

46/109. The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives

A

PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

The General Assembly,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 530 (1983) of 19 May 1983, 562 (1985) of 10 May 1985, 637 (1989) of 27 July 1989, 644 (1989) of 7 November 1989, 650 (1990) of 27 March 1990, 653 (1990) of 20 April 1990, 654 (1990) of 4 May 1990, 656 (1990) of 8 June 1990 and 719 (1991) of 6 November 1991, and its resolutions 38/10 of 11 November 1983, 39/4 of 26 October 1984, 41/37 of 18 November 1986, 42/1 of 7 October 1987, 43/24 of 15 November 1988, 44/10 of 23 October 1989, 44/44 of 7 December 1989 and 45/15 of 20 November 1990,

Aware that the agreement on "Procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America" signed at Guatemala City on 7 August 1987 by the Presidents of the Republics of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, at the Esquipulas II summit meeting,⁹⁸ is the outcome of the decision by Central Americans to take up fully the historical challenge of forging a peaceful destiny for Central America,

Convinced that the peoples of Central America wish to achieve peace, reconciliation, development and justice, without outside interference, in accordance with their own decision and their own historical experience, and without sacrificing the principles of self-determination and non-intervention,

Aware also of the political will which inspires them to settle their differences by means of dialogue, negotiation and respect for the legitimate interests of all States, establishing commitments to be fulfilled in good faith, through the verifiable performance of actions aimed at achieving peace, democracy, security, cooperation and respect for human rights,

Taking note of the second report of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador of 15 November 1991⁹⁹ and of the report of the Secretary-General of 28 October 1991 concerning the United Nations Observer Group in Central America,¹⁰⁰

Taking note with satisfaction of the work carried out in the region by the Group in verifying the security commitments entered into by the Central American Governments under the agreement signed at the Esquipulas II summit meeting, and of the work of the International Support and Verification Commission in the repatriation and relocation of displaced persons and refugees, which it has undertaken with the cooperation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme, and of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador, which is monitoring compliance with human rights commitments,

Convinced that the National Conciliation Agreement on Economic and Social Matters reached in Nicaragua on 26 October 1990¹⁰¹ and phase II thereof, signed on 15 August 1991, constitute positive and promising contributions to strengthening the process of democratization, development and peace in Nicaragua and in the region,

Observing with satisfaction that the Government of El

Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional are continuing the negotiating process, begun on 4 April 1990¹⁰² under the auspices of the Secretary-General, with a view to putting an end, once and for all, to the armed conflict by political means in the shortest possible time, as well as promoting the democratization of the country, guaranteeing unrestricted respect for human rights and reunifying Salvadorian society,

Observing also with satisfaction the progress of the talks between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca aimed at ending the internal armed confrontation and bringing about reconciliation and full respect for the human rights of all Guatemalans, which have taken place under the auspices of the National Reconciliation Commission of Guatemala, in the presence of the Representative of the Secretary-General,

Recognizing the unfailing determination of the Río Group to achieve peace in Central America and the valuable contribution made by its member States throughout the regional peace effort,

1. *Commends* the effort made by the Central American countries to achieve peace through the implementation of the agreement on "Procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America" signed at Guatemala City on 7 August 1987,⁹⁸ as well as of the agreements adopted at subsequent summit meetings;

2. *Expresses its strongest support* for these agreements and urges the Governments to continue their efforts to consolidate firm and lasting peace in Central America;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to afford the fullest possible support to the Central American Governments in their efforts to consolidate peace, especially by taking the measures necessary for the maintenance, establishment and effective functioning of the appropriate verification machinery;

4. *Welcomes* the implementation of phases I and II of the National Conciliation Agreement on Economic and Social Matters concluded in Nicaragua on 26 October 1990 and 15 August 1991 and endorses, in particular, the provision concerning exceptional circumstances and the invitation made in phase I to the international community and the international funding agencies to provide effective and efficient support for the implementation of the Agreement, and also supports the agreements reached in phase II regarding property rights and privatization;

5. *Fully endorses* the efforts of the Secretary-General to bring about peace in Central America and in particular his active role as an intermediary in Guatemala and El Salvador;

