

40/9. Solemn appeal to States in conflict to cease armed action forthwith and to settle disputes between them through negotiations, and to States Members of the United Nations to undertake to solve situations of tension and conflict and existing disputes by political means and to refrain from the threat or use of force and from any intervention in the internal affairs of other States

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned at the persistence of armed conflicts, acts of aggression and situations of tension in different parts of the world, at the emergence of new sources of conflict and tension in international life and at the danger to the independence and security of States and to international peace and security posed by the threat or use of force in relations between States,

Convinced that all States should exert the utmost efforts to settle any conflict or dispute between them exclusively by peaceful means and that resorting to the threat or use of force against other States can only aggravate the international situation and make more difficult the solution of problems,

Considering that it is in the interest both of States involved in conflict and other States, and of the general cause of world peace and security, to put an end to armed conflicts and to encourage and assist the solution of problems through peaceful means,

Solemnly reaffirming, on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, the resolute commitment of Member States to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the obligations which they assumed as Members of the Organization, in particular their commitment to refrain in international relations from the threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of any other State,

Reaffirming that all States shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered,

Recalling the inherent right of all States to individual or collective self-defence, as enshrined in Article 51 of the Charter,

Reaffirming the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/10 of 15 November 1982,

Considering that the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes should constitute a central concern of all States and of the United Nations,

1. *Addresses a solemn appeal* to States in conflict to put an end to armed action forthwith and to proceed to the settlement of their disputes by negotiations and other peaceful means;

2. *Calls upon* all States to comply fully and consistently with the obligations they have assumed, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, to resolve conflicts and disputes by peaceful means and to refrain from the threat or use of force and from any intervention in the internal affairs of other States;

3. *Invites* the Security Council, which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to act promptly in accordance with its functions under the Charter, in cases of conflict and dispute in

different regions of the world, by recommending appropriate procedures or methods of adjustment, including designation of representatives of the United Nations, with a view to settling disputes between States by peaceful means, eliminating situations of tension and conflict, and establishing relations based on understanding, co-operation and peace among all the States of the world;

4. *Reaffirms* the important role as conferred by the Charter on the General Assembly in the areas of the peaceful settlement of disputes and the maintenance of international peace and security;

5. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to play an active role within the scope of his functions under the Charter with a view to promoting efforts for the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts between States;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to make full use, in accordance with the Charter, of the framework provided by the United Nations for the peaceful settlement of disputes and international problems;

7. *Appeals* to Member States to act resolutely, in view of the purposes and principles of the Charter and in accordance with their duties as Members, in order that the Organization may harmonize the combined efforts of States aimed at strengthening world peace and security, solving the major issues confronting humanity and ensuring conditions for the free and independent development of all peoples.

*69th plenary meeting
8 November 1985*

40/10. Programme of the International Year of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/16 of 16 November 1982, 38/56 of 7 December 1983 and 39/10 of 8 November 1984 on the International Year of Peace,

Recalling also the solemn Proclamation of the International Year of Peace approved on 24 October 1985,¹⁸ the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, by which it called upon all peoples to join with the United Nations in resolute efforts to safeguard peace and the future of humanity,

Aware that in the nuclear age the establishment of a lasting peace on Earth constitutes the primary condition for the preservation of civilization and the survival of mankind,

Welcoming the contributions made to the Voluntary Fund for the Programme of the International Year of Peace,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the regional seminars,¹⁹ which served to increase awareness in each region of the need to take effective steps to promote peace and also contributed towards the preparations for the Year.

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities undertaken in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 39/10²⁰ and the final version of the draft programme of the International Year of Peace annexed thereto,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of Member States to achieve substantive results in fulfilling the objectives of the International Year of Peace and to express the common aspiration of peoples for peace;

¹⁸ Resolution 40/3, annex.
¹⁹ A/40/524.

²⁰ A/40/669 and Add 1