

ternational protection to the Palestinian civilians in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

8. *Invites* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the mass communications media to continue and enhance their support for the Palestinian people;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine the present situation in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, by all means available to him and to submit periodic reports thereon, the first such report as soon as possible.

*69th plenary meeting
11 December 1991*

46/77. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the need to enhance its capability to fulfil the role envisaged for it under the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing the role of the President of the General Assembly and of the Secretariat in dealing with the affairs of the General Assembly,

Recognizing that the President of the Assembly needs to be available for the duration of the session,

1. *Reaffirms* the functions and the responsibilities of the President of the General Assembly in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

2. *Invites* the President of the Assembly and the Secretary-General to undertake consultations to ensure that adequate staff is assigned and facilities provided to enable the President of the Assembly to carry out his functions and responsibilities and to report thereon as appropriate to the General Assembly;

3. *Decides* that such arrangements will have no financial implications under the regular budget of the United Nations.

*70th plenary meeting
12 December 1991*

46/78. Law of the sea

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions, including resolution 45/145 of 14 December 1990, on the law of the sea,

Recognizing that, as stated in the third preambular paragraph of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,³⁵ the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole,

Convinced that it is important to safeguard the unified character of the Convention and related resolutions adopted therewith and to apply them in a manner consistent with that character and with their object and purpose,

Emphasizing the need for States to ensure consistent application of the Convention, as well as the need for harmonization of national legislation with the provisions of the Convention,

Considering that, in its resolution 2749 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, it proclaimed that the seabed and ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (hereinafter referred to as "the Area"), as well as the resources of the Area, are the common heritage of mankind,

Recalling that the Convention provides the regime to be applied to the Area and its resources,

Recalling with satisfaction the expressions of willingness to explore all possibilities of addressing issues of concern to some States in order to secure universal participation in the Convention,⁶⁵

Recognizing the need for cooperation in the early and effective implementation by the Preparatory Commission of resolution II of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea,⁶⁶

Noting with satisfaction the progress made in the Preparatory Commission since its inception, including the registration of six pioneer investors⁶⁷ and the designation by the Preparatory Commission of reserved areas for the International Seabed Authority from the application areas submitted by the pioneer investors pursuant to resolution II, bearing in mind that such registration entails both rights and obligations for pioneer investors,

Noting the increasing needs of countries, especially developing countries, for information, advice and assistance in the implementation of the Convention and in their developmental process for the full realization of the benefits of the comprehensive legal regime established by the Convention,

Concerned that the developing countries are as yet unable to take effective measures for the full realization of these benefits owing to the lack of resources and of the necessary scientific and technological capabilities,

Recognizing the need to enhance and supplement the efforts of States and competent international organizations aimed at enabling developing countries to acquire such capabilities,

Recognizing also that the Convention encompasses all uses and resources of the sea and that all related activities within the United Nations system need to be implemented in a manner consistent with it,

Deeply concerned about the current state of the marine environment,

Mindful of the importance of the Convention for the protection of the marine environment,

Noting with concern the use of fishing methods and practices, including those aimed at evading regulations and controls, which can have an adverse impact on the conservation and management of marine living resources,

Considering the need for effective and balanced conservation and management of marine living resources, giving full effect to the relevant provisions in the Convention,

Taking note of activities carried out in 1991 under the major programme on marine affairs, set forth in chapter 25 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 and extended for the period 1990-1991, in accordance with the report of the Secretary-General,⁶⁸ as approved in General Assembly resolution 38/59 A of 14 December 1983, and of the report of the Secretary-General,⁶⁹ as well as of programme 10 (Law of the sea and ocean affairs) in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997,⁷⁰

Taking special note of the report of the Secretary-General prepared in pursuance of paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 45/145,⁶⁹

1. *Recalls* the historic significance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as an important contribution to the maintenance of peace, justice and progress for all peoples of the world;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the increasing and overwhelming support for the Convention, as evidenced, *inter alia*, by the one hundred and fifty-nine signatures and fifty-one of the sixty ratifications or accessions required for entry into force of the Convention;

