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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 24 October 1991, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia)

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- Tenth anniversary of the University for Peace [26]
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General
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- Organization of work

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE OCCASION OF UNITED NATIONS DAY

The PRESIDENT: Today, 24 October 1991, marks the forty-sixth anniversary of the coming into force of the United Nations Charter. In its short life, which has witnessed a vast increase in its membership and global responsibilities, the United Nations has recorded an impressive list of accomplishments in many diverse fields which have enhanced the lives of millions all over the world.

The United Nations is now entering its forty-seventh year in the midst of profound changes on the global scene. At this moment of great hope and expectation for the future which heralds a new era in international relations and in which the United Nations will have a central role to play, the time has come for Member States to pledge full moral, material and political support for this world body. On this United Nations Day let us therefore all - Governments and peoples of the world - reconfirm our dedication to the lofty goals and noble principles of the United Nations Charter which remains the best guarantee for the future of humanity.

AGENDA ITEM 26

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE

- (a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/580)
- (b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.14)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the representative of Costa Rica, who wishes to introduce draft resolution A/46/L.14.

Mr. TATTENBACH (Costa Rica) (interpretation from Spanish): It is a special honour for me to inaugurate the Assembly's consideration of this item on the happy occasion of United Nations Day, as I did last year, and to speak before the General Assembly on behalf of the kindred Republics of Central America on an item to which we attach the utmost importance: "Tenth anniversary of the University for Peace". We are meeting here today in keeping with General Assembly resolution 45/8, adopted on 24 October 1990, when we celebrated the first decade of the University for Peace. Since its establishment by General Assembly resolution 35/55 of 5 December 1980, the University for Peace has become what the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, has defined as the sole United Nations institution of global vocation headquartered in Latin America.

(Mr. Tattenbach, Costa Rica)

It is precisely the Secretary-General who has been unsparing in his efforts to generate cooperation from a considerable number of Heads of State and of Government in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa. The request of the Secretary-General is prompted by the grave financial constraints that the University for Peace has been facing. However, these have not prevented the organization from acquiring a large amount of experience or from taking a number of initiatives that have been put into effect. The Secretary-General, as part of his commendable support for the University for Peace, has established with the United Nations Development Programme a Trust Fund for Peace with a target of \$250 million. The specific purpose of this Fund is to finance ongoing activities provided for in the mandate of the University for Peace and its educational, research and support functions in relation to United Nations activities directed towards achieving peace and reconciliation, and to finance the activities of the Secretary-General to this end. Of the input to the Fund, 90 per cent will be used for the purposes I have just described; the remaining 10 per cent will not be committed but will be used to increase capital.

The Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama are extremely happy about, and wish to express appreciation of, the Secretary-General's support - in particular, his support for the provision of a site in a Central American State for such a valuable institution.

The few moments that I wish to devote to the work of the University for Peace are insufficient. For example, one could mention the establishment and implementation of international programmes for masters' degrees, such as those relating to international relations and cooperation, social dialogue and

(Mr. Tattenbach, Costa Rica)

development, education for peace, natural resources, quality of life, human rights, the peaceful settlement of disputes, sustainable development and environmental protection. With these educational programmes, the University for Peace is responding effectively to the challenge that is embodied in its fundamental objective, as expressed in article 2 of its Charter:

"to provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace and with the aim of promoting among all human beings the spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate co-operation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress, in keeping with the noble aspirations proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations."

Even more important is the true significance of these activities, the intention being to establish a peace culture, in which cooperation and harmony, rather than unfortunately deep-rooted cultural violence, will prevail.

Today, men are deciding to choose democracy, equality and respect for human rights. They are deciding to follow the path of peace. In this regard, Central America - that small region - is no exception. Day by day, more and more guns are being exchanged for books, for food, for white handkerchiefs, for life.

