

Chapter VII

Disarmament

In 2006, the United Nations reinforced efforts to mobilize the international community for concerted and more intensive action towards overcoming current disarmament and non-proliferation challenges, including persisting differences among Member States, which limited progress in multilateral disarmament fora. To that end, the General Assembly declared the 2010s as the Fourth Disarmament Decade, following three previous decades that had covered the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, all aimed at advancing disarmament norms and measures. In related action, the Assembly continued to promote the idea of convening a fourth special session devoted to disarmament, the aim of which would be to define the future course of action on disarmament and associated international security questions, and enhance the gains made at the first, second and third special sessions held in 1978, 1982 and 1988, respectively. In April, relative progress was made in settling some of the issues dividing Member States on disarmament questions, following the achievement of consensus within the Disarmament Commission on a work programme, which helped resolve a two-year deadlock and consequent suspension of its work. That breakthrough enabled the Commission to resume substantive meetings to consider recommendations for achieving nuclear disarmament and practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. Unfortunately, such progress eluded the Conference on Disarmament, which, despite 49 formal and 22 informal meetings, still could not achieve consensus on its programme of work, nor undertake any substantive work on its agenda items for the eighth consecutive year.

In June, the independent international Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, chaired by the former head of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, Hans Blix, transmitted its report to the General Assembly containing proposals on how to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction (wmds) (nuclear, chemical and biological). Determined to further reinforce existing institutional mechanisms for tackling international terrorism, the Assembly adopted, in September, a United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, based on earlier recommendations from the Secretary-General. Annexed to that Strategy was a plan of action, by which Member States resolved to

take measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring wmds. On 8 September, the growing movement to fortify the nuclear non-proliferation regime through the adoption of legally-binding agreements designating whole geographic regions as nuclear-weapon-free zones achieved marked progress, following the adoption of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. It was the fifth Zone of its kind to be declared worldwide and the first to be located entirely in the northern hemisphere.

However, the optimism generated by those encouraging developments was tempered by widespread anxiety following a 9 October announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that it had tested a nuclear weapon, only a few months after having launched ballistic missiles capable of delivering wmd payloads. Similar concerns were raised by Iran's decision to resume research and development activities on its nuclear energy programme, as well as uranium conversion and enrichment. Alarmed by the potential threat which the actions of both States posed to the nuclear non-proliferation regime and to regional and international stability, the Security Council, in resolutions 1718(2006) (see p. 444) and 1737(2006) (see p. 436), respectively, firmly condemned those activities and imposed an arms embargo and other sanctions against them.

Notable developments in the field of conventional arms control included the Assembly's resolve to begin exploring the possibility of an arms trade treaty, providing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. The Assembly asked the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the idea and to establish a group of governmental experts to examine the feasibility and scope of the proposed instrument and report thereon in 2008.

Member States also continued to deal with disarmament and international security issues stemming from the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, mostly within the framework of the Programme of Action adopted at the 2001 UN Conference on small arms. However, an opportunity for consolidating the gains made since then was missed when the UN Conference to Review progress in implementing the Programme concluded, in July, without adopting a final document, owing to dis-

cord among delegates on several small arms-related issues. Despite that setback, the Assembly continued to seek ways of advancing conventional disarmament. It adopted a resolution requesting the Secretary-General to establish another group of governmental experts to examine how to strengthen collaboration in confronting the problem of surplus conventional ammunition stockpiles. Meanwhile, the Group of Governmental Experts appointed by the Secretary-General to review the status of the UN Register of Conventional Arms proposed measures for strengthening its operation and future development, aimed at enhancing transparency in conventional armaments as a major confidence-building measure.

On 12 November, the international framework for tackling humanitarian problems caused by leftover explosives in a post-conflict environment received a boost from the entry into force of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) 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. At their Third Review Conference, States Parties to that Convention adopted a Final Declaration reaffirming their commitment to comply with the Convention's objectives, and a plan of action outlining specific measures for promoting its universality. The same month, the Sixth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction adopted a declaration and a series of decisions and recommendations designed to strengthen its effectiveness.

At the bilateral level, Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed negotiations with the United States on a new treaty to replace their 1991 Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I) agreement, which had committed both sides to limiting to approximately 6,000, the number of nuclear warheads they could each deploy, and which was scheduled to expire in 2009. In a related development, the two countries extended for another seven years their 1992 Cooperative Threat Reduction Agreement, designed to prevent the proliferation of WMDs, and launched the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Both sides also continued to implement their 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (Moscow Treaty), for reducing the level of their deployed strategic nuclear warheads to between 3000 and 3500 by 31 December 2012.

UN role in disarmament

UN machinery

In 2006, disarmament issues before the United Nations were considered mainly through the Security Council, 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). In addition, the Organization maintained efforts to engage civil society organizations concerned with disarmament issues.

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

Fourth disarmament decade

Concerned with the current disarmament, non-proliferation and international security climate, the General Assembly determined that a fourth disarmament decade could help mobilize international efforts to meet disarmament and related challenges and directed the Disarmament Commission to prepare, in 2009, elements of a draft declaration on the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade, for consideration during its sixty-fourth (2009) session.

The First Disarmament Decade, covering the 1970s, was proclaimed in 1969 in Assembly resolution 2602 E (XXIV) [YUN 1969, p. 22], the Second, addressing the 1980s, was declared in Assembly resolution 35/46 [YUN 1980, p. 102], while the Third, spanning the 1990s, was initiated in 1989 by Assembly resolution 43/78 L [YUN 1988, p. 46]. All were designed to promote international disarmament and non-proliferation measures, with the ultimate aim of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and the economic and social advancement of developing countries.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/67** by recorded vote (123-1-52) [agenda item 90].

Declaration of a fourth disarmament decade

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, in particular those

relating to its declaration of the First, Second and Third Disarmament Decades,

Reaffirming the validity of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Recalling the conclusion of the Secretary-General in his latest report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization, inter alia, that if ever there was a time to break the deadlock in multilateral negotiations and bring disarmament back into the limelight of the international agenda, it is now,

Seriously concerned at the current disarmament, non-proliferation and international security climate,

Recognizing the urgent need to mobilize concerted and more intensive global efforts to reverse the current trend in the field of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, including, where appropriate, indicative targets for accelerating attainment of the objectives of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Conscious of the role that a fourth disarmament decade could play in the mobilization of such global efforts to meet current and emerging challenges in the area of arms control, disarmament, non-proliferation and international security,

Directs the Disarmament Commission, at its 2009 substantive session, to prepare elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade and to submit them for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/67:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein,

Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

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. It had not been possible to achieve such consensus over the years, despite efforts to facilitate agreement through an open-ended working group established to consider the issue in Assembly resolutions 57/61 [YUN 2002, p. 487] and 59/71 [YUN 2004, p. 522].

By **decision 60/559** of 6 June, 2006, the Assembly decided to re-establish at a later date, an open-ended working group to further consider the objectives and agenda for the session, including the possible establishment of a preparatory committee. In further action, in December (see below), the Assembly established the group and asked it to hold an organizational session to set the date for its 2007 substantive sessions and to report on its work before the end of the Assembly's sixty-first (2006) session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/60** by recorded vote (175-1-0) [agenda item 90 (*ad*)].

Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 I of 15 December 1994, 50/70 F of 12 December 1995, 51/45 C of 10 December 1996, 52/38 F of 9 December 1997, 53/77 AA of 4 December 1998, 54/54 U of 1 December 1999, 55/33 M of 20 November 2000, 56/24 D of 29 November 2001, 57/61 of 22 November 2002 and 59/71 of 3 December 2004, as well as its decisions 58/521 of 8 December 2003, 60/518 of 8 December 2005 and 60/559 of 6 June 2006,

Recalling also that, there being a consensus to do so in each case, three special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament were held in 1978, 1982 and 1988 respectively,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, adopted by consensus at the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Bearing in mind also the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Taking note of paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana on 15 and 16 September 2006, which supported the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which would offer an opportunity to review, from a perspective more in tune with the current international situation, the most critical aspects of the process of disarmament and to mobilize the international community and public opinion in favour of the elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and of the control and reduction of conventional weapons,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the Heads of State and Government during the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, held in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000, in which they resolved “to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly 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”,

Reiterating its conviction that a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament can set the future course of action in the fields of disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and related international security matters,

Emphasizing the importance of multilateralism in the process of disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and related international security matters,

Taking note of the report of the Open-ended Working Group to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of the preparatory committee, for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament,

1. *Decides* to establish an open-ended working group, working on the basis of consensus, to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of the preparatory committee, for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, taking note of the paper presented by the Chairman of Working Group II during the 1999 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission and the written proposals and views submitted by Member States as contained in the working papers presented during the three substantive sessions of the Open-ended Working Group in 2003 as well as the reports of the Secretary-General regarding the views of Member States on the objectives, agenda and timing of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

2. *Requests* the Open-ended Working Group to hold an organizational session in order to set the date for its substantive sessions in 2007 and to submit a report on its work, including possible substantive recommendations, before the end of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to provide the Open-ended Working Group with the necessary assistance and services as may be required to discharge its tasks;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled “Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament”.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/60:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 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, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, 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, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States.

Abstaining: None.

On 22 December, the Assembly decided that the item on general and complete disarmament would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-first (2007) session (**decision 61/552**).

Disarmament Commission

In 2006, the Disarmament Commission, comprising all UN Member States, reached consensus on a programme of work, enabling it to resume substantive work it had suspended in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 523] and 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 579], owing to a deadlock among delegates on a substantive agenda. Following that breakthrough, the Commission held seven plenary meetings and four informal sessions

(New York, 10–28 April) [A/61/42], in addition to an earlier organizational meeting. It adopted two substantive agenda items: recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons; (see p. 619) and practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons (see p. 666) and established a Committee of the Whole and two working groups to consider them.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/91 [ibid., p. 579], the Commission considered measures for improving the effectiveness of its working methods during informal meetings of the whole. Based on the Chairman's summary of the discussions and draft report, the Commission adopted consensus recommendations for consideration by the Assembly on ways to improve some of the organizational and procedural aspects of its work. Other recommendations highlighted the need for the Commission to strengthen dialogue with other bodies of the UN disarmament machinery, such as the First Committee and the Conference on Disarmament; participation by disarmament experts, including those at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (see p. 680), in discussions at the Commission's plenary meetings; and improvement by the UN Secretariat of the Commission's website, in order to provide better communication and updated information about its work.

On 28 April, the Commission adopted its report to the Assembly containing those recommendations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/396], adopted **resolution 61/98** without vote [agenda item 92 (d)].

Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004 and 60/91 of 8 December 2005,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recom-

mendations 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,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;

2. *Reaffirms* the validity of its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998, concerning the efficient functioning of the Disarmament Commission;

3. *Decides* to adopt the following additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the Disarmament Commission's methods of work:

(a) The Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies should be elected at an organizational session of the Commission, if possible at least three months before the beginning of the substantive session; the regional groups should, accordingly, present their candidates as soon as possible to ensure that such elections take place within that time frame;

(b) Member States are encouraged to adopt the draft agenda of the substantive session of the Commission as early as possible at the organizational meetings of the Commission;

(c) Member States are encouraged to present their national working documents to the Commission as early as possible before the beginning of the substantive session to facilitate deliberation in the meetings ahead;

(d) The Commission should make efforts to strengthen dialogue with other bodies of the disarmament machinery of the United Nations, that is, the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament;

(e) The Commission is encouraged to invite, as appropriate, experts on disarmament, including those at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, for discussions at its plenary meetings;

(f) The Secretariat is requested to improve the Commission section of the United Nations website to provide better communication and up-to-date information about the work of the Commission, and in particular to make available in a timely manner the information and documentation relevant to the Commission's deliberations;

4. *Reaffirms* the mandate 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;

5. *Also reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation between the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. *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”;

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission continue the consideration of the following items at its 2007 substantive session:

(a) Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2007, namely from 9 to 27 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

9. *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 sixty-first session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *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;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled “Report of the Disarmament Commission”.

Conference on Disarmament

The Conference on Disarmament, a multilateral negotiating body, held a three-part session in Geneva in 2006 (23 January–31 March, 15 May–30 June and 31 July–15 September) [A/61/27].

The Conference, in 49 formal and 22 informal plenary meetings, continued to consider 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 WMDs and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons; a comprehensive programme of disarmament; and transparency in armaments. Prior to the adoption of the agenda, France emphasized the importance of addressing “new issues” not previously considered by the Conference, particularly threats to critical physical infrastructure, while Australia proposed the inclusion of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) in the agenda, which was considered under the item on transparency in armaments. Other delegations addressed the issue of an arms trade treaty under the item “comprehensive programme of disarmament”.

In the light of the unresolved impasse over a substantive programme of work, the last President of the 2005 session (Peru) [YUN 2005, p. 580] and the first President of the 2006 session (Poland), in cooperation with five incoming Presidents for the current year (the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal and Slovakia), held informal consultations on the possibility of achieving consensus on a programme of work, with a view to commencing substantive work in 2006. That initiative was reinforced with the appointment of six Friends of the Presidents, charged with assisting in reviewing the Conference agenda and enhancing its effectiveness by facilitating consensus on a work programme and augmenting the involvement of civil society. Owing to the lack of progress in resolving the deadlock during the first two weeks of meetings, the Presidents proposed incorporating into traditional general debates structured discussions, whereby each President would focus on two agenda items. That enabled the Conference to double the number of meetings held and to hear an increased number of statements on each item.

Despite those efforts, the Conference, for the eighth consecutive year, was unable to achieve consensus on a programme of work and did not establish or re-establish any mechanism on any of its agenda items. While some delegates did not want linkages established between elements of the programme, others preferred a balanced and comprehensive approach covering all issues and mandates for subsidiary bodies. Even drafting the Conference’s annual report to the General Assembly proved contentious, mainly on how to reflect the views expressed about “new issues”.

Against that background, the six 2006 Presidents (P-6) submitted at the end of the session a “vision paper” [CD/1809] highlighting their evaluation of the current situation regarding the work of the Conference, lessons to be learned and the possible steps for advancing substantive work. In that context, they advocated that the right conclusions be drawn from the experience of the current session; separate decisions on establishing subsidiary bodies to negotiate and/or consider issues of interest to all delegations; the adoption of a schedule of activities for substantive discussions on all agenda items; consideration of the possibility of establishing subsidiary bodies other than ad hoc committees; the use of focused, structured debates to advance the substantive work of the Conference, pending agreement on the programme of work and/or the establishment of subsidiary bodies; and that experts be invited from capitals and relevant UN bodies and other international organizations. The Conference

decided to hold its 2007 session between January and September and asked its current and incoming Presidents to conduct consultations during the intersessional period and make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/396], adopted **resolution 61/99** without vote [agenda item 92 (c)].

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

*The General Assembly,
Having considered* the report of the Conference on Disarmament,

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole 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,

Recalling, 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 2006 session of the Conference, as duly reflected in the report and the records of the plenary meetings,

Taking note also of increased deliberations of the Conference due to the constructive contribution of its member States, focused structured debates on all agenda items including with the participation of experts from capitals, and cooperation between all six Presidents of the Conference in the 2006 session,

Taking note further of significant contributions made during the 2006 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda, 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 its substantive work at the beginning of its 2007 session,

Recognizing the address of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the addresses of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials, as expressions of support for the endeavours of the Conference and its role as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum,

Bearing in mind the importance of efforts towards revitalization of the disarmament machinery, including the Conference,

Recognizing the importance of continuing consultations on the question of the expansion of the Conference membership,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Calls upon* the Conference to further intensify consultations and explore possibilities with a view to reaching an agreement on a programme of work;

3. *Takes note* of the strong collective interest of the Conference in commencing substantive work as soon as possible during its 2007 session;

4. *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 those submitted as documents of the Conference, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations, as contained in paragraph 28 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 2007 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 sixty-second session;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

Multilateral disarmament agreements

As at 31 December 2006, the following number 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): 46 parties

Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water (1963): 125 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 for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) (1967): 39 parties

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (1968) [YUN 1968, p. 17, GA res. 2373(XXII), annex]: 190 parties

Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof (1971) [YUN 1970, p. 18, GA res. 2660(XXV), annex]: 93 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]: 155 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]: 72 parties
- Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (1979) [YUN 1979, p. 111, GA res. 34/68, annex]: 13 parties
- 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 (1981): 102 parties
- South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) (1985): 17 parties
- Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) (1990): 30 parties
- Treaty on Open Skies (1992): 33 parties
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (1993): 181 parties
- Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) (1995): 10 parties
- African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty) (1996): 24 parties
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (1996): 137 parties
- Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (1997): 26 parties
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Mine-Ban Convention, formerly known as Ottawa Convention) (1997): 152 parties
- Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (1999): 12 parties
- Agreement on Adaptation of the CFE Treaty (1999): 4 parties
- Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (2006): 5 signatories
- [*United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 31: 2006, Sales No. E.07.IX.1]

Nuclear disarmament

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolutions 60/70 [YUN 2005, p. 588] and 60/79 [ibid., p. 590], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/61/127 & Add.1] assessing efforts to address nuclear disarmament issues, which remained a priority for international peace and security. Pointing to the several disappointing

setbacks since 2005, he observed that nuclear disarmament efforts appeared to have stalled, while the international community continued to confront dangers resulting from the development, acquisition and possible use of WMDs, including nuclear weapons and radiological dispersal devices or “dirty bombs”. The world was facing increasing challenges regarding compliance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards agreements (see p. 640), adding to concerns about the effectiveness of the non-proliferation regime. To reduce such threats, renewed unilateral, bilateral and multilateral efforts were required, particularly by nuclear-weapon States, to reduce existing nuclear arsenals. Despite some progress in that respect, it was of concern that emphasis seemed to have shifted towards acquiring fewer but more powerful weapons. The international community therefore had to continue strengthening existing arms control and disarmament agreements through universal adherence to, full compliance with, and effective implementation of their provisions.

Although the 1968 Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) [YUN 1968, p. 17, GA res. 2373(XXII), annex] remained the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the foundation for pursuing nuclear disarmament, the disappointing outcome of the 2005 NPT Review Conference [YUN 2005, p. 597] and of the 2005 World Summit [ibid., p. 47], where diverging views prevented agreement on key disarmament issues, represented two missed opportunities for Member States to address important threats and challenges to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. Action was therefore needed on many fronts, including strengthening confidence in the integrity of NPT; achieving further irreversible cuts in nuclear arsenals; ensuring that compliance measures were more effective; reducing the threat of proliferation to States and non-state actors; and finding durable ways to reconcile the right to peaceful uses of nuclear technology with the imperative of non-proliferation. Reducing the value of the perceived security benefits of nuclear weapons possession was also necessary, and in that context, the report of the independent international Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, chaired by Hans Blix (see p. 636), ought to be considered seriously by the international community. Of further concern were the fact that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) (see p. 628) still had not attracted enough ratifications to enable it to enter into force, and the ongoing impasse in the Conference on Disarmament over a substantive work programme (see p. 614). It was critical for the Conference to move

forward, as the validity of the multilateral disarmament machinery was beginning to be questioned. Further efforts were also needed to implement fully the seven recommendations identified by the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters [YUN 2001, p. 475] to reduce nuclear dangers. Ten years after the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons* [YUN 1996, p. 461], related challenges facing multilateral disarmament efforts had increased, as illustrated by the recent discovery of clandestine markets for nuclear technology and the possibility that such weapons could fall into the hands of terrorists. The Organization remained committed to assisting Member States in meeting those challenges.

Conference on Disarmament

In 2006, as in the previous eight years, the Conference on Disarmament did not establish any subsidiary body to address nuclear disarmament, owing to continuing disagreement among delegates over a substantive programme of work (see p. 614). The item was discussed in formal and informal plenary meetings, during which delegates reaffirmed or further elaborated their positions. The Group of 21 (G-21) continued to accord nuclear disarmament the highest priority and drew attention to proposals for the establishment of an ad hoc committee for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. As distinct from that position, most members of the Western Group and Eastern European Group saw the negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty as a priority, with some of them viewing progress on negotiating such a treaty and on the ratification of CTBT as complementary to the undertakings of nuclear-weapon States under NPT. Norway and Sweden proposed the creation of a global inventory of nuclear arsenals and stockpiles under international safeguards to deter non-state actors from stealing such material for terrorist activities.

Fissile material

In 2006, although the unresolved impasse over a comprehensive programme of work again 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, the Conference devoted five days of plenary discussions to that item. To enhance the breadth of those discussions, experts were invited from Member States to participate in an exchange of views on specific sub-items relating to fissile materials, including

definitions, scope, stocks, compliance and verification. On 18 May, the United States put forward a draft mandate for the Conference to start negotiating a fissile material cut-off treaty, together with a draft text of such a treaty [CD/1777], which received mixed reaction from other delegates. While many Western countries and a number of Latin American States adopted a reserved but generally favourable position towards the proposed draft, several other delegations did not support it, including some Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) States. Diverging issues included the scope of the envisioned agreement and the questions of compliance and verification. A further complicating factor was the link to other core issues which some delegates maintained. China, and several NAM States in particular, were prepared to deal with fissile material only within the framework of a "balanced and comprehensive" programme of work which would include such other core issues as nuclear disarmament, the prevention of an arms race in outer space and negative security assurances (see below).

Security assurances

During consideration by the Conference on Disarmament of the issue of security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, differences continued on the question of the appropriate forum for dealing with the subject and the adequacy of existing security assurances given, either under the nuclear-weapon-free zones regimes, by unilateral declarations or pursuant to Security Council resolutions. While some delegates preferred the Conference on Disarmament as the forum best suited for addressing the subject, others favoured the NPT platform. Most non-nuclear-weapon States maintained that existing security assurances were inadequate and pressed for a universal and legally-binding agreement on such assurances, while France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States stressed that the assurances already pledged, as well as those given within the NPT framework, were sufficiently strong.

Seminar. In August, at the initiative of Senegal, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (see p. 680) organized a seminar on negative security assurances (Geneva, 8 August) [CD/1804]. Discussions focused on such assurances as a step towards nuclear disarmament and the related questions of the forum in which to pursue the idea, possible contributions by the Security Council, and relevant articles in nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties that could play a role in securing those assurances.

Communication. In September, the Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries (Havana, Cuba, 11-16 September) [A/61/472-S/2006/780] stated that, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, which was the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States was a priority.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/392], adopted **resolution 61/57** by recorded vote (119-1-59) [agenda item 88].

Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the need to allay the legitimate concern of the States of the world with regard to ensuring lasting security for their peoples,

Convinced that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Welcoming the progress achieved in recent years in both nuclear and conventional disarmament,

Noting that, despite recent progress in the field of nuclear disarmament, further efforts are necessary 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 force, including 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,

Taking note also of the relevant decision of the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Kuala Lumpur on 24 and 25 February 2003, which was reiterated at the Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana on 15 and 16 September 2006, 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,

Recalling its relevant resolutions adopted in previous years, in particular resolutions 45/54 of 4 December 1990, 46/32 of 6 December 1991, 47/50 of 9 December 1992, 48/73 of 16 December 1993, 49/73 of 15 December 1994, 50/68 of 12 December 1995, 51/43 of 10 December 1996, 52/36 of 9 December 1997, 53/75 of 4 December 1998, 54/52 of 1 December 1999, 55/31 of 20 November 2000, 56/22 of 29 November 2001, 57/56 of 22 November 2002, 58/35 of 8 December 2003, 59/64 of 3 December 2004 and 60/53 of 8 December 2005,

1. *Reaffirms* 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 agreements 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 sixty-second 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".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/57:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, 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, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Disarmament Commission

In April [A/61/42], Working Group 1 of the Disarmament Commission considered the item: recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, during a series of meetings held between 18 and 28 April. Those discussions were facilitated by informal consultations conducted by the Group's Chairman and by working/conference room papers submitted by him, which took into consideration the views of delegations and a number of other working papers introduced by them. On 26 April, the Group considered a revised version of the Chairman's working paper [A/CN.10/2006/WG.I/WP.4/Rev.1], which addressed the general principles for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and set out recommendations for achieving that objective. The Group also had before it the Chairman's revised conference room paper [A/CN.10/2006/WG.I/CRP.1/Rev.1], which elaborated in greater detail on those recommendations, and his draft outline of issues to be further considered by the Group [A/CN.10/2006/WG.I/CRP.7]. The Chairman's papers, however, were not a negotiated position and did not command consensus, as a number of delegates expressed reservations on some of the views contained therein. On 28 April, the Group adopted its report, which the Commission reproduced in its report to the General Assembly.

