

verse effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General of 20 September 1995 on the implementation of resolution 49/9;<sup>19</sup>

2. *Reiterates its call* to all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the present resolution in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law which, *inter alia*, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation;

3. *Once again urges* States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regime;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".

*48th plenary meeting  
2 November 1995*

#### 50/11. Multilingualism

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 2 (I) of 1 February 1946, 2241 B (XXI) of 20 December 1966, 2292 (XXII) of 8 December 1967, 2359 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2479 (XXIII) and 2480 B (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, 3189 (XXVIII), 3190 (XXVIII) and 3191 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973 and 43/224 D of 21 December 1988,

*Recalling also*, on the occasion of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations, that the universality of the United Nations and its corollary, multilingualism, entail for each State Member of the Organization, irrespective of the official language in which it expresses itself, the right and the duty to make itself understood and to understand others,

*Stressing* the need for strict observance of the resolutions and rules establishing language arrangements for the different bodies and organs of the United Nations,

*Recalling further* that Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are both official and working languages of the General Assembly and its committees and subcommittees,<sup>20</sup> and of the Security Council,<sup>21</sup> that Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are the official languages and English, French and Spanish the working languages of the Economic and Social Council,<sup>22</sup> and that English and French are the working languages of the Secretariat,<sup>23</sup>

<sup>19</sup>A/50/401.

<sup>20</sup>Rule 51 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

<sup>21</sup>Rule 41 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council.

<sup>22</sup>Rule 32 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

<sup>23</sup>See resolution 2 (I), annex, para. 1, of 1 February 1946.

*Regretting* that unequal use is made in the United Nations of the different official languages and of the working languages of the Secretariat, and desiring that persons recruited by the Organization should have a command of and use at least one of the six official languages in addition to one working language of the Secretariat,

*Considering* that the translation and interpretation budgets of United Nations bodies should be commensurate with the needs and should not be subject to budgetary constraints, as noted in resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987,

*Noting* that the principle of equality of the official languages is being called into question with increasing frequency by the holding of so-called "low-cost" informal meetings,

*Emphasizing* the need for the Organization to continue to promote the learning of all the official languages and the working languages of the Secretariat by members of missions accredited to the Organization and by Secretariat staff,

*Emphasizing also* the importance of providing access for all Governments and all sectors of civil society to the Organization's documentation, archives and data banks in all the official languages,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the strict implementation of the resolutions establishing language arrangements for both the official languages and the working languages of the Secretariat, and invites Member States to do likewise;

2. *Recalls* that the Secretariat is required, in its relations with Member States, to use the official or working language requested by those States;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that appointment of the staff of the Organization is carried out strictly in accordance with the terms of Article 101 of the Charter and the regulations established by the General Assembly pursuant to that Article and that, upon recruitment, personnel recruited by the different bodies of the Organization have a command of and use at least one of the working languages of the Secretariat or one of the working languages of another body of the Organization, in the case of staff members who are to work for that body and whose tenure of appointment does not exceed two years, and requests him to ensure that the use of another of the six official languages is duly encouraged and taken into account, particularly when promotions and incremental steps are under consideration, in order to ensure linguistic balance within the Organization;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, in particular in the recruitment and promotion of Secretariat staff, equality of the working languages of the Secretariat and of their use;

5. *Stresses* the need to ensure, in particular through the training and recruitment of specialists, that the necessary resources are available to guarantee the proper and timely translation of documents into the different official languages of the United Nations;

6. *Recalls* the need to ensure the simultaneous distribution of such documents in the official languages;

7. *Also stresses* the need to ensure adequate human and financial resources for maintaining the teaching, at all levels, of the official languages and the working languages of the Secretariat;

8. *Further stresses* the importance of ensuring the availability of publications and adequate data banks in the different official languages in the libraries and documentation centres of the various bodies;

9. *Urges* the delegations of Member States and the Secretariat to endeavour to avoid holding informal meetings without interpretation;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and particularly on the use of the official languages of the United Nations and the working languages of the Secretariat.