3. *Invites* all States to make renewed efforts to facilitate universal participation in the Convention;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the initiative of the Secretary-General to promote dialogue aimed at addressing issues of concern to some States in order to achieve universal participation in the Convention;⁷¹

5. *Recognizes* that political and economic changes, including particularly a growing reliance on market principles, underscore the need to re-evaluate, in the light of the issues of concern to some States,⁷² matters in the regime to be applied to the Area and its resources, and that a productive dialogue on such issues involving all interested parties would facilitate the prospect of universal participation in the Convention, for the benefit of mankind as a whole;

6. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention at the earliest possible date to allow the effective entry into force of the new legal regime for the uses of the sea and its resources and calls upon all States to take appropriate steps to promote universal participation in the Convention, including through dialogue aimed at addressing the issues of concern to some States;

7. *Calls upon* all States to safeguard the unified character of the Convention and related resolutions adopted therewith and to apply them in a manner consistent with that character and with their object and purpose;

8. *Also calls upon* States to observe the provisions of the Convention when enacting their national legislation;

9. *Notes* the progress being made by the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in all areas of its work;

10. *Recalls* the Understanding on the Fulfilment of Obligations by the Registered Pioneer Investors and their Certifying States adopted by the Preparatory Commission on 30 August 1990;⁷³

11. *Notes* that negotiations on the fulfilment of the obligations have already been completed in respect of the pioneer investor registered in March 1991;⁷⁴

12. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts in support of the Convention and for the effective execution of the major programme on marine affairs set forth in chapter 25 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 and extended for the period 1990-1991, and requests him, in the execution of programme 10 (Law of the sea and ocean affairs) in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, to provide an effective response to the increased needs of States for assistance in the implementation of the Convention;

13. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-

General for the report prepared in pursuance of paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 45/145⁶⁹ and requests him to carry out the activities outlined therein, as well as those aimed at the strengthening of the legal regime of the sea, special emphasis being placed on the work of the Preparatory Commission, including the implementation of resolution II of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea;

14. *Welcomes* regional efforts being undertaken by developing countries to integrate the ocean sector in national development plans and programmes through the process of international cooperation and assistance, in particular the initiatives mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General;⁷⁵

15. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to assist States in the implementation of the Convention and in the development of a consistent and uniform approach to the legal regime thereunder, as well as in their national, subregional and regional efforts towards the full realization of the benefits therefrom, and invites the organs and organizations of the United Nations system to cooperate and lend assistance in these endeavours;

16. *Urges* interested Member States, in particular States with advanced marine capabilities, to review relevant policies and programmes in the context of the integration of the marine sector in national development strategies, and to explore prospects for intensifying cooperation with developing States, including States of regions active in this field;

17. *Requests* the competent international organizations, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and other multilateral funding agencies, in accordance with their respective policies, to intensify financial, technological, organizational and managerial assistance to the developing countries in their efforts to realize the benefits of the comprehensive legal regime established by the Convention and to strengthen cooperation among themselves and with donor States in the provision of such assistance;

18. *Welcomes* the second report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 44/26 of 20 November 1989 and paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 45/145 identifying the measures currently taken by States and by the competent international organizations, as well as future approaches to address the needs of States in regard to the development and management of ocean resources,⁷⁶ and requests the Secretary-General to keep under review, in cooperation with States and the competent international organizations, the measures being undertaken and any necessary follow-up action, in order to facilitate the realization by States of the benefits of the comprehensive legal regime established by the Convention and to report thereon periodically to the General Assembly;

19. *Approves* the decision of the Preparatory Commission to hold its tenth regular session at Kingston from 24 February to 13 March 1992 and to hold a summer meeting in New York in 1992;

20. *Recognizes* that the protection of the marine environment will be significantly enhanced by the implementation of applicable provisions of the Convention;

21. *Reiterates its call* to States and other members of the international community to strengthen their cooperation and to take measures with a view to giving full effect

to the provisions in the Convention on the conservation and management of marine living resources, including the prevention of fishing methods and practices which can have an adverse impact on the conservation and management of marine living resources and, in particular, to comply with bilateral and regional measures applicable to them aimed at effective monitoring and enforcement;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a special report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the progress made in the implementation of the comprehensive legal regime embodied in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in the light of the tenth anniversary in 1992 of its adoption, and to take such action, in consultation with States, as may be appropriate to mark the occasion;

23. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on developments pertaining to the Convention and all related activities and on the implementation of the present resolution;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Law of the sea".