START and other bilateral agreements and unilateral measures

On 27 January, Ukraine announced that, in line with its international commitments, it had dismantled its last strategic bomber and expected to scrap completely a category of its air-to-surface missiles by May. Those weapons were part of a significant stockpile of nuclear and strategic weapons which it inherited from the former Soviet Union, as did the other three independent States (Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation) that emerged when the Union collapsed in 1992. As legal successors of the Union, those States had joined the 1991 Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of

Strategic Offensive Arms (START I) [YUN 1991, p. 34] between the United States and the former Soviet Union, under which Ukraine committed to voluntarily destroy all of its share of nuclear weapons stockpiles.

In March, the United States and India concluded the United States-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative on the transfer of peaceful civil-nuclear technology, under which India pledged, for the first time in 30 years, to place its entire civil nuclear programme under the safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (see p. 620), and to continue its unilateral moratorium on testing. It would also place the majority of its existing and planned power reactors under international safeguards by 2014. Once the agreement was implemented, potential American and international suppliers could invest in India's safeguarded civil facilities solely for energy production and other peaceful purposes. Given that India remained outside NPT, the agreement received mixed reviews. Sceptics believed it risked weakening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, as India's military nuclear programmes would not be affected or might be enhanced, while optimists countered that it would benefit non-proliferation efforts, as India's military and civil nuclear facilities and programmes would be separated, with the civilian component placed under IAEA safeguards.

During the year, the United States and the Russian Federation continued to implement their 2005 bilateral agreement for combatting the illicit proliferation of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS), alternatively known as shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, which could threaten global aviation if obtained by criminals, terrorists or other non-state actors. On 19 June, both sides announced that they had extended for another seven years their Cooperative Threat Reduction Umbrella Agreement, signed in 1992, to prevent the proliferation of WMDs and related materials, which was an effective tool in efforts to deny terrorists and proliferators access to those weapons.

On 27 June, Russian President Vladimir Putin urged the United States to begin negotiations on a new weapons treaty to replace the START I agreement, which was scheduled to expire in 2009, and had committed both sides to limit to approximately 6,000 the number of nuclear warheads they could each deploy. Noting that modernization of the global security architecture had become necessary, President Putin called for the renewal of dialogue on key weapons reduction issues. In a 15 July joint statement, the leaders of the two countries launched the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism,

designed to help prevent the acquisition, transport, or use by terrorists of nuclear materials and radioactive substances or improvised explosive devices using such material. On 15 September, they signed the Plutonium Disposition Liability Protocol, providing a framework for resolving liability issues for a non-proliferation project for converting excess weapon-grade plutonium into forms unusable for weapons by terrorists and others.

During the year, the Russian Federation and the United States continued to implement their 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (Moscow Treaty) [YUN 2002, p. 493], under which they agreed to reduce the level of their deployed strategic nuclear warheads to between 1700 and 2200 by 31 December 2012. In accordance with the Treaty's provisions, both sides described their plans for achieving the required reductions by the stipulated deadline.

Communication. In September [A/61/72-S/2006/780], the Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries (Havana, Cuba, 11-16 September) reaffirmed that nuclear disarmament and the related issue of non-proliferation remained their highest priority and stressed the importance of initiating parallel efforts to achieve both. Concerned at the threat to humanity posed by the continuing existence of nuclear weapons and at the slow progress towards nuclear disarmament, they underscored the need for nuclear-weapon States to implement the unequivocal undertaking they provided during the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to NPT [YUN 2000, p. 487] to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and the urgency of prompt negotiations towards that end.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted four resolutions and one decision relating to nuclear disarmament. The Assembly adopted **resolution 61/65** by recorded vote (157-7-13) [agenda item 90 (g)].

Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 60/56 of 8 December 2005,

Expressing its grave concern at the danger to humanity posed by the possibility that nuclear weapons could be used,

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

Mindful of the contribution of the final report of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission,

Recalling the decisions and the resolution on the Middle East of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Recalling also the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament, in accordance with commitments made under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Urging States parties to exert all possible efforts to ensure a successful and productive preparatory process for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

1. *Continues to emphasize* the central role of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its universality in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and calls upon all States parties to respect their obligations;

2. *Reaffirms* that the outcome of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons sets out the agreed process for systematic and progressive efforts towards nuclear disarmament;

3. *Reiterates its call upon* the nuclear-weapon States to accelerate the implementation of the practical steps towards nuclear disarmament that were agreed upon at the 2000 Review Conference, thereby contributing to a safer world for all;

4. *Calls upon* all States to comply fully with all commitments made regarding nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and not to act in any way that may compromise either cause or that may lead to a new nuclear arms race;

5. *Again calls upon* all States parties to spare no effort to achieve the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and urges India, Israel and Pakistan, which are not yet parties to the Treaty, to accede to it as non-nuclear-weapon States promptly and without conditions;

6. *Condemns* the announced nuclear-weapon test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 9 October 2006, all nuclear-weapon tests by States that are not yet parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and any further nuclear-weapon test by any State whatsoever, and urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to rescind its announced withdrawal from the Treaty;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments" and to review the implementation of the present resolution at that session.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/65:

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

Against: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, India, Israel, Pakistan, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Australia, Belarus, Bhutan, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Micronesia, Palau, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia.

The Assembly adopted **resolution 61/74** by recorded vote (167-4-7) [agenda item 90].

Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling the need for all States to take further practical steps and effective measures towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons, with a view to achieving a peaceful and safe world free of nuclear weapons, and renewing the determination to do so,

Noting that the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Recalling its resolution 60/65 of 8 December 2005,

Convinced that every effort should be made to avoid nuclear war and nuclear terrorism,

Reaffirming the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and expressing regret over the lack of agreement on substantive issues at the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation

of Nuclear Weapons, as well as over the elimination of references to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in the World Summit Outcome in 2005, the year of the sixtieth anniversary of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan,

Recalling the decisions and the resolution of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international peace and security and the promotion of nuclear disarmament are mutually reinforcing,

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

Expressing deep concern regarding the growing dangers posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, inter alia, nuclear weapons, including that caused by proliferation networks,

Condemning the nuclear test proclaimed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 9 October 2006,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons complying with their obligations under all the articles of the Treaty;

2. *Stresses* the importance of an effective Treaty review process, and calls upon all States parties to the Treaty to work together to ensure that the first session of the Preparatory Committee in 2007 is held constructively, in order to facilitate the successful outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of the universality of the Treaty, and calls upon States not parties to the Treaty to accede to it as non-nuclear-weapon States without delay and without conditions, and pending their accession to refrain from acts that would defeat the objective and purpose of the Treaty as well as to take practical steps in support of the Treaty;

4. *Encourages* further steps leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties to the Treaty are committed under article VI of the Treaty, including deeper reductions in all types of nuclear weapons, and emphasizes the importance of applying irreversibility and verifiability, as well as increased transparency in a way that promotes international stability and undiminished security for all, in the process of working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons;

5. *Encourages* the Russian Federation and the United States of America to implement fully the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions, which should serve as a step for further nuclear disarmament, and to undertake nuclear arms reductions beyond those provided for by the Treaty, while welcoming the progress made by nuclear-weapon States, including the Russian Federation and the United States, on nuclear arms reductions;

6. *Encourages* States to continue to pursue efforts, within the framework of international cooperation, con-

tributing to the reduction of nuclear-weapons-related materials;

7. *Calls for* the nuclear-weapon States to further reduce the operational status of nuclear weapons systems in ways that promote international stability and security;

8. *Stresses* the necessity of 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, in a way that promotes international stability and based on the principle of undiminished security for all;

9. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty at the earliest opportunity with a view to its early entry into force, stresses the importance of maintaining existing moratoriums on nuclear-weapon test explosions pending the entry into force of the Treaty, and reaffirms the importance of the continued development of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty verification regime, including the international monitoring system, which will be required to provide assurance of compliance with the Treaty;

10. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to immediately resume its substantive work to its fullest, considering the developments of this year in the Conference;

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of the immediate commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty and its early conclusion, and calls upon all nuclear-weapon States and States not parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to declare moratoriums on the production of fissile material for any nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices pending the entry into force of the Treaty;

12. *Calls upon* all States to redouble their efforts to prevent and curb the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;

13. *Stresses* the importance of further efforts for non-proliferation, including the universalization of the International Atomic Energy Agency comprehensive safeguards agreements and Model Protocol 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 and the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1540(2004) of 28 April 2004;

14. *Encourages* all States to undertake concrete activities to implement, as appropriate, 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, and to voluntarily share information on efforts they have been undertaking to that end;

15. *Encourages* the constructive role played by civil society in promoting nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/74:

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, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, 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: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Pakistan, United States.

Abstaining: Bhutan, China, Cuba, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Myanmar.

The Assembly adopted **resolution 61/78** by recorded vote (115-48-18) [agenda item 90 (q)].

Nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 E of 15 December 1994 on a step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat, and its resolutions 50/70 P of 12 December 1995, 51/45 O of 10 December 1996, 52/38 L of 9 December 1997, 53/77 X of 4 December 1998, 54/54 P of 1 December 1999, 55/33 T of 20 November 2000, 56/24 R of 29 November 2001, 57/79 of 22 November 2002, 58/56 of 8 December 2003, 59/77 of 3 December 2004 and 60/70 of 8 December 2005 on nuclear disarmament,

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 1972 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-weapon 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 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Stressing the importance of the thirteen steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to achieve the objective of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as agreed to by the States parties in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation 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,

Reiterating its call for an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,

Noting with appreciation the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I), to which Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America are States parties,

Noting with appreciation also the entry into force of the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions ("the Moscow Treaty") between the United States of America and the Russian Federation as a significant step towards reducing their deployed strategic nuclear weapons, while calling for further irreversible deep cuts in their nuclear arsenals,

Noting with appreciation further the unilateral measures taken by the nuclear-weapon States for nuclear arms limitation, and encouraging them to take further such measures,

Recognizing the complementarity of bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, and that bilateral negotiations can never replace multilateral negotiations in this respect,

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, and the multilateral efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to reach agreement on such an international convention at an early date,

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, and welcoming the unanimous reaffirmation by all Judges of the Court that there exists an obligation for all States 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,

Mindful of paragraph 64 of the Final Document of the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, on 29 and 30 May 2006,

Recalling paragraph 70 and other relevant recommendations in the Final Document of the Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana on 15 and 16 September 2006, calling upon the Conference on Disarmament to establish, as soon as possible and as the highest priority, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament and to commence negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified time framework,

Reaffirming the specific mandate conferred upon the Disarmament Commission by the General Assembly, in its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998, to discuss the subject of nuclear disarmament as one of its main substantive agenda items,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which 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,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, States should refrain from the use or 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 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 systematic 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 concerned, 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, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems;

6. *Also urges* the nuclear-weapon States, as an interim measure, to de-alert and deactivate immediately their nuclear weapons and to take other concrete measures 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 plurilateral 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, and 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 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 are committed under article VI of the Treaty, and the reaffirmation by the States parties that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

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;

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 on 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 that 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 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was unable to achieve any substantive result and that the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted by the General Assembly failed to make any reference to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation;

19. *Also expresses its regret* that the Conference on Disarmament was unable to establish an ad hoc committee to deal with nuclear disarmament at its 2006 session, as called for in General Assembly resolution 60/70;

20. *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 2007 and to commence negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament leading to the eventual total elimination of nuclear weapons;

21. *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;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Nuclear disarmament".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/78:

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

Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, 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, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cape Verde, India, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Mauritius, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

The Assembly adopted **resolution 61/85** by recorded vote (118-52-13) [agenda item 97 (w)].

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,

Considering 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 de-alerting and de-targeting have been taken by the nuclear-weapon States and that further practical, realistic and mutually reinforcing steps are necessary to contribute to the im-

provement in the international climate for negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Mindful that a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in the security policies of nuclear-weapon States 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 to a conclusion 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, including through de-alerting and de-targeting 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 60/79 of 8 December 2005;

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 endeavour to create 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 sixty-second session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Reducing nuclear danger".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/85:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Re-

public of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 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, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, 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: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

The Assembly adopted **decision 61/515** by recorded vote (128-3-44) [agenda item 90 (cc)].

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

At its 67th plenary meeting, on 6 December 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee, decided, by a recorded vote of 128 to 3, with 44 abstentions, to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "United Nations conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament".

RECORDED VOTE ON DECISION 61/515:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru,

Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Missile defence issues

The subscribing States to the non-legally binding international code of conduct against ballistic missile proliferation, also known as Hague Code of Conduct [YUN 2002, p. 504], at their fifth regular meeting (Vienna, 22-23 June), considered, among other issues, the strengthening of confidence-building measures, such as pre-launch notification and annual declaration of ballistic missiles and space-vehicle launches and related policies. They also discussed the importance of outreach activities, with a view to increasing the number of subscribing States, especially in the Middle East and Africa. The sixth regular meeting of the subscribing States was scheduled to be held in Vienna, between May and June, 2007, to continue discussions on confidence-building measures and the universalization of the Code. At year's end, subscribing States numbered 125.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 59/67 [YUN 2004, p. 537], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/61/168] on the issue of missiles in all its aspects, which described the current situation in the field of missiles and identified areas where consensus had been or could be achieved. Most States had agreed that the existing situation regarding missiles was unsatisfactory and ambitious arms control and disarmament measures on missiles were currently unattainable. Consensus was also possible on one category of missile systems, man-portable air defence systems, particularly the need to further explore measures for enhancing their control. The Secretary-General, therefore, recommended sustained UN efforts to strengthen the control of those systems, with a view to enhancing related elements identified in Assembly resolution 60/77 [YUN 2005, p. 624], and to broaden adherence to the

controls stipulated by existing multilateral agreements and initiatives dealing with them. He also recommended that the United Nations address the substantive content and appropriateness of missile specific confidence-building measures at regional or global levels, and further investigate them with respect to ballistic missiles.

In October, the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)—an informal and voluntary association of countries sharing the goals of the non-proliferation of unmanned delivery systems capable of delivering WMDs—held its twenty-first plenary meeting (Copenhagen, Denmark, 2-6 October) to review its activities and further strengthen efforts to prevent missile proliferation. Acknowledging the growing risk of WMD proliferation and their means of delivery, as well as the proliferation of missiles in North-East and South Asia, and the Middle East, the Regime partners noted the relevance of Security Council resolutions 1695(2006) (see p. 441) and 1696(2006) (see p. 433) and expressed their determination to implement calls made therein to exercise vigilance and prevent the transfer of any items, materials, goods and technology that could contribute to ballistic missile programmes, where proliferation was a concern. The partners welcomed Denmark's offer to host a conference on missile proliferation in 2007.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/59** by recorded vote (115-7-54) [agenda item 90 (b)].

Missiles

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/54 F of 1 December 1999, 55/33 A of 20 November 2000, 56/24 B of 29 November 2001, 57/71 of 22 November 2002, 58/37 of 8 December 2003 and 59/67 of 3 December 2004 and its decision 60/515 of 8 December 2005,

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,

Realizing 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,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the issue of missiles in all its aspects, submitted pursuant to resolution 59/67;

2. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Missiles".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/59:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Albania, France, Israel, Micronesia, Palau, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine.

DPRK missile launch

On 5 July, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea executed a multiple launch of ballistic missiles, subsequently condemned by the Security Council in resolution 1695(2006) (see p. 441), which asked Member States to prevent the procurement of missiles and missile-related items and technology from that country, as well as the transfer of financial resources in relation to its missile or WMD programme.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Status

As at 31 December, 177 States had signed the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), adopted by General Assembly resolution 50/245 [YUN 1996, p. 454], and 137 had ratified it. During the year, instruments of ratification were deposited by Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Suriname, Viet Nam and Zambia, while Montenegro succeeded to the Treaty. In accordance with article xiv, CTBT would 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, 34 of those States had ratified the Treaty.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 60/95 [YUN 2005, p. 594], the Secretary-General submitted a 12 July report [A/61/134 & Add.1] containing information prepared by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (see p. 630) on the efforts of ratifying States towards the Treaty's universalization, and on possibilities for providing assistance on ratification procedures to States requesting it.

Report of Executive Secretary. By a 26 July note [A/61/184], the Secretary-General informed the Assembly of the availability of the report of the Commission's Executive Secretary covering 2005.

Communication. On 20 September [A/61/638], Australia, Canada, Finland, Japan and the Netherlands issued a joint Ministerial Statement, supported by 72 countries, as at 13 December, reaffirming support for CTBT as an initiative that would rid the world of nuclear weapons test explosions and contribute to the reduction of nuclear weapons and the prevention of nuclear proliferation. Noting that 2006 marked the tenth anniversary of the Treaty's opening for signature, they pointed out that its entry into force, within the broader framework of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, had become more urgent than ever before. They dedicated themselves towards achieving that goal and appealed to States to maximize efforts in that regard. Those States that had not done so were asked to ratify CTBT, particularly those whose ratification was needed for its entry into force. States were also urged to maintain a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/400], adopted **resolution 61/104** by recorded vote (172-2-4) [agenda item 96].

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, and convinced that this is a meaningful step in the realization of a systematic process to achieve nuclear disarmament,

Recalling that 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 Treaty constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and that after ten years, its entry into force is more urgent than ever before,

Encouraged by the signing of the Treaty by one hundred and seventy-six States, including forty-one of the forty-four needed for its entry into force, and welcoming the ratification of one hundred and twenty-five States, including thirty-four of the forty-four needed for its entry into force, among which there are three nuclear-weapon States,

Recalling its resolution 60/95 of 8 December 2005,

Welcoming the Final Declaration of the fourth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York from 21 to 23 September 2005, pursuant to article XIV of the Treaty, and the Ministerial Meeting of States Parties, held in New York on 20 September 2006,

1. *Stresses* the vital importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions, 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 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. *Underlines* the need to maintain momentum towards completion of the verification regime;

4. *Urges* all States to maintain their moratoriums on nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and to refrain from acts that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty, while stressing that these measures do not have the same permanent and legally binding effect as the entry into force of the Treaty;

5. *Condemns* the nuclear test proclaimed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 9 October 2006, and demands that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea not conduct any further nuclear tests;

6. *Urges* all States that have not yet signed the Treaty to sign and ratify it as soon as possible;

7. *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 ensuring their earliest successful conclusion;

8. *Urges* all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level and, where in a position to do so, to promote adherence to the Treaty through bilateral and joint outreach, seminars and other means;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, to prepare a report on the efforts of States that have ratified the Treaty towards its universalization and possibilities for providing assistance on ratification procedures to States that so request it, and to submit such a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/104:

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

Against: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, United States.

Abstaining: Colombia, India, Mauritius, Syrian Arab Republic.

Preparatory Commission for the CTBT Organization

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), established in 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 452], continued to develop the Treaty's verification regime for monitoring Treaty compliance. Further progress was made in setting up the International Monitoring System (IMS) [YUN 1999, p. 472], the global network of 337 facilities (comprising 321 monitoring stations and 16 related laboratories) to be built in 90 countries and designed to detect nuclear explosions prohibited by CTBT via a global satellite communication system. Relevant information would then be transmitted to the International Data Centre (IDC) in Vienna for processing. During the year, installations were completed at 25 additional IMS stations, bringing the total number of completed stations to 244 (76 per cent). Twenty-eight stations were certified as meeting the technical requirements, raising the total number of certified stations to 184 (57 per cent), and 9 laboratories (56 per cent). Planning for the future maintenance of IMS continued, including initiatives to establish a high degree of preparedness to facilitate the rapid resolution of problems. The development of IDC also continued, with 190 (59 per cent) IMS stations connected to IDC operations, thereby enhancing the geographical coverage of data being received. Significant progress was made in transferring existing IDC applications software for monitoring purposes to open source platform, and the 9 October announcement by the DPRK that it had conducted an underground nuclear test provided an opportunity to test the responsiveness of IDC operations. The Global Communications Infrastructure, which provided communication links to IMS sites and National Data Centres also continued to expand throughout the year.

The Preparatory Commission, during the first part of its twenty-sixth session (Vienna, 1 March) [CTBT/PC-26/1], appointed the Chairperson of its Working Group B and held the main part of that session (Vienna, 20-23 June) [CTBT/PC-26/2] to consider the reports of its working groups and to discuss organizational, budgetary and other matters, including a possible contribution to a tsunami warning system. As part I of its twenty-seventh session, the Commission held a special session (Vienna, 13 October) [CTBT/PC-27/1] to consider possible steps to be taken in connection with the DPRK underground nuclear test. At the main part of that session (Vienna, 13-17 November) [CTBT/PC-27/2 & Corr.1], it concluded its deliberations on the reports of its working groups and outstanding issues it had previously considered in June (see above). The

Commission adopted its 2007 programme budget in the amounts of \$48,277,100 and €48,564,400, of which approximately \$18 million and €14 million were earmarked for the IMS network.

Symposium. During the year, the Preparatory Commission organized a scientific symposium on "CTBT: Synergies with science, 1996-2006 and beyond" (Vienna, 31 August-1 September), designed to provide for increased interaction between the scientific community worldwide, the Commission and signatories to the Treaty, in order to increase the ability to build global capacity in science and technology fields relevant to the Commission's activities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 4 December [meeting 65], the General Assembly, having considered the report on cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization [A/61/184] and the Secretary-General's consolidated report on cooperation between the United Nations and international organizations containing information on the subject [A/61/256], adopted **resolution 61/47** [draft: A/61/L.18] by recorded vote (133-1-0) [agenda item 108 (9)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization,

Taking note also of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization,

Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/47:

In favour: Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro,

Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States.

Abstaining: None.

Prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons

Owing to the continuing lack of consensus among delegates over a programme of work, the Conference on Disarmament was not able to take action on any of its substantive agenda items, including the question of starting negotiations on a convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons, as called for in General Assembly resolution 60/88 [YUN 2005, p. 595].

The Assembly, in resolution 61/97 (see below), reiterated its request to the Conference to commence those negotiations and to report thereon.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/395] adopted **resolution 61/97** by recorded vote (119-52-10) [agenda item 91 (b)].

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 use 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 paragraph 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly states 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 1653(XVI) 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 2006 session, was unable to undertake negotiations on this subject as called for in General Assembly resolution 60/88 of 8 December 2005,

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 61/97:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, 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: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau,

Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

Advisory opinion of International Court of Justice

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/76 [YUN 2005, p. 596] on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that the threat or use of nuclear weapons was contrary to the UN Charter [YUN 1996, p. 461], the Secretary-General presented information received from eight States (Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Georgia, Japan, Qatar, the Syrian Arab Republic) on measures they had taken to implement the resolution and towards nuclear disarmament [A/61/127 & Add.1].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/83** by recorded vote (125-27-29) [agenda item 90 (u)].