In the efforts to achieve peace, we Central Americans have not been alone; the international community has worked with us to find solutions to the conflict. The Esquipulas II Agreement of 7 August 1987 laid the foundation for the democratization of, and the return of peace to, Central America through the establishment of national reconciliation committees. Once again, the presence of the University of Peace was felt when it suggested that the Presidents of Central America should convene the first regional meeting of a

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reconciliation committee at the University's headquarters in Ciudad Colón, Costa Rica, on 18, 19 and 20 September 1989. This active presence of the University for Peace has earned it the appreciation and support of the Central American Presidents, who, in paragraph 36 of their Declaration of San Salvador, El Salvador, of 17 July 1991, set out this objective:

"To support the work of the University of Peace and to appeal to the international community to support the initiative of Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, aimed at strengthening this international organization, which has its headquarters in the region, through a Fund for Peace." (A/45/1039, p. 10)

This spirit of peace and conciliation of the University for Peace made a major contribution to the solution of the Central American crisis by moving the Presidents of the region to declare Central America as "a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development".

The many seminars, courses, conferences and activities organized or carried out by the University for Peace include the establishment of the Central American Chair for Peace - an especially important initiative as it gives high academic standing to views expressed by top leaders of the region.

The campus of the University was inaugurated last May by the President of Guatemala, Mr. Jorge Serrano Elias. It was established in gratitude for, and in support of, the concerted efforts of the Central American Presidents in the process of restoring peace and democracy to the area.

These points were highlighted in statements made at the recent presidential summit at Puntarenas and at the San José VII Conference. The working items that concerned the University included zones of peace, education for peace, and ecological subjects. The establishment of a United Nations information centre on the campus was proposed by the Government of Costa Rica

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to the Committee on Information at its recent meeting. This proposal will be considered at the current session of the General Assembly in the context of the item entitled "Questions relating to information". It is our hope that the proposal will be welcomed by the General Assembly when it considers the subjects dealt with by the Special Political Committee. Once again, the support of the international community has not been wanting, and the Governments of the Central American region and the University for Peace are most grateful.

Nevertheless, the challenge is enormous, and the resources are very meagre. Accordingly, once again the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama wish to urge States Members of the United Nations that have not yet done so to accede to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace under General Assembly resolution 35/55, so that the University may be able to fulfil its motto:

"If you desire peace, prepare for peace. The University for Peace must be the laboratory of the spirit of peace, the crucible where we create the new mentality of peace in the coming decades. Either the twenty-first century will be one of peace, or there will be no twenty-first century."

(Mr. Tattenbach, Costa Rica)

It is now an honour for me to introduce, as requested, the draft resolution on this item. Accordingly, I submit to the General Assembly for its consideration the draft resolution contained in document A/46/L.14 on behalf of the Central American delegations, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and my own delegation, and all those delegations which generously decided to become sponsors of the draft resolution along with us, namely, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, India, Italy, Marshall Islands, Morocco, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Peru, Romania, Samoa, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zaire.

The preamble recalls the establishment of the University for Peace by resolution 35/55 of 5 December 1980 and the commemoration of its tenth anniversary by resolution 45/8 of 24 October 1990.

It recognizes that since its establishment 10 years ago the University for Peace has suffered from financial limitations which have impeded its development of the appropriate and necessary activities for carrying out its important task.

It also recognizes that despite these limitations the University for Peace has undertaken important activities and developed programmes that can be applied to the subject-matter and disciplines of education and training for peace.

The fifth preambular paragraph notes that the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme, has established a Trust Fund for Peace. We should like to point out that in order to incorporate a suggestion to amend this paragraph, we have included the words

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"consisting of voluntary contributions" between the word "Peace" and the phrase "in order to".

Paragraph 1 notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 45/8.

Paragraph 2 welcomes the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Trust Fund for Peace. The same amendments have been made to this paragraph by the insertion of the words "consisting of voluntary contributions" between the word "Peace" and "for". Although we preferred the original text, in order to achieve general consensus, we agreed to these two amendments to the text.

Paragraph 3 invites the States Members of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental bodies as well as interested individuals and organizations to contribute to the Trust Fund for Peace.

Paragraph 4 invites Member States to accede to the International Agreement for the University for Peace, thus demonstrating their support of a global institution for peace studies whose mandate is the promotion of world peace.