71st plenary meeting
12 December 1991

46/79. Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa

A

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TOWARDS THE TOTAL ERADICATION OF APARTHEID AND SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED, NON-RACIAL AND DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, contained in the annex to its resolution S-16/1 of 14 December 1989, its resolution 45/176 A of 19 December 1990 and its decision 45/457 B of 13 September 1991,

Taking note of the report of the Special Committee against Apartheid⁷⁷ and the second progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration,⁷⁸ as well as the reports of the Secretary-General on the coordinated approach by the United Nations system on questions relating to South Africa⁷⁹ and on the concerted and effective measures aimed at eradicating apartheid,⁸⁰

Convinced that broad-based negotiations leading to a new constitutional order providing for universal, equal suffrage under a non-racial voters' roll will lead to the total eradication of apartheid through peaceful means and the establishment of a non-racial democracy in South Africa,

Welcoming the signing on 14 September 1991 of the National Peace Accord⁸¹ and expressing the hope that this will finally end the tragic bloodshed in South Africa,

Welcoming the efforts of all parties, including ongoing talks among them, such as the recently held Patriotic/United Front conference, aimed at facilitating the commencement of substantive broad-based negotiations towards a new constitution and arrangements on the transition to a democratic order,

Welcoming the accession of South Africa on 10 July 1991 to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear

Weapons²⁹ and subsequent conclusion and ratification of a related safeguards agreement,

Noting with satisfaction that fundamental principles for a new constitutional order, as set out in the Declaration, are receiving broad acceptance in South Africa,

Welcoming the convening of the preparatory meeting for the Convention for a Democratic South Africa,

Noting that while positive measures have been undertaken by the South African authorities, including the repeal and revision of the major apartheid and security laws, further efforts are needed to enhance the climate for free political activity and to address the inequities resulting from the legacy of these laws,

Gravely concerned that the persistence of violence, resulting largely from apartheid, including actions by those opposed to the democratic transformation of the country, poses a threat to the negotiating process and to the vital interests of all people of South Africa,

Concerned about any remaining obstacles to free political activity, as identified in the Declaration, including the delay in the full implementation of agreements regarding the release of any remaining political prisoners and the return of refugees and exiles, the use of repressive legislation still in place as well as other attempts aimed at undermining the democratic forces,

Noting with serious concern the remaining effects of the acts of aggression and destabilization that were committed by South Africa against neighbouring independent African States,

Convinced that international pressure, both that exerted by Governments and by individual citizens and organizations, has had and continues to have a significant impact on developments in South Africa,

Recognizing the responsibility of the United Nations and the international community, as envisaged in the Declaration, to continue to take all necessary measures aimed at the eradication of apartheid through peaceful means, in particular by adhering to the programme of action contained in the Declaration,⁸²

1. *Reaffirms* its support for the legitimate struggle of the South African people for the total eradication of apartheid through peaceful means and the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa in which all its people, irrespective of race, colour, sex or creed, will enjoy the same fundamental freedoms and human rights;

2. *Reaffirms* the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa and the need for the full and immediate implementation of the provisions not yet fulfilled;

3. *Calls* for an immediate end to violence and the removal of any remaining obstacles to free political activity;

4. *Urges* the South African authorities to take immediate further action to end the recurring violence and acts of terrorism, including actions by those opposed to the democratic transformation of the country, by ensuring that all competent authorities act effectively and impartially;

5. *Calls upon* all signatories of the National Peace Accord⁸¹ to manifest their commitment to peace by fully implementing its provisions, and calls upon all other parties to contribute to the attainment of its objectives;

6. *Calls upon* the South African authorities to enhance the climate conducive to negotiations by ensuring the im-