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,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 K of 15 December 1994, 51/45 M of 10 December 1996, 52/38 O of 9 December 1997, 53/77 W of 4 December 1998, 54/54 Q of 1 December 1999, 55/33 X of 20 November 2000, 56/24 S of 29 November 2001, 57/85 of 22 November 2002, 58/46 of 8 December 2003, 59/83 of 3 December 2004 and 60/76 of 8 December 2005,

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, Pelindaba and Semipalatinsk, as well as Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status, 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 and 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 sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, and regretting the lack of progress in disarmament negotiations, particularly nuclear disarmament, in the Conference during its 2006 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 regret over the failure of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to reach agreement on any substantive issues,

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,

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 60/76,

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 fulfil 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 sixty-second session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second 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 61/83:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, 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: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, Montenegro, Nauru, Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Non-proliferation issues

Non-Proliferation Treaty

Status

In 2006, 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], increased to 190 following Montenegro's ratification. NPT entered into force on 5 March 1970.

2010 review conference

Following consultations, the parties to NPT decided that the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the parties would take place in Vienna from 30 April to 11 May, 2007.

Quinquennial review conferences, as called for under article VIII, paragraph 3, of the Treaty, were held in 1975 [YUN 1975, p. 27], 1980 [YUN 1980, p. 51], 1985 [YUN 1985, p. 56], 1990 [YUN 1990, p. 50], 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 189], 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 487] and 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 597].

Communication. The Group of Eight (G-8) major industrialized countries (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 15-17 July), in a statement on non-proliferation, reaffirmed their commitment to NPT and called upon States to comply with their obligations under the Treaty regime, including IAEA safeguards and the development of effective measures to prevent trafficking in nuclear equipment, technology and materials.

The Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries (Havana, Cuba, 11-16 September) [A/61/472-S/2006/780] underlined the importance of establishing subsidiary bodies to the relevant main committees of the 2010 NPT Review Conference to deliberate on practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons; consider and recommend proposals on the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of NPT [YUN 1995, p. 189]; and consider security assurances.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/70** by recorded vote (175-0-3) [agenda item 90].

2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2373 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, the annex to which contains the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Noting the provisions of article VIII, paragraph 3, of the Treaty regarding the convening of review conferences at five-year intervals,

Recalling the outcomes of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty,

Recalling also the decision of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on improving the effectiveness of the strengthened review process for the Treaty, which reaffirmed the provisions in the decision on strengthening the review process for the Treaty, adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty,

Recalling further that the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, held from 2 to 27 May 2005, was unable to produce a consensus substantive outcome on the review of the implementation of the provisions of the Treaty,

Noting the decision on strengthening the review process for the Treaty, in which it was agreed that review conferences should continue to be held every five years, and noting that, accordingly, the next review conference should be held in 2010,

Recalling the decision of the 2000 Review Conference that three sessions of the Preparatory Committee should be held in the years prior to the review conference,

1. *Takes note* of the decision of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, following appropriate consultations, to hold the first session of the Preparatory Committee in Vienna from 30 April to 11 May 2007;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/70:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's

Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: India, Israel, Pakistan.

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

Security Council Committee on WMDs. On 25 April [S/2006/257 & Corr.1], the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544] to monitor the implementation of measures against the proliferation of WMDs and their means of delivery reported on the status of its work. The Committee had approved four programmes of work, each covering three to four months, for the period from 1 April 2005 to 28 April 2006. Those programmes set goals and provided guidance on issues regarding the examination of national reports; outreach activities and further reporting; and assistance, transparency, and cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations and other Security Council subsidiary bodies.

The report noted that, as at 20 April, 129 Member States and one organization had submitted first national reports, with 79 of them submitting additional information, and 62 still to submit their first report, 55 of which were in Africa, the Caribbean and the South Pacific. The Committee observed that, international efforts to prevent WMD proliferation could be effective only if all States implemented fully the requirements laid down by resolution 1540(2004) and cooperated closely towards that end. After two years of work, the Committee had a clearer understanding of the challenges to be addressed to ensure full implementation of the resolution, and in that regard, despite the positive response from the majority of States that had developed legislative and other

measures for tackling the problem, much more needed to be done. To address some States' lack of capacity and their requests for assistance in that regard, the Committee had designed an outreach strategy, but a coherent strategy on assistance still needed to be developed.

The Committee addressed a series of recommendations to the Council, including that it extend the Committee's mandate for another two years. The Council should also encourage States to provide additional information on national implementation on an ongoing basis; widen and intensify regional and subregional outreach activities so as to guide States in the implementation of their obligations under the resolution; invite States offering and receiving assistance to be proactive on a bilateral basis, in order to contribute to capacity-building; encourage States to use the background information provided through the legislative database developed by the Committee and related advice by international organizations when enacting national implementation laws and measures; continue identifying national practices that might be used to guide States seeking legislative assistance in implementing the resolution; and inform States that had already reported to the Committee that they might be further contacted to take stock of the extent to which they had implemented resolution 1540(2004).

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 27 April [meeting 5429], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 1673(2006)**. The draft [S/2006/263] was prepared in consultations among Council members.

The Security Council,

Having considered the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004) (hereinafter the 1540 Committee), and reaffirming its resolution 1540(2004) of 28 April 2004,

Reaffirming that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constitutes a threat to international peace and security,

Endorsing the work already carried out by the 1540 Committee, particularly in its consideration of the national reports submitted by States pursuant to resolution 1540(2004),

Recalling that not all States have presented to the 1540 Committee their reports on the steps they have taken or intend to take to implement resolution 1540(2004),

Reaffirming its decision that none of the obligations in resolution 1540(2004) shall be interpreted so as to conflict with or alter the rights and obligations of State parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development,

Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction or alter the responsibilities of the International Atomic Energy Agency or the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,

Noting that the full implementation of resolution 1540(2004) by all States, including the adoption of national laws and measures to ensure the implementation of those laws, is a long-term task that will require continuous efforts at the national, regional and international levels,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Reiterates* its decisions taken in, and the requirements of, resolution 1540(2004), and emphasizes the importance for all States to implement fully that resolution;

2. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet presented a first report on steps they have taken or intend to take to implement resolution 1540(2004) to submit such a report to the 1540 Committee without delay;

3. *Encourages* all States that have submitted such reports to provide, at any time or upon the request of the 1540 Committee, additional information on their implementation of resolution 1540(2004);

4. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of two years, with the continued assistance of experts, until 27 April 2008;

5. *Decides also* that the 1540 Committee shall intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540(2004) through a work programme which shall include the compilation of information on the status of the implementation by States of all aspects of resolution 1540(2004), outreach, dialogue, assistance and cooperation, and which shall address, in particular, all aspects of paragraphs 1 and 2 of that resolution, as well as of paragraph 3 thereof, which encompasses (a) accountability, (b) physical protection, (c) border controls and law enforcement efforts, and (d) national export and trans-shipment controls, including controls on providing funds and services, such as financing, to such export and trans-shipment, and in that regard:

(a) Encourages the pursuit of the ongoing dialogue between the 1540 Committee and States on the full implementation of resolution 1540(2004), including on further actions needed from States to that end and on technical assistance needed and offered;

(b) Invites the 1540 Committee to explore with States and international, regional and subregional organizations experience-sharing and lessons learned in the areas covered by resolution 1540(2004), and the availability of programmes which might facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540(2004);

6. *Decides further* that the 1540 Committee shall submit to the Security Council a report no later than 27 April 2008 on compliance with resolution 1540(2004) through the achievement of the implementation of its requirements;

7. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

International WMD Commission

On 29 June [A/60/934], Sweden, convener of the independent international Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, transmitted to the Security Council the Commission's report entitled "Weapons of Terror: freeing the world of nuclear, biological and chemical arms". The Commission, noting that nuclear, biological and chemical weapons were the most inhumane of weapons and were designed to terrify and destroy on a far greater scale than conventional weapons, observed that, for as long as States had them, others would want them, and there was a high risk that they would be used by design or accident. Any such use would be catastrophic. While WMDs could not be uninvented, they could be outlawed and their use made unthinkable. To address the loss of momentum and direction in disarmament and non-proliferation in the past decade, the Commission's proposed action under four broad themes: agreement on general principles of action; reduction of the danger posed by current arsenals by ensuring that States did not use them and terrorists did not acquire them; prevention of proliferation by refraining from the development of new weapons systems and discouraging new possessors; and working towards outlawing all WMDs once and for all. In that context, the report outlined 60 specific recommendations relevant to those themes.

New types of weapons of mass destruction

In 2006, the Conference on Disarmament [A/61/27] did not establish any mechanism to consider any of its substantive agenda items, including the item on "new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons", owing to the continuing deadlock over the contents of a programme of work. Nonetheless, the item was addressed during plenary meetings held between 19 and 23 June, during which delegations reaffirmed their respective positions on the issue.

Terrorism and WMDs

During the year, the United Nations continued to promote international action against terrorism through collaborative efforts with Member States and regional and international organizations, and through the ongoing work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373(2001) [YUN 2001, p. 61] (see p. 73).

Reports of Secretary-General. As requested in the 2004 report of the High-level Panel on Threats,

Challenges and Change [YUN 2004, p. 54] and in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, contained in resolution 60/1 [YUN 2005, p. 48], the Secretary-General submitted an April report [A/60/825] containing recommendations for a global counter-terrorism strategy (see p. 65).

Based on the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report, the General Assembly, by **resolution 60/288** of 8 September (see p. 66), adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, annexed to which was a plan of action by which Member States resolved to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and advocated, among other things, measures to help build the capacity of States to prevent terrorists from accessing WMDs.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/78 [YUN 2005, p. 602], the Secretary-General, in a July report with a later addendum [A/61/171 & Add.1], presented the views of 13 Member States and 11 international organizations, including UN agencies, on measures they had taken to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMDs.

IAEA action. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continued to address the terrorist threat through its action plan to combat nuclear terrorism, designed to build Member States' capacity to respond effectively to incidents of nuclear or radiological terrorist attacks. In September, the IAEA General Conference [GC(50)/RES/11], in a resolution on nuclear security: measures to protect against nuclear terrorism, called upon Member States to provide political, financial and technical support to prevent nuclear and radiological terrorism, deny support to non-state actors that had committed or intended to commit such acts and to take all necessary steps required by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544] to prevent illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radiological material. The Conference had before it a report of the IAEA Director General on nuclear security: measures to protect against nuclear terrorism [GOV/2006/46-GC(50)/13], which highlighted significant accomplishments of the previous year and established future goals and priorities in efforts to protect against nuclear terrorism.

Communication. The Group of Eight (G-8) major industrialized countries (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 15-17 July), in a Declaration on Counter-Terrorism, denounced terrorist attacks worldwide and pledged to make every effort to combat the problem. Advocating coordinated action with international partners to reduce further

attacks, they resolved to support and strengthen UN counter-terrorism efforts.

The Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries (Havana, Cuba, 11-16 September) [A/61/472-S/2006/780] also resolved to take speedy and effective action against terrorist acts and urged States to fulfil their obligations under international law, including by prosecuting or extraditing perpetrators and refraining from assisting them with weapons supplies.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/86** without vote [agenda item 90 (v)].

Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolution 60/78 of 8 December 2005,
Recognizing the determination of the international community to combat terrorism, as evidenced 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,

Cognizant of the steps taken by States to implement Security Council resolution 1540(2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, adopted on 28 April 2004,

Welcoming the adoption, by consensus, of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism on 13 April 2005,

Welcoming also the adoption, by consensus, of amendments to strengthen the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material by the International Atomic Energy Agency on 8 July 2005,

Noting the support expressed in the Final Document of the Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana on 15 and 16 September 2006, 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 the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its fiftieth regular session,

Taking note also of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted on 16 September 2005 at the High-level Plenary

Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly and the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 8 September 2006,

Taking note further of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 5 of resolution 60/78,

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. *Appeals* to all Member States to consider signing and ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in order to bring about its early entry into force;

3. *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, and invites them to inform the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, of the measures taken in this regard;

4. *Encourages* cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities in this regard;

5. *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 sixty-second session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction".

Multilateralism in disarmament and non-proliferation

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 60/59 [YUN 2005, p. 605], the Secretary-General, in a June report [A/61/114], presented replies received from seven Governments regarding the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Other developments. European Union (EU) leaders and the United States, at their 2006 Summit (Vienna, 21 June), adopted a declaration pledging to strengthen their strategic partnership through

cooperation in tackling mutual challenges, including those relating to international security, particularly counter-terrorism and non-proliferation issues. They agreed to step up cooperation against terrorism, by denying resources (financing, travel and other material support) and shelter to terrorists by preventing the emergence of a new generation of recruits by countering radicalization and promoting tolerance. They would, in addition, work to further implement their 2005 programme of work on the non-proliferation of WMDs [YUN 2005, p. 604] and the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544], which was designed to prevent non-state actors from acquiring WMDs.

The Group of Eight (G-8) major industrialized countries (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 15-17 July) adopted a statement on non-proliferation, reaffirming their determination to work with other States and institutions in the fight against WMD proliferation, including by preventing those weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists. To that end, they announced their determination to pursue arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation obligations under relevant international treaties and arrangements to which they were parties, called upon other States to do the same and dedicated themselves to reinvigorating relevant multilateral fora, beginning with the Conference on Disarmament.

In December, Ministers from EU member States adopted a concept paper pertaining to the EU WMD and non-proliferation strategy, with a view to creating a cooperative working method within the Union to improve implementation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/62** by recorded vote (120-7-51) [agenda item 90 (i)].

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 resolutions 57/63 of 22 November 2002, 58/44 of 8 December 2003, 59/69 of 3 December 2004 and 60/59 of 8 December 2005 on the 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,

Convinced 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 resulting from 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, plurilateral 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 uni-

lateral actions by Member States in resolving 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,

Noting that the Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana on 15 and 16 September 2006, welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 60/59 on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and underlined the fact that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the Charter, provide the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues,

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

1. *Reaffirms* 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 fulfil 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 60/59;

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 sixty-second session;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/62:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, 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, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Andorra, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, Vanuatu.

International Atomic Energy Agency

In 2006, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continued its work under the three pillars of its mandate—technology, safety and verification—with a special focus on ensuring that nuclear technology contributed to the promotion of peace, health and prosperity.

The fiftieth session of the IAEA General Conference (Vienna, 18-22 September) adopted resolutions and decisions on measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear radiation and transport safety and waste management; nuclear security, including measures to protect against nuclear and radiological terrorism; strengthening the Agency's technical cooperation activities, as well as its activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications; strengthening the effectiveness

and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system and application of the Model Additional Protocol to Safeguards Agreements; implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and in the Middle East.

IAEA Activities

In its annual report for 2006 [GC(51)/5], the Agency reported on its activities during the period from 1 January to 31 December. It stated that given the expanding interest in nuclear power by countries in meeting their energy needs, IAEA established an interdepartmental Nuclear Power Support Group to provide coordinated support to interested member States considering the introduction or expansion of nuclear power. The Agency assisted Argentina, Hungary, Mexico and Ukraine in extending the operating life of their nuclear power plants through improvements in maintenance, scheduling, training, scientific visits and workshops. Its International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles reached 28 members. In July, the Project completed development of a methodology to assess innovative nuclear energy systems, which would be further improved in its second phase. The increasing global demand for energy led to the 29 new requests for energy assessment services, which were responded to in 21 technical cooperation projects approved by the IAEA Board of Governors. In other areas, IAEA assisted 12 countries in decommissioning nuclear facilities. Legal and technical advice was also provided for the decommissioning and clean up of former nuclear sites in Iraq.

In recognition of the challenge of disposing spent nuclear fuel, the Agency organized, in June, a conference in Vienna, which discussed trends and initiatives on spent fuel management. In terms of new approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, the Agency facilitated discussions on a number of proposals, including the Russian Federation's Global Nuclear Power Infrastructure; the United States Global Nuclear Energy Partnership; the report *Ensuring Security of Supply in the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle* issued by the four commercial enrichment companies; the Concept for a Multilateral Mechanism for Reliable Access to Nuclear Fuel proposed by the six enriched uranium exporting countries; the IAEA Standby Arrangements System for the Assurance of Nuclear Fuel Supply, under IAEA auspices, suggested by Japan; and the Enrichment Bond, proposed by the United Kingdom. During the Agency's fiftieth regular session, it organized a special event entitled "New Framework for the

Utilization of Nuclear Energy: Assurances of Supply and Non-Proliferation".

In the application of nuclear science and technology, IAEA continued to assist member States in building capacity to produce crops with improved characteristics. It assisted Peru to develop mutant varieties of barley. With the World Health Organization, it initiated studies to compare radiotherapy techniques for breast cancer and through its Programme of Action on Cancer Therapy helped to raise awareness of the growing cancer epidemic in the developing world.

Concerning nuclear safety and security, the Agency continued to support member States in attaining a high level of safety and security by promoting adherence to international legal instruments. In September, the IAEA Board of Governors approved the publication of the *Fundamental Safety Principles*, a set of ten new principles, consolidating and replacing earlier publications. The Agency developed a new safety review initiative, the Integrated Regulatory Review Service, designed to facilitate the exchange of experience and learning among regulatory bodies, enhance member States' legislative and regulatory infrastructures and harmonize regulatory approaches. IAEA hosted the second review meeting of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. It continued to help countries implement the enhanced regime of international legal instruments relevant to nuclear safety, and implemented an updated version of its Nuclear Security Safety Plan, which came into operation in 2006.

In a statement before the General Conference, the Director General provided additional information on the main developments during 2006. He noted that, in celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, the Agency's goal was to broaden awareness of the scope of its mission and activities, its contribution to development, nuclear safety and security and nuclear proliferation, and provide fora to review the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead.

Note by Secretary-General. In August [A/61/266], the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly of the availability of IAEA fiftieth report [GC(50)/4] covering activities in 2005.

The Assembly, in resolution 61/8 of 30 October (see p. 1203), took note of the statement of the IAEA Director General and his report on the work of the Agency for 2006.

IAEA safeguards

As at 31 December, the Model Protocol Additional to Safeguards Agreements strengthening

IAEA safeguards regime, approved by the Board of Governors in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 486], had been signed and/or approved by 118 States, including the five nuclear-weapon States, and was in force in 78 States.

The IAEA General Conference [GC(50)/RES/14], as in previous years, requested concerned States and other parties to safeguards agreements, including nuclear-weapon States that had not done so, to sign the additional protocols promptly and bring them into force as soon as possible. Noting that Agency safeguards could provide increased assurances that nuclear material had not been diverted and that all such material and related activity of a State had been declared, IAEA called for cooperation among member States in implementing them and advocated the strengthening of innovative technological means for improving their efficiency. It commended member States, notably Japan, that had implemented elements of a plan of action first outlined in a 2000 resolution of the Conference [YUN 2000, p. 505] and updated in September 2006, and recommended that other States consider doing so to facilitate the entry into force of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols.

In 2006, international concern persisted over DPRK nuclear status, especially following its 9 October announcement that it had tested a nuclear weapon. It took that action despite having been urged against it three days earlier by the Security Council, in statement **S/PRST/2006/41** (see p. 443). The test took place only three months after DPRK executed a multiple launch of ballistic missiles (see p. 441), and one year after its first official announcement that it had manufactured nuclear weapons [YUN 2005, p. 606]. On 14 October, the Council, in resolution 1718(2006) (see p. 444), condemned the test, demanded that DPRK desist from conducting any further nuclear tests or launch of a ballistic missile and imposed an arms embargo and other sanctions on it. DPRK actions raised particular concern, owing to the country continuing refusal to allow IAEA access to verify that it had declared all nuclear material subject to Agency safeguards, a position the country had maintained since December 2002 when it terminated all IAEA verification activities on its territory. The General Conference [GC(50)/RES/15], stressing its desire for a peaceful resolution to the DPRK nuclear issue through dialogue, called on the country to comply fully with NPT, cooperate promptly with the Agency in the full and effective implementation of its safeguards and resolve any outstanding issues.

Considerable international concern also persisted during the year over Iran's nuclear programme. On

3 January, Iran informed IAEA that it was resuming research and development on its peaceful nuclear energy programme, which had been halted as part of its extended voluntary and non-legally-binding suspension of such activities. Shortly thereafter, it removed IAEA seals on enrichment-related equipment and material at some of its facilities.

On 4 February, the IAEA Board of Governors [GOV/2006/14] regretted that, despite its repeated calls for maintaining the suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, which was essential to addressing outstanding issues, Iran had resumed uranium conversion and taken steps to resume also enrichment activities. It underlined the need for Iran to re-establish full and sustained suspension of all those activities, including research and development, to be verified by IAEA. It should, among other things, ratify promptly and implement the Model Protocol Additional to Safeguards Agreements and implement transparency measures.

Two days later, the situation deteriorated when Iran informed IAEA of its decision to suspend its voluntary commitment to implement the Additional Protocol and that henceforth, the implementation of safeguards measures would be based only on its comprehensive safeguards agreements with IAEA. The Security Council, in statement **S/PRST/2006/15** of 29 March (see p. 432) and in resolution 1696(2006) of 31 July (see p. 433), expressed concern about Iran's actions and asked it to take the steps required by the Board of Governors, which were essential to build confidence in the peaceful purpose of its nuclear programme. In several situation reports during the year, the IAEA Director General notified the Board of Iran's failure to comply with its demands and of persisting uncertainties regarding the scope and nature of its nuclear programme. Taking those reports into account, the Security Council, in resolution 1737(2006) of 27 December (see p. 436), imposed a nuclear and ballistic missile programmes-related embargo and other sanctions on Iran.

The IAEA mandate to maintain inspections of Iraq's nuclear programme under various Security Council resolutions remained in force in 2006. Accordingly, the Agency continued to consolidate its information assets; collect and analyse new information, including satellite imagery; and update its knowledge of relevant facilities in Iraq. In September, the IAEA Director General, in a statement marking the Agency's fiftieth anniversary, referred to the Council's plans to review the Agency's Iraq mandate, announced in Council resolution 1546(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 348], and expressed the hope that the review

would be undertaken as soon as possible, with the aim of normalizing inspections in the country to confirm the absence of any undeclared nuclear activities.

Communications. The Group of Eight (G-8) major industrialized countries (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 15-17 July), in a comprehensive statement on non-proliferation, emphasized the importance of the IAEA safeguards system and expressed support for Security Council actions in dealing with the proliferation implications of the missile and nuclear programmes of the DPRK and Iran.

The Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries (Havana, Cuba, 11-16 September) [A/61/472-S/2006/780], in a statement on the Iran nuclear issue, reaffirmed the inalienable right of all States to develop the capacity to research, produce and use atomic energy for peaceful purposes and emphasized the distinction between the legal obligations of States to their respective safeguards agreements and any confidence-building measures voluntarily undertaken to resolve difficult questions. They believed that all issues on safeguards and verification, including those of Iran, should be resolved within the IAEA framework, based on technical and legal grounds.

Middle East

In 2006, the General Assembly (see below) and the IAEA General Conference [GC(50)/RES/16] again took action regarding the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. While the Assembly continued to call on the non-party in the region to place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards, IAEA again affirmed the need for States in the region to accept the application of full-scope Agency safeguards to all their nuclear activities as an important confidence-building measure.

Responding to Assembly resolution 60/92 [YUN 2005, p. 607], the Secretary-General reported in July [A/61/140 (Part II)] that, apart from the IAEA resolution on the application of the Agency's safeguards in the Middle East, which was annexed to his report, he had not received any additional information since his 2005 report.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/397], adopted **resolution 61/103** by recorded vote (166-5-6) [agenda item 93].

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(50)/RES/16, adopted on 22 September 2006,

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 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, 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 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 on 11 May 1995, in which the Conference noted with concern the continued existence in the Middle East of unsafeguarded 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 Agency safeguards,

Noting that Israel remains the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become party to the Treaty,

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 taking 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 and, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under Agency safeguards,

Noting that one hundred and seventy-six 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 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 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 sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/103:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, 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, Dominica, 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, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, 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, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates,

United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

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

Abstaining: Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Ethiopia, India, Tonga.

