

against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of small States,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General³ on the implementation of resolution 44/51,

1. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of resolution 44/51;

2. *Recognizes* that small States may be particularly vulnerable to external threats and acts of interference in their internal affairs;

3. *Stresses* the vital importance for all States of the unconditional respect by all States of all the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and the peaceful settlement of disputes, and their consistent application;

4. *Stresses also* the importance of strengthening the regional security arrangements by increasing interaction, cooperation and consultation;

5. *Appeals* to the relevant regional and international organizations to provide assistance when requested by small States for the strengthening of their security in accordance with the principles of the Charter;

6. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to pay special attention to monitoring the security situation of small States and to consider making use of the provisions of Article 99 of the Charter;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to explore ways and means, within the United Nations and in accordance with the Charter, of preserving the security of small States;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his consultations with the members of the Security Council and other interested Governments, taking into account the changing international climate and the emergence of new States, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "Protection and security of small States".

66th plenary meeting
9 December 1991

46/44. Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 45/71 of 11 December 1990, in which, *inter alia*, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation,⁴

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on

present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which man is exposed,

Conscious of the continued need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on man and his environment,

Bearing in mind the decision of the Scientific Committee to submit, as soon as the relevant studies are completed, shorter reports with supporting scientific documents on the specialized topics mentioned by the Committee,⁵

1. *Commends* the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past thirty-six years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of atomic radiation and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the continued and growing scientific cooperation between the Scientific Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important coordinating activities, to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources;

4. *Endorses* the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

5. *Also requests* the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their cooperation in this field;

8. *Invites* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly.

66th plenary meeting
9 December 1991

46/45. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/72 of 11 December 1990,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Gravely concerned about the extension of an arms race into outer space,

Recognizing that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Aware of the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to the socio-economic advancement of mankind, in particular that of the people of developing countries,

Considering that space debris is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the further development of peaceful space exploration and application as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, which contribute to international cooperation in this field,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General⁶ on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,⁷

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its thirty-fourth session,⁸

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;⁸

2. *Invites* States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space⁹ to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;

3. *Notes* that, at its thirtieth session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in its working groups, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 45/72;¹⁰

4. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-first session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:

(a) Continue, through its working group, the elaboration of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear-power sources in outer space with the aim of finalizing the draft set of principles at its next session;

(b) Continue, through its working group, its consideration of matters relating to the definition and delimitations of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union;

(c) Continue, through its working group, its consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries;

5. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee

concerning the organization of work in the Legal Subcommittee;

6. *Notes* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its twenty-eighth session, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/72;¹¹

7. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its twenty-ninth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:

(a) Consider the following items on a priority basis:

(i) United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system;

(ii) Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;⁷

(iii) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites including, *inter alia*, applications for developing countries;

(iv) Use of nuclear-power sources in outer space;

(b) Consider the following items:

(i) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space;

(ii) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, *inter alia*, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries;

(iii) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine;

(iv) Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme;

(v) Matters relating to planetary exploration;

(vi) Matters relating to astronomy;

(vii) The theme fixed for special attention at the 1992 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Space technology and the protection of the Earth's environment: development of endogenous capabilities, in particular in the developing countries and in the context of International Space Year"; the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the Subcommittee's session, to complement discussions within the Subcommittee on the special theme;

8. *Considers*, in the context of paragraph 7 (a) (ii) above, that it is particularly urgent to implement the following recommendations:

(a) All countries should have the opportunity to use the techniques resulting from medical studies in space;

(b) Data banks at the national and regional levels

should be strengthened and expanded and an international space information service should be established to function as a centre of coordination;

(c) The United Nations should support the creation of adequate training centres at the regional level, linked, whenever possible, to institutions implementing space programmes; necessary funding for the development of such centres should be made available through financial institutions;

(d) The United Nations should organize a fellowship programme through which selected graduates or post-graduates from developing countries should get in-depth, long-term exposure to space technology or applications; it is also desirable to encourage the availability of opportunities for such exposure on other bilateral and multilateral cases outside the United Nations system;

9. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should reconvene, at its twenty-ninth session, the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to continue its work;

10. *Also endorses* the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as endorsed by the Committee and as contained in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the report of the Working Group of the Whole;¹²

11. *Decides* that, during the twenty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space should be reconvened;

12. *Endorses* the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1992, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications,¹³ and urges all States to make voluntary contributions to the Programme in order to enhance its effectiveness;

13. *Emphasizes* the urgency and importance of implementing fully the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as early as possible;

