

51/136. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2006 (XIX) of 18 February 1965 and all other relevant resolutions,

Recalling in particular its resolution 50/30 of 6 December 1995,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization,⁶⁷

Welcoming the statement of 28 March 1996 by the President of the Security Council on the arrangements for improved consultation and exchange of information with troop-contributing countries,⁶⁸

Affirming that the efforts of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, including through its peacekeeping operations, are indispensable,

Convinced of the need for the United Nations to continue to improve its capabilities in the field of peacekeeping and to enhance the effective and efficient deployment of its peacekeeping missions,

Considering the contribution that all States Members of the Organization make to peacekeeping,

Taking note of the widespread interest in contributing to the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations expressed by many Member States, including troop-contributing countries,

Bearing in mind the continuous necessity of preserving the efficiency and strengthening the effectiveness of the work of the Special Committee,

1. *Welcomes the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;⁶⁹*

2. *Endorses the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee contained in paragraphs 29 to 85 of its report;*

3. *Urges Member States, the Secretariat and relevant organs of the United Nations to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee;*

4. *Decides to expand the membership of the Special Committee in accordance with the provisions of its report; those Member States which are past or present personnel contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations and those which were observers at the 1996 session of the Special*

Committee shall, upon request in writing to the Chairman of the Committee, become members at its 1997 session;

5. *Decides also that those Member States which become personnel contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations in years to come or participate in the future in the Special Committee for three consecutive years as observers shall, upon request in writing to the Chairman of the Committee, become members at the following session of the Committee;*

6. *Decides further that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, shall continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, and shall review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in this field;*

7. *Requests the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;*

8. *Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects".*

*83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996*

51/137. Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/59 of 9 December 1994, by which it adopted the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,

Gravely concerned by the continuing attacks and acts of violence against United Nations and associated personnel that have caused death or serious injury,

Conscious of the need effectively to promote and protect the safety and security of the personnel who act on behalf of the United Nations, attacks against whom are unjustifiable and unacceptable,

Recognizing that United Nations and associated personnel, while carrying out their activities in support of the fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation, are acting in the common interests of the international community,

Considering that the entry into force of the Convention would strengthen arrangements for the protection of personnel who act on behalf of the United Nations,

Noting, however, that only a small number of States have become parties to the Convention.

Recalling the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations,⁷⁰ in which, in particular, the

⁶⁷ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/51/1).

⁶⁸ Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996, document S/PRST/1996/13.

⁶⁹ A/51/130 and Corr.1.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

Committee called upon Member States to ratify the Convention so as to ensure its early entry into force,

1. *Welcomes* all signatures, ratifications, acceptances and approvals of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and accessions thereto;

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Convention, to bring about its entry into force at the earliest possible date;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary steps to facilitate the dissemination of information relating to the Convention and to promote its wider appreciation;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the status of the Convention and on the steps taken pursuant to paragraph 3 above.

*83rd plenary meeting
13 December 1996*

51/138. Questions relating to information

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Information in the service of humanity

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the comprehensive and important report of the Committee on Information,⁷¹

Also taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information,⁷²

Urges all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, deeply concerned by the disparities existing between developed and developing countries and the consequences of every kind arising from those disparities that affect the capability of the public, private or other media and individuals in developing countries to disseminate information and communicate their views and their cultural and ethical values through endogenous cultural production, as well as to ensure the diversity of sources and their free access to information, and recognizing the call in this context for what in the United Nations and at various international forums has been termed "a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process":

(a) To cooperate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows at all levels by increasing assistance for the development of communication infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with due regard for their needs and the priorities attached to such areas by those countries, and in order to enable them and the public, private or other media in developing countries to develop their own information and communication policies freely and independently and increase the participation of media and individuals in the communication process, and to ensure a free flow of information at all levels;

(b) To ensure for journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them;

(c) To provide support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from public, private and other media in developing countries;

(d) To enhance regional efforts and cooperation among developing countries, as well as cooperation between developed and developing countries, to strengthen communication capacities and to improve the media infrastructure and communication technology in the developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information;

(e) To aim, in addition to bilateral cooperation, at providing all possible support and assistance to the developing countries and their media, public, private or other, with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already adopted within the United Nations system, including:

- (i) The development of the human and technical resources that are indispensable for the improvement of information and communication systems in developing countries and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;
- (ii) The creation of conditions that will enable developing countries and their media, public, private or other, to have, by using their national and regional resources, the communication technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, especially for radio and television broadcasting;
- (iii) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;
- (iv) The facilitation, as appropriate, of access by the developing countries to advanced communication technology available on the open market;

⁷¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/51/21).*

⁷² A/51/406.