

51/1. Observer status for the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Considering the importance of the role and activities of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) in the fight against international transborder crime,

Considering also the need that has often been expressed by the United Nations to coordinate, harmonize and strengthen that fight at the international level,

Recalling the discussions of the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, organized by the United Nations at Naples from 21 to 23 November 1994, as well as the declarations made by various heads of State and Government at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly,

Desirous of promoting cooperation between the United Nations and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol),

Recalling its decision 49/426 of 9 December 1994,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) 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.

*35th plenary meeting
15 October 1996*

51/4. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/5 of 21 October 1994 relating to the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States,¹

Recalling that the purposes of the United Nations are, *inter alia*, to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends,

Bearing in mind that the Charter of the United Nations provides for the existence of regional arrangements and agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action and whose activities are

consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling that the Charter of the Organization of American States reaffirms these purposes and principles and provides that that organization is a regional agency under the terms of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting with satisfaction that the third general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and of the Organization of American States was held at United Nations Headquarters on 17 and 18 April 1995,

Welcoming the fact that the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States attended the special commemorative meeting of the United Nations on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary,

Expressing its satisfaction at the way in which the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and the Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of American States have been performing their work of coordination between the two bodies,

Recalling its resolutions 47/20 A, 47/20 B, 48/27 B, 49/27 B, 49/5 and 50/86 B of 24 November 1992, 20 April 1993, 8 July 1994, 12 July 1995, 21 October 1994 and 3 April 1996, respectively,

Aware that the effective consolidation of a new international order requires regional action in harmony with that of the United Nations,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his initiative in convening a meeting between the United Nations and the heads of regional organizations on 15 and 16 February 1996, welcomes the participation of the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States in that meeting, and recommends that similar meetings be held more frequently;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the close cooperation between the two organizations and, in particular, the support which they both gave to the conduct of the parliamentary municipal and presidential elections in Haiti from June to December 1995, and at the joint operations of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti;

3. *Also expresses its satisfaction* at the support given by the Electoral Observer Mission in the general elections in Nicaragua held on 20 October 1996, when the United Nations system also provided technical assistance;

4. *Further expresses its satisfaction* at the close cooperation between the two organizations in the observation and verification of the electoral process, and recognizes the effectiveness of that cooperation when it is requested by national authorities;

5. *Welcomes* the meetings between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, as well as the regular

¹ A/51/297 and Add.1.

meetings between their representatives throughout the period under review;

6. *Also welcomes* the signature on 17 April 1995 of the Collaboration Agreement between the United Nations and the Organization of American States;

7. *Emphasizes* that the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States should be in accordance with their respective mandates, scope and composition and should take place in forms that are suited to each specific situation, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

8. *Recommends* that general meetings between representatives of the United Nations system and the Organization of American States be held when deemed necessary to continue to review and appraise progress, and that sectoral and focal point meetings be held on areas of priority or mutually agreed issues, continuing with the modality of operating through the focal points already established;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts of the Secretary-General in the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States, and expresses the hope that he will continue to strengthen the mechanism for cooperation between the two organizations;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States".

*40th plenary meeting
24 October 1996*

51/5. Universal Congress on the Panama Canal

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/12 of 7 November 1995 supporting the convening of the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal, which is to be held at Panama City from 7 to 10 September 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 50/12,²

Taking into account resolution 1376 (XXVI-0/96) of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States entitled "The Panama Canal in the Twenty-first Century" and resolution 1379 (XXVI-0/96) on the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal, both adopted on 6 June 1996, in which, *inter alia*, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States noted with satisfaction the harmonious transition process in which the Governments of Panama and the United States of America are participating, through their diplomatic

missions, the Panama Canal Commission, the Interoceanic Region Authority and the Transition Commission,

Having considered the letter dated 27 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,³ outlining the work being done by the Government of Panama in connection with the holding of the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal and indicating the progress made by the Organizing Commission for that Congress, under the direction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Bearing in mind that on 7 September 1977 the Panama Canal Treaty and the Treaty concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal, known as the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, were signed in Washington, D.C., which stipulate that, at noon on 31 December 1999, the Canal, including all improvements, is to come under the control of the Republic of Panama,

Acknowledging the importance that the international community attaches to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and the positive implications that the strengthening of the nuclear-weapon-free regime established by that Treaty has for the permanent neutrality of the Panama Canal,

Welcoming the fact that, in anticipation of the holding of the Congress, Panama has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,⁴ universally recognized as the framework for the adoption of national, regional and global measures in maritime matters, in harmony with chapter 17 of Agenda 21⁵ adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Reaffirming the utility of the Panama Canal for international maritime transport and the growth of the world economy, and the need to tackle the problems of interoceanic communication in the twenty-first century,

Noting with appreciation the activities being undertaken in various spheres by Governments, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in support of the holding of the Universal Congress,

Recognizing that the next stages of preparation and organization of the Congress require increased efforts and the availability of greater resources,

³ A/51/477.

⁴ *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.

⁵ *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.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

² A/51/281.