

on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, which was opened for signature in New York on 10 April 1981, or have acceded to the Convention;

3. *Urgently calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Convention and upon successor States to take appropriate measures so that ultimately access to this instrument will be universal;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the three Protocols annexed thereto, to continue to inform it periodically of accessions to the Convention and the Protocols;

5. *Welcomes* the request made by States parties on 22 December 1993 that the Secretary-General convene at an appropriate time, in accordance with article 8, paragraph 3, of the Convention, a conference to review the Convention, and establish a group of governmental experts to prepare the review conference;

6. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made by the group of governmental experts in reviewing the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) and in discussing other weapon categories at present not covered by the Convention;

7. *Takes note* of the decisions by the group of governmental experts to hold an additional meeting at Geneva from 9 to 20 January 1995 and to request the Secretary-General to convene the review conference at Geneva during the period from 25 September to 13 October 1995;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue furnishing needed assistance and to ensure the provision of services to the group of governmental experts and to the conference to review the Convention;

9. *Again calls upon* the maximum number of States to attend the conference, to which the States parties may invite interested non-governmental organizations, in particular the International Committee of the Red Cross;

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

90th plenary meeting
15 December 1994

49/80. Question of Antarctica

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

Taking into account the debates on this item held since its thirty-eighth session,

Reaffirming the interest of the international community in information on Antarctica,

Welcoming the provision by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to the Secretary-General of the final report of the Eighteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting,⁷⁴ held at Kyoto, Japan, from 11 to 22 April 1994,

Conscious of the particular significance of Antarctica to the international community, including for international peace and

security, the global and regional environment, its effects on global and regional climate conditions, and scientific research,

Reaffirming that the management and use of Antarctica should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for the benefit of mankind as a whole,

Recognizing that the Antarctic Treaty,⁷⁵ which provides, *inter alia*, for the demilitarization of the continent, the prohibition of nuclear explosions and the disposal of nuclear wastes, the freedom of scientific research and the free exchange of scientific information, is in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Conscious also of the interrelationship between Antarctica and the physical, chemical and biological processes that regulate the total Earth system,

Taking into account the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, adopted by the Antarctic Treaty Parties at Madrid on 4 October 1991,

Welcoming the designation, in the Protocol, of Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science and the procedures contained in the Protocol regarding the protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems in the planning and conduct of all activities in Antarctica,

Commending the prohibition on mineral resource activities contained in the Protocol,

Welcoming the recognition by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development of the value of Antarctica as an area for the conduct of scientific research, in particular research essential to understanding the global environment,⁷⁶

Welcoming also the continuing cooperation among countries undertaking scientific research activities in Antarctica, which may help to minimize human impacts on the Antarctic environment,

Welcoming further the increasing awareness of an interest in Antarctica shown by the international community, and convinced of the advantages to the whole of mankind of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

Affirming its conviction that, in the interest of all mankind, Antarctica should continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it should not become the scene or object of international discord,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on Antarctica⁷⁷ and of the report of the Eighteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting,⁷⁴

2. *Welcomes* the practice whereby the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties regularly provide the Secretary-General with information on their consultative meetings and on their activities in Antarctica, encourages the Parties to continue to provide to the Secretary-General and other interested States information on developments in relation to Antarctica, and requests the Secretary-General to submit that information in a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session:

⁷⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 402, No. 5778.

⁷⁶ See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1))* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.1.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution I, annex II, chap. 17, para. 17.104.

⁷⁴ See A/49/370.

⁷⁷ A/49/370.

3. *Notes* the role accorded by the Secretary-General to the United Nations Environment Programme in relation to Antarctic matters;

4. *Urges* the Antarctic Treaty Parties to extend invitations to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to attend future consultative meetings in order to assist them in the substantive work;

5. *Welcomes* the statement under chapter 17 of Agenda 21,⁷⁶ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, that States carrying out research activities in Antarctica should, as provided for in article III of the Antarctic Treaty, continue to:

(a) Ensure that data and information resulting from such research are freely available to the international community;

(b) Enhance access of the international scientific community and specialized agencies of the United Nations to such data and information, including the encouragement of periodic seminars and symposia;

6. *Urges* the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to take into account in their deliberations the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly as noted in paragraph 5 above;

7. *Requests* the Antarctic Treaty Parties to continue to make available information on Antarctica as a means of promoting further public awareness of the importance of Antarctica to the global and regional environment;

8. *Urges* the Antarctic Treaty Parties to consider becoming parties as soon as possible to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, and so bring the Protocol into force, in order to ensure the implementation of strengthened measures for the protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems;

9. *Urges* countries whose nationals undertake activities in Antarctica to ensure that all such activities are carried out in a manner consistent with the principles of the Protocol;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

90th plenary meeting
15 December 1994

49/81. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, including its resolution 48/81 of 16 December 1993,

Reaffirming the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in strengthening and promoting peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region,

Bearing in mind all the previous declarations and commitments, as well as all the initiatives taken by the riparian countries at the recent summits, ministerial meetings and various forums concerning the question of the Mediterranean region,

Recognizing the efforts realized so far and the determination of the Mediterranean countries to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations with a view to resolving the problems existing in the Mediterranean region and to eliminate the causes of tension and the consequent threat to peace and security,

Recognizing also the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and that the enhancement of cooperation among

Mediterranean countries with a view to promoting the economic and social development of all peoples of the region will contribute significantly to stability, peace and security in the region,

Recognizing further that prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in all spheres can be enhanced by positive developments worldwide, particularly in Europe and in the Middle East,

Noting with satisfaction the positive developments in the Middle East peace process that will lead to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region and therefore to promoting confidence-building measures and a good-neighbourly spirit among the countries of the area,

Expressing satisfaction at the growing awareness of the need for joint efforts by all Mediterranean countries so as to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation in the region,

Reaffirming the responsibility of all States to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region and their commitment to respect the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,⁷⁸

Expressing its concern at the persistent tension and continuing military activities in parts of the Mediterranean that hinder efforts to strengthen security and cooperation in the region,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on this item,⁷⁹

1. *Reaffirms* that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the continuing efforts by Mediterranean countries to contribute actively to the elimination of all causes of tension in the region and to the promotion of just and lasting solutions to the persistent problems of the region through peaceful means, thus ensuring the withdrawal of foreign forces of occupation and respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries of the Mediterranean and the right of peoples to self-determination, and therefore calls for full adherence to the principles of non-interference, non-intervention, non-use of force or threat of use of force and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Recognizes* that the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development, as well as other obstacles in the Mediterranean area, will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries through the existing forums;

4. *Commends* the efforts by the Mediterranean countries in the continuation of initiatives and negotiations as well as the adoption of measures that will promote confidence- and security-building as well as disarmament in the Mediterranean region, and encourages them to pursue these efforts further;

5. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the announcement by Algeria of its decision to deposit its instruments of accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,¹⁵ and calls upon all other States in the region that have not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field

⁷⁶ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

⁷⁹ A/49/333 and Add.1.