Radioactive waste

In 2006, international concern rose over the threat posed by radioactive waste, following the death of 10 persons and hospitalization of 107,000 others from toxins released by some 500 tons of toxic waste dumped on 19 August in various locations in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, by unidentified foreign agents. In a 17 November statement to the General Assembly's Second (Economic and Financial) Committee, Namibia, on behalf of the African Group, highlighted widespread fears about the medium and long-term effects of the toxins on the population and the environment, noting that the dumping violated international toxic waste management instruments. The African Group was determined to work with the EU and other concerned entities to identify the perpetrators. In that context, Namibia introduced a draft resolution [A/C.2/61/L.43] on the issue, requesting the Assembly to condemn the dumping and the perpetrators and to appeal to Member States and international organizations to assist the country in dealing with the problem. The resolution was withdrawn on 8 December because of a lack of consensus, but Nigeria, on behalf of the Group, stated that it reserved the right to draw the attention of the international community to the criminal practice of dumping toxic wastes in developing countries.

During the year, IAEA promoted the safe transport of radioactive material among Member States. It continued to finalize a draft safety guide on compliance assurance with related safety measures and establish recommendations for security during the transport of such waste. Security levels and physical protection measures were expected to be finalized in early 2007. The Agency also assisted Member States to improve their management of radioactive wastes and launched a web-based database of official national records on radioactive discharges submitted by Member States.

In September [GC(50)/RES/10], the IAEA General Conference, recognizing concerns about the potential for damage in the event of an accident while transporting radioactive materials by sea, including pollution of the marine environment, urged its member States that did not have national regulatory documents governing the transport of those materi-

als to adopt them and ensure that they conformed with the amended edition of the IAEA Transport Regulations, adopted in 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 608]. The Conference looked forward to initiating dialogue with the United Nations on reconciling language differences between the IAEA Transport Regulations and the UN Model Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods (see p. 1141).

Conferences. To reinforce its framework for the safe transport of radioactive materials, IAEA held a seminar (Vienna, Austria, 11-12 January) on complex technical issues relating to such transportation. Experts discussed various aspects of the transport of those materials, including regulatory programmes, transport standards and their implementation at national and international levels, and cooperation between national competent authorities on international transport matters. The seminar also reviewed member States' experiences with maritime shipments, risk analyses, emergency response arrangements, the denial of shipments and the Agency's Transport Safety Appraisal Service.

In May, the Agency held a technical meeting of experts to discuss progress on the issue of denials of shipment of radioactive material. It recommended the establishment of a steering committee on denials of shipments of radioactive material. The committee, at its first meeting in November, developed an action plan for promoting progress on such shipments.

The Second Review Meeting (Vienna, 15-24 May) of the Contracting Parties of 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], committed themselves to improving policies and practices, particularly in the areas of national strategies for spent fuel and radioactive waste management, engagement with stakeholders and the public and control of disused sealed sources. However, challenges on a number of potentially risky issues remained, including those relating to clean-up, such as determining unknown locations where contaminated equipment and material might be buried and recovering lost records about the contents of radioactive material stored in waste containers.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

Africa

As at 31 December, 24 States had ratified the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) [YUN 1995, p. 203], 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 56 signatories. By the terms of the Treaty, ratification by 28 States was required for its entry into force.

Asia

Central Asia

On 8 September, the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia opened for signature in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, following eight years of negotiations by the five regional States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) and the five nuclear-weapon States. First proposed in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 494], the Zone was the fifth of its kind to be established and the first to be located entirely in the northern hemisphere.

Under the Treaty, it was forbidden to research, develop, manufacture, stockpile, acquire, possess or control nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. It was also forbidden to dispose in the territories of States within that Zone of radioactive waste by other States and test nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, within the framework of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) (see p. 628). In signing the Treaty, the Central Asian States undertook to assist efforts for the environmental security of territories contaminated by activities relating to the development, testing or storage of nuclear weapons; conclude and enforce IAEA safeguards agreement and related Additional Protocol; and ensure the physical protection of nuclear material, facilities and equipment, in accordance with established international standards and IAEA guidelines.

The Treaty also provided for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and included a Protocol by which nuclear-weapon States would undertake not to use or threaten to use a nuclear-weapon or other nuclear explosive device against parties to the Treaty, nor contribute to any act that violated it. The Treaty would not affect the rights and obligations of the parties under other international treaties concluded prior to its entry into force, a clause that was a major point of contention between the nuclear-weapon States and the regional States. The Treaty, which was of unlimited duration, would not be subject to reservations, but could be amended by consensus. It would enter into force 30 days after the date of deposit of the fifth instrument of ratifica-

tion. Kyrgyzstan was designated depositary of the Treaty, which was signed during the year by all five Central Asian States.

Communications. In an 8 September statement [A/61/344-S/2006/741], the Foreign Ministers of the five Central Asian States described the Treaty as an initiative that would promote the security of the States parties, an important confidence-building measure and an instrument of regional cooperation.

On 21 September [A/61/466-S/2006/766], Belarus, in its capacity as the Chair of the Council of Foreign Ministers of States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the membership of which included four Central Asian States, welcomed the Treaty as a significant contribution to ensuring global and regional security, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/88** by recorded vote (141-3-37) [agenda item 90 (*bb*)].

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/38 S of 9 December 1997, 53/77 A of 4 December 1998, 55/33 W of 20 November 2000 and 57/69 of 22 November 2002, and its decisions 54/417 of 1 December 1999, 56/412 of 29 November 2001, 58/518 of 8 December 2003, 59/513 of 3 December 2004 and 60/516 of 8 December 2005,

Convinced that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones contributes to the achievement of general and complete disarmament, and emphasizing the importance of internationally recognized treaties on the establishment of such zones in different regions of the world in the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime,

Considering that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region constitutes an important step towards strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in the environmental rehabilitation of territories affected by radioactive contamination, and enhancing regional and international peace and security,

Considering also the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia as an effective contribution to combating international terrorism and preventing nuclear materials and technologies from falling into the hands of non-state actors, primarily terrorists,

Reaffirming the universally recognized role of the United Nations in the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones,

1. *Welcomes* the signing of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, on 8 September 2006;

2. *Notes* the readiness of the Central Asian countries to continue consultations with the nuclear-weapon States on a number of provisions of the Treaty;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/88:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, 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, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, 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, United Kingdom, United States.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.

Mongolia

In response to General Assembly resolution 59/73 [YUN 2004, p. 551], the Secretary-General submitted a September report [A/61/164], which reviewed new developments and UN assistance to Mongolia to consolidate and strengthen its nuclear-weapon-free status. The range of relevant activities described in the report related both to Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and the non-nuclear aspects of its international security. The Secretary-General said there was evidence that international recognition of the country's nuclear-weapon-free status was growing. The United Nations was con-

tinuing to help in promoting it and would continue to assist Mongolia in coping with economic and ecological vulnerabilities, particularly regarding efforts to follow-up on related recommendations. The Secretary-General hoped that UN assistance would help achieve sustainable development and balanced growth in Mongolia during the current period of political and economic transition, reinforcing its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals [YUN 2000, p. 51].

Communication. On 16 August [A/61/293], Mongolia transmitted a draft report it had prepared on the implementation of the national law on its nuclear-weapon-free status, highlighting various policy initiatives and other activities undertaken since the enactment of that law [YUN 2000, p. 509].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/87** without vote [agenda item 90 (d)].

Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/77 D of 4 December 1998, 55/33 S of 20 November 2000, 57/67 of 22 November 2002 and 59/73 of 3 December 2004,

Recalling also the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind its resolution 49/31 of 9 December 1994 on the protection and security of small States,

Proceeding from the fact that nuclear-weapon-free status is one of the means of ensuring the national security of States,

Convinced that the internationally recognized status of Mongolia will contribute to enhancing stability and confidence-building in the region as well as promote Mongolia's security by strengthening its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders and the preservation of its ecological balance,

Taking note of the adoption by the Mongolian parliament of legislation defining and regulating Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status as a concrete step towards promoting the aims of nuclear non-proliferation,

Bearing in mind the joint statement of the five nuclear-weapon States on security assurances to Mongolia in connection with its nuclear-weapon-free status as a contribution to implementing resolution 53/77 D as well as their commitment to Mongolia to cooperate in the implementation of the resolution, in accordance with the principles of the Charter,

Noting that the joint statement has been transmitted to the Security Council by the five nuclear-weapon States,

Mindful of the support expressed for Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status by the Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries at the Thirteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Kuala Lumpur on 24 and 25 February 2003 and the Fourteenth Conference, held in Havana on 15 and 16 September 2006,

Noting that the States parties and signatories to the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba and the State of Mongolia expressed their recognition and full support of Mongolia's international nuclear-weapon-free status at the first Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, held in Tlatelolco, Mexico, from 26 to 28 April 2005,

Noting also other measures taken to implement resolution 59/73 at the national and international levels,

Welcoming Mongolia's active and positive role in developing peaceful, friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the States of the region and other States,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 59/73;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the efforts to implement resolution 59/73;

3. *Endorses and supports* Mongolia's good-neighbourly and balanced relationship with its neighbours as an important element of strengthening regional peace, security and stability;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts made by Member States to cooperate with Mongolia in implementing resolution 59/73, as well as the progress made in consolidating Mongolia's international security;

5. *Invites* Member States to continue to cooperate with Mongolia in taking the necessary measures to consolidate and strengthen Mongolia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders, its independent foreign policy, its economic security and its ecological balance, as well as its nuclear-weapon-free status;

6. *Appeals* to the Member States of the Asia and Pacific region to support Mongolia's efforts to join the relevant regional security and economic arrangements;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations bodies to continue to provide assistance to Mongolia in taking the necessary measures mentioned in paragraph 5 above;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status".

South-East Asia

In 2006, the States parties to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty), which opened for signature in

1995 [YUN 1995, p. 207] and entered into force in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 495], continued to establish an institutional framework to implement the Treaty. The thirty-ninth Ministerial Meeting of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 25 July) issued a joint communiqué reaffirming the importance of strengthening cooperation in implementing the Treaty, urged nuclear-weapon States to become parties to the Treaty's Protocol as soon as possible and addressed the need to review the Treaty's operation, as provided for under article 20.

Latin America and the Caribbean

In 2006, States parties to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) [YUN 1967, p. 13] continued to consolidate the treaty regime. The General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), at its thirty-sixth regular session (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 4-6 June) [AG/RES.2245 (XXXVI-O/06), called on regional States that had not done so to sign or ratify amendments to the Treaty. It reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) as the appropriate legal and political forum for ensuring observance of the Treaty in its zone of application and for promoting cooperation with the agencies of other nuclear-weapon-free zones. During the year, a notable source of concern for OPANAL was the interpretation by some nuclear-weapon States of the use of nuclear weapons as a legitimate means of self-defence, which the Agency considered to be contrary to international law.

Communication. On 5 January [A/60/678], Chile transmitted the text of the Declaration of Santiago de Chile, adopted by the nineteenth regular session of OPANAL [YUN 2005, p. 611], which, among other actions, urged the nuclear powers that had signed or ratified Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty with reservations or unilateral interpretations affecting the denuclearized status of the zone to modify or withdraw those reservations.

Middle East

In response to General Assembly resolution 60/52 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East [YUN 2005, p. 612], the Secretary-General, in a July report with later addendum [A/61/140 (part I) & Add.1], provided information on the resolution's implementation. He continued to explore with concerned parties within and beyond the region further ways of promoting

the establishment of the zone, but was concerned that developments in the region since his 2005 report [YUN 2005, p. 611] might affect efforts towards that goal. The Secretary-General emphasized the need to continue efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, and hoped that new impetus could be given to the road map for peace in the region developed by the Middle East Quartet (European Union, the Russian Federation, the United States and the United Nations). He called upon all parties concerned to resume dialogue, with a view to creating stable security conditions that would lead to an eventual settlement and thus facilitate the process of establishing the zone. The report included the views of Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritius, Mexico, Syria and the United Arab Emirates on the establishment of the Middle East zone.

In September, the IAEA General Conference adopted a resolution on the Middle East [GC(50)/RES/16] calling on all parties directly concerned to take the steps required to implement the proposal for a mutually and effectively verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

Communication. The Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries (Havana, Cuba, 11-16 September) [A/61/472-S/2006/780] reaffirmed the need for the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, and called upon all parties concerned to make efforts towards that goal. It stressed that necessary steps ought to be taken in different international fora to establish the zone, pending which, Israel, the only regional State that remained outside the NPT regime, should renounce the possession of nuclear weapons, accede to NPT and place promptly all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full scope safeguards.

On 19 December [A/61/650-S/2006/1008], Iran alleged unlawful possession of nuclear weapons by Israel, adding that the Israeli regime was the only obstacle to the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East. Peace and stability could not be achieved in the region, as the Israeli nuclear arsenal continued to pose a threat there. As such, the Security Council should fulfil its Charter-based responsibility to address the problem and take appropriate action.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/391], adopted **resolution 61/56** without vote [agenda item 87].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/71 of 10 December 1976, 32/82 of 12 December 1977, 33/64 of 14 December 1978, 34/77 of 11 December 1979, 35/147 of 12 December 1980, 36/87 A and B of 9 December 1981, 37/75 of 9 December 1982, 38/64 of 15 December 1983, 39/54 of 12 December 1984, 40/82 of 12 December 1985, 41/48 of 3 December 1986, 42/28 of 30 November 1987, 43/65 of 7 December 1988, 44/108 of 15 December 1989, 45/52 of 4 December 1990, 46/30 of 6 December 1991, 47/48 of 9 December 1992, 48/71 of 16 December 1993, 49/71 of 15 December 1994, 50/66 of 12 December 1995, 51/41 of 10 December 1996, 52/34 of 9 December 1997, 53/74 of 4 December 1998, 54/51 of 1 December 1999, 55/30 of 20 November 2000, 56/21 of 29 November 2001, 57/55 of 22 November 2002, 58/34 of 8 December 2003, 59/63 of 3 December 2004 and 60/52 of 8 December 2005 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Recalling also the recommendations for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60 to 63, and in particular paragraph 63 (*d*), of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,

Emphasizing the basic provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions, which call upon all parties directly concerned to consider 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 and, pending and during the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party, to agree to place their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and to declare their support for the establishment of the zone and to deposit such declarations with the Security Council for consideration, as appropriate,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all States to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

Emphasizing the need for appropriate measures on the question of the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities,

Bearing in mind the consensus reached by the General Assembly since its thirty-fifth session that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

Desirous of building on that consensus so that substantial progress can be made towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

Welcoming all initiatives leading to general and complete disarmament, including in the region of the Middle East, and in particular on the establishment therein of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons,

Noting the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

Recognizing the importance of credible regional security, including the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Emphasizing the essential role of the United Nations in the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 60/52,

1. *Urges* 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, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

2. *Calls upon* all countries of the region that have not done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

3. *Takes note* of resolution GC(50)/RES/16, adopted on 22 September 2006 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its fiftieth regular session, concerning the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East;

4. *Notes* the importance of the ongoing bilateral Middle East peace negotiations 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 establishing such a zone, consistent with paragraph 63 (*d*) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council;

6. *Also invites* those countries, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices;

7. *Invites* the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance in the establishment of the zone and at the same time to refrain from any action that runs counter to both the letter and the spirit of the present resolution;

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

9. *Invites* all parties to consider the appropriate means that may contribute towards the goal of general and complete disarmament and the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to pursue consultations with the States of the region and other concerned States, in accordance 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 the report of the Secretary-General 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 sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

South Pacific

In 2006, the number of States that had ratified the 1985 South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) [YUN 1985, p. 58] remained at 17. China and the Russian Federation had ratified Protocols 2 and 3, and France, the United Kingdom and the United States 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 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/69** by recorded vote (167-3-9) [agenda item 90 (b)].

Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/45 B of 10 December 1996, 52/38 N of 9 December 1997, 53/77 Q of 4 December 1998, 54/54 L of 1 December 1999, 55/33 I of 20 November 2000, 56/24 G of 29 November 2001, 57/73 of 22 November 2002, 58/49 of 8 December 2003, 59/85 of 3 December 2004 and 60/58 of 8 December 2005,

Recalling also 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, Rarotonga, Bangkok 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,

Noting the adoption of the Declaration of Santiago de Chile by the Governments of the States members of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and the States parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, during the nineteenth regular session of the General Conference of the Agency, held in Santiago on 7 and 8 November 2005,

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, Rarotonga, Bangkok 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 Rarotonga, 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 Pelindaba, 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 adhered to them;

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. *Also welcomes* the signing of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, on 8 September 2006;

7. *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;

8. *Welcomes* the progress made on increased collaboration within and between zones at the first Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, held in Tlatelolco, Mexico, from 26 to 28 April 2005, at which States reaffirmed their need to cooperate in order to achieve their common objectives;

9. *Congratulates* the States parties and signatories to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, as well as Mongolia, for their efforts to pursue the common goals envisaged in those treaties and to promote the nuclear-weapon-free status of the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas, and calls upon them to explore and implement further ways and means of cooperation among themselves and their treaty agencies;

10. *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 the goals;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/69:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, 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, India, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Pakistan, Palau, Russian Federation, Spain.

Bacteriological (biological) and chemical weapons

In 2006, as in previous years, the international community continued to address the threat posed by biological and chemical weapons, compounded by globalization and the inherent ease in the movement across borders of dangerous biological and chemical agents. That threat was illustrated in August when 500 tons of deadly chemical agents were illegally dumped in Cote d'Ivoire by unidentified foreign ships. Member States continued to focus on further strengthening the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC) (see below) and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC) (see p. 653). The Security Council Committee established pursuant to Council resolution 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544] to monitor Member States' implementation of measures to combat the proliferation of WMDs, including chemical and biological weapons, also addressed relevant proposals to the Council.

Bacteriological (biological) weapons convention

Sixth Review Conference

The Sixth Review Conference of the States Parties to BWC (Geneva, 20 November–8 December) [BWC/CONF.VI/6] was held to review the provisions and operation of the Convention. Previous review conferences were held in 1980 [YUN 1980, p. 70], 1986 [YUN 1986, p. 64], 1991 [YUN 1991, p. 52], 1996 [YUN 1996, p. 477] and 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 516].

On 8 December, the Conference adopted by consensus its Final Document [BWC/CONF.VI/6], containing a Declaration and a series of decisions and recommendations. By the Declaration, the States parties reaffirmed their commitment to the Convention's purposes and provisions and declared their determination to comply with their obligations in that regard, convinced that the full implementation

of those provisions should facilitate economic and technological development and international cooperation in peaceful biological activities. They reviewed the Convention's 15 articles, and reaffirmed the comprehensive scope of the Convention, which, as defined under article 1, unequivocally covered all naturally or artificially created or altered microbial and other biological agents and toxins and their components. Noting that Iran had proposed amendments to that article and to the title of the Convention to include explicitly the prohibition of the use of biological weapons, the Conference encouraged States parties to convey their views on the proposal to the Russian Federation, in its capacity as the Convention's depositary.

Regarding the provisions of the Convention's other articles, the Conference advocated, among other things, measures to ensure effective national export controls over biological agents and toxins and to protect and safeguard them; constitutional, legislative, administrative and judicial actions to enhance domestic implementation of the Convention; and the promotion of awareness among professionals of the need to report activities that could violate the Convention or related national criminal law. It emphasized the importance of States parties' legal right under the Convention to participate in the exchange of equipment and scientific and technological information for the use of biological agents for peaceful purposes; the need to implement the Convention's procedure for reporting violations of its prohibitions, for which the Security Council was invited to consider and investigate any complaints in that regard; and the indefinite duration of the Convention. Reaffirming the value of Review Conferences for assessing the Convention's implementation, the Conference recommended that they continue to be held every five years, with the Seventh Review Conference being held in Geneva, not later than 2011.

In other decisions and recommendations, the Conference decided that four annual meetings of the States parties should be held as from 2007 and up to the Seventh Review to discuss and promote common understanding and effective action on: how to enhance national implementation of the Convention; regional and subregional cooperation on implementation matters; national, regional and international measures to improve biosafety and the security of pathogens and toxins; oversight, education, awareness raising and the adoption and/or development of codes of conduct for the prevention of misuse of bio-science and technology potentially useful for purposes banned by the Convention; enhancing international cooperation in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes; and

the provision of assistance and coordination with relevant organizations in cases of alleged use of biological and toxin weapons. Each meeting of the States parties would be preceded by a preparatory experts' meeting, the outcome of which would be considered by the Seventh Review Conference.

To provide administrative support to those meetings and further aid the comprehensive implementation and universalization of the Convention and the exchange of confidence-building measures, the Conference decided that an Implementation Support Unit should be established within the Geneva Branch of the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs. The Unit's mandate would be limited to tasks relating to administrative support and confidence-building measures and would report annually on its activities to the States parties. The Conference also adopted decisions and recommendations to enhance States parties' participation in the confidence-building process and promote the Convention's universalization.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/401], adopted **resolution 61/102** without vote [agenda item 97].

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-five 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, 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,

1. *Reaffirms* the call upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction 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. *Appreciates* the significant participation of the States parties at the meetings of States parties and meetings of experts to date and the constructive and useful exchange of information achieved;

4. *Welcomes* the discussion and the promotion of common understanding and effective action on topics agreed upon at the Fifth Review Conference: the adoption of necessary national measures to implement the prohibitions set forth in the Convention, including the enactment of penal legislation, and national mechanisms to establish and maintain the security and oversight of pathogenic micro-organisms and toxins in 2003; enhancing international capabilities for responding to, investigating and mitigating the effects of cases of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons or suspicious outbreaks of disease and strengthening and broadening national and international institutional efforts and existing mechanisms for the surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases affecting humans, animals and plants in 2004; and the content, promulgation and adoption of codes of conduct for scientists in 2005;

5. *Recalls* that the Sixth Review Conference was mandated to consider issues identified in the review of the operation of the Convention as provided for in article XII thereof and any possible consensus follow-up action;

6. *Welcomes* the convening of the Sixth Review Conference in Geneva from 20 November to 8 December 2006, pursuant to the decision reached by the Preparatory Committee of the States Parties to the Convention;

7. *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;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session, also in view of the outcome of the Sixth Review Conference, the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

1925 Geneva Protocol

In response to General Assembly resolution 59/70 [YUN 2004, p. 556], the Secretary-General reported, in June [A/61/116], that France, as the depositary of

the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare (the 1925 Geneva Protocol), had received no notice of withdrawals of reservations since the Assembly's adoption of the resolution.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/61** by recorded vote (173-0-4) [agenda item 90 (c)].

Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution 59/70 of 3 December 2004,

Determined to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Recalling the long-standing determination of the international community to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical and biological weapons as well as the continuing support for measures to uphold the authority of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, as expressed by consensus in many previous resolutions,

Emphasizing the necessity of easing international tension and strengthening trust and confidence between States,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General;

2. *Renews its previous call* to all States to observe strictly the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, and reaffirms the vital necessity of upholding its provisions;

3. *Calls upon* those States that continue to maintain reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to withdraw them;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/61:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 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, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France,

Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, 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, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel, Marshall Islands, Palau, United States.

Chemical weapons

Chemical weapons convention

In 2006, Djibouti, Haiti, Liberia, Comoros, the Central African Republic and Montenegro ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (cwc), bringing the total number of States parties to 181. The number of signatories stood at 165. The Convention was adopted by the Conference on Disarmament in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 65] and entered into force in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 499].