14. *Takes note with interest* of the offer of the Government of Chile to host a space conference, with a view to enhancing international cooperation in the context of the peaceful uses of outer space, including the applications of space science and technology;

15. *Reaffirms* its approval of the recommendation of the Conference regarding the establishment and strengthening of regional mechanisms of cooperation and their promotion and creation through the United Nations system;

16. *Expresses its appreciation* to all Governments that have made or expressed their intention to make contributions towards carrying out the recommendations of the Conference;

17. *Invites* all Governments to take effective action for the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

18. *Requests* all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations working in the field of outer space or on space-related matters to cooperate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the

General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

20. *Urges* Member States, international organizations and other funding sources to support the activities of the United Nations as part of International Space Year, 1992;

21. *Reiterates* its recommendation that Member States, in planning their activities for International Space Year, consider ways in which those activities could complement the efforts under way for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development planned for 1992;

22. *Recommends* that in 1992 the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should dedicate at least one meeting of their regular sessions to International Space Year;

23. *Also recommends* that more attention be paid to all aspects related to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment;

24. *Considers* that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions with space debris and other aspects of space debris and calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, and that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in order to allow it to follow this area more closely;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Member States to provide information on their national research on space debris to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee;

26. *Also considers* that space debris could be an appropriate subject for in-depth discussion by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the future;

27. *Urges* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes;

28. *Takes note* of the views expressed during the thirty-fourth session of the Committee and during the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly concerning ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes;

29. *Requests* the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

30. *Also requests* the Committee to continue to consider, at its thirty-fifth session, its agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status";

31. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other international organizations to continue and, where appropriate, enhance their cooperation with the Committee and to provide it with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

32. *Further requests* the Committee to continue its work, in accordance with the present resolution, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-

seventh session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.

*66th plenary meeting
9 December 1991*

46/46. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

A

ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINE REFUGEES

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/73 A of 11 December 1990 and all its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,

Taking note of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1991,¹⁴

1. *Notes with deep regret* that repatriation or compensation of the refugees as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) has not been effected, that no substantial progress has been made in the programme endorsed by the Assembly in paragraph 2 of its resolution 513 (VI) of 26 January 1952 for the reintegration of refugees either by repatriation or resettlement and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of serious concern;

2. *Expresses its thanks* to the Commissioner-General and to all the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, recognizing that the Agency is doing all it can within the limits of available resources, and also expresses its thanks to the specialized agencies and private organizations for their valuable work in assisting the refugees;

3. *Reiterates its request* that the headquarters of the Agency should be relocated to its former site within its area of operations as soon as practicable;

4. *Notes with regret* that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III),¹⁵ and requests the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 1992;

5. *Directs attention* to the continuing seriousness of the financial position of the Agency, as outlined in the report of the Commissioner-General;

6. *Notes with profound concern* that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General to collect additional contributions, this increased level of income to the Agency is still insufficient to cover essential budget requirements in the present year and that, at currently foreseen levels of giving, deficits will recur each year;

7. *Calls upon* all Governments, as a matter of urgency, to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency, particularly in the light of the budgetary deficit projected in the report of the Commissioner-General, and therefore urges non-contributing

Governments to contribute regularly and contributing Governments to consider increasing their regular contributions.

*66th plenary meeting
9 December 1991*

B

WORKING GROUP ON THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2728 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 2791 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 45/73 B of 11 December 1990 and the previous resolutions on this question,

Recalling also its decision 36/462 of 16 March 1982, whereby it took note of the special report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East¹⁶ and adopted the recommendations contained therein,

Having considered the report of the Working Group,¹⁷

Taking into account the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1991,¹⁴

Deeply concerned about the critical financial situation of the Agency, which has affected and affects the continuation of the provision of the necessary Agency services to the Palestine refugees, including the emergency-related programmes,

Emphasizing the continuing need for extraordinary efforts in order to maintain, at least at the present minimum level, the activities of the Agency, as well as to enable the Agency to carry out essential construction,

1. *Commends* the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for its efforts to assist in ensuring the financial security of the Agency;

2. *Takes note with approval* of the report of the Working Group;

3. *Requests* the Working Group to continue its efforts, in cooperation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General, for the financing of the Agency for a further period of one year;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work.

*66th plenary meeting
9 December 1991*

C

ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS DISPLACED AS A RESULT OF THE JUNE 1967 AND SUBSEQUENT HOSTILITIES

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/73 C of 11 December 1990 and all its previous resolutions on the question,

Taking note of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1991,¹⁴