

countries and the least developed countries, and calls upon all countries to contribute to the Initiative;

39. *Welcomes* the initiative taken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to establish inter-agency task forces on follow-up to international conferences, and emphasizes the importance of continued and enhanced cooperation and coordination by all relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies in the implementation of the programmes of action that emerged from the Summit and other recent United Nations conferences;

40. *Requests* the Administrative Committee on Coordination to report to the Economic and Social Council on the outcome of the work of those task forces and on future inter-agency coordination on the implementation by the United Nations system of the outcome of the Summit;

41. *Takes note* of the initiatives taken by the regional commissions in the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, and urges their continued involvement and support in the promotion of the implementation of the objectives of the Summit at the regional and subregional levels;

42. *Renews its invitation* to the regional commissions, within their mandates and in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to convene on a biennial basis, a meeting at a high political level to review the progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, to exchange views on their respective experiences and to adopt appropriate measures, and welcomes the offer by the Government of Brazil to host such a meeting at Sao Paulo in 1997, and welcomes the invitation extended by the Government of Austria to host a regional follow-up meeting to the Summit at Vienna at the beginning of 1998;

43. *Reiterates its invitation* to the International Labour Organization, which because of its mandate, tripartite structure and expertise, has a special role to play in the field of employment and social development, to continue to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action and to the consideration by the Commission on Social Development of the theme "Productive employment and sustainable livelihoods" in 1997;

44. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure an effectively functioning secretariat, within which clear responsibility is assigned to assist in the implementation of the follow-up to the Summit and the servicing of the intergovernmental bodies involved, and to continue to ensure close cooperation at the secretariat level between all the United Nations entities involved in the Summit follow-up;

Special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit

45. *Recalls* its resolution 50/161, in which it decided to hold a special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and to consider further actions and initiatives;

46. *Decides* to organize the preparatory process of the special session on the following basis:

(a) The Commission for Social Development, as the functional commission of the Economic and Social Council with the primary responsibility for follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, and for review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, will undertake work in 1999-2000 for the preparations of the special session, in accordance with its programme of work as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/7;

(b) A preparatory committee of the whole of the General Assembly is to be established at its fifty-second session; the committee will hold an organizational session in 1998; it will initiate its substantive activities in 1999 on the basis of inputs by the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council; and it will also take into account contributions by other relevant organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system;

47. *Reaffirms* that the follow-up to the Summit will be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to social development and within the framework of a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields;

48. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit to its fifty-second session;

49. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development" and to consider the implications for a more coherent treatment of related items on its agenda.

*88th plenary meeting
17 December 1996*

51/203. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/242 of 25 August 1992, 47/1 of 22 September 1992, 47/121 of 18 December 1992, 48/88 of 20 December 1993, 49/10 of 3 November 1994 and all relevant resolutions of the Security Council regarding the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Reaffirming its support for the independence, sovereignty, legal continuity and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, within its internationally recognized borders,

Welcoming the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (collectively the "Peace Agreement"),¹⁸² signed at Paris on 14 December 1995,

¹⁸² See A/50/790-S/1995/999; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995*, document S/1995/999.

Welcoming also the efforts for the respect, promotion and protection of human rights in all of Bosnia and Herzegovina and for the establishment of the new common institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement,

Supporting those institutions and organizations of Bosnia and Herzegovina which are engaged in the implementation of the Peace Agreement and the process of reconciliation and reintegration,

Concerned by the continuing obstructions faced by refugees and displaced persons wishing to return to their homes, emphasizing the need for all parties and the relevant States and international organizations to enhance the conditions necessary to facilitate return, and stressing the need for a regional approach to the issue of refugees and displaced persons,

Welcoming the foundation on 30 October 1996 of the Coalition for Return, composed of refugees and displaced persons from within and outside Bosnia and Herzegovina, including members of all communities, and expressing support for its efforts in facilitating the objectives of annex 7 of the Peace Agreement,

Welcoming also the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control negotiated at Vienna and Florence, as a vital instrument in ensuring regional stability, and alarmed by reports of uneven levels of compliance with provisions of the Agreement,

Having considered the third annual report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991,¹⁸³ and noting the varying degrees of cooperation and compliance described therein and stressing the importance and urgency of the work of the International Tribunal as an element of the process of reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region,