The eleventh session of the Conference of the States Parties (The Hague, Netherlands, 5-8 December) [C-11/5] considered, among other issues, the status of the Convention's implementation, fostering international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities, ensuring the Convention's universality and administrative and budgetary matters. The Conference approved or adopted decisions on the status of implementation of article VII of the Convention addressing national implementation measures; extension of deadlines for the destruction of category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles; implementation of the plan of action for the universality of the Convention; the establishment of an Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Office in Africa; the establishment of a Committee on Relations with the Host Country; and the establishment of a mechanism to encourage States parties that were in arrears to regularize pay-

ment of their outstanding contributions. The Conference decided to hold its twelfth regular session in November 2007, and the thirteenth in December 2008. It scheduled the second Special Session of the States parties to review the Convention's operation for April 2008.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/68** without vote [agenda item 90 (*p*)].

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 60/67 of 8 December 2005, 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 60/67, six additional States have ratified the Convention or acceded to it, bringing the total number of States parties to the Convention to one hundred and eighty,

Reaffirming the importance of the outcome of the First Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, including the Political Declaration, in which the States parties reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the objective and purpose of the Convention, and the final report, which addressed all aspects of the Convention and made important recommendations on its continued implementation,

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 and acknowledges progress made in the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention, and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention without delay;

2. *Underlines* the fact 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, including those on

national implementation (article VII) and assistance and protection against chemical weapons (article X), constitutes an important contribution to the efforts of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

4. *Also stresses* the importance to 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;

5. *Reaffirms* the obligation of the States parties to the Convention to destroy chemical weapons and to destroy or convert chemical weapons production facilities within the time limits provided for by the Convention;

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

7. *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;

8. *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;

9. *Welcomes* progress made in the national implementation of the plan of action on the implementation of article VII obligations and commends the States parties and the Technical Secretariat for assisting other States parties, on request, with the implementation of the follow-up to the plan of action regarding article VII obligations, and urges States parties that have not fulfilled their obligations under article VII to do so without further delay, in accordance with their constitutional processes;

10. *Reaffirms* the importance of article XI provisions relating to the economic and technological development of States parties and recalls that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of those provisions contributes to universality, and also reaffirms 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, and also notes with appreciation the substantial contribution of the Technical Secretariat and the Director-General to the continued development and success of the Organization;

12. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the States Parties at its tenth session approving the appointment of Mr. Rogelio Pfirter as the Director-General of

the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;

13. *Also welcomes* the beginning of preparatory work by the States parties on the substance of the Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention;

14. *Draws attention* to the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, on 29 April 2007, which provides a special occasion to publicly renew commitment to the multilateral treaty system and to the objective and purpose of the Convention, and takes note of the unveiling in The Hague on 9 May 2007 of a permanent memorial to all victims of chemical weapons;

15. *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;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second 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 2006, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (opcw) continued to make progress towards the complete elimination of chemical weapons and the threat of their proliferation or use. As at year's end, the six States parties that had declared possession of chemical weapons had between them declared some 487,644 tonnes of chemical weapons and related items. Overall, opcw verified the destruction of 3,821 tonnes of chemical warfare agents and conducted 42 inspections at 27 chemical weapons storage facilities in six States. States parties also made considerable progress in eliminating the capacity to produce chemical weapons, with five of the remaining 12 chemical weapons production facilities destroyed or converted to other uses. As provided for under article 10 of the Convention, opcw continued to coordinate efforts to ensure protection against chemical weapons, including through activities for improving international cooperation in the event of an incident involving the release of chemical agents. Under its mandate relating to economic and technological development, opcw supported 55 new chemistry research projects in 26 States parties.

The opcw Executive Council held its forty-fourth (14-17 March), forty-fifth (16-19 May), forty-sixth (4-7 July) and forty-seventh (7-10 November) sessions, at which it considered reports on the status of the Convention's implementation, including issues

concerning verification activities and the Convention's articles X and XI on assistance and protection against chemical weapons and on economic and technological development, respectively. It adopted decisions on the destruction of chemical weapons and the destruction or conversion of chemical weapons production facilities, and on questions relating to the chemical industry and financial matters. It adopted recommendations regarding the plan of action for implementing article VII obligations on national implementation measures, monitored the implementation of the action plan for the Convention's universality, approved facility agreements between OPCW and a number of States parties and established an open-ended working group to begin preparations for the Second Review Conference of the States Parties, scheduled for 2008.

Cooperation between the United Nations and OPCW

By a 9 October note [A/61/185], the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly the 2004 OPCW report and the draft 2005 report, in accordance with the Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and OPCW, which was signed in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 516] and entered into force in 2001 [YUN 2001, p. 495].

The Assembly also had before it the Secretary-General's consolidated report on cooperation between the United Nations and other organizations, highlighting cooperation with OPCW [A/61/256].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 20 December [meeting 83], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 61/224** [draft: A/61/L.49 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 108 (n)].

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/7 of 22 October 2004 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,

Having received the annual report for 2004 and the draft report for 2005 of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,

1. *Takes note* of the annual report for 2004 and the draft report for 2005 of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons submitted on its behalf by its Director-General;

2. *Welcomes* the announcement of the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the

Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and of the establishment, on 29 April 1997, of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which will be celebrated on 9 May 2007 in The Hague, and calls upon Member States to arrange for representation at the appropriate political level;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons".

Conventional weapons

Towards an arms trade treaty

In 2006, the General Assembly began to explore the possibility of establishing a legally-binding instrument providing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. Recognizing that the absence of such standards was contributing to conflict, the displacement of people, crime and terrorism, and acknowledging the growing support for the proposed instrument across all regions, the Assembly asked the Secretary-General to establish a group of governmental experts to examine, beginning in 2008, the feasibility, scope and draft parameters for it, which the Assembly would consider at its sixty-third (2008) session. The need for such an instrument had been promoted by the United Kingdom [YUN 2005, p. 621] and was considered throughout the year by members of Control Arms, the international coalition of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) dedicated to raising awareness about the human costs of the unregulated global arms trade.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/89** by recorded vote (153-1-24) [agenda item 90].

Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming its respect for and commitment to international law,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, 51/45 N of 10 December 1996, 51/47 B of 10 Decem-

ber 1996, 56/24 V of 24 December 2001 and 60/69 and 60/82 of 8 December 2005,

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

Reaffirming the inherent right of all States to individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter,

Acknowledging the right of all States to manufacture, import, export, transfer and retain conventional arms for self-defence and security needs, and in order to participate in peace support operations,

Recalling the obligations of all States to fully comply with arms embargoes decided by the Security Council in accordance with the Charter,

Reaffirming its respect for international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and the Charter,

Taking note of and encouraging relevant initiatives, undertaken at the international, regional and subregional levels between States, including those of the United Nations, and of the role played by non-governmental organizations and civil society, to enhance cooperation, improve information exchange and transparency and implement confidence-building measures in the field of responsible arms trade,

Recognizing that the absence of common international standards on the import, export and transfer of conventional arms is a contributory factor to conflict, the displacement of people, crime and terrorism, thereby undermining peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development,

Acknowledging the growing support across all regions for concluding a legally binding instrument negotiated on a non-discriminatory, transparent and multilateral basis, to establish common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the feasibility, scope and draft parameters for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, and to submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to establish a group of governmental experts, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, informed by the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, to examine, commencing in 2008, the feasibility, scope and draft parameters for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, and to transmit the report of the group of experts to the Assembly for consideration at its sixty-third session;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to provide the group of governmental experts with any assistance and services that may be required for the discharge of its tasks;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session an item entitled "Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/89:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, 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, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia.

Against: United States.

Abstaining: Bahrain, Belarus, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Marshall Islands, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Small arms

Reports of Secretary-General. As requested in Security Council Presidential statement S/PRST/2005/7 [YUN 2005, p. 619], the Secretary-General submitted a February report [S/2006/109 & Corr.1] updating the Council on the initiatives undertaken during 2005 to implement the recommendations contained in his 2002 report [YUN 2002, p. 521] on ways the Council could contribute to dealing with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

The Secretary-General reported that the most significant achievement during that period was the adoption by the General Assembly, in decision 60/519 [YUN 2005, p. 621], of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, thereby fulfilling recommendation 1 in

his 2002 report. The effectiveness and relevance of the Instrument would, however, depend on Member States' commitment to implement it fully. Progress had also been made on recommendation 2 concerning the Interpol Weapons Electronic Tracing System, which the Secretary-General noted had been enhanced. He advocated closer cooperation between the United Nations and Interpol in implementing the Instrument. Encouraging developments regarding recommendations 6 to 12 included the continuing attention by the Council to links between the illicit exploitation of natural and other resources and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and developing strategies to address the issue; the emphasis placed by the Council on the importance of inter-mission cooperation in the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations, as well as the Assembly's acknowledgment that reinsertion activities were part of those operations; initiatives to control the export, import and transit of small arms and light weapons; the continuing practice of establishing under relevant Council resolutions, mechanisms to support, monitor and assess the implementation of sanctions and provide technical advice to the related sanctions committees to ensure full compliance with the embargoes; and the growing participation of Member States in the two UN reporting instruments on armaments.

Regarding recommendations 3 to 5, on which less progress was achieved, the Secretary-General suggested that the Council call upon Member States to support the inter-agency Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism so as to enhance its effectiveness as a platform for developing a coordinated and coherent UN approach to the small arms problem and its relevance as a provider of services to Member States. On recommendation 4, which addressed the need for greater interaction between the Council and the Assembly in tackling the problem, the Secretary-General noted that such interaction would help develop a clear and comprehensive UN policy on small arms and light weapons, which was important in the light of the scheduled conference to review progress in implementing the Programme of Action adopted by the 2001 UN Conference on small arms (see below). Turning to recommendation 5 on the need for Member States to implement Council resolutions on sanctions, the question of enforcement depended on the political will and relevant capacity of Member States, the Secretary-General noted.

In response to General Assembly resolution 60/74 [YUN 2005, p. 623], the Secretary-General submitted a June report, with later addendum [A/61/118 & Add.1], containing the views of eight Member States

(Bolivia, Georgia, Lebanon, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Spain) regarding the risks arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus and ways of strengthening controls on that ammunition at the national level.

He also submitted, as requested in Assembly resolutions 60/71 [YUN 2005, p. 622] and 60/81 [ibid., p. 625], an August report [A/61/288] covering the period from July 2005 to July 2006, which summarized national, subregional and regional activities undertaken to assist States in curbing the illicit trade in small arms and in collecting and disposing of them. The report also provided an overview of activities undertaken by the UN system and Member States to combat the illicit trade in those weapons and to implement the 2001 Programme of Action.

The Secretary-General observed that Member States, international and regional organizations and civil society remained committed to implementing the Programme of Action, as demonstrated by the high number of activities undertaken by States, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, and by the many practical projects carried out during the reporting period, often through partnerships. Furthermore, although the Conference to review progress in implementing the Programme (see below) underlined continuing differences among Member States on a number of issues, the intensity of discussions at the Conference and the unanimous reaffirmation of support for the Programme illustrated the high degree of importance which the international community continued to accord efforts to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Those efforts were advanced by the establishment of a Group of Governmental Experts to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms. It was noteworthy that the Group of Interested States in Practical Disarmament Measures (see p. 665) had further expanded its activities to include the provision of assistance to NGOs, and the role of regional, subregional and international organizations in promoting the implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action was growing.

Programme of Action on illicit trade in small arms

Review Conference

As recommended in the Programme of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects [YUN 2001, p. 499], and in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 58/241 [YUN 2003, p. 564] and 59/86 [YUN 2004, p. 561], the

UN Conference to Review progress in implementing that Programme was convened (New York, 26 June–7 July) [A/CONF.192/2006/RC/9], with some 2000 representatives from Governments, international organizations and civil society in attendance. The Conference began with a four-day general exchange of views and thematic debate, during which statements were made by numerous participants and international and regional organizations. Participants considered and negotiated the draft final document of the Conference, adopting as the basis of discussion a working paper presented by the President (Sri Lanka) [A/CONF.192/2006/RG/WP.4], which outlined a preamble; concrete measures to strengthen the Programme's implementation at the national, regional and global levels; international cooperation and assistance; and follow-up to the UN Conference on small arms. Between 29 and 30 June, participants submitted up to 325 proposals regarding the Conference outcome. Owing to disagreements among delegates on aspects of those proposals, the President made efforts in a new working paper to reflect a middle ground and appointed facilitators to help delegates achieve compromise language on contentious issues. As those efforts did not succeed, the Conference was not able to conclude a final document and only adopted a consensus procedural report for submission to the General Assembly. The disagreements focused on a number of issues which also did not command consensus at the 2001 UN Conference on small arms [YUN 2001, p. 499], such as the question of whether or not the outcome document should make references to the civilian possession of small arms and light weapons. While the idea was supported by delegates from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and the EU, many others disagreed, arguing that the Programme of Action was about the illicit trade in those weapons rather than their legal possession, which was better left to each State to regulate through national laws. Other contentious issues centred on whether or not the Review Conference final document should address the question of small arms ammunition and their transfer to non-state actors; whether the Conference should address the issue of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS); and the nature of the follow-up process to consider and/or review progress in the implementation of the Programme.

Despite those setbacks, participants reaffirmed strong commitment to the full implementation of the Programme of Action. They saw the Review Conference as having succeeded in refocusing international community attention on the problem of small arms and light weapons, and the importance of the Programme as the main framework for meas-

ures to curtail the illegal trade in those weapons. While acknowledging progress at all levels, Member States conceded that more needed to be done to effectively address the small arms scourge. There was also consensus on the need to strengthen and better coordinate international cooperation and assistance for building the capacity of States to implement the Programme.

The Review Conference was preceded by a meeting of its Preparatory Committee (New York, 9–20 January) [A/CONF.192/2006/RC/1], which was also unable to reach agreement on a draft final outcome document for consideration by the Conference. Consequently it adopted a consensus report containing decisions and recommendations relating only to organizational and procedural issues.

Conference preparations and regional consultations. A regional preparatory meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean States (Antigua, Guatemala, 2–4 May) [A/60/876] and a workshop for Asian States (Bangkok, Thailand, 17–19 May) [A/CONF.192/2006/RC/3] were held to promote and contribute regional perspectives on how to better tackle the challenges posed by small arms and light weapons.

The Department for Disarmament Affairs (DDA), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), organized a pilot sponsorship programme (New York, 22 June–7 July), to provide funding for the participation in the Review Conference of representatives from national coordinating bodies in 33 States. Under the auspices of the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) mechanism, established in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 525] to coordinate UN system action on small arms, DDA collaborated with UNDP to complete a project on capacity development, which assisted 115 States with the process of reporting, within the framework of the Programme of Action. CASA members, comprising 16 UN entities, also addressed multidisciplinary aspects of the small arms scourge and supported the implementation of the Programme. During the year, CASA launched its internet database, designed to facilitate information exchange among members, disseminate information to the public in general and collect data on UN activities relating to small arms. The database also contained country-specific information via country profiles, which, among other things, provided data to help identify areas where international assistance was needed.

Communications. On 29 June [A/CONF.192/2006/RC/6], the Russian Federation circulated the text of a statement issued by Mikhail Kalashnikov, designer of the AK-47 rifle, reputed to be the most widespread military weapon in the world, in which

he emphasized the urgency of addressing the small arms scourge and expressed great sorrow that the assault rifle he designed had produced far too many casualties.

The Fourteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries (Havana, Cuba, 11-16 September) [A/61/472-S/2006/780], concerned over the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons, expressed disappointment at the inability of the Review Conference to agree on a final document and encouraged delegations to coordinate efforts in the United Nations, with a view to reaching agreement on a follow-up to the 2001 Programme of Action, to ensure its full implementation.

International instrument

During the year, the Department for Disarmament Affairs promoted the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted in General Assembly decision 60/519 [YUN 2005, p. 621], including by familiarizing relevant stakeholders with its key provisions and organizing workshops on related issues. In collaboration with Interpol, the Department also defined a strategy for cooperation in providing capacity-building assistance for the Instrument's implementation. Given that the Instrument was not legally-binding, its effectiveness depended on the willingness and capacity of States to implement its provisions. Capacity-building was therefore critical, because many States required assistance in developing the technical means for small arms and light weapons marking and record-keeping, and to train enforcement officials in tracing procedures and techniques. The Instrument provided for biennial follow-up reports from States regarding implementation efforts, to be considered at biennial meeting of Member States, the first of which would be held in 2008.

Illicit small arms brokering

Experts group. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/81 [YUN 2005, p. 625], the Secretary-General appointed 25 experts from Member States to the Group of Governmental Experts established to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons. The Group, mandated to hold three sessions of one week's duration each, held its first meeting (Geneva, 27 November-1 December), and was expected to conclude its work in 2007, with a report to the Assembly on the outcome of its study.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted four resolutions relating to conventional weapons and the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons. The Assembly adopted **resolution 61/66** by recorded vote (176-1-0) [agenda item 90 (y)].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/24 V of 24 December 2001, 57/72 of 22 November 2002, 58/241 of 23 December 2003, 59/86 of 3 December 2004 and 60/81 of 8 December 2005,

Emphasizing the importance of the continued 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,

Welcoming 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 and subregional efforts being undertaken in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action, and commending the progress that has already been made in this regard, including tackling both supply and demand factors that are relevant to addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing the efforts undertaken by non-governmental organizations in the provision of assistance to States for the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recalling that, as part of the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, it was agreed that meetings of States should be convened on a biennial basis to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action,

Reiterating the significance of the adoption of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons,

Recognizing that illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons is a serious problem that the international community should address urgently, and in this regard welcoming the decision of the General Assembly to establish a group of governmental experts to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 60/81,

Welcoming the fact that the 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 from 26 June to 7 July 2006, highlighted the importance of implementing the Programme of Action in the activities of the international community to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, beyond 2006,

1. *Encourages* all initiatives, including those of the United Nations, other international organizations, regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society, for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and calls upon all Member States to contribute towards the continued implementation of the Programme of Action;

2. *Regrets* the fact that the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action was not able to conclude an outcome document;

3. *Calls upon* all States to implement the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, among others, through the provision of information to the Secretary-General on the name and contact information of the national points of contact and on national marking practices related to markings used to indicate country of manufacture and/or country of import, as applicable;

4. *Decides* that, as stipulated in the Programme of Action, the next biennial meeting of States to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action shall be held no later than in 2008, in New York;

5. *Also decides* that the meeting of States to consider the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, shall be held within the framework of the biennial meeting of States;

6. *Recalls* that the group of governmental experts, established to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons is to submit a report on the outcome of its study to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

7. *Emphasizes* the fact that initiatives by the international community with respect to international cooperation and assistance remain essential and complementary to national implementation efforts, as well as to those at the regional and global levels;

8. *Continues to encourage* all such initiatives, including regional and subregional ones, to mobilize resources and expertise to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action and to provide assistance to States in its implementation;

9. *Encourages* States to submit national reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action and to include in such reports information on their implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner,

Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in accordance with these instruments, and requests the Secretary-General to collate and circulate such data and information provided by States;

10. *Also encourages* States to share information on national experiences relating to best practices in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/66:

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

Against: United States.

Abstaining: None.

The Assembly adopted **resolution 61/71** without vote [agenda item 90 (r)].

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 60/71 of 8 December 2005 on assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them,

Deeply concerned by the magnitude of human casualty and suffering, especially among children, caused by the illicit proliferation and use of small arms and light weapons,

Concerned by the negative impact that the illicit proliferation and use of those weapons continue to have on the efforts of States in the Sahelo-Saharan subregion in the areas of poverty eradication, sustainable development and the maintenance of peace, security and stability,

Bearing in mind the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted at Bamako on 1 December 2000,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all", in which he emphasized that States must strive just as hard to eliminate the threat of illicit small arms and light weapons as they do to eliminate the threat of weapons of mass destruction,

Taking note of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted in 2005,

Welcoming the expression of support in the 2005 World Summit Outcome for 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,

Welcoming also the adoption, at the thirtieth ordinary summit of the Economic Community of West African States, held in Abuja in June 2006, of the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, in replacement of the moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa,

Welcoming further the decision taken by the Economic Community to establish a Small Arms Unit responsible for advocating appropriate policies and developing and implementing programmes, as well as the establishment of the Economic Community's Small Arms Control Programme, launched on 16 June 2006 in Bamako, in replacement of the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development,

Taking note of the latest report of the Secretary-General on assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,

Welcoming, in that regard, the decision of the European Union to significantly support the Economic Community in its efforts to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing the important role that civil society organizations play, in raising public awareness, in efforts to curb the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons,

Taking note of the report of the 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 from 26 June to 7 July 2006,

1. *Commends* the United Nations and international, regional and other organizations for their assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

2. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to pursue his efforts in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions, aimed at curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons and collecting them 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;

3. *Encourages* the international community to support the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials;

4. *Encourages* the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan subregion to facilitate the effective functioning of national commissions to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and, in that regard, invites the international community to lend its support wherever possible;

5. *Encourages* the collaboration of civil society organizations and associations of in the efforts of the national commissions to combat the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and 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;

6. *Also encourages* cooperation among State organs, international organizations and civil society in supporting programmes and projects aimed at combating the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to provide technical and financial support to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to take action to help to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General and those States and organizations that are in a position to do so to continue to provide assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to consider the matter and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them".

The Assembly adopted **resolution 61/72** by recorded vote (175-1-1) [agenda item 90 (s)].

Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

The General Assembly,

Mindful of contributing to the process initiated within the framework of the United Nations reform to make the Organization more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction,

Underlining the importance of a comprehensive and integrated approach to disarmament through the development of practical measures,

Taking note of the report of the Group of Experts on the problem of ammunition and explosives,

Recalling the recommendation contained in paragraph 27 of the report submitted by the Chairman of the Open-ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, namely, to address the issue of small arms and light weapons ammunition in a comprehensive manner as part of a separate process conducted within the framework of the United Nations,

Noting with satisfaction the work and measures pursued at the regional and subregional levels with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition,

Recalling its decision 59/515 of 3 December 2004 and its resolution 60/74 of 8 December 2005, by which it decided to include the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus in the agenda of its sixty-first session,

1. *Encourages* all interested States to assess, on a voluntary basis, whether, in conformity with their legitimate security needs, parts of their stockpiles of conventional ammunition should be considered to be in surplus, and recognizes that the security of such stockpiles must be taken into consideration and that appropriate controls with regard to the security and safety of stockpiles of conventional ammunition are indispensable at the national level in order to eliminate the risk of explosion, pollution or diversion;

2. *Appeals* to all interested States to determine the size and nature of their surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition, whether they represent a security risk, if appropriate, their means of destruction, and whether external assistance is needed to eliminate this risk;

3. *Encourages* States in a position to do so to assist interested States within a bilateral framework or through international or regional organizations, on a voluntary and transparent basis, in elaborating and implementing programmes to eliminate surplus stockpiles or to improve their management;

4. *Encourages* all Member States to examine the possibility of developing and implementing, within a national, regional or subregional framework, measures to address accordingly the illicit trafficking related to the accumulation of such stockpiles;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States regarding the risks arising from the

accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus and regarding national ways of strengthening controls on conventional ammunition, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

6. *Decides* to address the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus in a comprehensive manner;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a group of governmental experts to consider, commencing no later than 2008, further steps to enhance cooperation with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus, and to transmit the report of the group of experts to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-third session;

8. *Decides* to include this issue in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/72:

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, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, 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, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, 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: Japan.

The Assembly adopted **resolution 61/79** without vote [agenda item 90 (z)].

Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the contribution of confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms, adopted on the initiative and with the agreement of the States concerned, to the improvement of the overall international peace and security situation,

Convinced that the relationship between the development of confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms and the international security environment can also be mutually reinforcing,

Considering the important role that confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms can also play in creating favourable conditions for progress in the field of disarmament,

Recognizing that the exchange of information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms contributes to mutual understanding and confidence among Member States,

1. *Welcomes* all confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms already undertaken by Member States as well as the information on such measures voluntarily provided;

2. *Encourages* Member States to continue to adopt confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms and to provide information in that regard;

3. *Also encourages* Member States to continue the dialogue on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms;

4. *Welcomes* the establishment of the electronic database containing information provided by Member States, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the database updated and to assist Member States, at their request, in the organization of seminars, courses and workshops aimed at enhancing the knowledge of new developments in this field;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms".