Finally, in paragraph 5, which we consider to be of the utmost importance, the General Assembly decides to include in the agenda of its forty-eighth session and biennially thereafter an item entitled "University for Peace". This paragraph is the result of our desire to reconcile our view with those of other delegations which requested the amendment to the text so that, instead of having the item dealt with at the forty-seventh session, it would be postponed until the following year, and thereafter the item would be dealt with on a biennial basis. As we are all aware, this is the goal towards which we have been working over the years since the University was established, and we believe that it is important to keep this item on the

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agenda so that the University for Peace can enhance and expand its programmes and activities - those that it has already developed and those which it plans to develop for 1992 and the years to come. The Central American and other delegations which have sponsored the draft resolution invite all members to adopt it without a vote.

Mr. MONTERO (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation is very glad that the item we have before us today, which coincides with such an important date as the commemoration of United Nations Day, has once again been included in the agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. It is again an honour this year, as it was last year, for my country to co-sponsor the draft resolution on the Tenth Anniversary of the University for Peace introduced by the representative of Costa Rica. It could not be otherwise. Chile enthusiastically associates itself with this item and participates in the commendable objectives of this international specialized centre, which has been carrying out its activities so well in the past decade. However, the visionary expectations of its founders have encountered difficulties.

The principles which inspired the establishment of this institution for peace, the only one of its kind within the United Nations system, are more valid than ever before in a revitalized international scenario, where confrontation is frankly being replaced by cooperation and understanding among nations.

An institution that so successfully promotes the cause of peace and which is totally committed to the search for this supreme blessing deserves our entire support and cooperation.

The commitment of our Organization to this fruitful initiative was evident during the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly when in 1980

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resolution 35/55 was adopted. This resolution laid the legal foundations for the institution. Its fundamental goal - and it is not superfluous to recall this - is to:

"provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace and with the aim of promoting among all human beings the spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate cooperation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress, in keeping with the noble aspirations proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations." (resolution 35/55, art. 2)

The University can feel quite happy about the complete attainment of these objectives. We note, as peace dividends are becoming a reality, that this institution has made a magnificent contribution to them.

On this occasion, I cannot but mention that our fraternal Republic of Costa Rica has rightly been chosen as the site for this University Centre. What better decision could have been made to give this great honour to a nation which has such a democratic and peaceful history and which is such a tenacious champion of the principles and values contained in the founding Charter of the University?

My country, like the other countries in the region, is proud of the decision of the United Nations to establish the headquarters of this centre for peace in this well-loved Central American Republic. We are certain that its enormous contribution to the success of the University's activities in the last 10 years will continue.

(Mr. Montero, Chile)

My delegation is very gratified that the pace of the activities of the University for Peace, which had already been increasing, has been accelerated even more in this second decade since its foundation, and also welcomes the major international meetings for peace which have been held there.

We recall the formal session on 18 March last during which the President of Guatemala delivered a magnificent inaugural address for the Central American Chair for Peace; the subject will be a permanent feature of the University's curriculum. This is particularly relevant now, when the peace plan of the Presidents of the region, backed by the Security Council, is producing positive results in El Salvador and Guatemala.

This Chair for Peace and the other degree programmes linked by the common theme of peace are a faithful reflection of the commitment the University has made in a subject of the greatest significance for mankind. My country therefore urges it to go on developing fresh initiatives and projects to enable it to enrich its already fruitful labours.

On the same subject, I would draw attention to the emphasis the University for Peace is placing on academic courses relating to the important subject of human rights. The importance and validity this subject has taken on in recent years place on our University the enormous responsibility of emphasizing, with academic rigour and discipline, a multidisciplinary treatment of human rights.

Similarly, we think that the no less important subject of security - tied in as it is with the subject of peace - covers not only the military aspects of disarmament but also those threats which jeopardize social and economic development and human dignity: drug, environmental and other similar

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problems. When security is viewed from that perspective, we see that it should be a priority subject in the future research and teaching programmes of this institute of higher learning.

For all those reasons, and aware of our obligation to lend our resolute support to the University in its new phase of activity, my Government is now considering the possibility of contributing to the special United Nations fund which finances it, in line with the Secretary-General's request to the President of the Republic. My country will do everything it can to meet this request for finance, which is of the greatest significance for the operational future of the University for Peace. We hope that the Secretary-General's initiative in establishing an endowment or trust fund to finance the University's new activities will receive Member States' resolute support.