Supporting fully the efforts of the International Tribunal aimed at the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991, and demanding that States and parties to the Peace Agreement meet their obligations to cooperate fully with the Tribunal, as required by Security Council resolutions 827 (1993) of 25 May 1993 and 1022 (1995) of 22 November 1995, including with respect to surrendering persons sought by the Tribunal,

Welcoming the mutual recognition among all the successor States to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia within their internationally recognized borders, and stressing the importance of full normalization of relations, including the immediate establishment of diplomatic relations, among those States, in accordance with the Peace Agreement,

Stressing the importance of full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for the success of the peace efforts for the region, and calling upon the Governments and the authorities in the region, as well as relevant international organizations, to facilitate such full respect,

Noting that democratization in the region will enhance the prospects for a lasting peace and help to guarantee full respect for human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region,

Welcoming the holding of elections under the supervision of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on 14 September 1996 for State, Entity and canton level offices, and calling upon all parties to further cooperate with the organization in the preparation and holding of free and fair elections throughout all of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the municipal/local level,

Noting the positive impact of the two previous pledging conferences, held respectively on 21 December 1995 and 13 and 14 April 1996 and chaired by the World Bank and the European Union on the peace process and reintegration of the country as well as the reconstruction effort, stressing the importance and urgency of providing the pledged financial assistance and technical cooperation in reconstruction efforts and the role of economic revitalization in the process of reconciliation, in the improvement of living conditions and in the maintenance of a durable peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region, and encouraging an early convening of the next pledging conference,

Welcoming in particular the important efforts of the European Union, bilateral and other donors to provide humanitarian and economic assistance for reconstruction,

Underlining that the full, comprehensive and consistent implementation of the Peace Agreement is vital for the maintenance of international peace and security,

1. *Expresses its full support* for the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (collectively the "Peace Agreement"),¹⁸² which constitutes the key mechanism for the achievement of a durable and just peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, leading to stability and cooperation in the region and the reintegration of Bosnia and Herzegovina at all levels;

2. *Welcomes* the successful implementation of certain aspects of the Peace Agreement, including the establishment of a lasting cessation of hostilities, the establishment of the military zones of separation, national elections held on 14 September 1996, and the formation and functioning of certain common institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

3. *Underlines* the responsibility of the parties to cooperate fully and in good faith in the prompt formation and functioning of all the new common institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in establishing the necessary conditions for holding democratic, free and fair democratic local elections in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement;

¹⁸³ A/51/292-S/1996/665; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1996*, document S/1996/665.

4. *Demands* the full, comprehensive and consistent implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

5. *Welcomes* the conclusions of the meeting of the ministerial Steering Board and the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina,¹⁸⁴ held in Paris on 14 November 1996, in order to define the guiding principles of the civilian consolidation plan of the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with the Peace Agreement;

6. *Welcomes also* the conclusions of the London Peace Implementation Conference,¹⁸⁵ held on 4 and 5 December 1996, at which the Bosnian parties and the international community committed themselves to a detailed action plan to implement the Peace Agreement, and calls upon all parties, as signatories to the Peace Agreement and immediate neighbours, to continue to work for a peaceful, reintegrated and stable Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with the Peace Agreement;

7. *Recognizes* that responsibility for consolidating the peace lies primarily with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as was confirmed in particular in the joint declaration adopted at Geneva on 14 August 1996;

8. *Also recognizes* that the role of the international community remains essential, and welcomes the readiness of the international community to continue its efforts;

9. *Underlines* the relationship between the fulfilment by the parties of their commitments under the Peace Agreement and the readiness of the international community to commit resources for reconstruction and development;

10. *Welcomes* the formation of the multinational Stabilization Force authorized by the Security Council as the successor to the Implementation Force, and calls upon all parties to cooperate fully with it;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the full, comprehensive and consistent implementation of the Peace Agreement, including cooperation and compliance with the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, the establishment of the necessary conditions for the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons, and the establishment of the necessary conditions for freedom of movement;

12. *Calls upon* all the parties to cooperate fully, and in good faith, in the prompt formation and functioning of all of the new common institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in establishing the necessary conditions for holding democratic, free and fair local elections at the municipal level in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace

Agreement, and urges the relevant international organizations to consider the provision of assistance to meet the infrastructural needs of the new common institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in Sarajevo, the capital of the State and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