Convention on excessively injurious conventional weapons and Protocols

Status

As at 31 December, the accession of Cameroon and the succession of Montenegro brought to 102 the number of 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 [YUN 1980, p. 76] and its annexed Protocols on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I); on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996 (Protocol II) [YUN 1996, p. 484]; and on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III). The 1995 Additional Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons

(Protocol IV) [YUN 1995, p. 221], which took effect on 30 July 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 530] had 85 parties following the succession of Montenegro and consent of Cameroon, Georgia and Tunisia in 2006 to be bound by its terms.

The Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V), adopted in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 566], had 28 parties. The Protocol entered into force on 12 November.

Group of Governmental Experts

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 thirteenth (6-10 March) [CCW/GGE/XIII/7], fourteenth (19-23 June) [CCW/GGE/XIV/5] and fifteenth (28 August-6 September) [CCW/CONF.III/7-CCW/GGE/XV/6] sessions, all in Geneva. The Group discussed issues relating to the weapons under consideration; preparation for the Third Review Conference of the States Parties (see below); universalization of the Convention and its annexed Protocols; the Status of Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War; options to promote compliance with the Convention; and the possibility of establishing a sponsorship programme under the Convention. The Group also considered working papers and presentations from delegations, international organizations and other participants, including military experts, as well as the reports of its working groups on explosive remnants of war and on mines other than anti-personnel mines, which were annexed to the report of its fifteenth session. On 6 September, the Group adopted its report and a draft declaration on the entry into force later in the year of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) and on the draft final document of the Review Conference, both of which were attached to its report, for consideration by the Conference. It recommended, among other things, that the Conference adopt a plan of action to promote its universality.

Third Review Conference

As requested in General Assembly resolution 60/93 [YUN 2005, p. 627], and as decided by the Second Review Conference [YUN 2001, p. 504], the Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention met (Geneva, 7-17 November) [CCW/CONF.III/11 (Parts I-III)] to review the scope and operation

of the Convention and its annexed Protocols, and consider proposals for amending them, as well as for additional protocols relating to other categories of conventional weapons. Preparatory work for the Conference was undertaken by the 2004 [YUN 2004, pp. 562-63] and 2005 [YUN 2005, p. 626] meetings of the States parties and of the Group of Governmental Experts.

The Conference held a general exchange of views during 10 plenary meetings, including a special plenary meeting on 13 November to mark the entry into force of the Convention's Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War. In that regard, it adopted a declaration reaffirming the parties' conviction of the aim of the Protocol to protect civilians from the effects of those explosives and expressing their determination to ensure universal adherence to the Protocol. On 17 November, the Conference adopted its Final Declaration, by which the States parties, concerned at the humanitarian and development problems caused by the presence of explosive remnants of war, and noting their foreseeable effects on civilian populations, declared their commitment to respect and comply with the objectives and provisions of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and to cooperate in doing so. They committed also to assisting humanitarian demining missions and urged States that had not done so to determine new weapons or means of warfare that needed to be prohibited under international humanitarian law and in line with a related guide published during the year by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The parties decided to: convene urgently an intersessional meeting of governmental experts to consider further application and implementation of existing international humanitarian law to specific munitions that might become explosive remnants of war, focusing in particular on cluster munitions; dedicate up to two days to the issue of mines other than anti-personnel mines during the next meeting of States parties; establish a compliance mechanism applicable to the Convention, and a sponsorship programme within its framework; recommend that the Secretary-General, as the depositary of the Convention and its annexed Protocols, and the President of the Third Review Conference, on behalf of the parties, exercise their authority to achieve the goal of universality; and organize in 2007, a series of activities, including the first Conference of the Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.

The Conference also adopted a plan of action to promote the Convention's universality, which focused on affected States and outlined seven specific courses of action to be followed by the States parties towards achieving that objective.

Annual Conference of States Parties to Amended Protocol II

The Eighth Annual Conference of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II (Geneva, 6 November) [CCW/AP.II/CONF.8/2] reviewed the operation and status of that Protocol, considered related issues and examined national reports received from 44 States parties and the Holy See. The Conference adopted conclusions and recommendations and issued an appeal to States to accede to Amended Protocol II. 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 upon the States parties to promote its wider adherence.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/398], adopted **resolution 61/100** without vote [agenda item 94].

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 60/93 of 8 December 2005,

Recalling with satisfaction the adoption and the entry into force of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and its amended article 1, and 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 its amended version, the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III) and the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV),

Recalling the decision 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 to establish an open-ended group of governmental experts with two separate coordinators on explosive remnants of war and on mines other than anti-personnel mines,

Recalling also the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the elaboration of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, and welcoming the particular efforts of various international, non-governmental and other organizations in raising awareness of the humanitarian consequences of explosive remnants of war,

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, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to these instruments at an early date, and so as to ultimately achieve their universality;

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 and the amendment extending the scope of the Convention and the Protocols thereto to include armed conflicts of a non-international character;

3. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the adoption of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) at the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention held in Geneva on 27 and 28 November 2003 and its entry into force on 12 November 2006, and calls upon the States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Protocol as soon as possible;

4. *Notes* the decision of the Meeting of the States Parties that the Working Group on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines would continue its work in 2006 with the mandate to consider all proposals on mines other than anti-personnel mines put forward since the establishment of the Group of Governmental Experts, and to conduct meetings of military experts to provide advice, with the aim of elaborating appropriate recommendations on this issue for submission to the Third Review Conference in 2006;

5. *Also notes* the decision of the Meeting of the States Parties that the Working Group on Explosive Remnants of War would continue its work in 2006 with the mandate to continue to consider, including through participation of legal experts, the implementation of existing principles of international humanitarian law and to further study, on an open-ended basis, with particular emphasis on meetings of military and technical experts, possible preventive measures aimed at improving the design of certain specific types of munitions, including submunitions, with a view to minimizing the humanitarian risk of these munitions becoming explosive remnants of war, and to report on the work done to the Third Review Conference in 2006;

6. *Further notes* the decision of the Meeting of the States Parties that the President-designate should continue to undertake consultations during the intersessional period on possible options with respect to promoting compliance with the Convention and the Protocols thereto, taking into account proposals put forward, and report on the work done to the Third Review Conference in 2006;

7. *Expresses support* for the work conducted by the Group of Governmental Experts, and encourages the President-designate and the Coordinators of the Group to continue their work in preparation for the Third Review Conference, in accordance with the mandates and decisions for 2006, with the aim of achieving a successful Third Review Conference from 7 to 17 November 2006;

8. *Expresses support* for conducting a thorough review at the Third Review Conference of the scope, operation, status and implementation of the Convention and of the Protocols thereto as amended;

9. *Expresses support* for the decisions of the Group of Governmental Experts to recommend to the Third Review Conference a plan of action to promote universality of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, a declaration on the entry into force of Protocol V on explosive remnants of war, as well as a sponsorship programme;

10. *Notes* that, in conformity with article 8 of the Convention, the Review Conference may consider any proposal for amendments to the Convention or the Protocols thereto as well as any proposal for additional protocols relating to other categories of conventional weapons not covered by existing Protocols to the Convention;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the Eighth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II to the Convention on 6 November 2006 and for the Third Review Conference, and for any possible continuation of work after the Conference, should the States parties deem it appropriate;

12. *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, its amended article 1, and the Protocols thereto;

13. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Practical disarmament

Report of Secretary-General. As requested in General Assembly resolution 59/82 [YUN 2004, p. 564], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/61/288] describing the activities undertaken by States, including the Group of Interested States established in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 531] to facilitate international action to assist States in implementing practical disarmament measures. The report, which covered the period from July 2004 to July 2006, noted that the Group provided financial support to project proposals submitted by the Department for Disarmament Affairs and its Regional Centre in Latin America and the Caribbean (see p. 692), the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, and NGOs. The Group of Interested States expanded its focus beyond the consideration of project proposals by initiating discussions on thematic issues relating to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including their impact on humanitarian assistance, human security and development, and on best practices in dealing with those issues. The Group's activities also increased to include assistance to NGOs, which the Secretary-General described as a step in the right direction, given that in most

developing countries, NGOs and civil society were often at the forefront in implementing programmes that Governments were not able to conduct owing to the lack of resources.

Practical disarmament measures relating to the collection and control of small arms and light weapons also progressed within the framework of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, designed to help prevent a relapse into conflict and to facilitate post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding. In addition to collecting, storing and/or destroying weapons held by ex-combatants, those programmes also targeted weapons held by non-combatants or civilians, which helped to preserve the overall security balance in immediate post-conflict situations.

Disarmament Commission action. In 2006 [A/61/42], the Disarmament Commission allocated to Working Group II the item entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons", which the Group discussed between 12 and 28 April. It agreed to accept as a basis for its deliberation the Chairman's working paper on the subject. The Group decided to further consider the paper as a possible basis for work in 2007.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/76** by recorded vote (179-1-0) [agenda item 90 (e)].

Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/45 N of 10 December 1996, 52/38 G of 9 December 1997, 53/77 M of 4 December 1998, 54/54 H of 1 December 1999, 55/33 G of 20 November 2000, 56/24 P of 29 November 2001 and 57/81 of 22 November 2002, its decision 58/519 of 8 December 2003 and its resolution 59/82 of 3 December 2004 entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures",

Convinced that a comprehensive and integrated approach towards certain practical disarmament measures often is a prerequisite to maintaining and consolidating peace and security and thus provides a basis for effective post-conflict peacebuilding; such measures include collection and responsible disposal, preferably through destruction, of weapons obtained through illicit trafficking or illicit manufacture as well as of weapons and ammunition declared by competent national authorities to be surplus to requirements, particularly with regard to small arms and light weapons, unless another form of disposition or use has been officially authorized and provided that such weapons have been duly marked and

registered; confidence-building measures; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; demining; and conversion,

Noting with satisfaction that the international community is more than ever aware of the importance of such practical disarmament measures, especially with regard to the growing problems arising from the excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons, including their ammunition, which pose a threat to peace and security and reduce the prospects for economic development in many regions, particularly in post-conflict situations,

Stressing that further efforts are needed in order to develop and effectively implement programmes of practical disarmament in affected areas as part of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration measures so as to complement, on a case-by-case basis, peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on prevention of armed conflict, which, inter alia, refers to the role which the proliferation and the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons play in the context of the build-up and sustaining of conflicts,

Taking note of the statement by the President of the Security Council of 31 August 2001 underlining the importance of practical disarmament measures in the context of armed conflicts, and, with regard to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, emphasizing the importance of measures to contain the security risks stemming from the use of illicit small arms and light weapons,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General prepared with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms and, in particular, the recommendations contained therein, as an important contribution to the consolidation of the peace process through practical disarmament measures,

Welcoming the work of the Coordinating Action on Small Arms, which was established by the Secretary-General to bring about a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to this complex and multifaceted global problem and to cooperate with non-governmental organizations in the implementation of practical disarmament measures,

Welcoming also the reports of the First and Second Biennial Meetings 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 and from 11 to 15 July 2005, respectively, as well as the report of the Open-ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons,

1. *Stresses* the particular relevance of the "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N",

adopted by the Disarmament Commission by consensus at its 1999 substantive session;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures, submitted pursuant to resolution 59/82, and once again encourages Member States as well as regional arrangements and agencies to lend their support to the implementation of recommendations contained therein;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of including in United Nations-mandated peacekeeping missions, as appropriate and with the consent of the host State, practical disarmament measures aimed at addressing the problem of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in conjunction with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes aimed at former combatants, with a view to promoting an integrated comprehensive and effective weapons management strategy that would contribute to a sustainable peacebuilding process;

4. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by the Group of Interested States, and invites the Group to continue to promote, on the basis of lessons learned from previous disarmament and peacebuilding projects, new practical disarmament measures to consolidate peace, especially as undertaken or designed by affected States themselves, regional and subregional organizations as well as United Nations agencies;

5. *Encourages* Member States, including the Group of Interested States, to continue to lend their support to the Secretary-General, relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations in responding to requests by Member States to collect and destroy small arms and light weapons, including their ammunition, in post-conflict situations;

6. *Welcomes* the synergies within the multi-stakeholder process, including Governments, the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and institutions as well as non-governmental organizations in support of practical disarmament measures and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, in particular, inter alia, through the Coordinating Action on Small Arms;

7. *Thanks* the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of resolution 59/82, taking into consideration the activities of the Group of Interested States in this regard;

8. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on disarmament and non-proliferation education, as well as his report on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of practical disarmament measures, taking into consideration the activities of the Group of Interested States in this regard;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures".

RECORDED VOTE RESOLUTION 61/76:

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, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, 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: None.

Transparency

Conference on Disarmament. In 2006 [A/61/27], the Conference on Disarmament was again prevented from establishing or re-establishing any mechanism to deal with any of its agenda items, including the item on transparency in armaments, owing to the unresolved impasse over a substantive programme of work. However, the item was discussed during the focused and structured debates that took place at formal and informal plenary meetings.

UN Register of Conventional Arms

In response to General Assembly resolution 60/226 [YUN 2005, p. 629], the Secretary-General submitted the fourteenth annual report on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms [A/61/159 & Corr.1, 2 & Add.1 & Corr.1], established in

1992 [YUN 1992, p. 75] to promote enhanced levels of transparency on arms transfers. The report presented information provided by 117 Governments on imports and exports in 2005 in the seven categories of conventional arms covered (battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, large-calibre artillery systems, attack helicopters, combat aircraft, warships and missiles and missile launchers). Governments also provided information on military holdings and procurement through national production and on small arms and light weapons and national policies. The report indicated a slight increase in the number of submissions.

The report also highlighted the activities undertaken by the Secretariat during the year, through the Department for Disarmament Affairs and in collaboration with Governments and regional organizations, to enhance awareness of the Register and encourage greater participation in it.

Group of Governmental Experts

As requested in General Assembly resolution 60/226 [YUN 2005, p. 629], the Secretary-General, in August [A/61/261], reported on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, with data provided by a Group of Governmental Experts he had appointed, which completed its work in three sessions held between February and July (New York). The report summarized periodic reviews of the Register undertaken previously, analysed available data on reporting by States, including reporting patterns among regions; assessed the Register's operation; and examined issues relating to its further development, taking into account developments in armaments and military doctrines and the importance of strengthening its relevance and achieving progress towards universal participation.

The Group concluded that significant progress had been made towards achieving a relatively high level of annual participation in the Register since its inception and the United Nations should maintain a central role in sustaining that progress. To strengthen the Register's operation and further development, it recommended, among other things, that the definition for warships (including submarines) be amended to reflect the lowering of tonnage from 750 to 500 tons. Other recommendations were related to the need for Member States in a position to do so to provide data on small arms and light weapons transfers; the achievement of the shared goals of the mechanism, including universal participation; enhancement of awareness of the importance of the Register; and its promotion by the United Nations. In particular, the Department for Disarmament Affairs should overhaul the Reg-

ister database on its web site to make it more user-friendly and technologically updated.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/77** by recorded vote (158-0-21) [agenda item 90 (aa)].

Transparency in armaments

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, 47/52 L of 15 December 1992, 48/75 E of 16 December 1993, 49/75 C of 15 December 1994, 50/70 D of 12 December 1995, 51/45 H of 10 December 1996, 52/38 R of 9 December 1997, 53/77 V of 4 December 1998, 54/54 O of 1 December 1999, 55/33 U of 20 November 2000, 56/24 Q of 29 November 2001, 57/75 of 22 November 2002, 58/54 of 8 December 2003 and 60/226 of 23 December 2005 entitled "Transparency in armaments",

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,

Welcoming the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the Register, which includes the returns of Member States for 2005,

Welcoming also 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 national production and relevant policies,

Welcoming further the inclusion by some Member States of their transfers of small arms and light weapons in their annual report to the Register as part of their additional background information,

Noting the focused discussion on transparency in armaments that took place in the Conference on Disarmament in 2006,

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 2006 group of governmental experts contained therein;

3. *Decides* to adapt the scope of the Register in conformity with the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development;

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 and the appendices and annexes thereto, the recommendations contained in paragraphs 112 to 114 of the 2003 report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations contained in paragraphs 123 to 127 of the 2006 report of the Secretary-General;

5. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so, pending further development of the Register, to provide additional information on procurement through national production and military holdings and to make use of the "Remarks" column in the standardized reporting form to provide additional information such as types or models;

6. *Also invites* Member States in a position to do so to provide additional background information on transfers of small arms and light weapons on the basis of the optional standardized reporting form, as adopted by the 2006 group of governmental experts, or by any other methods they deem appropriate;

7. *Reaffirms its decision*, with a view to further development of the Register, to keep the scope of and participation in the Register under review and, to that end:

(a) Recalls its request to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with their views on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and on transparency measures related to weapons of mass destruction;

(b) Requests the Secretary-General, with a view to the three-year cycle regarding review of the Register, to ensure that sufficient resources are made available for a group of governmental experts to be convened in 2009 to review the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, taking into account the work of the Conference on Disarmament, the views expressed by Member States and the reports of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations contained in his 2000, 2003 and 2006 reports on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and to ensure that sufficient resources are made available for the Secretariat to operate and maintain the Register;

9. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to consider continuing its work undertaken in the field of transparency in armaments;

10. *Reiterates its call upon* all Member States to cooperate at the regional and subregional levels, taking fully into account the specific conditions prevailing in the region or subregion, with a view to enhancing and coordinating international efforts aimed at increased openness and transparency in armaments;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on progress made in implementing the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Transparency in armaments".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/77:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Myanmar, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Transparency of military expenditures

In response to General Assembly resolution 60/44 [YUN 2005, p. 630], the Secretary-General, in a July report with later addendum [A/61/133 & Add.1], presented reports from 80 Member States on military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data were available. The instrument for reporting those expenditures was that recommended by the Assembly in resolution 35/142 B [YUN 1980, p. 88].

The report also described activities undertaken by the Secretariat, through the Department for Disarmament Affairs, to enhance familiarity with and encourage greater participation in the standardized instrument. Those included assistance in preparing a report entitled "Methodology for the comparison of military expenditures", issued by the Economic

Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as part of a larger project on strengthening democratic governance of the security sector in the region. The Department also assisted Nicaragua in facilitating progress on the transparency of military expenditures and held informal consultations with Member States, with a view to encouraging and facilitating their participation in the standardized instrument.

The Assembly, in **decision 61/513** of 6 December, took note of the First Committee's report on the reduction of military budgets [A/61/386].

Verification

In response to General Assembly resolution 59/60 [YUN 2004, p. 568], the Secretary-General submitted a January report, with later addendum [A/60/96/Add.1,2] containing the views of 10 Member States (Bolivia, Cuba, Finland, Iran, Lebanon, Panama, Portugal, Qatar, Serbia (formerly Serbia and Montenegro), Suriname) on the importance of effective verification measures in disarmament agreements.

Panel of experts. As requested in Assembly resolution 59/60, a 16-member Panel of Governmental Experts on Verification in All Its Aspects established by the Secretary-General during the year to explore the issue of verification, including the role of the United Nations, held three sessions between January and August in New York. The Panel considered the issue as it applied to nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons, along with their means of delivery, as well as conventional weapons. It also examined verification as it applied to the activities of States and non-State actors. Specific themes emerging during the Panel's discussions included the concept of verification and related experiences, techniques and methodologies; the need to build synergies between bodies with monitoring and verification responsibilities; capacity-building; the UN role; and the potential contribution of civil society to the verification process. To enable the experts to address the related concerns of Member States, the Secretary-General invited all States to submit to the Panel their views on the subject. Presentations were also made by experts from relevant intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. On 16 October, the Panel's Chairman briefed the First Committee on the Panel's work, noting that its final report, to be issued at a later date, would contain recommendations aimed at developing a basis for a broader consensus on the role of verification in enhancing security for all.

On 6 December, the Assembly encouraged the Panel to conclude its work as soon as possible, and decided to include in the provisional agenda of its

sixty-second (2007) session the item entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification (**decision 61/514**).

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. 503] and entered into force in 1999 [YUN 1999, p. 498], reached 152 as at 31 December 2006. During the year, three States ratified to the Convention and one succeeded to it.

Meeting of States parties

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/80 [YUN 2005, p. 632], the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention (Geneva, 18-22 September) [APLC/MSP.7/2006/5] was convened to consider the Convention's general status and operation, and to review the progress made and the challenges remaining in achieving its aims and in the application of the Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009, adopted at the 2004 Review Conference [YUN 2004, p. 568]. Discussions centered on a number of the Convention's provisions, including the submission of requests for the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas (article 5), transparency measures (article 7) and the facilitation and clarification of compliance (article 8).

On 22 September, the States parties reaffirmed their obligation to ensure the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas under their jurisdiction or control. They decided to establish a process for the preparation, submission and consideration of requests for extension of the deadline for completing such destruction, which article 5 had established at no later than ten years after the Convention's entry into force. Requesting States parties were encouraged to seek the assistance of the Implementation Support Unit in preparing their requests, while those in a position to do so were asked to assist others to fulfil their obligations in that regard and increase funding support to cover the costs of the extension process. The Meeting also adopted a model declaration establishing the voluntary means of reporting the completion of article 5 obligations and scheduled the eighth meeting of the States parties for November 2007, in Jordan.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/84** by recorded vote (161-0-17) [agenda item 90 (x)].

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 20 November 2000, 56/24 M of 29 November 2001, 57/74 of 22 November 2002, 58/53 of 8 December 2003, 59/84 of 3 December 2004 and 60/80 of 8 December 2005,

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, including 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 to sixth meetings of the States parties to the Convention held in Maputo (1999), Geneva (2000), Managua (2001), Geneva (2002), Bangkok (2003) and Zagreb (2005), and the First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Nairobi (2004),

Recalling also the seventh meeting of the States parties to the Convention, held in Geneva from 18 to 22 September 2006, at which the international community monitored progress and supported continued application of the Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009 and established priorities to achieve further progress towards ending, for all people and for all time, the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines,

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 fifty-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 have not signed 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. *Urges* all States that have 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, including through the continued implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan 2005-2009;

4. *Urges* 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 and destruction of anti-personnel mines placed or stockpiled throughout the world;

7. *Urges* all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level and, where in a position to do so, to promote adherence to the Convention through bilateral, subregional, regional and multilateral contacts, outreach, seminars and other means;

8. *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 eighth meeting of the States parties to the Convention, to be held in Jordan from 18 to 22 November 2007, and in the intersessional work programme established at the first meeting of the States parties and further developed at subsequent meetings of the States parties;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 11, paragraph 2, of the Convention, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the next meeting of the States parties and, on behalf of the States parties and in accordance with article 11, paragraph 4, 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 eighth meeting of the States parties as observers;

10. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/84:

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, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon,

Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, 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, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Cuba, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, United States, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam.

Other disarmament issues

Prevention of an arms race in outer space

Conference on Disarmament. In the light of the continuing inability of the Conference on Disarmament [A/61/27] to agree on a substantive programme of work (see p. 614), including the establishment of subsidiary bodies to deal with its substantive agenda items, the question of the preparation of an arms race in outer space was considered in plenary meetings held between 8 and 15 June. While there was general agreement on the need to ensure that outer space military and non-military operations were conducted peacefully, delegates continued to differ on the merit of negotiating a legal instrument to prevent an arms race there. Advocates of such an instrument, notably China and the Russian Federation, maintained that conditions were ripe for it, while those opposed to the idea, the United States and the United Kingdom in particular, countered that the existing legal framework was sufficient and that there was no need to negotiate a new one. Several ideas were put forward on how to advance the work of the Conference on the issue, but to no avail.

