

40/9. Solemn appeal to States in conflict to cease armed action forthwith and to settle disputes between them through negotiations, and to States Members of the United Nations to undertake to solve situations of tension and conflict and existing disputes by political means and to refrain from the threat or use of force and from any intervention in the internal affairs of other States

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned at the persistence of armed conflicts, acts of aggression and situations of tension in different parts of the world, at the emergence of new sources of conflict and tension in international life and at the danger to the independence and security of States and to international peace and security posed by the threat or use of force in relations between States,

Convinced that all States should exert the utmost efforts to settle any conflict or dispute between them exclusively by peaceful means and that resorting to the threat or use of force against other States can only aggravate the international situation and make more difficult the solution of problems,

Considering that it is in the interest both of States involved in conflict and other States, and of the general cause of world peace and security, to put an end to armed conflicts and to encourage and assist the solution of problems through peaceful means,

Solemnly reaffirming, on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, the resolute commitment of Member States to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the obligations which they assumed as Members of the Organization, in particular their commitment to refrain in international relations from the threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of any other State,

Reaffirming that all States shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered,

Recalling the inherent right of all States to individual or collective self-defence, as enshrined in Article 51 of the Charter,

Reaffirming the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/10 of 15 November 1982,

Considering that the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes should constitute a central concern of all States and of the United Nations,

1. *Addresses a solemn appeal* to States in conflict to put an end to armed action forthwith and to proceed to the settlement of their disputes by negotiations and other peaceful means;

2. *Calls upon* all States to comply fully and consistently with the obligations they have assumed, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, to resolve conflicts and disputes by peaceful means and to refrain from the threat or use of force and from any intervention in the internal affairs of other States;

3. *Invites* the Security Council, which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to act promptly in accordance with its functions under the Charter, in cases of conflict and dispute in

different regions of the world, by recommending appropriate procedures or methods of adjustment, including designation of representatives of the United Nations, with a view to settling disputes between States by peaceful means, eliminating situations of tension and conflict, and establishing relations based on understanding, co-operation and peace among all the States of the world;

4. *Reaffirms* the important role as conferred by the Charter on the General Assembly in the areas of the peaceful settlement of disputes and the maintenance of international peace and security;

5. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to play an active role within the scope of his functions under the Charter with a view to promoting efforts for the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts between States;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to make full use, in accordance with the Charter, of the framework provided by the United Nations for the peaceful settlement of disputes and international problems;

7. *Appeals* to Member States to act resolutely, in view of the purposes and principles of the Charter and in accordance with their duties as Members, in order that the Organization may harmonize the combined efforts of States aimed at strengthening world peace and security, solving the major issues confronting humanity and ensuring conditions for the free and independent development of all peoples.

69th plenary meeting
8 November 1985

40/10. Programme of the International Year of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/16 of 16 November 1982, 38/56 of 7 December 1983 and 39/10 of 8 November 1984 on the International Year of Peace,

Recalling also the solemn Proclamation of the International Year of Peace approved on 24 October 1985,¹⁸ the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, by which it called upon all peoples to join with the United Nations in resolute efforts to safeguard peace and the future of humanity,

Aware that in the nuclear age the establishment of a lasting peace on Earth constitutes the primary condition for the preservation of civilization and the survival of mankind,

Welcoming the contributions made to the Voluntary Fund for the Programme of the International Year of Peace,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the regional seminars,¹⁹ which served to increase awareness in each region of the need to take effective steps to promote peace and also contributed towards the preparations for the Year,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities undertaken in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 39/10²⁰ and the final version of the draft programme of the International Year of Peace annexed thereto,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of Member States to achieve substantive results in fulfilling the objectives of the International Year of Peace and to express the common aspiration of peoples for peace;

¹⁸ Resolution 40/3, annex.

¹⁹ A/40/524.

²⁰ A/40/669 and Add.1

2. *Invites* Member States, as well as organs and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, educational, scientific, cultural and research institutions and the communication media to commemorate the International Year of Peace in the most appropriate form, highlighting, *inter alia*, the role of the United Nations in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security;

3. *Decides* to convene a second pledging conference during the first quarter of 1986 so that Member States which have not yet announced their contributions may have an opportunity to do so;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, on the basis of the Voluntary Fund for the Programme of the International Year of Peace, to assist in the commemoration of the Year and to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information about the Year and its objectives;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of continuing the co-ordination and co-operation established among United Nations programmes and activities related to the promotion of the International Year of Peace;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on the implementation of the programme of the International Year of Peace;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session the item entitled "International Year of Peace".

70th plenary meeting
11 November 1985

40/11. Right of peoples to peace

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that the year 1986 was proclaimed the International Year of Peace,

Recalling that the principal aim of establishing the United Nations forty years ago, as enshrined in the Charter, was to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Reaffirming the strong resolve of peoples to maintain and strengthen international peace and security,

Recalling its Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace, approved on 12 November 1984,²¹

Recalling further that, pursuant to the Declaration, all States and international organizations are urged to do their utmost to contribute to the implementation of the right of peoples to peace,

Bearing in mind that peace is an inalienable right of every human being and that, in the Proclamation of the International Year of Peace approved on 24 October 1985,¹⁸ the General Assembly, having reaffirmed that peace constitutes a universal ideal, called upon all peoples to join with the United Nations in resolute efforts to safeguard peace and the future of humanity,

Taking note of the programme for the International Year of Peace,²²

1. *Calls upon* all States and international organizations to do their utmost to implement the provisions of the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when submitting his report on the implementation of the programme for the International Year of Peace, to report on the measures taken by Member States and international organizations in

the implementation of the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace.

70th plenary meeting
11 November 1985

40/12. The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security",

Recalling its resolutions ES-6/2 of 14 January 1980, 35/37 of 20 November 1980, 36/34 of 18 November 1981, 37/37 of 29 November 1982, 38/29 of 23 November 1983 and 39/13 of 15 November 1984,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the obligation of all States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of any State,

Reaffirming further the inalienable right of all peoples to determine their own form of government and to choose their own economic, political and social system free from outside intervention, subversion, coercion or constraint of any kind whatsoever,

Gravely concerned at the continuing foreign armed intervention in Afghanistan, in contravention of the above principles, and its serious implications for international peace and security,

Noting the increasing concern of the international community over the continued and serious sufferings of the Afghan people and over the magnitude of social and economic problems posed to Pakistan and Iran by the presence on their soil of millions of Afghan refugees, and the continuing increase in their numbers,

Deeply conscious of the urgent need for a political solution of the grave situation in respect of Afghanistan,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,²³ and the status of the diplomatic process initiated by him,

Recognizing the importance of the initiatives of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the efforts of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries for a political solution of the situation in respect of Afghanistan,

1. *Reiterates* that the preservation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and non-aligned character of Afghanistan is essential for a peaceful solution of the problem;

2. *Reaffirms* the right of the Afghan people to determine their own form of government and to choose their economic, political and social system free from outside intervention, subversion, coercion or constraint of any kind whatsoever;

3. *Calls* for the immediate withdrawal of the foreign troops from Afghanistan;

4. *Calls upon* all parties concerned to work for the urgent achievement of a political solution, in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution, and the creation of the necessary conditions which would enable the Afghan refugees to return voluntarily to their homes in safety and honour;

5. *Renews its appeal* to all States and national and international organizations to continue to extend humanitarian relief assistance with a view to alleviating the hard-

²¹ Resolution 39/11, annex.

²² A/40/669 and Add.1, annex I.

²³ A/40/709-S/17527. For the printed text, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fortieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1985*, document S/17527.