6. *Urges* the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional to step up the confidence-building and security measures unilaterally adopted by them in order to maintain the suspension of the armed confrontation pending the conclusion in the shortest possible time of political agreements which will put an end to the armed conflict once and for all and will achieve the other goals laid down in the Geneva Agreement of 4 April 1990;¹⁰²

7. *Expresses its support* for the process of negotiation between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca, which has given rise to the agreements signed at Mexico City on 26 April 1991¹⁰³ and the Querétaro Agreement signed at Querétaro,

Mexico, on 25 July 1991,¹⁰⁴ and encourages both parties to continue their efforts to reach a political solution to the long process of confrontation experienced by Guatemala;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on progress made in implementing the present resolution.

*75th plenary meeting
17 December 1991*

B

CENTRAL AMERICA: REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the importance of the commitments assumed by the Central American Presidents under the agreement signed at Guatemala City on 7 August 1987 at the Esquipulas II summit meeting;⁹⁸ the declarations adopted at Alajuela, Costa Rica, on 16 January 1988¹⁰⁵ and at Costa del Sol, El Salvador, on 14 February 1989;¹⁰⁶ the agreements concluded at Tela, Honduras, on 7 August 1989,¹⁰⁷ at Montelimar, Nicaragua, on 3 April 1990,¹⁰⁸ at Antigua, Guatemala, on 17 June 1990¹⁰⁹ and at Puntarenas, Costa Rica, on 17 December 1990;¹¹⁰ and the Declaration of San Salvador of 17 July 1991,¹¹¹

Recognizing the importance of all aspects of the peace-keeping operations which have been carried out in Central America, pursuant to the decisions of the Security Council and with the support of the Secretary-General, and the need to preserve and enhance the results obtained,

Considering that at their meetings at Montelimar, Nicaragua, and Antigua, Guatemala, the Central American Presidents reaffirmed their determination to set Central America on the road to a stable peace through the establishment of democratic regimes throughout the region, the individual and collective forging of a better economic and social future for the area, and the design of specific mechanisms and courses of action for the peaceful settlement of disputes or possible conflicts between the States of the region,

Considering also that, at the Puntarenas summit meeting, the Presidents declared Central America to be a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development, and that in the Declaration of San Salvador¹¹¹ they agreed to update the legal framework of the Organization of Central American States and to work for the inclusion of Central America in a world order marked by interdependence, the emergence of new forms of integration and cooperation and the effective implementation of international law,

Considering the commitments which have been entered into during the negotiations on security, verification, and control and limitation of arms and military personnel, within the Security Commission established under the agreement signed at the Esquipulas II summit meeting, for the purpose of achieving a stable and lasting peace in Central America,

Taking into consideration that the force of the new democratic spirit prevailing in Central America has created a sphere of political action which makes it feasible to resume with greater momentum the process of regional integration, as the basis for a firm and lasting peace in the region, taking into account the specific circumstances of each country,

Bearing in mind the political determination in Central

America to strengthen the process of cooperation in the political, economic and social fields, which complements the progressive steps towards pacification, reconciliation and democratization,

Reaffirming the belief that peace is one, undivided and indivisible, and thus inseparable from freedom, democracy and development, and that these goals are essential for consolidating the transformations which will guarantee sustained, participatory and equitable development in Central America and redefining the manner in which the Central American economies are linked to the rest of the world,

Recognizing the valuable and effective contribution of the United Nations and of various governmental and non-governmental mechanisms to the process of democratization, pacification and development in Central America,

Recognizing also the importance for the progressive transformation of Central America into a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development of both the political dialogue and the economic cooperation set in motion by the Ministerial Conference on Political Dialogue and Economic Cooperation between the European Community and the Central American countries and the joint initiative of the industrialized countries (Group of Twenty-four) and the group of cooperating countries (Group of Three),¹¹² in Latin America, through a Partnership for Democracy and Development in Central America,

Bearing in mind that there remain in Central America major obstacles to the full exercise of peace, freedom, democracy and development, the final overcoming of which requires a global frame of reference which would enable the international community to focus its support on efforts towards collective affirmation and democratic progress being made by the Central American countries,

1. *Reaffirms* the decision of the Presidents of the Central American countries to declare Central America a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development;

2. *Encourages* the initiatives of the Central American countries to consolidate Governments which genuinely represent the will of their people and which base their development on democracy, peace, cooperation and strict respect for human rights and on security, verification, and control and limitation of arms and military personnel;

3. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the agreements reached and progress made by the Security Commission in the creation of a new security model based on coordination, communication and prevention, confidence-building between the States of the region, and the presentation of an inventory of weapons present in Central America;

4. *Stresses* the importance that the outcome of the political dialogue and economic cooperation between the European Community and its member States, the States of Central America and Panama and the group of cooperating countries (Group of Three) as well as the initiative of the industrialized countries (Group of Twenty-four) and the group of cooperating countries (Group of Three), through the Partnership for Democracy and Development in Central America, have for the efforts of the Central American countries to achieve peace and to consolidate democracy and economic development;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the organizations of the United Nations system to provide, as appropriate and within the available resources, the necessary technical and financial support to the Central American

Governments for the purpose of consolidating the processes of peace, freedom, democratization and development in the region;

6. *Reiterates* the importance that the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, which the General Assembly welcomed in its resolution 42/231, has for the implementation of this resolution, in particular because it provides the underpinning for the execution of the Central American Economic Plan of Action,¹⁰⁹ which the Central American Presidents approved at their meeting held at Antigua, Guatemala, in June 1990;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session an item entitled "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development";

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on progress made in implementing the present resolution.

*75th plenary meeting
17 December 1991*

46/151. Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, the annex to which contains the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, 42/163 of 8 December 1987, in which, *inter alia*, it decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the mid-term review and appraisal of the Programme of Action, and 43/27 of 18 November 1988 on the mid-term review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/75 of 27 July 1990 on the final review and appraisal of the Programme of Action,

Recalling further its resolution 45/178 A of 19 December 1990 on the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Noting that the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the General Assembly has been an occasion for an in-depth assessment of the actions taken in the implementation of the Programme of Action and of the measures that are needed to sustain accelerated growth and development in Africa beyond 1991,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the critical economic situation in Africa: final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,¹¹³

Taking note of the memorandum prepared by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,¹¹⁴

Taking note also of Africa's submission on the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session,¹¹⁵

Taking note further of the contribution made by individual Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990;¹¹⁶

2. *Adopts* the conclusions of the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, consisting of the assessment of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, as set forth in the annex to the present resolution;

3. *Requests* Governments, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take appropriate measures in order to implement the commitments contained in the New Agenda;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the New Agenda.

*77th plenary meeting
18 December 1991*

ANNEX

I. Assessment of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990

A. PREAMBLE

1. The United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 did not quite become a focal point for economic policy or for resource mobilization on behalf of Africa.

2. Furthermore, the Programme of Action proved to be too optimistic in two basic senses. First, the concept of a global compact at the continental level was difficult to achieve. Specific arrangements, such as World Bank consultative groups and United Nations Development Programme round-table discussions for individual nations, were not always directly related to the goals and targets of the Programme of Action. Second, hopes for a favourable external economic environment for Africa during the period 1986-1990 were not fulfilled. Sharp export price falls, real interest rate increases, and declines in private sector investment and loans all severely limited the positive effects of efforts made by Africa and its development partners. The Programme of Action itself was silent regarding who was to act if unforeseen exogenous contingencies threw the Programme of Action off course; also, its review machinery did not clearly address this issue.

3. In most African States, it is recognized that revised economic reforms and good governance are a key to economic development. It is also accepted that recovery and renewed development will take longer to achieve than was hoped and projected in 1986 by Africa, as well as by donor States and international financial institutions.

4. Bilateral cooperating partners have recognized that speedy, low-cost turn-arounds are the exception, not the rule, or as several have explicitly noted, the time-frame for economic transformation and for agreed agendas for action should be seen in terms of decades, not years. In addition, perception has come much closer to African warnings of the damage done by the debt overhang and worsening terms of trade. Substantial action to overcome these obstacles to African recovery is now agreed to be urgent.

5. The World Bank recognizes that sustained structural adjustment