

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 I, annex II.

² A/51/281.

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 50/12;²

2. *Reiterates its firm support* for the initiative of the Government of Panama, and urges it to continue to intensify its efforts to organize the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal at Panama City from 7 to 10 September 1997;

3. *Renews its appeal* to Member States generously to assist the Government of Panama, and calls upon intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to do likewise;

4. *Again urges* the competent organs, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Maritime Organization, to make every effort to provide assistance from within existing resources for the holding of the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal;

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

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Universal Congress on the Panama Canal".

*40th plenary meeting
24 October 1996*

51/6. Observer status for the International Seabed Authority in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Aware of the importance of the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982⁶ and of the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,⁷ and their uniform consistent application, as well as of the growing need to promote and facilitate international cooperation on the law of the sea and ocean affairs at the global, regional and subregional levels,

Noting the decision of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority at its resumed second session to seek observer status for the Authority at the United Nations in order to enable it to participate in the deliberations of the General Assembly,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Seabed Authority to participate in the deliberations of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

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

*40th plenary meeting
24 October 1996*

⁶ 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.

⁷ Resolution 48/263, annex.

51/7. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/15 of 15 November 1995, in which it requested the Secretary-General to conclude an agreement on cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,⁸ transmitting the text of the cooperation agreement signed on 24 July 1996,

Stressing its desire to strengthen existing cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union and of giving it a new and adequate framework,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusion on 24 July 1996 of the cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

2. *Considers* that the signature of the agreement constitutes an important step for increased and strengthened cooperation between the two organizations;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union";

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on various aspects of cooperation that have taken place between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in implementation of the cooperation agreement.

*41st plenary meeting
25 October 1996*

51/8. International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/15 of 20 November 1990, 46/109 A and B of 17 December 1991, 47/118 of 18 December 1992, 48/161 of 20 December 1993, 49/137 of 19 December 1994 and 50/132 of 20 December 1995 concerning the situation in Central America,

Recalling also its resolutions 47/169 of 22 December 1992, 48/8 of 22 October 1993, 49/16 of 17 November 1994 and 50/85 of 15 December 1995 concerning the item entitled "International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters", in which it requested the international community to continue providing support to Nicaragua, taking into account the exceptional circumstances faced by that country, and requested the Secretary-General, in coordination with the

⁸ A/51/402.