The General Assembly, in resolution 61/58 (see below), asked the Conference on Disarmament to complete the examination and updating of the mandate on the issue, and establish an ad hoc committee during its 2007 session.

Report of Secretary-General. In accordance with Assembly resolution 60/66 [YUN 2005, p. 635], the Secretary-General submitted an October report [A/61/532] containing the views of eight States (Canada, China, Cuba, Iraq, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Russian Federation) on the admissibility of further developing international outer space transparency and confidence-building measures in the interest of maintaining international peace and security.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/393], adopted **resolution 61/58** by recorded vote (178-1-1) [agenda item 89].

Prevention of an arms race in outer space

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Reaffirming the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

Reaffirming also the provisions of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

Recalling the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

Reaffirming paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, in which it is stated that in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this issue, and taking note of the proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and at its regular sessions, and of the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament,

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 wide 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 previous 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 positions,

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 45/55 B of 4 December 1990, 47/51 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,

Noting with satisfaction the constructive, structured and focused debate on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at the Conference on Disarmament in 2006,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;

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 sole 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 2007 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 sixty-second session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/58:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 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, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco,

Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, 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.

On the same date [meeting 67], the Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/75** by recorded vote (178-1-1) [agenda item 90 (o)].

Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 60/66 of 8 December 2005,

Reaffirming that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger to international peace and security,

Conscious that further measures should be examined in the search for agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

Recalling, in this context, its previous resolutions, including resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990 and 48/74 B of 16 December 1993, which, inter alia, emphasize the need for increased transparency and confirm 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,

Recalling also the report of the Secretary-General of 15 October 1993 to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, the annex to which contains the study by governmental experts on the application of confidence-building measures in outer space,

Noting the constructive debate which the Conference on Disarmament held on this subject in 2006,

1. *Invites* all Member States to submit to the Secretary-General before its sixty-second session concrete proposals on international outer space transparency and confidence-building measures in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and the prevention of an arms race in outer space;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report with an annex containing concrete proposals from Member States on international outer space transparency and confidence-building measures;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/75:

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, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, 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.

Disarmament and development

In 2006, controversy continued to surround the relationship between disarmament and development, with most members of the Non-Aligned Movement, among other Member States, maintaining their call for the implementation of the action programme adopted by the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development [YUN 1987, p. 82], while other States, particularly EU member States and the United States, emphasized that an automatic link between both concepts did not exist.

Report of Secretary-General. As requested in General Assembly resolution 60/61 [YUN 2005, p. 636], the Secretary-General submitted a June report [A/61/98] summarizing the activities undertaken in the past year by partner departments and agencies of the high-level Steering Group on Disarma-

ment and Development. The report noted that the UN inter-agency working group on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), comprising 15 UN departments, agencies, funds and programmes, had developed new policies and concepts for planning and implementing DDR operations in a peacekeeping context. Those policies and concepts constituted integrated DDR standards, which recognized the links between the composite processes in DDR operations and the need to coordinate their implementation with longer-term development strategies, including development programmes. DDR programmes, an integral part of peacebuilding, security sector reform and socio-economic rehabilitation efforts, were a central element in wider peace, recovery and development frameworks and strategies. The greatest level of relevant activities were undertaken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP and DDA, through its regional centres.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/64** by recorded vote (178-1-2) [agenda item 90 (k)].

Relationship between disarmament and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Charter of the United Nations envisages the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources,

Recalling also the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly concerning the relationship between disarmament and development, as well as the adoption on 11 September 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,

Recalling further its resolutions 49/75 J of 15 December 1994, 50/70 G of 12 December 1995, 51/45 D of 10 December 1996, 52/38 D of 9 December 1997, 53/77 K of 4 December 1998, 54/54 T of 1 December 1999, 55/33 L of 20 November 2000, 56/24 E of 29 November 2001, 57/65 of 22 November 2002, 59/78 of 3 December 2004 and 60/61 of 8 December 2005, and its decision 58/520 of 8 December 2003,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998, and the Final Document of the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Cartagena, Colombia, on 8 and 9 April 2000,

Mindful of the changes in international relations that have taken place since the adoption on 11 September

1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, including the development agenda that has emerged over the past decade,

Bearing in mind the new challenges for the international community in the field of development, poverty eradication and the elimination of the diseases that afflict humanity,

Stressing the importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development and the important role of security in this connection, and concerned at increasing global military expenditure, which could otherwise be spent on development needs,

Recalling the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development and its reappraisal of this significant issue in the current international context,

1. *Stresses* the central role of the United Nations in the disarmament-development relationship, and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen further the role of the Organization in this field, in particular the high-level Steering Group on Disarmament and Development, in order to assure continued and effective coordination and close cooperation between the relevant United Nations departments, agencies and sub-agencies;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development;

3. *Urges* the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries;

4. *Encourages* the international community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to make reference to the contribution that disarmament could provide in meeting them when it reviews its progress towards this purpose in 2006, as well as to make greater efforts to integrate disarmament, humanitarian and development activities;

5. *Encourages* the relevant regional and subregional organizations and institutions, non-governmental organizations and research institutes to incorporate issues related to the relationship between disarmament and development in their agendas and, in this regard, to take into account the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/64:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, 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, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United States.

Abstaining: France, Israel.

Human rights, human security and disarmament

In 2006, Member States continued to seek ways of limiting or preventing human rights and humanitarian problems in situations of armed conflict, mainly within the framework of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. According particular attention to preventing human rights violations with small arms, the Subcommission had appointed a Special Rapporteur, Barbara Frey (United States), to conduct a study on the topic [YUN 2002, p. 720]. At its fifty-eighth session (see p. 884), the Subcommission considered the final report along with annexed draft principles on that study prepared by the Special Rapporteur, detailing measures to be taken by States and private actors towards that end.

The related question of the relationship between disarmament and human security continued to be addressed by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (see p. 680), which

also focused its activities on the small arms problem, the danger posed by explosive remnants of war and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts. In that context, the Institute sought ways to control the rampant spread of small arms and find adequate solutions for the security concerns of local populations.

Arms limitation and disarmament agreements

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/60 [YUN 2005, p. 637], the Secretary-General submitted a June report with later addenda [A/61/113 & Add.1,2], containing information from 11 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 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/63** by recorded vote (175-1-4) [agenda item 90 (j)].

Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/70 M of 12 December 1995, 51/45 E of 10 December 1996, 52/38 E of 9 December 1997, 53/77 J of 4 December 1998, 54/54 S of 1 December 1999, 55/33 K of 20 November 2000, 56/24 F of 29 November 2001, 57/64 of 22 November 2002, 58/45 of 8 December 2003, 59/68 of 3 December 2004 and 60/60 of 8 December 2005,

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,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 60/60,

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 com-

pliance 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 within 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 sixty-second session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control".

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/63:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 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, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, 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, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, 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, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States.

Abstaining: France, Israel, Palau, United Kingdom.

Studies, information and training

Disarmament studies programme

As requested in General Assembly resolution 59/93 [YUN 2004, p. 582], the Secretary-General, in a July report with later addendum [A/61/169 & Add.1], provided information on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 2002 report [YUN 2002, p. 544] of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to Assembly resolution 55/33 E [YUN 2000, p. 535] to undertake the UN study on disarmament and non-proliferation education. The 2006 report included information provided by eight Member States, five UN bodies and other international organizations, and six NGOs on their activities to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education in the context of the 34 recommendations contained in the Group's report. The Secretary-General concluded that partnerships on the issue had yielded results. Regarding peace education, he reported that youth in four countries around the globe had learned something about their national legislation and regulations on small arms; decision makers in Latin America and the Caribbean familiarized themselves with the concepts and impact of their region's adoption of a Treaty declaring the region a zone free of nuclear weapons; students of global security at the University of Malaga, Spain, would create a virtual library of information about nuclear issues; and many Indonesian Government officials had become aware of their Government's policies and activities at the international level on a wide range of arms control and disarmament issues. The type, quantity and diversity of reports received from Governments and civil society indicated the strong interest in learning the details about weapons and their relationship with and impact on politics, economics, social trends and the environment. Despite fund-raising challenges for all disarmament efforts, particularly for non-proliferation education, the UN study continued to serve as a useful structure for related work and as a point of reference in the field. Efforts should, therefore, continue to be made to implement the study's recommendations.

The Group of Governmental Experts on the continuing operation and further development of the UN Register of Conventional Arms [YUN 2003, p. 568] completed and submitted its report to the General Assembly (see p. 668), while the Group of Governmental Experts on illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons began its work during the

year and was expected to conclude in 2007. Also during the year, the Panel of Governmental Experts established by the Secretary-General to explore the issue of verification in all its aspects, pursuant to Assembly resolution 59/60 [YUN 2004, p. 568], began its work.

In 2006, the Assembly, in resolution 61/72 (see p. 661), requested the Secretary-General to establish, no later than 2008, a group of governmental experts to consider further steps to enhance cooperation in confronting surplus conventional ammunition stockpiles, for the Assembly's consideration at its sixty-third (2008) session. By resolution 61/89 (see p. 655), the Assembly asked the Secretary-General to establish a group of governmental experts to examine, commencing in 2008, the feasibility, scope and draft parameters for a comprehensive, legally-binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, and to report on its studies in 2008.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted **resolution 61/73** without vote [agenda item 90 (*f*)].

United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/33 E of 20 November 2000, 57/60 of 22 November 2002 and 59/93 of 3 December 2004,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on disarmament and non-proliferation education, in which the Secretary-General reported on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education,

Emphasizing that the Secretary-General concludes in his report that efforts need to be continued to implement the recommendations of the study and follow the good examples of how they are being implemented to stimulate even further long-term results,

Desirous of stressing the urgency of promoting concerted international efforts at disarmament and non-proliferation, in particular in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, with a view to strengthening international security and enhancing sustainable economic and social development,

Conscious of the need to combat the negative effects of cultures of violence and complacency in the face of current dangers in this field through long-term programmes of education and training,

Remaining convinced that the need for disarmament and non-proliferation education has never been greater,

especially on the subject of weapons of mass destruction, but also in the field of small arms and light weapons, terrorism and other challenges to international security and the process of disarmament, as well as on the relevance of implementing the recommendations contained in the United Nations study,

Recognizing the importance of the role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation education,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Member States, the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, which, within their purview, implemented the recommendations made in the United Nations study, as discussed in the report of the Secretary-General reviewing the implementation of the recommendations, and encourages them once again to continue applying those recommendations and reporting to the Secretary-General on steps taken to implement them;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations and possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to utilize electronic means to the fullest extent possible in the dissemination, in as many official languages as feasible, of information related to that report and any other information that the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat gathers on an ongoing basis in regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Disarmament and non-proliferation education".

Disarmament Information Programme

In response to General Assembly resolution 59/103 [YUN 2004, p. 582], the Secretary-General, in July [A/61/215], reported on the performance of the Disarmament Information Programme for the period from July 2004 to June 2006, and on activities planned for the next two years. The report described relevant activities of the Department for Disarmament Affairs and efforts by the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) to raise awareness and understanding of UN work on disarmament and related issues. Those activities included publications, web site access, exhibits, information activities, cooperation with civil society, and radio and television broadcasts. UN information centres, services and offices also took a variety of initiatives in disarmament and arms control, including press and promotional material, workshops, special events, lectures and other programmes. Responding to higher levels of computer literacy and technological capability among its constituents worldwide, the

Programme reoriented its publications to electronic formats, including *The UN Disarmament Yearbook*, the *Occasional Papers* series and “Disarmament Update: New Links”. DPI highlighted disarmament and arms control issues of topical interest, especially nuclear weapons and small arms and light weapons, in print, on the Internet and in film, television and radio, using its large network of Information Centres around the world and its outreach activities. Its use of the celebrity appeal of the Messenger of Peace in respect of arms control issues had been particularly effective.

Annexed to the report was information on the status of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, which supported information and outreach activities of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. At the end of the 2004-2005 biennium, the Fund's available balance totalled \$318,165.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/395], adopted **resolution 61/95** without vote [agenda item 91 (b)].

United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, by which the World Disarmament Campaign was launched,

Bearing in mind its resolution 47/53 D of 9 December 1992, in which it decided, inter alia, that the World Disarmament Campaign should be known thereafter as the “United Nations Disarmament Information Programme” and the World Disarmament Campaign Voluntary Trust Fund as the “Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme”,

Recalling its resolutions 51/46 A of 10 December 1996, 53/78 E of 4 December 1998, 55/34 A of 20 November 2000, 57/90 of 22 November 2002 and 59/103 of 3 December 2004,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General, in which he underlines that the website of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme has grown exponentially in content and specialization and is being used by a greater number of Member States and other users;

2. Commends the Secretary-General for his efforts to make effective use of the limited resources available to him in disseminating as widely as possible, including by electronic means, information on arms limitation and disarmament to Governments, the media, non-governmental organizations, educational communities

and research institutes, and in carrying out a seminar and conference programme;

3. Stresses the importance of the Programme as a significant instrument in enabling all Member States to participate fully in the deliberations and negotiations on disarmament in the various United Nations bodies, in assisting them in complying with treaties, as required, and in contributing to agreed mechanisms for transparency;

4. Commends with satisfaction the launch of the first online version of *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, the 2004 edition, by the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, together with the 2002 and 2003 archival editions;

5. Notes with appreciation the cooperation of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and its information centres in pursuit of the objectives of the Programme;

6. Recommends that the Programme continue to inform, educate and generate public understanding of the importance of multilateral action and support for it, including action by the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament, in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, in a factual, balanced and objective manner, and that it focus its efforts:

(a) To continue to publish in all official languages *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, the flagship publication of the Department for Disarmament Affairs;

(b) To continue to maintain the disarmament website as a part of the United Nations website and to produce versions of the site in as many official languages as feasible;

(c) To continue to intensify United Nations interaction with the public, principally non-governmental organizations and research institutes, to help further an informed debate on topical issues of arms limitation, disarmament and security;

(d) To continue to organize discussions on topics of interest in the field of arms limitation and disarmament with a view to broadening understanding and facilitating an exchange of views and information among Member States and civil society;

7. Recognizes the important support received from some Governments for the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, and invites once again all Member States to make further contributions to the Fund with a view to sustaining a strong outreach programme;

8. Takes note of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General, which reviews the implementation of the recommendations made in the 2002 study on disarmament and non-proliferation education;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated by the system for the following two years;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme".

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 below), held its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions (New York, 8-10 February; Geneva, 21-23 June) [A/61/297]. The Board reviewed the issue of disarmament in the light of the 2005 World Summit Outcome [YUN 2005, p. 48]. It discussed measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons systems to non-State actors, the way ahead in building an international security system, and the further development of international norms on small arms and light weapons.

On its review of the World Summit Outcome, the Board recommended incremental steps to help build momentum on such priority issues as WMD terrorism, promoting the universality of WMD treaty regimes and the resumption of substantive work in the Conference on Disarmament; measures to build and restore trust and confidence among States as a basis for disarmament and non-proliferation progress; new thinking aimed at establishing a new international security paradigm; pursuing disarmament and non-proliferation in a mutually complementary manner and adoption of a balanced approach in considering the security concerns of all States and in addressing disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy; measures to discourage withdrawal from NPT by empowering IAEA to respond decisively to non-compliance, in order to pre-empt any wrong impression that withdrawal from the Treaty was a viable and consequence-free option; widening the scope of the UN Disarmament Fellowship Programme (see below) to include new topics and challenges, such as export controls, national legislation, law enforcement, border controls and illicit trafficking of nuclear material; and encouraging donors to increase their financial support to NGOs involved in disarmament and arms control. The Board also made recommendations for preventing the proliferation of weapons systems to non-State actors, building an international security system, and further developing international norms on small arms and light weapons.

In its capacity as the UNIDIR Board of Trustees (see below), the Board made recommendations con-

cerning the Institute's 2007 work programme and budget.

UN Institute for Disarmament Research

Report of Secretary-General. By a July note [A/61/180], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the report of the UNIDIR Director covering the Institute's activities for the period from August 2005 to July 2006, as well as the report of the UNIDIR Board of Trustees on the proposed 2006-2007 programme of work and budget. The Institute's research activities maintained focus on global, regional and human security, which covered the full range of substantive disarmament issues, from small arms to weapons in space. As in previous years, the report drew attention to UNIDIR scope of research activities worldwide, including through conferences, seminars and discussion meetings, and through other networking initiatives with specialized agencies and UN system organizations and institutions. The report also listed UNIDIR publications issued during the reporting period.

Disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

In July [A/61/130 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General reported that 30 fellows participated in the UN disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme, which began in Geneva on 28 August and terminated in New York on 1 November. The programme continued to be structured in three segments, of which the first, traditionally held in Geneva, was designed to acquaint the fellows with various aspects of multilateral negotiations on disarmament. The second segment involved study visits to intergovernmental organizations working on disarmament issues, as well as to Member States. The 2006 programme included visits to China, Germany and Japan, and to UN system organizations in The Hague and Vienna. The third segment, always held in New York, was intended to familiarize the fellows with the work of the General Assembly's First Committee and that of the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/395], adopted **resolution 61/91** without vote [agenda item 91 (a)].

United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

Recalling its decision, contained in paragraph 108 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, to establish a programme of fellowships on disarmament, as well as its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly, the second special session devoted to disarmament, in which it decided, *inter alia*, to continue the programme,

Noting that the programme continues to contribute significantly to developing greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament and a better understanding of the concerns of the international community in the field of disarmament and security, as well as to enhancing the knowledge and skills of fellows, allowing them to participate more effectively in efforts in the field of disarmament at all levels,

Noting with satisfaction that the programme has trained a large number of officials from Member States throughout its twenty-eight years of existence, many of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments,

Recognizing the need for Member States to take into account gender equality when nominating candidates to the programme,

Recalling all the annual resolutions on the matter since the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in 1982, including resolution 50/71 A of 12 December 1995,

Believing that the forms of assistance available to Member States, in particular to developing countries, under the programme will enhance the capabilities of their officials to follow ongoing deliberations and negotiations on disarmament, both bilateral and multilateral,

1. *Reaffirms* its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly and the report of the Secretary-General approved by the Assembly in its resolution 33/71 E of 14 December 1978;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all Member States and organizations that have consistently supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success, in particular to the Governments of Germany and Japan for the continuation of extensive and highly educative study visits for the participants in the programme, and to the Government of the People's Republic of China for organizing a study visit for the fellows in the area of disarmament;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the Monterey Institute of International Studies for having organized specific study programmes in the field of disarmament in their respective areas of competence, thereby contributing to the objectives of the programme;

4. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme has continued to be carried out;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to implement annually the Geneva-based programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services".

Regional disarmament

In 2006, the United Nations addressed disarmament and arms control issues at the regional and subregional levels, particularly the halting of the spread of WMDs, strengthening and consolidating nuclear-weapon-free zones (see p. 644), tackling the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, undertaking confidence- and security-building measures and destroying surplus stocks of conventional armaments. On 22 September, the Seventh High-level Meeting between the United Nations and regional and other intergovernmental organizations considered measures for furthering the pursuit of relevant regional disarmament activities.

In December, the General Assembly, in resolution 61/82 (see p. 683), decided to give urgent consideration to conventional arms control issues at the regional and subregional levels, and encouraged Member States to conclude agreements at those levels to promote disarmament and confidence-building measures.

Reports of Secretary-General. As requested in General Assembly resolution 60/75 [YUN 2005, p. 643], the Secretary-General, in June [A/61/112], presented the views of seven States (Bangladesh, Bolivia, Lebanon, Mauritius, Mexico, Pakistan, Serbia (formerly Serbia and Montenegro) regarding conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels.

In July [A/61/124], he submitted another report, in response to Assembly resolution 60/64 [YUN 2005, p. 642], containing the views of five States (Bolivia, Mauritius, Pakistan, Poland, Suriname) on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/394], adopted four resolutions relating to re-

gional disarmament. The Assembly adopted **resolution 61/80** without vote [agenda item 90 (*m*)].

Regional disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/58 P of 4 December 1990, 46/36 I of 6 December 1991, 47/52 J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 I of 16 December 1993, 49/75 N of 15 December 1994, 50/70 K of 12 December 1995, 51/45 K of 10 December 1996, 52/38 P of 9 December 1997, 53/77 O of 4 December 1998, 54/54 N of 1 December 1999, 55/33 O of 20 November 2000, 56/24 H of 29 November 2001, 57/76 of 22 November 2002, 58/38 of 8 December 2003, 59/89 of 3 December 2004 and 60/63 of 8 December 2005 on regional disarmament,

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 1993 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,

Convinced 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 sixty-second session the item entitled "Regional disarmament".

The Assembly adopted **resolution 61/81** without vote [agenda item 90 (*n*)].

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 resolutions 58/43 of 8 December 2003, 59/87 of 3 December 2004 and 60/64 of 8 December 2005,

Recalling also 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,

Recalling further the resolutions and guidelines adopted by consensus by the General Assembly and the Disarmament Commission relating to confidence-building measures and their implantation at the global, regional and subregional levels,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the agreement 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 and 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 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 mecha-

nism 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. *Reaffirms 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 arrangements or other peaceful means chosen by the parties;

3. *Reaffirms* the ways and means regarding confidence- and security-building measures set out in the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1993 session;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to pursue these ways and means through sustained consultations and dialogue, while at the same time avoiding actions which may hinder or impair such a dialogue;

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

6. *Emphasizes* that the objective of confidence-building measures should be to help strengthen international peace and security and be consistent with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments;

7. *Encourages* the promotion of bilateral and regional confidence-building measures, with the consent and participation of the parties concerned, to avoid conflict and prevent the unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session containing the views of Member States on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context".

The Assembly adopted **resolution 61/82** by recorded vote (177-1-1) [agenda item 90 (t)].

Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/75 J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 Q of 15 December 1994, 50/70 L of 12 December 1995, 51/45 Q of 10 December 1996, 52/38 Q of 9 December 1997, 53/77 P of 4 December 1998, 54/54 M of 1 December 1999, 55/33 P of 20 November 2000, 56/24 I of 29 November 2001, 57/77 of 22 November 2002, 58/39 of 8 December 2003, 59/88 of 3 December 2004 and 60/75 of 8 December 2005,

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

Convinced 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,

Desirous 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 sixty-second session;

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

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 61/82:

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, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indo-

nesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, 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.

The Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/395], adopted **resolution 61/90** without vote [agenda item 91 (c)].

United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 60/83 of 8 December 2005 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 purposes and principles 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 sixty-second session the item entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament".

Africa

In 2006, African States continued to address within a regional framework disarmament and non-proliferation issues, focusing in particular on problems relating to small arms and light weapons. Two major developments in that regard were the entry into force, in May, of the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, adopted in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 571], and the adoption, in June, of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, at the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government (Abuja, Nigeria, 14 June). The former, designed to strengthen the Nairobi Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 518], which first drew attention to the small arms scourge in the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa, criminalized

the illicit trafficking, manufacturing and possession of small arms and light weapons and obliged member States to establish controls over their possession by civilians and accountability for national inventories. The new Convention, on the other hand, had the status of a legally-binding instrument laying down conditions for the transfer of small arms and light weapons and establishing a framework for manufacturing, controlling and managing them. Once the Convention entered into force, it would replace the voluntary ECOWAS Moratorium on small arms, adopted in 1998 [YUN 1998, p. 537].

Another notable development during the year was the launch of the ECOWAS Small Arms Control Project (ECOSAP) as the successor of the Mali-based Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development, established in 1998 to serve as an operational framework for the small arms Moratorium [ibid.]. The new five-year project would run as a programme, address small arms trafficking in West Africa, help build the capacity of the region's Small Arms Commission and provide technical support to the small arms unit of the ECOWAS secretariat. Elsewhere, efforts continued to encourage members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) that had not done so, to ratify the 2001 SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials [YUN 2001, p. 511], which entered into force in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 571].

