

**50/133. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies**

*The General Assembly,*

*Bearing in mind* the indissoluble links between the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>5</sup> and the foundations of any democratic society,

*Recalling* the Manila Declaration<sup>150</sup> adopted in June 1988 by the First International Conference of New or Restored Democracies,<sup>151</sup>

*Considering* the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all the peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and other important principles, such as respect for the equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

*Recalling also* its resolution 49/30 of 7 December 1994, in which it recognized the importance of the Managua Declaration<sup>152</sup> and the Plan of Action<sup>153</sup> adopted by the Second International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in July 1994,

*Recalling further* the view expressed in the Managua Declaration that the international community must pay closer attention to the obstacles facing the new or restored democracies,

*Taking note* of the views of Member States expressed in the debate on this item at its forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions,

*Bearing in mind* that such activities of the United Nations carried out in support of the efforts of Governments are undertaken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and only at the specific request of the Member States concerned,

*Bearing in mind also* that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and on their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

*Noting* that a considerable number of societies have recently undertaken considerable efforts to achieve their social, political and economic goals through democratization and the reform of their economies, pursuits that are deserving of the support and recognition of the international community,

*Noting with satisfaction* that a Third International Conference on New or Restored Democracies will take place at Bucharest,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>154</sup> on assistance provided in the past by the United Nations, at the request of Member States, as well as important concepts and considerations that are pertinent to this question,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Commends* the Secretary-General and through him the United Nations system for the activities undertaken at the request of Governments to support the efforts to consolidate democracy, as reflected in his report;
3. *Recognizes* that the Organization has an important role to play in providing timely, appropriate and coherent support to the efforts of Governments to achieve democratization within the context of their development efforts;
4. *Stresses* that activities undertaken by the Organization must be in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;
5. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the capacity of the Organization to respond effectively to the requests of Member States through coherent, adequate support of their efforts to achieve the goal of democratization;
6. *Encourages* Member States to promote democratization and to make additional efforts to identify possible steps to support the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies;
7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including innovative ways and means, as well as new reflections, to enable the Organization to respond effectively and in an integrated manner to requests of Member States for assistance in this field;
8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies".

*96th plenary meeting  
20 December 1995*

**50/134. Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolutions 45/190 of 21 December 1990, 46/150 of 18 December 1991, 47/165 of 18 December 1992 and 48/206 of 21 December 1993,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/50 of 13 July 1990, 1991/51 of 26 July 1991 and 1992/38 of 30 July 1992 and Council decision 1993/232 of 22 July 1993,

*Taking note* of the decisions adopted by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 45/190, 46/150, 47/165 and 48/206,

*Noting with appreciation* the contribution made by Member States and by organizations of the United Nations system to the development of cooperation to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and the activities of regional and other organizations, in particular the Commission of the European Communities, as well as bilateral activities and those of non-governmental organizations,

*Welcoming* the commitments made by Member States in the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary

<sup>150</sup>A/43/538, annex.

<sup>151</sup>Then called the International Conference of Newly Restored Democracies.

<sup>152</sup>A/49/713, annex I.

<sup>153</sup>Ibid., annex II.

<sup>154</sup>A/50/332 and Corr.1.

of the United Nations,<sup>155</sup> adopted on 24 October 1995, to intensify cooperation on natural disaster reduction and major technological and man-made disasters, disaster relief, post-disaster rehabilitation and humanitarian assistance in order to enhance the capabilities of affected countries to cope with such situations,

*Conscious* of the forthcoming tenth anniversary of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which became the largest technological catastrophe in terms of its scope and created humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health consequences and problems of common concern, requiring for their solution wide and active international cooperation and coordination of efforts in this field at the international and national levels,

*Expressing profound concern* about the ongoing effects on the lives and health of people, particularly children, in the affected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as well as in other countries most affected by the Chernobyl disaster,

*Noting* the readiness of Ukraine in principle to close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by the year 2000, bearing in mind the need for adequate support from relevant countries and international organizations for that purpose,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General of 8 September 1995<sup>156</sup> on the implementation of resolution 48/206,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 45/190, 46/150, 47/165 and 48/206 and, through existing co-ordination mechanisms, in particular the United Nations Co-ordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl, to continue to maintain close cooperation with the agencies of the United Nations system, as well as with regional and other relevant organizations, with a view to encouraging the regular exchange of information, cooperation and coordination of multilateral and bilateral efforts in those areas, while implementing programmes and specific projects, *inter alia*, in the framework of relevant agreements and arrangements;

2. *Invites* Member States, in particular donor States, relevant multilateral financial institutions and other concerned parties of the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to provide support to the ongoing efforts made by Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to cope with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and requests the Secretary-General to appeal to Member States to continue and intensify that assistance;

3. *Notes* the establishment in Ukraine of an International Scientific and Technological Centre for Nuclear and Radiological Accidents as an important step towards enhancing the capabilities of the international community to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of such accidents, and invites all interested parties to take part in its activities;

4. *Declares* 26 April 1996 International Day Commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident, and invites Member States to conduct appropriate activities to commemorate this tragic event and to enhance public awareness of the consequences of such disasters for human health and the environment throughout the world;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, under a separate

sub-item, a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

96th plenary meeting  
20 December 1995

#### 50/155. Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

*The General Assembly,*

*Recognizing* the importance of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the valuable contribution of its members to the evaluation and monitoring of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>157</sup> by its States parties,

*Noting with satisfaction* that there are now one hundred and eighty-three States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a figure approaching universal ratification,

*Noting* that the amendment to article 43, paragraph 2, of the Convention was adopted by the Conference of States Parties to the Convention,

1. *Approves* the amendment to article 43, paragraph 2, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, replacing the word "ten" with the word "eighteen";

2. *Urges* States parties to take appropriate measures so that acceptance by a two-thirds majority of the States parties can be reached as soon as possible in order for the amendment to enter into force.

97th plenary meeting  
21 December 1995

#### 50/158. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General of 17 October 1995 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,<sup>158</sup>

*Recalling* the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on regional arrangements or agencies, which set forth the basic principles governing their activities and establishing the legal framework for cooperation with the United Nations in the area of the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as resolution 49/57 of 9 December 1994, the annex to which contains the Declaration on the Enhancement of Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Arrangements or Agencies in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security,

*Recalling also* the agreement of 15 November 1965 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity as updated and signed on 9 October 1990 by the Secretaries-General of the two organizations,

*Recalling further* its resolutions on the enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, in particular resolutions 43/12 of 25 October 1988, 43/27 of 18 November 1988, 44/17 of 1 November 1989, 45/13 of 7 November 1990, 46/20 of 26 No-

<sup>155</sup>Resolution 50/6.

<sup>156</sup>A/50/418.

<sup>157</sup>Resolution 44/25, annex.

<sup>158</sup>A/50/575 and Add.1.