

26. *Decides* to keep the item entitled "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination" on its agenda and to consider it as a matter of the highest priority at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/82. The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Aware that the development of friendly relations among nations, based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, is among the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as defined in its Charter,

Recalling the International Covenants on Human Rights,¹⁵⁷ the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹⁵⁸ the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples¹⁵⁹ and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,¹⁶⁰

Recalling also the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,¹⁶¹

Noting the developments in the Middle East peace process, including the mutual recognition and the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements in Washington on 13 September 1993 by the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, and the Government of Israel,¹⁶² as well as the ensuing implementation agreements, in particular the interim agreement of 28 September 1995,

Affirming the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized borders,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination;

2. *Expresses the hope* that the Palestinian people will soon be exercising their right to self-determination in the current peace process;

3. *Urges* all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in their quest for self-determination.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996

51/83. Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/150 of 23 December 1994 and 50/138 of 21 December 1995,

Recalling also all of its relevant resolutions in which, *inter alia*, it condemned any State that permitted or tolerated the recruitment, financing, training, assembly, transit and use of mercenaries with the objective of overthrowing the Governments of States Members of the United Nations, especially those of developing countries, or of fighting against national liberation movements, and recalling further the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Organization of African Unity,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations concerning the strict observance of the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity of States and self-determination of peoples,

Alarmed and concerned about the danger which the activities of mercenaries constitute to peace and security in developing countries, particularly in Africa and in small States, where democratically elected Governments have been overthrown by mercenaries or through mercenary international criminal activities,

Deeply concerned about the loss of life, the substantial damage to property and the negative effects on the polity and economies of affected countries resulting from mercenary aggression and criminal activities,

Convinced that it is necessary for Member States to ratify the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries,¹⁶³ adopted by the General Assembly in 1989, and to develop and maintain international cooperation among States for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of mercenary activities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination¹⁶⁴ concerning the use of mercenaries and mercenary-related activities to topple sovereign Governments and to violate the human rights of peoples and impede the exercise of self-determination despite resolution 50/138;

2. *Reaffirms* that the use of mercenaries and their recruitment, financing and training are causes for grave concern to all States and violate the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

3. *Urges* all States to take the necessary steps and to exercise the utmost vigilance against the menace posed by the

¹⁵⁷ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

¹⁵⁸ Resolution 217 A (III).

¹⁵⁹ Resolution 1514 (XV).

¹⁶⁰ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

¹⁶¹ Resolution 50/6.

¹⁶² See *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-eighth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1993*, document S/26560, annex.

¹⁶³ Resolution 44/34, annex.

¹⁶⁴ See A/51/392.

activities of mercenaries and to take necessary legislative measures to ensure that their territories and other territories under their control, as well as their nationals, are not used for the recruitment, assembly, financing, training and transit of mercenaries for the planning of activities designed to destabilize or overthrow the Government or threaten the territorial integrity and political unity of sovereign States or to promote secession or fight the national liberation movements struggling against colonial or other forms of alien domination or occupation;

4. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to consider taking necessary action to sign or to ratify the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries;

5. *Urges* all States to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his mandate;

6. *Requests* the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, as a matter of priority, to publicize the adverse effects of mercenary activities on the right to self-determination and, when requested where necessary, to render advisory services to States that are affected by the activities of mercenaries;

7. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to report, with specific recommendations, his findings on the use of mercenaries to undermine the right of peoples to self-determination to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

*82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996*

51/84. Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance, for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights, of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and embodied in the International Covenants on Human Rights,¹⁶⁵ as well as in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Welcoming the progressive exercise of the right to self-determination by peoples under colonial, foreign or alien occupation and their emergence into sovereign statehood and independence,

Deeply concerned at the continuation of acts or threats of foreign military intervention and occupation that are threatening to suppress, or have already suppressed, the right to self-determination of an increasing number of sovereign peoples and nations,

Expressing grave concern that, as a consequence of the persistence of such actions, millions of people have been and are being uprooted from their homes as refugees and displaced persons, and emphasizing the urgent need for concerted international action to alleviate their condition,

Recalling the relevant resolutions regarding the violation of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights as a result of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth,¹⁶⁶ thirty-seventh,¹⁶⁷ thirty-eighth,¹⁶⁸ thirty-ninth,¹⁶⁹ fortieth,¹⁷⁰ forty-first,¹⁷¹ forty-second,¹⁷² forty-third,¹⁷³ forty-fourth,¹⁷⁴ forty-fifth,¹⁷⁵ forty-sixth,¹⁷⁶ forty-seventh,¹⁷⁷ forty-eighth,¹⁷⁸ forty-ninth,¹⁷⁹ fiftieth,¹⁸⁰ fifty-first¹⁸¹ and fifty-second¹⁸² sessions,

Reaffirming its resolutions 35/35 B of 14 November 1980, 36/10 of 28 October 1981, 37/42 of 3 December 1982, 38/16 of 22 November 1983, 39/18 of 23 November 1984, 40/24 of 29 November 1985, 41/100 of 4 December 1986, 42/94 of 7 December 1987, 43/105 of 8 December 1988, 44/80 of 8 December 1989, 45/131 of 14 December 1990, 46/88 of 16 December 1991, 47/83 of 16 December 1992, 48/93 of 20 December 1993, 49/148 of 23 December 1994 and 50/139 of 21 December 1995,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the right of peoples to self-determination,¹⁸³

1. *Reaffirms* that the universal realization of the right of all peoples, including those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination is a fundamental condition

¹⁶⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/1980/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, 1981, *Supplement No. 5* and corrigendum (E/1981/25 and Corr.1), chap. XXVIII, sect. A.

¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, 1982, *Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/1982/12 and Corr.1), chap. XXVI, sect. A.

¹⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, 1983, *Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/1983/13 and Corr.1), chap. XXVII, sect. A.

¹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, 1984, *Supplement No. 4* and corrigendum (E/1984/14 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁷¹ *Ibid.*, 1985, *Supplement No. 2* (E/1985/22), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁷² *Ibid.*, 1986, *Supplement No. 2* (E/1986/22), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁷³ *Ibid.*, 1987, *Supplement No. 5* and corrigenda (E/1987/18 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, 1988, *Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/1988/12 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, 1989, *Supplement No. 2* (E/1989/20), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, 1990, *Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/1990/22 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, 1991, *Supplement No. 2* (E/1991/22), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, 1992, *Supplement No. 2* (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, 1993, *Supplement No. 3* (E/1993/23), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, 1994, *Supplement No. 4* and corrigendum (E/1994/24 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁸¹ *Ibid.*, 1995, *Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁸² *Ibid.*, 1996, *Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁸³ A/51/414.

¹⁶⁵ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.