My delegation has noted with great interest the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/580) submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 45/8 of 24 October last year. His detailed account - which merits our commendation - of the work of the University last year motivates us even more to co-sponsor the draft resolution (A/46/L.14) on the University for Peace before the Assembly today and to call on the Assembly to approve it by consensus.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/46/L.14.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt this draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/46/L.14 was adopted (resolution 46/11).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 26.

AGENDA ITEM 17 (continued)

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS:

- (d) ELECTION OF TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/274 and Corr.1 and Add.1)
- (e) ELECTION OF SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/279)

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider agenda item 17 (d), "Election of twelve members of the World Food Council".

In accordance with resolution 3348 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, the General Assembly elects the members of the World Food Council upon the nomination of the Economic and Social Council.

The Assembly has before it documents A/46/274 and Corr.1 and Add.1, which contain the nominations by the Economic and Social Council to fill the vacancies in the World Food Council which will occur as a result of the expiration on 31 December 1991 of the terms of office of Australia, Cape Verde, Cyprus, Ecuador, Germany, Guatemala, Niger, Paraguay, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe.

The following States have been nominated by the Economic and Social Council: three African States for three vacancies - the Central African Republic, Swaziland and Uganda; three Asian States for two vacancies - Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand; two Eastern European States for two vacancies - Albania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; three Latin American and Caribbean States for three vacancies - Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; and two Western European and other States for two vacancies - Australia and Germany.

(The President)

With regard to the Asian States, I have received a letter dated 23 October 1991 from the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations indicating that Pakistan has withdrawn its candidature. As a result, the number of candidates nominated from among the African States, the Asian States, the Eastern European States, the Latin American and Caribbean States and the Western European and other States is equal to the number of seats allocated to each of those regions.

In accordance with paragraph 16 of decision 34/401, the Assembly may dispense with balloting when the number of States nominated from among the regions is equal to the number of seats to be filled.

I take it that the Assembly wishes to declare those States elected members of the World Food Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1992.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the States which have been elected members of the World Food Council.

The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 17 (d).

We shall now turn to agenda item 17 (e), "Election of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination".

In accordance with General Assembly decision 42/318 of 17 December 1987, the Assembly elects the members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination upon the nomination of the Economic and Social Council.

The Assembly has before it document A/46/279, which contains the nominations by the Economic and Social Council to fill the vacancies in the Committee which will occur as a result of the expiration on 31 December 1991 of the terms of office of the Bahamas, Benin, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America, Venezuela and Zambia.

(The President)

The following States have been nominated by the Economic and Social Council: two African States for two vacancies - Ghana and Zambia; one Eastern European State for one vacancy - the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; three Latin American and Caribbean States for two vacancies - Bahamas, Nicaragua and Uruguay; two Western European and other States for two vacancies - France and the United States of America.

The number of candidates nominated from among the African States, the Eastern European States and the Western European and other States corresponds to the number of vacancies to be filled in each of those regions.

Mr. MAYORGA CORTES (Nicaragua) (interpretation from Spanish): For the sake of the solidarity and unity of the Latin American and Caribbean region, Nicaragua has decided to wait until next year to aspire to membership of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. This will facilitate the election of the Bahamas and Uruguay at this session of the General Assembly, as they are the only two candidates from the Latin America and Caribbean Group for the two seats available.

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with paragraph 16 of decision 34/401, the Assembly may, in elections to subsidiary organs, dispense with secret balloting when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled. Accordingly, may I take it that the Assembly, taking into account the statement of the representative of Nicaragua, wishes to declare those States nominated by the Economic and Social Council elected members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for a three-year period beginning on 1 January 1992?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the States which have been elected members of the Committee on Programme and Coordination.

We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 17 (e).

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I should like to inform members that the consideration of agenda item 22, "Programmes and activities to promote peace in the world", which was originally scheduled for this morning, has been postponed until Thursday, 31 October 1991. This will be the first item taken up in the morning.

I would also inform members that in order to facilitate the conduct of the election of members of the International Law Commission - under agenda item 17 (b) - on Thursday, 14 November 1991, we shall proceed, in accordance with established practice, to seek a decision by the General Assembly on the matter of requesting the Secretariat to issue a revised, updated list of candidates reflecting all submissions received. I intend to consult the Assembly in this regard at our next plenary meeting, on Monday, 28 October 1991.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