13. *Insists* upon the need to deliver all indictees to the International Tribunal to trial, notes that the International Tribunal has the authority to address individual responsibility for the perpetration of the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed, including in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and reiterates that all parties should arrest and surrender to the Tribunal all indicted persons on territories under their control, and to otherwise fully comply with the orders of the Tribunal and to cooperate with the work of the Tribunal, including with exhumations and other investigative acts, in accordance with article 29 of the statute of the Tribunal, with all relevant Security Council resolutions and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement and its annexes, in particular the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

14. *Urges* Member States, taking into account the orders and requests of the International Tribunal, to offer the Tribunal their full support, including financial support, in order to ensure the completion of the Tribunal's purpose, and to carry out their obligations under the statute of the Tribunal and all relevant Security Council resolutions;

15. *Reaffirms once again* the right of refugees and displaced persons to return voluntarily to their homes of origin in accordance with the Peace Agreement, in particular annex 7 of the Agreement, and the realization of same in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and host countries, calls upon all parties to immediately establish the conditions necessary for the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes and for the freedom of movement and communication for all the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and upon the relevant international organizations to enhance the conditions to facilitate return, in accordance with relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement and its annexes, in particular the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and welcomes efforts by the European Union, bilateral and other donors, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in establishing projects designed to facilitate the voluntary and orderly return of refugees and displaced persons to all regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

16. *Strongly condemns* all acts of intimidation designed to discourage the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons, in particular the destruction of housing units;

17. *Reaffirms once again* its support for the principle that all statements and commitments made under duress, particularly those regarding land and property, are wholly null and void, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement, and supports the effective engagement of the Commission for Real Property Claims of Displaced Persons and Refugees, in compliance with its mandate;

¹⁸⁴ *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1996*, document S/1996/968.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, document S/1996/1012.

18. *Emphasizes* the importance of economic revitalization and reconstruction for the successful consolidation of the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

19. *Calls upon* the parties to cooperate fully with the arbitration process in Brčko and to respect the decisions reached through the arbitration process, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement;

20. *Demands* that all parties comply fully with the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control, including the accurate reporting of existing levels of armaments and the destruction of the required amounts of armaments, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement, and urges Member States and the appropriate regional organizations to assist in the implementation and verification of the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement;

21. *Stresses* the need for timely information about the level of cooperation and compliance with the International Tribunal and its orders, the status and programme for the return of refugees and displaced persons to and within Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the status and implementation of the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control;

22. *Commends* the efforts of the international community, including the Council of Europe, the European Union, the European Community Monitoring Mission, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Monetary Fund, the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, the Islamic Development Bank, the multinational Implementation Force led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, non-governmental organizations, the office of the High Representative, the office of the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights of the Commission on Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Peace Implementation Council, the United Nations International Police Task Force, the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the World Bank, in their roles in the implementation of the Peace Agreement;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda at its fifty-second session the item entitled "The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

*88th plenary meeting
17 December 1996*

51/204. Observer status for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Stressing the importance of the uniform interpretation or application of the provisions of the United Nations Convention

on the Law of the Sea,¹⁸⁶ the agreements related thereto and any other agreement which may confer jurisdiction on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea,

Aware of the need for States to settle any disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention by peaceful means,

Welcoming the establishment of the Tribunal in Hamburg, Germany,

Noting the decision of the Meeting of States Parties at its fifth session to seek observer status for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in order to enable it to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly¹⁸⁷ and the decision of the Tribunal at its first session to seek such observer status,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

*88th plenary meeting
17 December 1996*

51/205. Proclamation of 21 November as World Television Day

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, in which it stated, *inter alia*, that the United Nations cannot achieve its purposes unless the peoples of the world are fully informed of its aims and activities,

Recalling also its resolutions concerning information in service of humanity and United Nations public information policies and activities,

Reaffirming its commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media,

Underlining that communications have become one of today's central international issues, not only for their relevance for the world economy, but also for their implications for social and cultural development,

Recognizing the increasing impact that television has on decision-making by alerting world attention to conflicts and threats to peace and security and its potential role in sharpening the focus on other major issues, including economic and social issues,

¹⁸⁶ *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

¹⁸⁷ See SPLOS/14, para. 36.