

Noting and welcoming with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the signing ceremony of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)¹¹¹ that was held at Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion,¹¹² which emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Noting with satisfaction the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996,¹¹³ in which it was stated that the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Bearing in mind resolution CM/Res.1660 (LXIV) on expediting the process of ratification of the Treaty of Pelindaba, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-fourth ordinary session, held at Yaoundé from 1 to 5 July 1996,¹¹⁴

1. *Calls upon* African States to sign and ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty¹¹¹ as soon as possible so that it may enter into force without delay;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the international community and in particular to the nuclear-weapon States which have signed the Protocols that concern them, and calls upon them to ratify the Protocols as soon as possible;

3. *Calls upon* the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, *de jure* or *de facto*, internationally responsible and which lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

4. *Calls upon* the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons¹¹⁵ which have not yet concluded comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty to do so, thereby satisfying the requirements of article

9 (b) and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba when it enters into force;

5. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Secretary-General for the diligence with which he has rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty in accordance with resolution 50/78;

6. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to extend assistance, within existing resources, to the signatories in 1997 in order to achieve the aims of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/54. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and thirty-nine States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,¹¹⁶ including all the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,¹¹⁷ and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Recalling its resolution 46/35 A, adopted without a vote on 6 December 1991, in which it welcomed, *inter alia*, the establishment, proceeding from the recommendations of the

¹¹¹ See A/50/426.

¹¹² A/51/113-S/1996/276, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1996*, document S/1996/276.

¹¹³ *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996*, document S/PRST/1996/17.

¹¹⁴ A/51/524, annex I.

¹¹⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

¹¹⁶ Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

¹¹⁷ BWC/CONF.III/23, part II.

Third Review Conference,¹¹⁸ of an ad hoc group of governmental experts open to all States parties to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technical standpoint,

Recalling also its resolution 48/65, adopted without a vote on 16 December 1993, in which it commended the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint,¹¹⁹ agreed to by consensus at the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Group at Geneva on 24 September 1993,

Recalling further its resolution 49/86, adopted without a vote on 15 December 1994, in which it welcomed the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention,¹²⁰ adopted by consensus on 30 September 1994, in which the States parties agreed to establish an ad hoc group, open to all States parties, whose objective should be to consider appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, and draft proposals to strengthen the Convention, to be included, as appropriate, in a legally binding instrument to be submitted for the consideration of the States parties,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention related to scientific and technological cooperation and the related provisions of the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts, the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held from 19 to 30 September 1994, and the final documents of the Review Conferences,

1. *Welcomes* the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention;¹¹⁷

2. *Also welcomes* the progress made by the Ad Hoc Group in pursuing the mandate established by the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on 30 September 1994, and urges the Ad Hoc Group, in order to fulfil its mandate, to intensify its work with a view to completing it as soon as possible before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference and to submit its report, which shall be adopted by consensus, to the States parties to be considered at a special conference;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, as well as the

decisions contained in the final report of the Special Conference, including all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Group;

4. *Welcomes* the convening, at the request of the States parties, of the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Geneva from 25 November to 6 December 1996;

5. *Calls upon* all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and also calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

51/55. The maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the observance of the Charter and the principles of international law is essential for the strengthening of international peace and security,

Considering the emergence of new opportunities for building a peaceful world,

Mindful of the obligations of all States under the Charter, *inter alia*, to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, to develop friendly relations among nations and to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Deeply concerned that situations that may lead to a breach of international peace are continuing in spite of the efforts of the United Nations to put an end to them and to avert such conflicts in the future,

Stressing the importance of the activities of the international organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, with the aim of preventing the violent disintegration of States, of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for development,

¹¹⁸ See BWC/CONF.III/23.

¹¹⁹ BWC/CONF.III/VEREX/9 and Corr.1.

¹²⁰ BWC/SPCONF/1.