49th plenary meeting  
2 November 1995

## 50/12. Universal Congress on the Panama Canal

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994 on the law of the sea, 49/99 of 19 December 1994 on international trade and development and 49/131 of 19 December 1994 on the declaration of 1998 as International Year of the Ocean, and resolutions 2.5 of 16 November 1993,<sup>24</sup> adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-seventh session, and 1994/48 of the Economic and Social Council of 29 July 1994, both on the International Year of the Ocean,

*Bearing in mind* that on 7 September 1977 Mr. Jimmy Carter, President of the United States of America, and General Omar Torrijos, Head of Government of the Republic of Panama, signed in Washington the Treaty concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal<sup>25</sup> and the Panama Canal Treaty,<sup>26</sup> known as the Torrijos-Carter treaties, 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, which shall assume total responsibility for its management, operation and maintenance,

*Emphasizing* the significance of the Washington Declaration, signed on 7 September 1977 by the heads of State, heads of Government and representatives of the American republics, which recognizes "the importance for the hemisphere, for trade and for world shipping of the agreements designed to ensure the accessibility and continued neutrality of the Panama Canal",

*Welcoming* the plans of the Government of Panama to hold a Universal Congress on the Panama Canal in Panama City in September 1997, with the participation of Governments, international bodies, public and private academic institutions, maritime users and international shipping companies, to examine jointly the role which the Panama Canal should play in the twenty-first century,

*Underlining* the fact that the International Congress for Study of the Inter-ocean Canal (Congrès international d'études du canal interocéanique) was convened by the Société de géographie de Paris, met from 15 to 29 May

1879 in the French capital, under the presidency of Count Ferdinand de Lesseps, builder of the Suez Canal, and culminated in the resolution that the canal should be built along the route traced between the Gulf of Limón on the Atlantic Ocean and the Bay of Panama on the Pacific Ocean,

*Cognizant* of the fact that, in keeping with the spirit of a new global alliance for sustainable development, it is necessary to formulate a balanced, integrated approach to environmental, trade and development issues,

*Convinced*, therefore, that the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal will promote international cooperation towards ensuring an orderly, sustainable development of the uses and resources of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the rational exploitation and development of the Canal watershed and coastal areas, bearing in mind that Panama's coastline on the two oceans stretches for 2,988.3 kilometres in all, of which 1,700.6 kilometres are on the Pacific Ocean and 1,287.7 are on the Caribbean Sea,

*Noting with appreciation* the progress of the Tripartite Commission, consisting of the Republic of Panama, the United States of America and Japan, in the plans for the construction in the Isthmus of Panama of a sea-level canal or the enlargement of the present lock canal,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 31/142 of 17 December 1976, on the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Amphictyonic Congress of Panama, in which it recalled that Simón Bolívar, the Liberator, referred on several occasions to the need for a possible opening of a canal in Panama, which "will shorten distances throughout the world, strengthen commercial ties" between the continents and promote the exchange of products "from the four corners of the globe",

*Noting with satisfaction* that by its resolution 49/131, 1998 was proclaimed International Year of the Ocean, during which year the Lisbon World Exposition is to be held,

*Emphasizing* that the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal has among its priority aims the promotion of international cooperation with a view to achieving an orderly, sustainable development of the uses and resources of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans,

1. *Supports* the initiative of the Government of Panama in convening the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal, with the participation of Governments, international bodies, public and private academic institutions, maritime users and international shipping companies, to examine jointly the role which the Panama Canal should play in the twenty-first century;

2. *Requests* Member States to assist generously in this undertaking;

3. *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 study the possibility of providing assistance from within existing resources for the organization of the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal and expresses the hope that its results will contribute to the growth of world trade and to sustained economic growth and sustainable development throughout the world;

<sup>24</sup>See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-seventh Session, Paris, 25 October to 16 November 1993*, Vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. III.2.

<sup>25</sup>United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1161, No. 18342.

<sup>26</sup>*Ibid.*, vol. 1280, No. 21086.