Standing Advisory Committee

In response to General Assembly resolution 60/87 [YUN 2005, p. 645], the Secretary-General, in September [A/61/365], described the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa since his 2005 report [YUN 2005, p. 644]. He observed that, despite waning financial support and the Committee's consequent inability to fully implement its programme, it continued to play an important role in promoting peace and security in the Central African region. Sustained support to the Committee's activities, mostly through voluntary contributions, was therefore critical to ensuring that it maintained that role. States members of the Committee needed to assume full ownership of its activities, and in that regard, it was critical for the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, established in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 527], to become operational, particularly its early-warning mechanism. It was also vital to strengthen the capacity of the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States to enable it to spearhead the implementation of the

various declarations, decisions and recommendations of the Committee.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/395], adopted **resolution 61/96** without vote [agenda item 91 (g)].

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

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 43/78 H and 43/85 of 7 December 1988, 44/21 of 15 November 1989, 45/58 M of 4 December 1990, 46/37 B of 6 December 1991, 47/53 F of 15 December 1992, 48/76 A of 16 December 1993, 49/76 C of 15 December 1994, 50/71 B of 12 December 1995, 51/46 C of 10 December 1996, 52/39 B of 9 December 1997, 53/78 A of 4 December 1998, 54/55 A of 1 December 1999, 55/34 B of 20 November 2000, 56/25 A of 29 November 2001, 57/88 of 22 November 2002, 58/65 of 8 December 2003, 59/96 of 3 December 2004 and 60/87 of 8 December 2005,

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 and to international peace and security,

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 Septem-

ber 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 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa at Yaoundé,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts being made by the countries members of the Economic Community of Central African States to promote peace and security in their subregion, including the convening in N'Djamena, at the initiative of the current Chairman of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, of two extraordinary sessions of the Conference of Heads of State of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, for the purpose of considering the risk of destabilization in Chad,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration of 2 September 2005 on the situation between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Rwanda,

Taking note of the successful completion of electoral processes in Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe,

Recognizing the importance of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in strengthening peace, political stability and reconstruction, especially in post-conflict situations,

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 its resolution 60/87;

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 sustainable peace, stability and development in the subregion;

3. *Encourages* the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States to pursue their efforts to promote peace and security in their subregion;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda are pursuing their efforts to strengthen their bilateral relations;

5. *Strongly appeals* to the international community to provide all necessary support for the smooth functioning of the electoral process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

6. *Appeals* to the international community to support the efforts undertaken by the States concerned to implement disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes;

7. *Reaffirms its support* for the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee adopted at the or-

ganizational meeting of the Committee, held at Yaoundé from 27 to 31 July 1992;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made by the Standing Advisory Committee in implementing its programme of work for the period 2005-2006;

9. *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;

10. *Welcomes* the creation of a mechanism for the promotion, maintenance and consolidation of peace and security in Central Africa, known as the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the countries members 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;

11. *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;

12. *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;

13. *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;

14. *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;

15. *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;

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

17. *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;

18. *Thanks* the Secretary-General for sending a multidisciplinary mission from 8 to 22 June 2003 for the purpose of undertaking an assessment of the priority needs of the region and challenges confronting it in the areas of peace, security, economic development, human rights and HIV/AIDS, and in the humanitarian field;

19. *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;

20. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".

Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/86 [YUN 2005, p. 647], the Secretary-General described the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa [A/61/137], covering the period from July 2005 to June 2006. The Centre was established in Lomé, Togo, in 1986 [YUN 1986, p. 85].

During the reporting period, the Centre's main areas of focus were: peace and security; arms control and practical disarmament; research, information and publication; and cooperation with regional, subregional and civil society organizations. To strengthen civil-military relations, the Centre developed an African security sector reform programme targeting 12 African countries that were either experiencing difficulties in that area or recovering from armed conflict. The Centre also provided technical support to the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces in formulating and adopting a Code of Conduct for the Armed and Security Forces in West Africa, submitted to the ECOWAS Council of Ministers for consideration. The Centre chaired the meeting of independent experts (Abuja, Nigeria, 9-10 March) to review the draft convention for the control of small arms and light weapons in West Africa (see p. 684). In collaboration with the Sahel and West Africa Club of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Centre organized a workshop on human security in West Africa (Lomé, Togo, 28-30 March), which reviewed the state of human security in that subregion and made recommendations for action. Between 11 and 14 April, the Centre participated in the series of meetings conducted by the Security Council Group of

Experts on Côte d'Ivoire as part of its multi-country visits to Africa to gather information relating to States' compliance with the Council's arms embargo on Côte d'Ivoire [YUN 2004, p. 186]. The Centre continued to support African countries, especially Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Gabon, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Togo, in establishing and/or strengthening national commissions for the control of small arms and light weapons, within the context of implementing the small arms transparency and control regime in Africa project, launched in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 587]. The Centre completed implementation of activities relating to that project, especially the inventory of small arms and light weapons and ammunition production capacities of participating States, as well as the establishment and maintenance of an arms register and a database on those weapons on the continent. It provided technical expertise to the Nigerian national commission in organizing a training programme (Kaduna, Nigeria, 4-5 May) on enhanced stockpile management and control. The Centre's other notable activities included information exchange with UN system organizations on arms control and disarmament issues, including the promotion of the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) (see p. 644); support for the continuing implementation of the ECOWAS Moratorium on small arms; research on issues relating to peace, security and disarmament in Africa; and cooperation with numerous regional organizations and NGOs, including the African Union (AU), in the field of peace, security and disarmament on the continent. In that context, the Centre initiated a partnership programme with the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to facilitate the transfer to Africa of the knowledge, skills and best practices from Latin America's law enforcement training courses on the control of the illegal fire arms trade and trafficking. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/86, a consultative mechanism for the Centre's reorganization was established to enable it to better fulfil its mandate in responding to Africa's peace and disarmament needs. Open to all interested States, the mechanism held three meetings (New York, 5 May, 5 and 12 June) to consider relevant proposals and recommendations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee

[A/61/395], adopted **resolution 61/93** without vote [agenda item 91 (f)].

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,

Recalling its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 D of 3 December 1986, 42/39 J of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 D of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, and its resolutions 46/36 F of 6 December 1991 and 47/52 G of 9 December 1992 on regional disarmament, including confidence-building measures,

Recalling also its resolutions 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, 50/71 C of 12 December 1995, 51/46 E of 10 December 1996, 52/220 of 22 December 1997, 53/78 C of 4 December 1998, 54/55 B of 1 December 1999, 55/34 D of 20 November 2000, 56/25 D of 29 November 2001, 57/91 of 22 November 2002, 58/61 of 8 December 2003, 59/101 of 3 December 2004 and 60/86 of 8 December 2005,

Aware of the important role that the Regional Centre can play 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, in which he stated that the Regional Centre continued to operate under enormous uncertainty owing to a persistent decline in voluntary contributions in support of its activities,

Concerned that the activities and staffing of the Regional Centre have been reduced in view of the limited resources at its disposal,

Deeply concerned that, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General, the future of the Regional Centre looks bleak, as there is no foreseeable reliable source of funding that would ensure its operational sustainability,

Bearing in mind the efforts undertaken to mobilize the necessary resources for the operational costs of the Regional Centre,

Conscious of the need to review the mandate and programmes of the Regional Centre in the light of developments in the field of peace and security in Africa since its establishment,

Taking into account the need to establish close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, in particular its institutions in the field of peace, disarmament and security, as well as with relevant United Nations bodies and programmes in Africa for greater effectiveness,

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/86, requested the Secretary-General to establish, within existing resources, a consultative mechanism of interested States, in particular African States, for the re-

organization of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-first session,

1. *Notes* that the year 2006 commemorates the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa in Lomé;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Consultative Mechanism for the Reorganization of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and its work aimed at enabling the Centre to effectively fulfil its mandate in responding to the demands and needs of Africa in the field of peace and disarmament;

3. *Requests* the Consultative Mechanism to continue its work, including reviewing the mandate and programmes of the Regional Centre in the light of developments in the field of peace and security in Africa since its establishment, with a view to identifying concrete measures to revitalize the Centre;

4. *Urges* all States, as well as 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;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary support to the Regional Centre for better achievements and results;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the African Union, in particular in the areas of peace, security and development, and to continue to provide assistance towards stabilizing the financial situation of the Centre;

7. *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;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa".

Asia and the Pacific

In 2006, States in Asia and the Pacific continued to address disarmament and non-proliferation issues within the framework of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), its Regional Forum, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan), which served as a multilateral platform for strengthening regional peace, security and stability. At its sixth

summit meeting (Shanghai, China, 15 June), sco issued a joint communiqué stating that its main priority was to combat the increasing threats posed by terrorism, separatism, extremism and drug trafficking. To that end, it planned to undertake joint anti-terrorism military exercises within the territories of its member States and tackle common military-political or criminal challenges to information security in the region. The summit also adopted declarations by which sco members committed themselves to enhancing strategic stability and the international regime on the non-proliferation of wmds; pledged to contribute to the development of a new global security architecture of mutual understanding based on international law; and resolved to enhance the organization's efforts to bring peace, prosperity and harmony to the region.

At the thirty-ninth ASEAN ministerial meeting (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 24-25 July), the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN member States reaffirmed their commitment to promote political and security cooperation in advancing peace, stability and development in the region; condemned terrorism and pledged to help eliminate it; declared continuing support for the implementation of the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) (see p. 646); and issued a joint declaration with Canada on enhanced cooperation in strengthening measures against the terrorist threat and in tackling the illegal manufacture, possession or trafficking in weapons, ammunition, explosives and other potentially destructive materials or substances.

The non-proliferation of wmds was the main topic of discussion at a seminar organized by the Regional Forum (Singapore, 27-29 March), at which experts from 25 regional States reaffirmed the seriousness of the threat which those weapons and their means of delivery posed to international security and considered how regional cooperation could be further strengthened to better address the problem. The thirteenth ministerial meeting of the Regional Forum (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 28 July) emphasized the importance of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia and Pacific region and discussed related challenges, especially the DPRK test firing of missiles in July (see p. 441), international terrorism and the need to address its root causes, and the continuing threat to human security posed by the illegal use of small arms and light weapons. They reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action adopted by the UN Conference on small

arms [YUN 2001, p. 499], as well as the importance of strengthening controls on the transfer of man-portable air defence systems to prevent their acquisition by terrorists. The Ministers also addressed challenges relating to the potential proliferation of wmds and reaffirmed the importance of NPT and the work of IAEA in dealing with those challenges.

Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

As requested in General Assembly resolution 60/85 [YUN 2005, p. 649], the Secretary-General reported in July on the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for the period from August 2005 to July 2006 [A/61/163]. The Centre was inaugurated in Kathmandu, Nepal, in 1989 [YUN 1989, p. 88].

The Centre maintained efforts to promote disarmament and security by organizing or participating in meetings and conferences. The Centre cooperated with Canada, Japan and UNDP in organizing a workshop for South Asia and South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand, 17-19 May) on the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the 2001 UN Conference on small arms, designed to prepare the regional States for participation in the conference to review global progress in implementing the Programme. At the initiative of China and with the support of several other Governments, the Centre organized a UN seminar (Beijing, 12-13 July) on implementing Security Council resolution 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544] on the non-proliferation of wmds, where participants considered, among other subjects, measures relating to the protection of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery.

The Centre also organized the eighteenth United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues (Yokohama, Japan, 21-23 August), which discussed the challenges and risks facing the international non-proliferation regime, notably the nuclear programmes of DPRK and Iran, and global nuclear black market networks. It also explored practical approaches to cope effectively with those challenges. The Centre also helped organize the fifth UN-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation (Jeju, Republic of Korea, 13-15 December), where participants considered ways to revitalize efforts to curb the proliferation of wmds.

The Centre addressed disarmament issues in cooperation with regional and subregional organizations and with relevant disarmament-related

intergovernmental entities and assisted the five Central Asian States in finalizing the text of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (see p. 644), and Mongolia, in consolidating its nuclear-weapon-free status (see p. 645).

Communication. On 31 March [A/60/744], the host country of the Centre, Nepal, reaffirmed its desire to relocate the Centre and make it operational within six months of the signing of the host country agreement with the United Nations. It regretted that, despite its expression of readiness, in 2005, to sign that agreement [YUN 2005, p. 649], it had yet to be provided with a comprehensive draft.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/395], adopted **resolution 61/94** without vote [agenda item 91 (e)].

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989, by which it established the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and renamed it the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, with headquarters in Kathmandu and 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,

Taking note of 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, conferences and workshops in the region, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 17 to 19 August 2005; Busan, Republic of Korea, from 1 to 3 December 2005; Bali, Indonesia, on 21 and 22 December 2005; Bangkok, Thailand, from 17 to 19 May 2006; and

Beijing, People’s Republic of China, on 12 and 13 July 2006,

Welcoming the activities of the Regional Centre in the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation education in the Asia-Pacific region, as recommended in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education,

Noting the important role of the Regional Centre in assisting region-specific initiatives of Member States,

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 complete, without any further delay, the internal procedure for finalizing the host country agreement and the related memorandum of understanding and 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;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific”.

Europe

In 2006, European countries addressed security and disarmament issues within the framework of regional institutions, especially the European Union (EU), which enhanced its non-proliferation activities by promoting the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1540(2004) [YUN 2004, p. 544] and 1673(2006) (see p. 635) on the non-

proliferation of WMDs. In that regard, it helped fund regional workshops in Asia and the Pacific (Beijing, 12-13 July), Africa (Accra, Ghana, 9-10 November) and Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, Peru, 27-28 November), all aimed at raising awareness of States' obligations under those resolutions and addressing related regional assistance needs. The EU also provided financial support to IAEA efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism. Accordingly, it developed assistance projects for South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and the Mediterranean, Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East, geared to improve the physical protection of nuclear material and facilities, enhance the control of radioactive sources and guard against illicit trafficking in related products. Other projects supported by the EU were aimed at enhancing the CTBT monitoring and verification system (see p. 630), promoting the universalization and national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (see p. 653) and encouraging accession to the Biological Weapons Convention (see p. 650). It also began to implement best practices for the control of dual use items and technology, in accordance with related obligations under Security Council resolution 1540(2004).

In the field of conventional arms control, the EU continued to harmonize its member States' national arms export control policies, in accordance with the 1998 EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports [YUN 1998, p. 540]. Future priorities in that regard included coordinating outreach efforts, particularly to Western Balkan countries and their neighbours; promoting the Code's principles and criteria; and providing practical and technical assistance towards those objectives. The EU also contributed to international efforts to combat the illicit accumulation of and trafficking in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, as well as anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war. It provided financial support to projects relevant to those issues, which addressed political and legislative processes and the humanitarian and developmental impact of the illicit proliferation and uncontrolled use and misuse of those weapons.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) also addressed regional disarmament and security concerns. Through its Partnership for Peace Trust Fund, NATO provided practical support to nations seeking to implement the Mine-Ban Convention (see p. 670) and the 2001 Programme of Action on small arms. NATO member States also pressed on with efforts to implement the 1990 Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) [YUN 1990, p. 79]. At the Third Review Conference of the Treaty (Vienna, 30 May-2 June), they discussed

developments that should enable the ratification by all members of the 1999 Agreement on the Adaptation of the Treaty [YUN 1999, p. 503], and which were expected to pave the way for its entry into force. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) focused primarily on the implementation of confidence- and security-building measures. It also addressed new threats and security-related concerns, such as illicit trafficking, the small arms scourge and WMDs. It remained involved in the implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action on small arms, notably by initiating discussions on how to counter the illicit transfer of those weapons by private cargo companies, which accounted for a major part of the illegal transport of small arms. Reports by OSCE participating States regarding the Programme's implementation indicated that, in the period between 2001 and 2005, they collectively destroyed some 5.3 million weapons, of which 4.2 million were deemed surplus, and seized 1 million from illegal trafficking.

To enable its participating States to address better the problems relating to man-portable air defence systems, the OSCE forum for security cooperation adopted a decision on best practices regarding national procedures for stockpile management and security of such systems, which would comprise 'annex C' to its *Handbook of Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons*. It also adopted best practice guides on stockpiles of conventional ammunition. Regarding WMDs, OSCE joined the EU in promoting the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540(2004) among its participating States. In that connection, it organized a workshop (Vienna, November), at which participating States agreed to cooperate in furthering UN efforts by promoting lessons learned, sharing experiences and facilitating the identification of assistance needs. Regional disarmament and security concerns in Europe were also addressed by the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe [YUN 1999, p. 397], mainly through the convening, training and capacity-building activities of its two most notable initiatives in that subregion: the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre and the South-Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Communication. On 27 June [A/60/910-S/2006/444], Kazakhstan transmitted the text of a Declaration adopted by the second Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 17 June), by which Heads of State or Government of the member States condemned terrorism and separatism, advocated cooperation in preventing the

proliferation of WMDs and other international disarmament and security threats and declared their willingness to implement the 2001 Programme of Action on small arms.

Latin America and the Caribbean

In 2006, the EU and Latin American and Caribbean countries resolved, at the fourth Summit of Heads of State and Government (Vienna, 12 May), to reinforce their bi-regional strategic relationship. Consistent with that objective, the Summit adopted the Vienna Declaration, by which the leaders on both sides reaffirmed their commitment to a multilateral approach to current disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control challenges, particularly regarding WMDs, and undertook to cooperate in combating terrorism. In a related development, the Organization of American States (OAS) introduced a multidimensional approach to regional defence and security issues, in particular through the establishment of its Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, incorporating sub-secretariats on terrorism and drug abuse, and a Public Security Department. Building on that shift in focus, the Seventh Conference of the Defence Ministers of the Americas (Managua, Nicaragua, 1-5 October) adopted the Managua Declaration, which recommended, among other actions, measures against all forms of terrorism, the proliferation of small arms and other transnational crime threats. The eighteenth special session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) (Mexico City, 23 November) addressed the concern of its member States that some nuclear-weapon States tended to see the possible use of nuclear weapons as a legitimate means of self-defence, contrary to international law.

Regional Centre

Responding to General Assembly resolution 60/84 [YUN 2005, p. 651], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/61/157] describing the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for the period from July 2005 to June 2006. The Centre was inaugurated in Lima, Peru, in 1987 [YUN 1987, p. 88].

The Centre helped to promote regional and sub-regional security; strengthen global security; and foster peace and disarmament education. Activities undertaken in those areas took into account their cross-cutting nature. In February, the Centre reached an agreement with the Regional Centre in

Africa (see p. 687) and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) to develop synergies between both regions in combating illicit firearms trafficking. Under the agreement, law enforcement training courses and databases developed by the Centre in Latin America and the Caribbean, would be made available in Africa. The Centre also organized training courses in six countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to assist them in improving control of the legal firearms trade and to prevent illicit trafficking. Up to 720 regional officials were trained by year's end. On 23 February, the Centre agreed to cooperate with the World Centre for Research and Training in the Resolution of Conflicts in Colombia to evaluate national law enforcement courses and prepare training manuals for decision-makers and youth on security issues. In March, it met with the UNDP Regional Bureau to elaborate a new strategic relationship between them for incorporating disarmament and development activities into the assistance provided to the regional States in implementing the Millennium Declaration [YUN 2000, p. 49]. The Centre and its partners helped Argentina improve its capacity to combat crime associated with illicit arms trafficking and use by initiating a pilot programme, using firearms identification, registration and ballistic forensic system to establish links between crimes committed with the same weapon and to identify illicit arms transaction. The initiative, the first of its kind in the region, marked the beginning of the establishment of a region-wide forensic network to assist States in implementing the 2001 Programme of Action on small arms.

On 1 May, the Centre signed an agreement with the Department for Disarmament Affairs and UNDP-Costa Rica to assist that country's Government in reducing the negative impact of firearms violence and insecurity on human development. Under the auspices of the regional clearing house on firearms, ammunition and explosives, the Centre considered ways to assist regional States in enhancing existing controls on their legal arms trade, while preventing illicit trafficking. To help strengthen arms transfer controls in the region, the Centre and its partners organized a regional conference (Antigua, Guatemala, 2-4 May) [A/CONF.192/2006/RC/7], which adopted the Antigua Declaration on a common regional position on the prevention of illicit firearms trafficking. OAS, at its thirty-sixth regular session (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 4-6 June), asked its General Secretariat to work with the Centre and its partners in offering expert training on special techniques for investigating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and

ammunition. During the year, the Centre cooperated with regional NGOs to illustrate the impact of illicit firearms trafficking on peoples' daily lives and promote a culture of peace; assisted regional States in weapons destruction exercises under its Lima Challenge project, which had overseen the destruction of some 40,902 firearms and removal of 27,000 others in the past five years; provided further assistance for improving the security of arms storage in the region; collaborated with intergovernmental treaty organizations to promote the signature, ratification and implementation of disarmament-related treaties; and supported Peru's amnesty campaign (23 July 2005 to 17 September 2006) by providing technical and financial resources to enable it to better regulate the possession of firearms, ammunition and explosives in the country.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 6 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/61/395], adopted **resolution 61/92** without vote [agenda item 91 (d)].

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/60 J 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,

Recalling also its resolutions 46/37 F of 9 December 1991, 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, 50/71 C of 12 December 1995, 52/220 of 22 December 1997, 53/78 F of 4 December 1998, 54/55 F of 1 December 1999, 55/34 E of 20 November 2000, 56/25 E of 29 November 2001, 57/89 of 22 November 2002, 58/60 of 8 December 2003, 59/99 of 3 December 2004 and 60/84 of 8 December 2005,

Recognizing that the Regional Centre has continued to provide substantive support for the implementation of regional and subregional initiatives and has intensified its contribution to the coordination of United Nations efforts towards peace, disarmament and the promotion of economic and social development,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General, which, inter alia, concludes that the Regional Centre has continued to provide assistance to States in the Latin American and Caribbean region in the implementation of regional initiatives in the areas of peace, disarmament and development and that during the period under review such assistance was provided in the area of practical disarmament, such as weapons destruction and training courses; the preparation of national reports on weapons-related instruments; the creation of mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of disarmament treaties; and the provi-

sion of forums for discussion among States to facilitate their reaching common positions on disarmament and non-proliferation issues, and welcoming also the Centre's initiation of the process of transferring to the African region its knowledge and best practices in the area of training courses for the law enforcement community on the prevention of illicit firearms trafficking,

Recalling the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the relationship between disarmament and development, referred to in General Assembly resolution 59/78 of 3 December 2004, which is of utmost interest with regard to the role that the Regional Centre plays in promoting the issue in the region in pursuit of its mandate to promote economic and social development related to peace and disarmament,

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 support provided by the Regional Centre to strengthening the nuclear-weapon-free zone established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), as well as to promoting and assisting the ratification and implementation of existing multilateral agreements related to weapons of mass destruction and to promoting peace and disarmament education projects during the period under review,

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,

Bearing in mind also 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 and disarmament with sufficient financial resources and cooperation for the planning and implementation of their programmes of activities,

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 activities carried out in the last year in the areas of peace, disarmament and development, and requests the 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. *Appeals* to Member States, in particular those within the Latin American and Caribbean region, and

to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to make and to increase voluntary contributions to strengthen the Regional Centre, its programme of activities and the implementation thereof;

5. *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 of activities and making greater and better use of the potential of the Centre to meet the current challenges facing the international community with a view to fulfilling the aims of the Charter of the United Nations in the areas of peace, disarmament and development;

6. *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, and conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, as well as in the relationship between disarmament and development;

7. *Encourages* the Regional Centre to further develop activities in the important area of disarmament and development;

8. *Highlights* the conclusion contained in the report of the Secretary-General that, through its activities, the Regional Centre has demonstrated its role as a viable regional actor in assisting States in the region to advance the cause of peace, disarmament and development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

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 sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean".