, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

The First Committee adopted by separate recorded votes paragraph 2 (138 to none, with 22 abstentions); paragraph 3, together with the last nine words of paragraph 4 (“as well as the 2005 report of the Secretary-General”) and paragraph 8 (138 to none, with 22 abstentions); and paragraph 4 (137 to none, with 22 abstentions). The Assembly retained those paragraphs by separate recorded votes of 153 to none, with 23 abstentions; 152 to none, with 22 abstentions; and 152 to none, with 22 abstentions, respectively.

Also on 8 December [meeting 71], the Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/102], adopted resolution 58/42 without vote [agenda item 73 (ii)].

National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation are essential for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recalling that effective national control of the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology, including those transfers that could
contribute to proliferation activities, is an important tool for achieving those objectives.

Recalling also that the States parties to the international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties have undertaken to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of materials, equipment and technological information for peaceful purposes, in accordance with the provisions of those treaties,

Considering that the exchange of national legislation, regulations and procedures on the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology contributes to mutual understanding and confidence among Member States,

Convinced that such an exchange would be beneficial to Member States that are in the process of developing such legislation,

Reaffirming the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Invites Member States that are in a position to do so to enact or improve national legislation, regulations and procedures to exercise effective control over the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology, while ensuring that such legislation, regulations and procedures are consistent with the obligations of States parties under international treaties;

2. Encourages Member States to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to the Secretary-General on their national legislation, regulations and procedures on the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology, as well as the changes therein, and requests the Secretary-General to make this information accessible to Member States;

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology”.

Transparency of military expenditures

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/14 [YUN 2001, p. 508], the Secretary-General, in August, presented reports from 75 Member States on military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data were available [A/58/292 & Add.12]. The reporting instrument was that recommended by the Assembly in resolution 35/142 B [YUN 1980, p. 88].

The report noted that DDA, in cooperation with Canada, Germany, Japan and the Netherlands, organized regional workshops on transparency in armaments devoted to the Register of Conventional Arms and the standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures. It also published a booklet devoted to the standardized instrument, which contained basic information regarding global participation in the instrument since 1981.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/43], adopted resolution 58/28 (as orally amended) without vote [agenda item 62 (b)].

Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/72 of 4 December 1998, 54/45 of 1 December 1999 and 56/14 of 29 November 2001 on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures,

Also recalling its resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, which introduced the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, and its resolutions 48/62 of 16 December 1993, 49/66 of 15 December 1994, 51/38 of 10 December 1996 and 52/32 of 9 December 1997, calling upon all Member States to participate in it, and its resolution 47/54 B of 9 December 1992, endorsing the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters and inviting Member States to provide the Secretary-General with relevant information regarding their implementation,

Noting that since then, national reports on military expenditures and on the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters have been submitted by a number of Member States belonging to different geographic regions,

Convinced that the improvement of international relations forms a sound basis for promoting further openness and transparency in all military matters,

Also convinced that transparency in military matters is an essential element for building a climate of trust and confidence between States worldwide and that a better flow of objective information on military matters can help to relieve international tension and is therefore an important contribution to conflict prevention,

Noting the role of the standardized reporting system, as instituted through its resolution 35/142 B, as an important instrument to enhance transparency in military matters,

Conscious that the value of the standardized reporting system would be enhanced by a broader participation of Member States,

Welcoming, therefore, the report of the Secretary-General on ways and means to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, including, in particular, how to strengthen and broaden participation in the standardized reporting system,

Recalling that the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters recommended certain areas for further consideration, such as the improvement of the standardized reporting system,

Noting the efforts of several regional organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures, including standardized annual exchanges of relevant information among their member States,

1. Calls upon Member States to report annually, by 30 April, to the Secretary-General their military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available, using, preferably and to the extent possible, the reporting instrument as recommended in its resolution 35/142 B or, as appropriate, any other format developed in conjunction with similar reporting on
military expenditures to other international or regional organizations, and, in the same context, encourages Member States to submit nil returns, if appropriate;

2. Recommends the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters to all Member States for implementation, fully taking into account specific political, military and other conditions prevailing in a region, on the basis of initiatives and with the agreement of the States of the region concerned;

3. Encourages relevant international bodies and regional organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures and to enhance complementarity among reporting systems, taking into account the particular characteristics of each region, and to consider the possibility of an exchange of information with the United Nations;

4. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, within available resources:

(a) To continue the practice of sending an annual note verbale to Member States requesting the submission of data to the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, together with the reporting format and related instructions, and to publish in a timely fashion in appropriate United Nations media the due date for transmitting data on military expenditures;

(b) To circulate annually the reports on military expenditures as received from Member States;

(c) To continue consultations with relevant international bodies, within existing resources, with a view to ascertaining requirements for adjusting the present instrument, with a view to encouraging wider participation, and to make recommendations, based on the outcome of those consultations and taking into account the views of Member States, on necessary changes to the content and structure of the standardized reporting system;

(d) To encourage relevant international bodies and organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures and to consult with those bodies and organizations with emphasis on examining possibilities for enhancing complementarity among international and regional reporting systems and for exchanging related information between those bodies and the United Nations;

(e) To encourage the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament in Africa, in Asia and the Pacific, and in Latin America and the Caribbean to assist Member States in their regions in enhancing their knowledge of the standardized reporting system;

(f) To promote international and regional/subregional symposiums and training seminars to explain the purpose of the standardized reporting system and to give relevant technical instructions;

(g) To report on experiences gained during such symposiums and training seminars;

6. Encourages Member States:

(a) To inform the Secretary-General about possible problems with the standardized reporting system and their reasons for not submitting the requested data;

(b) To continue to provide the Secretary-General, in time for deliberation by the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, with their views and suggestions on ways and means to strengthen and broaden participation in the standardized reporting system, including necessary changes to its content and structure;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled “Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures”.

Verification

In response to General Assembly resolution 56/15 [YUN 2001, p. 509], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/58/128] updating developments since 2001 on verification measures. The report contained the views of two Member States (Bolivia, Mexico) on the recommendations contained in the expert study on verification in all its aspects, including the UN role in verification [YUN 1995, p. 235].

On 8 December, the Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth (2004) session the item entitled “Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification” (decision 58/515).

Anti-personnel mines

1997 Convention

The number of States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Mine-Ban Convention), which was adopted in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 505] and entered into force in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 498], totalled 114 as at 31 December. During the year, 11 States ratified or acceded to the Convention.

The Fifth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention (Bangkok, Thailand, 15-19 September [APLC/MSP.5/2003/5]), convened pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/74 [YUN 2002, p. 590], reviewed the Convention’s general status and operation; victim assistance and socioeconomic reintegration; mine clearance; mine-risk education and related technologies; the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines; and the development of technologies to clear anti-personnel mines. The Meeting noted that over 110 States parties no longer stockpiled anti-personnel mines, considerable areas of mined land had been cleared over the past year, casualty rates had been reduced in several of the world’s most mine-affected areas and more and better efforts were being made to assist landmine victims. However, the States parties acknowledged
that challenges remained in achieving the Convention’s humanitarian aims and expressed determination to sharpen their focus on areas most directly related to those aims. The Meeting endorsed the final reports of the Standing Committees (Geneva, February and May), as annexed to its report, and agreed to hold the Convention’s First Review Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, from 29 November to 3 December 2004, with preparatory meetings in February and June 2004. It welcomed the President’s action programme, also annexed to the report, as a practical means of focusing the collective efforts of States parties and other relevant actors on achieving the Convention’s humanitarian aims in the period leading up to the Conference.

The Meeting adopted the Bangkok Declaration, in which States reaffirmed their commitment to the total eradication of anti-personnel mines, called on Governments and people to join in meeting the challenges of mine action and urged non-State actors to embrace the international norm established by the Convention.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/462], adopted resolution 58/53 by recorded vote (153-0-23) [agenda item 73 (p)].

**Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/54 B of 1 December 1999, 55/33 V of 29 November 2000, 56/24 M of 29 November 2001 and 57/74 of 22 November 2002,

Reaffirming its determination to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, which kill or maim hundreds of people every week, mostly innocent and defenceless civilians and especially children, obstruct economic development and reconstruction, inhibit the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons, and have other severe consequences for years after emplacement,

Believing it necessary to do the utmost to contribute in an efficient and coordinated manner to facing the challenge of removing anti-personnel mines placed throughout the world, and to assure their destruction,

Wishing to do the utmost in ensuring assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including the social and economic reintegration, of mine victims,

Welcoming the entry into force, on 1 March 1999, of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, and noting with satisfaction the work undertaken to implement the Convention and the substantial progress made towards addressing the global landmine problem,

Recalling the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, held at Maputo from 3 to 7 May 1999, and the reaffirmation made in the Maputo Declaration of a commitment to the total eradication of anti-personnel mines,

Recalling also the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, held at Geneva from 11 to 15 September 2000, and the Declaration of the Second Meeting of States Parties, reaffirming the commitment to implement completely and fully all provisions of the Convention,

Recalling further the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, held at Managua from 18 to 21 September 2001, and the Declaration of the Third Meeting of States Parties, reaffirming the unswerving commitment both to the total eradication of anti-personnel mines and to addressing the insidious and inhumane effects of those weapons,

Recalling the Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, held at Geneva from 16 to 20 September 2002, and the Declaration of the Fourth Meeting of States Parties reaffirming the commitment of the States parties to intensify further their efforts in those areas most directly related to the core humanitarian objectives of the Convention,

Recalling also the Fifth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, held at Bangkok from 15 to 19 September 2003, and the Declaration of the Fifth Meeting of States Parties committing the States parties, one year before their First Review Conference, to pursue, with renewed vigour, efforts to clear mined areas, assist victims, destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines and promote universal adherence to the Convention,

Noting with satisfaction that additional States have ratified or acceded to the Convention, bringing the total number of States that have formally accepted the obligations of the Convention to one hundred and forty-one,

Emphasizing the desirability of attracting the adherence of all States to the Convention, and determined to work strenuously towards the promotion of its universalization,

Noting with regret that anti-personnel mines continue to be used in conflicts around the world, causing human suffering and impeding post-conflict development,

1. Invites all States that did not sign the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction to accede to it without delay;
2. Uges all States that signed but have not ratified the Convention to ratify it without delay;
3. Stresses the importance of the full and effective implementation of, and compliance with, the Convention;
4. Uges all States parties to provide the Secretary-General with complete and timely information as required under article 7 of the Convention, in order to promote transparency and compliance with the Convention;
5. Invites all States that have not ratified the Convention or acceded to it to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to make global mine action efforts more effective;
6. Renews its call upon all States and other relevant parties to work together to promote, support and advance the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of mine victims, mine risk education programmes, and the removal of anti-personnel mines placed throughout the world and the assurance of their destruction;
7. **Invites and encourages all interested States, the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to participate in the programme of intersessional work established at the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention and further developed at subsequent Meetings of the States parties;**

8. **Requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 12, paragraph 1, of the Convention, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the Convention’s First Review Conference, at Nairobi from 29 November to 3 December 2004;**

9. **Also requests the Secretary-General, on behalf of States parties and in accordance with article 12, paragraph 5, of the Convention, to invite States not parties to the Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to attend the First Review Conference as observers, and urges participation at the highest possible level in a high-level segment to be held at the end of the Review Conference;**

10. **Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and On Their Destruction”**.

**RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/53:**

**In favour: **Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**Against: None.**

**Abstaining: **Azerbaijan, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, United States, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam.

**Africa**

In 2003, African States maintained efforts to implement the Programme of Action adopted by the 2001 UN Conference on small arms [YUN 2001, p. 499]. A regional framework in that regard continued to be provided by the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa, adopted by the Economic Community of West African States in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 537] and renewed in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 581]. During the year, an extensive disarmament campaign across the region resulted in the destruction of a great number of small arms and light weapons. Eleven States had established national commissions on small arms and light weapons, although some were not fully operational. The Moratorium’s implementation was also facilitated by a number of other factors and by disarmament initiatives launched by the Programme for Coordinating Assistance and Security for Development, established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to address security challenges that were linked to small arms proliferation. Efforts were under way to harmonize legislation in the region, enhance border patrols and establish efficient national registration and relevant arms control schemes.

Member States of the Southern African Development Community continued efforts to promote the ratification of the Community’s 2001 Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunitions and Other Related Materials, which outlined minimum standards for national legislation and committed regional states to harmonize firearms control legislation.

**Standing Advisory Committee**

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/88 [YUN 2002, p. 502], the Secretary-General, in July [A/58/77], described the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. He observed that, although the Committee continued to play a vital role in promoting peace and security in the region, much remained to be done in order to establish conditions for lasting peace, disarmament and development. It was incumbent on Committee members to strive to become the driving force in that regard, but continuing international support was imperative.

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**Regional and other approaches to disarmament**

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/77 [YUN 2002, p. 537], the Secretary-General, in July [A/58/190], presented the views of one State (Colombia) regarding conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels.
At its eighteenth (Bangui, Central African Republic, 26–30 August 2002) and nineteenth (Brazzaville, Congo, 14–17 May 2003) ministerial meetings, the Committee reviewed the geopolitical and security situation of its member States, as well as progress made in implementing its previous decisions and recommendations. It organized a subregional seminar on the implementation in Central Africa of the 2001 Programme of Action on small arms, adopting a two-year programme of activities at the national and subregional levels, which addressed priority areas such as the establishment of national commissions or structures to coordinate national policies to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and their collection and destruction.

In November, Equatorial Guinea transmitted the report of the Committee’s twenty-first ministerial meeting (Malabo, 27–31 October) [A/58/463], adopted its 2003–2004 work programme.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/468], adopted resolution 58/65 without vote [agenda item 74 (b)].

Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

The General Assembly,


Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Recalling the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Convinced that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the subregion,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa, the Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa, and the Yaoundé Declaration on Peace, Security and Stability in Central Africa,

Bearing in mind resolutions 1196(1998) and 1197 (1998), adopted by the Security Council on 16 and 18 September 1998 respectively, following its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa,

Recalling the decision of the fourth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee in favour of establishing, under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa at Yaoundé,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures, which deals with the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in the period since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 57/88;

2. Reaffirms its support for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa and to further peace, stability and sustainable development in the subregion;

3. Also reaffirms its support for the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee, held at Yaoundé from 27 to 31 July 1992;

4. Notes with satisfaction the progress made by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee in implementing the programme of activities for the period 2002-2003, in particular by:

(a) Holding a seminar on the implementation in the Central African region of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects at Brazzaville from 12 to 14 May 2003;

(b) Holding the nineteenth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee at Brazzaville from 14 to 17 May 2003;

(c) Holding the “Biyongho 2003” military peacekeeping exercise at Franceville, Gabon, from 21 to 28 July 2003;
(d) Holding the twentieth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee at Malabo from 27 to 31 October 2003;

5. Emphasizes the importance of providing the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with the essential support they need to carry out the full programme of activities which they adopted at their ministerial meetings;

6. Welcomes the creation of a mechanism for the promotion, maintenance and consolidation of peace and security in Central Africa, to be known as the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the Economic Community of Central African States, held at Yaoundé on 25 February 1999, and requests the Secretary-General to give his full support to the effective realization of that important mechanism;

7. Emphasizes the need to make the early warning mechanism in Central Africa operational so that it will serve, on the one hand, as an instrument for analysing and monitoring political situations in the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with a view to preventing the outbreak of future armed conflicts and, on the other hand, as a technical body through which the member States will carry out the programme of work of the Committee, adopted at its organizational meeting held at Yaoundé in 1992, and requests the Secretary-General to provide it with the assistance necessary for it to function properly;

8. Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide their full assistance for the proper functioning of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa;

9. Requests the Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1197(1998), to provide the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with the necessary support for the implementation and smooth functioning of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa and the early warning mechanism;

10. Also requests the Secretary-General to support the establishment of a network of parliamentarians with a view to the creation of a subregional parliament in Central Africa;

11. Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to provide increased assistance to the countries of Central Africa for coping with the problems of refugees and displaced persons in their territories;

12. Thanks the Secretary-General for having established the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

13. Appeals to Member States and to governmental and non-governmental organizations to make additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee;

14. Thanks the Secretary-General for sending a multidisciplinary assessment mission to the Central African region from 8 to 22 June 2003 for the purposes of identifying priority needs and challenges confronting the subregion, in particular focusing on issues of peace, security, economic development, humanitarian questions, human rights and HIV/AIDS;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with assistance to ensure that they are able to carry on their efforts;

16. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa”.

Asia and the Pacific

In 2003, regional security and stability issues in Asia and the Pacific continued to be addressed by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, its Regional Forum (ARF) and the six-member Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan), founded in 2001 as a multilateral platform for strengthening regional peace, security and stability. At a seminar (Bali, Indonesia, February), organized by DDA in collaboration with Japan and Indonesia, regional States exchanged views on key issues relating to the implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action on small arms. Also in February in Bali, a meeting focused on transparency of arms expenditures (see p. 569) and in the standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures (see p. 570). In March, ARF organized, in collaboration with other regional bodies, a workshop on counter-terrorism measures. In May, the heads of State of SCO countries adopted a declaration (Moscow, 29 May) [A/58/94-S/2003/642], highlighting the organization’s potential in maintaining regional and global peace and stability. The Pacific Island Forum (Auckland, New Zealand, 12-19 August) considered issues relating to the collective security of its members, such as weapons control legislation, the shipment of radioactive materials and the status of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (see p. 557). Asian Senior-level Talks on Non-Proliferation (Tokyo, Japan, 13 November) considered ways to prevent the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), their delivery systems and related materials and technology.

Europe

During the year, regional security and disarmament issues of concern to European countries
related mainly to small arms and to the proliferation of WMDs. In addressing those issues, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) urged its member States to focus on the illicit trafficking and uncontrolled spread of conventional weaponry, including small arms and light weapons, the proliferation of WMDs, and the danger of criminals and terrorist organizations gaining access to them. Following a March decision of the OSCE Permanent Council, which encouraged assistance and expert advice to its participating States in dealing with small arms-related problems in post-conflict situations, the organization’s Forum for Security Cooperation helped Belarus destroy its surplus inventory of those weapons. Also in March, OSCE collaborated with the International Organization for Migration to initiate a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Further collaboration between DDA, OSCE and Slovenia facilitated the convening of a conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects in South-Eastern Europe (Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, 11-12 March). On 27 May, a NATO partnership for peace project in Ukraine culminated in the destruction of some 400,000 of an estimated 7 million anti-personnel landmines in the country. NATO’s Verification Coordinating Committee, the organization’s main decision-making body on matters relating to conventional arms control implementation and verification coordination, at its annual seminar (Brussels, Belgium, 26-28 May), addressed the practical aspects of the ongoing implementation of the 1990 Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) [YUN 1990, p. 79]. On 23 July, the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation, taking into account the concern expressed by its participating States regarding the potential access of terrorist groups to man-portable air-defence systems, urged participating States to propose projects for tackling the issue; the OSCE Forum continued to monitor and enhance the implementation of the related OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects for Security. Also on 23 July, the EU adopted a common position on the control of arms brokering, aimed at preventing the circumvention of UN, EU or OSCE embargoes on arms exports. On 29 July, the EU and NATO announced a common vision for the future of the Western Balkans in an agreement: “Framework for an Enhanced NATO-EU Dialogue and a Concerted Approach on Security and Stability in the Western Balkans”, which covered areas relating to the enhancement of security and stability. A weapons for development project initiated by DDA and UNDP in Albania’s Gramsh district continued to encourage the local community to collect and voluntarily dispose of surrendered weapons in exchange for UN-sponsored development projects. The EU continued to implement its 1998 Code of Conduct for Arms Exports [YUN 1998, p. 540] and, in November, agreed on a “User’s Guide” clarifying members’ responsibilities in sharing information on denials, and, on 17 November, it updated the Common Military List of Equipment covered by the Code. In follow-up action to a commitment to develop a coherent EU strategy to address the threat of proliferation, EU member States (Brussels, 12 December) adopted a security strategy to enable them to deal better with global threats and challenges and to address the proliferation of WMDs. The 1999 Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe [YUN 1999, p. 397] continued efforts to promote stability in the subregion; its Working Table III, dedicated to addressing security issues, advocated enhanced regional cooperation in tackling multiple challenges in the area of security sector reform and encouraged the regional States to improve their technical standards on issues relating to small arms and light weapons. During the year, the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (a Stability Pact project) organized regional seminars on disarmament and security issues, and, in cooperation with NATO, conducted training courses to enable designated individuals to serve as inspectors and/or escorts, in accordance with the verification regime of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina [YUN 1995, p. 544]. The South-Eastern Europe Clearing House for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, established in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 554], became operational and focused on the provision of immediate assistance to initiatives relating to small arms and light weapons. The Clearing House conducted five projects on the physical destruction of weapons and ammunitions in Bulgaria and in Serbia and Montenegro. Overall, about 41,000 weapons and over 813,777 rounds of small arms ammunition were destroyed.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/462], adopted resolution 58/55 without vote [agenda item 73].

**Promotion at the regional level in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of the United Nations programme of action on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects**

The General Assembly, Recalling its resolutions 50/70 B of 12 December 1995, 52/38 J of 9 December 1997, 53/77 T of 4 De-

Recalling the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects adopted on 20 July 2000, which encourages in particular regional organizations to take initiatives to promote its implementation,

Welcoming the results of the First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 7 to 11 July 2003,

Convinced of the importance of national, regional and international measures to combat trafficking and illicit trade in small arms, including those measures that could be adapted to regional approaches,

Acknowledging the capacity of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, to provide a substantial contribution at the regional level to the process in the United Nations on combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, taking into account regional particularities,

Taking note of the adoption on 24 November 2000 of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe document on small arms and light weapons,

Also taking note of the work done so far within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe document on small arms and light weapons,

Recalling the importance of national, regional and international measures to combat trafficking and illicit trade in small arms, including those measures that could be adapted to regional approaches,

Acknowledging the capacity of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, to provide a substantial contribution at the regional level to the process in the United Nations on combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, taking into account regional particularities,

Taking note of the adoption on 24 November 2000 of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe document on small arms and light weapons,

Also taking note of the work done so far within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe document on small arms and light weapons,

1. Reaffirms the importance of measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including ongoing efforts at the regional and subregional levels;

2. Commends the progress that has already been made in this regard by organizations in various regions and subregions and, in this context, the progress made so far in drawing up best practice guides to prevent, combat and eliminate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons among Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe participating States, and the hope expressed in it to see this progress rapidly come to a positive conclusion;

3. Invites all Member States that have not yet done so to examine the possibility of developing and adopting regional and subregional measures, as appropriate, to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and contributing to international peace and security.

Latin America

The General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) (Santiago, Chile, 8-10 June) adopted resolutions relating to peace, arms control and disarmament, which focused in particular on the vision of the hemisphere as an anti-personnel landmine-free zone, consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) (see p. 555), inter-American support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the development of an inter-American strategy to combat threats to cybersecurity. In October, the OAS Special Conference on Security (Mexico City, 27-28 October) adopted a declaration on security in the Americas, which highlighted new security threats and challenges. It also reaffirmed the general nature of States’ commitment to strengthen hemispheric peace through conflict prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes, to arms control, disarmament and the non-proliferation of all categories of WMDs, and to the full implementation by all States parties of the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions (see p. 558).

Regional disarmament

The General Assembly,


Believing that the efforts of the international community to move towards the ideal of general and complete disarmament are guided by the inherent human desire for genuine peace and security, the elimination of the danger of war and the release of economic, intellectual and other resources for peaceful pursuits,

Affirming the abiding commitment of all States to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations in the conduct of their international relations,

Noting that essential guidelines for progress towards general and complete disarmament were adopted at the tenth special session of the General Assembly,

Taking note of the guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1995 substantive session,

Welcoming the prospects of genuine progress in the field of disarmament engendered in recent years as a result of negotiations between the two super-Powers,

Taking note of the recent proposals for disarmament at the regional and subregional levels,

Recognizing the importance of confidence-building measures for regional and international peace and security,
Concerned that endeavours by countries to promote regional disarmament, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region and in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, would enhance the security of all States and would thus contribute to international peace and security by reducing the risk of regional conflicts,

1. Stresses that sustained efforts are needed, within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament and under the umbrella of the United Nations, to make progress on the entire range of disarmament issues;

2. Affirms that global and regional approaches to disarmament complement each other and should therefore be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security;

3. Calls upon States to conclude agreements, wherever possible, for nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels;

4. Welcomes the initiatives towards disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and security undertaken by some countries at the regional and subregional levels;

5. Supports and encourages efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels to ease regional tensions and to further disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation measures at the regional and subregional levels;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Regional disarmament".

On 8 December [meeting 71], the Assembly, also on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/462], adopted resolution 58/39 by recorded vote (172-1-1) [agenda item 73 (b)].

Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

The General Assembly,


Recognizing the crucial role of conventional arms control in promoting regional and international peace and security,

Concerned that conventional arms control needs to be pursued primarily in the regional and subregional contexts since most threats to peace and security in the post-cold-war era arise mainly among States located in the same region or subregion,

Aware that the preservation of a balance in the defence capabilities of States at the lowest level of armaments would contribute to peace and stability and should be a prime objective of conventional arms control,

Desiring of promoting agreements to strengthen regional peace and security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces,

Noting with particular interest the initiatives taken in this regard in different regions of the world, in particular the commencement of consultations among a number of Latin American countries and the proposals for conventional arms control made in the context of South Asia, and recognizing, in the context of this subject, the relevance and value of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which is a cornerstone of European security,

Believing that militarily significant States and States with larger military capabilities have a special responsibility in promoting such agreements for regional security,

Believing also that an important objective of conventional arms control in regions of tension should be to prevent the possibility of military attack launched by surprise and to avoid aggression,

1. Decides to give urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to consider the formulation of principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control, and looks forward to a report of the Conference on this subject;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in the meantime, to seek the views of Member States on the subject and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/39:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: India.

Abstaining: Bhutan.

Also on 8 December [meeting 71], on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/462], the Assembly adopted resolution 58/43 by recorded vote (73-48-46) [agenda item 75].

Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,
Recalling its resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 entitled “Prevention of armed conflict”, in which it calls upon Member States to settle their disputes by peaceful means, as set out in Chapter VI of the Charter, inter alia, by any procedures adopted by the parties, including the most effective use of the International Court of Justice,

Recalling also the Security Council resolutions relating to the prevention of armed conflict, and noting all Security Council presidential statements relating to this matter,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability.

Convinced that resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic, social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Recognizing the need for meaningful dialogue among States concerned in the regions of tension to avert conflict,

Welcoming the peace processes already initiated by States concerned to resolve their disputes through peaceful means bilaterally or through mediation, inter alia, by third parties, regional organizations or the United Nations,

Recognizing that States in some regions have already taken steps towards confidence-building measures at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels in the political and military fields, including arms control and disarmament, and noting that such confidence-building measures have improved peace and security in those regions and contributed to progress in the socio-economic conditions of their people,

Concerned that the continuation of disputes among States, particularly in the absence of an effective mechanism to resolve them through peaceful means, may contribute to the arms race and endanger the maintenance of international peace and security and the efforts of the international community to promote arms control and disarmament,

1. Calls upon Member States to refrain from the use or threat of use of force in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. Renews its commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the Charter, in particular Article 33, which provides for a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or other peaceful means chosen by the parties;

3. Calls upon Member States that have not already done so to open consultations and dialogue in the regions of tension without preconditions;

4. Urges States to comply strictly with all bilateral, regional and international agreements, including arms control and disarmament agreements, to which they are party;

5. Also urges, in the context of confidence-building measures, the maintenance of military balance between States in the regions of tension consistent with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments;

6. Encourages the promotion of unilateral, bilateral and regional confidence-building measures to avoid conflict and prevent the unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States with a view to exploring possibilities of furthering efforts towards confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context, particularly in the regions of tension;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session an item entitled “Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 58/43:

In favour: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Soma lia, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, South Africa, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan.

Other disarmament issues

Terrorism

In 2003, terrorist attacks worldwide enhanced the sense of urgency to international efforts under way to accord high priority to concerted multilateral action in tackling the terrorism threat. In January, the Security Council adopted a declaration on combating terrorism (see p. 63), in which it called on States to take urgent action to prevent and suppress all forms of support for terrorism, bring to justice those who supported it and cooperate in resolving outstanding issues. Work continued by the Ad Hoc Committee established in General Assembly resolution 51/210 [YUN 1996, p. 1208] to elaborate international conventions for the suppression of terrorist bombings and of nuclear terrorism. The Counter-
Terrorism Committee, established pursuant to Council resolution 1379(2001) [YUN 2001, p. 61], convened special meetings with international, regional and subregional organizations, and with technical agencies, with a view to building a common structure to deal effectively with terrorism and to help enhance Member States’ capacity to combat terrorist acts (see p. 66). The Assembly urged Member States to adopt or strengthen national measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMDs (see below).

IAEA continued work on its action plan for nuclear security to further enhance the capacity of Member States and of the Agency to respond effectively to acts of terrorism involving nuclear and other radioactive materials. In September [GC(47)/RES/8], the IAEA General Conference, in a resolution on protection measures against nuclear and radiological terrorism, appealed to States that had not done so to accede to the 1979 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material [YUN 1979, p. 1239]. The Conference had before it a report of the Director General [GC(47)/7] on nuclear security: measures to protect against nuclear terrorism, which discussed activities taken by IAEA against the illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials.

During the year, the United Nations considered ways to implement the recommendations of the Policy Working Group on the United Nations and Terrorism [YUN 2002, p. 558] established by the Secretary-General to propose steps that should be taken in combating terrorism, of which four related to disarmament.

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/83 [YUN 2002, p. 599], the Secretary-General, in an August report with a later addendum [A/58/208 & Add.1], presented the views of Member States, international organizations, specialized agencies and UN bodies and organs on measures they had taken to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMDs.

Communication. The heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 20-25 February) [A/57/759-S/2003/332] stressed that the most effective way of preventing terrorists from acquiring WMDs was through their total elimination. They urged member states to take or strengthen national measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMDs, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/462], adopted resolution 58/48 without vote [agenda item 75 (a)].

Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/83 of 22 November 2002,

Recognizing the determination of the international community to combat terrorism, as evident in relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions,

Deeply concerned by the growing risk of linkages between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, and in particular by the fact that terrorists may seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction,

Noting the support expressed in the Final Document of the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, which was held in Kuala Lumpur from 20 to 25 February 2003, for measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction,

Noting also that the Group of Eight, the European Union, the Regional Forum of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and others have taken into account in their deliberations the dangers posed by the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction, and the need for international cooperation in combating it,

Acknowledging the consideration of issues relating to terrorism and weapons of mass destruction by the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters,

Taking note of resolution GC(47)/RES/8, adopted on 19 September 2003 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its forty-seventh regular session, and the setting up of an Advisory Group on Security in the Agency to advise the Director General on the Agency’s activities relating to nuclear security,

Taking note also of the report of the Policy Working Group on the United Nations and Terrorism,

Taking note further of the report of the Secretary-General, submitted pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 4 of resolution 57/83,

Mindful of the urgent need for addressing, within the United Nations framework and through international cooperation, this threat to humanity,

Emphasizing that progress is urgently needed in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to help to maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism,

1. Calls upon all Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;
2. Urges all Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture;
3. Encourages cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities in this regard;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to compile a report on measures already taken by international organizations on issues relating to the linkage between the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to seek the views of
Member States on additional relevant measures for tackling the global threat posed by the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;  
5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”.

New types of weapons of mass destruction

In 2003, the Conference on Disarmament [A/58/27] was unable to establish an ad hoc committee to address the item on “New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons” owing to the continuing lack of consensus over an overall programme of work. Consequently, delegations considered the issue in plenary meetings, during which they reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions.

Multilateralism in disarmament and non-proliferation

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/63 [YUN 2002, p. 536], the Secretary-General, in a July report with a later addendum [A/58/176 & Add.1], presented replies received from six Governments regarding the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/469], adopted resolution 58/44 by recorded vote (118-12-46) agenda item 73 (f).

Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

The General Assembly,

Determined to foster strict respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 56/24 T of 29 November 2001 on multilateral cooperation in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and global efforts against terrorism and other relevant resolutions, as well as its resolution 57/63 of 22 November 2002 on promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation,

Recalling also the purpose of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security and, to that end, to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace, as enshrined in the Charter,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which states, inter alia, that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally and that, as the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role,

Convinsed that in the globalization era and with the information revolution, arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament problems are more than ever the concern of all countries in the world, which are affected in one way or another by these problems and, therefore, should have the possibility to participate in the negotiations that arise to tackle them,

Bearing in mind the existence of a broad structure of disarmament and arms regulation agreements as well as the need for non-discriminatory and transparent multilateral negotiations with the participation of a large number of countries, regardless of their size and power,

Aware of the need to advance further in the field of arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament on the basis of universal, multilateral, non-discriminatory and transparent negotiations with the goal of reaching general and complete disarmament under strict international control,

Recognizing the complementarity of bilateral, multilateral and multilateral negotiations on disarmament,

Recognizing also that the proliferation and development of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, are among the most immediate threats to international peace and security which need to be dealt with, with the highest priority,

Considering that the multilateral disarmament agreements provide the mechanism for States parties to consult one another and to cooperate in solving any problems which may arise in relation to the objective of, or in the application of, the provisions of the agreements and that such consultations and cooperation may also be undertaken through appropriate international procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with the Charter,

Stressing that international cooperation, the peaceful settlement of disputes, dialogue and confidence-building measures would contribute essentially to the creation of multilateral and bilateral friendly relations among peoples and nations,

Being concerned at the continuous erosion of multilateralism in the field of arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament, and recognizing that a resort to unilateral actions by Member States in solving their security concerns would jeopardize international peace and security and undermine confidence in the international security system as well as the foundations of the United Nations itself,

Reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament, and determined to promote multilateralism as an essential way to develop arms regulation and disarmament negotiations,

1. Recognizes multilateralism as the core principle in negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to maintaining and strengthening universal norms and enlarging their scope;
2. Also reaffirms multilateralism as the core principle in resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns;

3. Urges the participation of all interested States in multilateral negotiations on arms regulation, non-proliferation and disarmament in a non-discriminatory and transparent manner;

4. Underlines the importance of preserving the existing agreements on arms regulation and disarmament, which constitute an expression of the results of international cooperation and multilateral negotiations in response to the challenges facing mankind;

5. Calls once again upon all Member States to renew and fulfill their individual and collective commitments to multilateral cooperation as an important means of pursuing and achieving their common objectives in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation;

6. Requests the States parties to the relevant instruments on weapons of mass destruction to consult and cooperate among themselves in resolving their concerns with regard to cases of non-compliance as well as on implementation, in accordance with the procedures defined in those instruments, and to refrain from resorting or threatening to resort to unilateral actions or directing unverified non-compliance accusations against one another to resolve their concerns;

7. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General containing the replies of Member States on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, submitted pursuant to resolution 57/68;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 59/44:

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, Bulgaria, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Poland, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine.
recognizing that prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security.

Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space.

Considering that widespread participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness.

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into account its efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various perspectives.

Noting also that there were no objections in principle in the Conference on Disarmament to the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, subject to re-examination of the mandate contained in the decision of the Conference on Disarmament of 13 February 1992.

Emphasizing the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space, and hoping that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible.

Convinced that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space.

Stressing that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community.

Recalling, in this context, its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 45/35 B of 14 December 1990, 47/31 of 9 December 1992 and 48/74 A of 16 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it reaffirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

Conscious of the benefits of confidence- and security-building measures in the military field,

Recognizing that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain a priority task of the Ad Hoc Committee and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements.

1. Reaffirms its recognition, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space does not in and of itself guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that the regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness and that it is important to comply strictly with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral.

2. Reaffirms its recognition, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space does not in and of itself guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that the regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness and that it is important to comply strictly with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral.

3. Emphasizes the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;

4. Calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

5. Reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

6. Invites the Conference on Disarmament to complete the examination and updating of the mandate contained in its decision of 13 February 1992 and to establish an ad hoc committee as early as possible during its 2004 session;

7. Recognizes, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space;

8. Urges States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities, to keep the Conference on Disarmament informed of the progress of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the matter, if any, so as to facilitate its work;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Prevention of an arms race in outer space”.

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

Abstaining: Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, United States.

Disarmament and development

The controversy regarding the question of the relationship between disarmament and development continued during the year. While the vast majority of Member States, mostly non-aligned countries, maintained support for the implementation of the action programme adopted by the 1987 International Conference that examined the relationship in all its aspects [YUN 1987, p. 82], a number of other States, including the EU member States and the United States, continued to argue that there was no automatic link between the two concepts.

Expert group. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/65 [YUN 2002, p. 542], the Secretary-General established a Group of Governmental Experts, drawn from 16 countries, to review the relationship between disarmament and development.

At its first session (Geneva, 17-21 November), the Group assessed the implementation of the 1987 action programme and a number of issues relating to the current international context, and agreed on a draft outline for its future work. Its second and third sessions were scheduled to take place in New York in March and May 2004. A previous review by governmental experts was undertaken between 1978 [YUN 1987, p. 30] and 1981 [YUN 1988, p. 96].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/462], adopted decision 58/520 by recorded vote (agenda item 73 (h)).

Relationship between disarmament and development

At its 71st plenary meeting, on 8 December 2003, the General Assembly, by a recorded vote of 177 to 1, with 2 abstentions, and on the recommendation of the First Committee, decided, pursuant to its resolution 57/65 of 22 November 2002, to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Relationship between disarmament and development”.

RECORDED VOTE ON DECISION 58/520:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, 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, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States.

Abstaining: Israel, Rwanda.

Arms limitation and disarmament agreements

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/64 [YUN 2002, p. 543], the Secretary-General submitted a July report with later addendum [A/58/129 & Add.1], containing information from six Member States on measures they had taken to ensure the application of scientific and technological progress in the context of international security, disarmament and related areas, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/462], adopted resolution 58/45 by recorded vote (173-1-4) (agenda item 73 (g)).

Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

The General Assembly,


Emphasizing the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

Recognizing that it is necessary to take duly into account the agreements adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as prior relevant agreements, in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,

Mindful of the detrimental environmental effects of the use of nuclear weapons,
1. **Reaffirms** that international disarmament forums should take fully into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation and that all States, through their actions, should contribute fully to ensuring compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties;

2. **Calls upon** States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures so as to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress in the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development;

3. **Welcomes** the information provided by Member States on the implementation of the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution;

4. **Invites** all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report containing this information to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

5. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control”.

**Disarmament Information Programme**

During the year, priority issues for the Disarmament Information Programme of DDA included WMDs; conventional weapons, particularly small arms and light weapons, and the transparency mechanism of the Register of Conventional Arms; the relationship between disarmament and development; and disarmament and non-proliferation education. The Programme was implemented through public speaking engagements, media campaigns, print and electronic publications, web-site access, symposiums, panel discussions and exhibits. DDA collaborated closely with the UN Department of Public Information to address the information needs of the first biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the UN Conference on small arms [YUN 2001, p. 499] (see p. 562). The Programme continued to broaden its cooperation with civil society by integrating NGOs and research institutes into DDA’s work and improving existing relationships.

**Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters**

The Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, which advised the Secretary-General on the disarmament studies programme and implementation of the Disarmament Information Programme and served as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (see p. 586), held its fortieth
and forty-first sessions (New York, 5-7 February; Geneva, 16-18 July) [A/58/316]. The Board deliberated on compliance, verification and enforcement of multilateral disarmament treaties; disarmament and human security; disarmament and development; rising military expenditure; a review of the functioning and effectiveness of the Board; and open-source data for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation. It recommended that the United Nations identify the best way to preserve the expertise and knowledge of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (see p. 316), with a view to maintaining the Organization’s readiness to address future non-compliance cases. The Board also recommended, among other things, the convening of a group of experts to examine and establish due procedures for the Security Council in dealing more effectively with non-compliance cases, and a more comprehensive examination of the relationship between disarmament and development. It agreed on the need for a new disarmament paradigm promoting new perceptions of security, particularly human security, measures aimed at improving its functioning and effectiveness, and practical steps for maximizing the use of potential open-source data, such as satellite technology for disarmament purposes.

**UN Institute for Disarmament Research**

The Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the UNIDIR Director covering the period from August 2002 to July 2003, as well as the report of the UNIDIR Board of Trustees on the proposed 2003-2004 programme of work and budget [A/58/259]. The Institute’s research activities continued to focus on global security, regional security and human security. The report highlighted UNIDIR’s range of research activities worldwide, including conferences, seminars and discussion meetings, as well as its networking initiatives with specialized agencies and UN system organizations and institutions. During the reporting period, UNIDIR produced a number of publications, which were listed on its web site.

The Board of Trustees recommended a subvention of $227,600 from the UN regular budget for 2004, which the Assembly approved on 23 December (resolution 58/272, section III) (see p. 1417).

**Disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services**

In 2003, 30 fellows participated in the UN disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme, which began in Geneva on 1 September and terminated in New York on 5 November. The programme comprised study sessions in Geneva and New York and study visits to intergovernmental organizations working in the area of disarmament, and to Germany, Japan, The Hague and Vienna.

**Regional centres for peace and disarmament**

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/463], adopted resolution 58/63 without vote [agenda item 74 (a)].

**United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament**

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/87 of 22 November 2002 regarding the maintenance and revitalization of the three United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament,

Recalling also the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming its decision, taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, to establish the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, the purpose of which is to inform, educate and generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms control and disarmament, Bearing in mind its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989 on the regional centres for peace and disarmament in Nepal, Peru and Togo,

Recognizing that the changes that have taken place in the world have created new opportunities as well as posed new challenges for the pursuit of disarmament, and, in this regard, bearing in mind that the regional centres for peace and disarmament can contribute substantially to understanding and cooperation among States in each particular region in the areas of peace, disarmament and development,

Noting that in paragraph 146 of the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998, the heads of State or Government welcomed the decision adopted by the General Assembly on maintaining and revitalizing the three regional centres for peace and disarmament in Nepal, Peru and Togo,

1. Reiterates the importance of the United Nations activities at the regional level to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament;

2. Reaffirms that, in order to achieve positive results, it is useful for the three regional centres to carry out dissemination and educational programmes that promote regional peace and security and that are...
aimed at changing basic attitudes with respect to peace and security and disarmament so as to support the achievement of the principles and purposes of the United Nations;

3. **Appeals to** Member States in each region and those that are able to do so, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to the regional centres in their respective regions to strengthen their activities and initiatives;

4. **Emphasizes** the importance of the activities of the regional branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat;

5. **Requests** the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities;

6. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament”.

**Africa**

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/91 [YUN 2002, p. 548], the Secretary-General described the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa [A/58/139], covering the period from July 2002 to June 2003. The Centre was established in Lomé, Togo, in 1986 [YUN 1986, p. 85].

During the reporting period, the Centre focused on support for peace processes and related initiatives in Africa; disarmament and arms control; information, research and publication; and advocacy and resource mobilization. The Centre also initiated activities in cooperation with regional and subregional organizations and Member States to promote effective implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects [YUN 1997, p. 515], the 1998 Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa of the Economic Community of West African States [YUN 1998, p. 537] and the 2001 Declaration concerning Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials, adopted by the Southern African Development Community member States [YUN 2001, p. 581].

The Centre collaborated with the Lions Clubs International, an NGO, to organize a conference (Lomé, 24 January) entitled “Rethinking African culture for the promotion of sustainable peace and security on the continent”, which considered the relationship between culture and peaceful conflict resolution in the region. The Centre, on 14 February, assisted the Government of Togo in the destruction of over 600,000 rounds of ammunition seized from gunrunners along the Togo-Ghana border. Within the collaborative framework it had established with the African Strategic and Peace Research Group, the Centre provided support for a round table (Minna, Nigeria, 27 February–2 March) on multi-track approaches to early response to crises in Africa. In April, it helped the Niger State College of Education (Nigeria) to finalize the curriculum for the professional diploma in peace and sustainable development.

The framework of the activities of the UN Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (see p. 573), the Centre helped to elaborate a working document on priority areas for implementing the 2001 Programme of Action on small arms, which was adopted by the Committee in May, and, in September, it organized a workshop on the control of small arms in Central Africa. On 1 October, it launched the Small Arms Transparency and Control Regime in Africa, a three-year programme funded by Sweden and Finland to encourage African States to promote transparency by providing data on their manufacture and stockpiling of small arms and light weapons. Other activities included the training of messengers of peace from Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a regional consultation on training for peace in West Africa, and participation in an exploratory mission to Côte d’Ivoire, In the Mano River Union countries (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone), the Centre joined the Economic Commission for Africa for a data collection mission aimed at improving understanding of the magnitude and scope of the illicit trafficking in weapons at the common borders of the three countries.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/463], adopted resolution 58/61 without vote [agenda item 74 (d)].

**United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa**

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations stipulating that a function of the General Assembly is to consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms limitation,


Aware of the widespread support for the revitalization of the Regional Centre and the important role that the Centre can play in the present context in promoting confidence-building and arms-limitation measures at the regional level, thereby promoting progress in the area of sustainable development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General that the Centre has received an increasing number of requests from Member States in the African region for substantive support for several peace initiatives and conflict resolution activities in the region,

Taking note also of the report by the Secretary-General of the very limited financial contributions were made to the Centre despite continued fund-raising efforts,

Concerned that the continued financial difficulties faced by the Centre have impaired its ability to realize its full potential and to fulfill its mandate adequately,

Bearing in mind the efforts undertaken in the framework of the revitalization of the activities of the Regional Centre for the mobilization of the resources necessary for its operational costs,

Taking into account the need to establish close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution of the African Union, in conformity with the decision adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held at Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999,

Welcoming the adoption by consensus of the report of the United Nations First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held in New York from 7 to 11 July 2003,

1. Commends the activities which the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa is continuing to carry out, in particular in support of the efforts made by the African States in the areas of peace and security;

2. Reaffirms its strong support for the revitalization of the Regional Centre, and emphasizes the need to provide it with the necessary resources to enable it to strengthen its activities and carry out its programmes;

3. Appeals once again to all States, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the programmes and activities of the Regional Centre and facilitate their implementation;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary support to the Regional Centre for better achievements and results;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to facilitate close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the African Union, in particular in the area of peace, security and development, and to continue to assist the Director of the Regional Centre in his efforts to stabilize the financial situation of the Centre and revitalize its activities;

6. Appeals in particular to the Regional Centre, in cooperation with the African Union, regional and sub-regional organizations and the African States, to take steps to promote the consistent implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa”.

Asia and the Pacific

As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 57/92 [YUN 2002, p. 550], the Secretary-General reported in July on the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific from August 2002 to July 2003 [A/58/190]. The Centre was inaugurated in Kathmandu, Nepal, in 1989 [YUN 1989, p. 88].

During the period under review, the Centre focused on issues relating to nuclear-weapon-free zones and on organizing disarmament-related regional meetings. The Centre continued to assist the five Central Asian States in drafting a treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia by organizing an expert group meeting and consultations among the regional States and between them and the five nuclear-weapon States. Similarly, in continuing efforts to assist Mongolia in taking measures to consolidate and strengthen its international security and nuclear-weapon-free status, the Centre organized, in January, an informal consultation among relevant UN bodies. In February, the Centre, in cooperation with Indonesia and Japan, organized a regional seminar (Bali, Indonesia, 10-11 February), which addressed the issue of small arms and light weapons from a regional perspective, explored how to implement the Programme of Action adopted by the 2001 UN Conference on those weapons [YUN 2001, p. 891] and helped the regional States prepare for the first biennial meeting of States (see p. 562) on the implementation of the outcome of the Conference. The Centre also hosted, in cooperation with Indonesia and DDA, a UN workshop on transparency in armaments (Bali, 14-15 February), intended to promote greater participation in the UN Register of Conventional Arms (see p. 568) and in the standardized instrument for military expenditure reporting. The Centre provided support to the United Nations Association of Japan in organizing the ninth Kanazawa sym-
postum (Kanazawa, 10-12 June) on security and stability in North-East Asia and restoring confidence. It convened a UN conference (Osaka, Japan, 19-22 August) on arms control, disarmament and their future, which considered, among other matters, the current international security situation, WMDs and ways of fostering a culture of peace. In a further effort to address non-proliferation issues, the Centre, in cooperation with the Republic of Korea, organized a conference on disarmament and non-proliferation (Jeju Island, 3-5 December). The Centre, in a bid to promote further cooperation and interaction in the region, improved its contacts with academic institutions, foundations and regional and sub-regional organizations, such as the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and with disarmament-related international organizations, including IAEA, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (see p. 561) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (see p. 547).

Owing to the lack of extrabudgetary resources, the Centre continued to operate from UN Headquarters, as consultations on its relocation continued with the host country. In that regard, a reminder was sent to the Government of Nepal regarding a draft host country agreement and a draft memorandum of understanding previously forwarded to it.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/465], adopted resolution 58/62 without vote [agenda item 74 (e)].

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/30 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/17 F of 15 December 1989, by which it established the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and named it the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, with headquarters in Kathmandu, Nepal, with the mandate of providing, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General, in which he expresses his belief that the mandate of the Regional Centre remains valid and that the Centre has been a useful instrument for fostering a climate of cooperation for peace and disarmament in the region,

Noting that trends in the post-cold-war era have emphasized the function of the Regional Centre in assisting Member States as they deal with new security concerns and disarmament issues emerging in the region,

Commending the useful activities carried out by the Regional Centre in encouraging regional and sub-regional dialogue for the enhancement of openness, transparency and confidence-building, as well as the promotion of disarmament and security through the organization of regional meetings, which has come to be widely known within the Asia-Pacific region as the "Kathmandu process",

Expressing its appreciation to the Regional Centre for its organization of meetings and conferences in the region, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 25 to 27 September 2002, on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, from 3 to 5 December 2002, in Bali, Indonesia, on 10 and 11 February 2003 and on 14 and 15 February 2003, in Kanazawa, Japan, from 10 to 12 June 2003 and in Osaka, Japan, from 19 to 22 August 2003,

Welcoming the idea of the possible creation of an educational and training programme for peace and disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for young people with different backgrounds, to be financed from voluntary contributions,

Noting the important role of the Regional Centre in assisting region-specific initiatives of Member States, including its continued assistance in finalizing a treaty related to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, as well as to Mongolia’s international security and nuclear-weapon-free status, including the organization of an informal consultation among relevant United Nations bodies in January 2003 to discuss the status of implementation of the non-nuclear aspects of Mongolia’s status,

Appreciating highly the overall support that Nepal has extended as the host nation of the headquarters of the Regional Centre,

1. Reaffirms its strong support for the forthcoming operation and further strengthening of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;
2. Underlines the importance of the Kathmandu process as a powerful vehicle for the development of the practice of region-wide security and disarmament dialogue;
3. Expresses its appreciation for the continuing political support and voluntary financial contributions to the Regional Centre, which are essential for its continued operation;
4. Appeals to Member States, in particular those within the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions, the only resources of the Regional Centre, to strengthen the programme of activities of the Centre and the implementation thereof;
5. Requests the Secretary-General, taking note of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, to provide the Regional Centre with the necessary support, within existing resources, in carrying out its programme of activities;
6. Urges the Secretary-General to ensure the physical operation of the Regional Centre from Kathmandu within six months of the date of signature of the host country agreement and to enable the Centre to function effectively;
Latin America and the Caribbean

As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 57/89 [YUN 2002, p. 53], the Secretary-General reported in July on the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean from July 2002 to June 2003 [A/58/122]. The Centre was inaugurated in Lima, Peru, in 1987 [YUN 1987, p. 88].

The Centre’s activities were related to firearms, ammunition and explosives; anti-personnel mines; disarmament and development; conventional, nuclear and chemical weapons; and information-dissuasion. It also promoted existing firearms, ammunition and explosives; the system was scheduled to be dismantled and reactivated in Latin America and the Caribbean and, in that context, provided support to an OAS conference (Lima, 14-15 August) aimed at making the hemisphere free of anti-personnel landmines.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 8 December [meeting 71], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/58/463], adopted resolution 58/60 (as orally amended) without vote [agenda item 74 (c)].

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/60 [of 3 December 1986, 42/39 K of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 H of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with headquarters in Lima,


Undertaking the revitalization of the Regional Centre, the efforts made by the Government of Peru and other countries to that end, as well as the important work done by the Director of the Centre,

Recognizing that the Regional Centre has continued to act as an instrument for the implementation of regional initiatives and has intensified its contribution to the coordination of United Nations efforts towards peace and security,
Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General, which concludes that the Regional Centre also acts as a facilitator for the implementation of regional initiatives by identifying regional security needs and new areas of cooperation with States and organizations in the region, by providing more in-depth information on firearms matters, including training for the law enforcement community and non-governmental organizations on such matters, and by promoting the dissemination of information on security issues among diplomats, the military, non-governmental organizations and civil society,

Welcoming also that the report stresses that the Regional Centre has initiated a new level of activity in the important area of disarmament and development, and encouraging the Centre to further develop this activity,

Noting that security and disarmament issues have always been recognized as significant topics in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first inhabited region in the world to be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Welcoming the fact that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) is now in force for the sovereign States of the region, and that this fact was officially acknowledged by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, at its eighteenth session, held at Havana on 5 and 6 November 2005,

Bearing in mind the important role that the Regional Centre can play in promoting confidence-building measures, arms control and limitation, disarmament and development at the regional level,

Also bearing in mind the importance of information, research, education and training for peace, disarmament and development in order to achieve understanding and cooperation among States,

Recognizing the need to provide the three United Nations regional centres for peace, disarmament and development in order to achieve understanding and cooperation among States,

Welcoming also that the report stresses that the Regional Centre has demonstrated, in a concrete manner, the role of the Organization as a regional catalyst for peace and disarmament in assisting countries in the region to advance the cause of peace, disarmament and development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

8. Appeals to Member States, in particular those within the Latin American and Caribbean region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make and increase voluntary contributions to strengthen the Regional Centre, its programme of activities and the implementation thereof;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Regional Centre with all necessary support, within existing resources, so that it may carry out its programme of activities in accordance with its mandate;

10. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

II. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

1. Reiterates its strong support for the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of United Nations activities at the regional level to strengthen peace, stability, security and development among its member States;

2. Expresses its satisfaction and congratulates the Regional Centre for the expansion of the vast range of activities carried out last year in the field of peace, disarmament and development, and requests the Regional Centre to take into account the proposals to be submitted by the countries of the region in promoting confidence-building measures, arms control and limitation, transparency, disarmament and development at the regional level;

3. Expresses its appreciation for the political support and financial contributions to the Regional Centre, which are essential for its continued operation;

4. Invites all States of the region to continue to take part in the activities of the Regional Centre, proposing items for inclusion in its programme, making greater and better use of the Centre’s potential to meet the current challenges facing the international community and with a view to fulfilling the aims of the Charter of the United Nations in the field of peace, disarmament and development;

5. Recognizes that the Regional Centre has an important role in the promotion and development of regional initiatives agreed upon by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the field of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, as well as the relationship between disarmament and development;

6. Welcomes the establishment of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/65 of 22 November 2002, whose report, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, will be of utmost interest for the role the Regional Centre plays in promoting those issues in the region in pursuit of its mandate to promote economic and social development related to peace and disarmament;

7. Highlights the conclusion of the Secretary-General that the Regional Centre has demonstrated, in a concrete manner, the role of the Organization as a regional catalyst for peace and disarmament in assisting countries in the region to advance the cause of peace, disarmament and development in Latin America and the Caribbean;