

the freedom of those institutions and refrain forthwith from hindering the effective operation of the universities, schools and other educational institutions;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly as soon as possible but not later than the beginning of its forty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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43/59. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 2006 (XIX) of 18 February 1965, 2053 A (XX) of 15 December 1965, 2249 (S-V) of 23 May 1967, 2308 (XXII) of 13 December 1967, 2451 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2670 (XXV) of 8 December 1970, 2835 (XXVI) of 17 December 1971, 2965 (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, 3091 (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973, 3239 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974, 3457 (XXX) of 10 December 1975, 31/105 of 15 December 1976, 32/106 of 15 December 1977, 33/114 of 18 December 1978, 34/53 of 23 November 1979, 35/121 of 11 December 1980, 36/37 of 18 November 1981, 37/93 of 10 December 1982, 38/81 of 15 December 1983, 39/97 of 14 December 1984, 40/163 of 16 December 1985, 41/67 of 3 December 1986 and 42/161 of 8 December 1987,

Welcoming with deep appreciation the award of the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations peace-keeping forces,

Noting with satisfaction the resumption of the work of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations,

Convinced that the United Nations peace-keeping operations are an integral component of enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security,

Taking into account that increasing activities in the field of United Nations peace-keeping require increasing human, financial and material resources for the Organization,

Aware of the extremely difficult financial situation of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the light of the heavy burden on the troop contributors, especially those from developing countries,

Emphasizing that the current political atmosphere is propitious for achieving progress in the work of the Special Committee,

Bearing in mind the fact that constructive exchanges of views on various practical aspects of peace-keeping operations can contribute favourably to the smooth and effective functioning of these operations,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee,⁴³

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations;

2. *Urges* the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, to continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects with a view to strengthening the role of

the United Nations in this field, taking into account the difficult financial situation of peace-keeping operations and the need for maximum cost efficiency;

3. *Invites* Member States to submit observations and suggestions to the Secretary-General by 1 March 1989 on peace-keeping operations in all their aspects, with particular emphasis on practical proposals to make these operations more effective;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, within existing resources, a compilation of the above-mentioned observations and suggestions and to submit it to the Special Committee during its session in 1989;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects".

*71st plenary meeting
6 December 1988*

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2006 (XIX) of 18 February 1965, by which the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations was established,

Recognizing the importance of peace-keeping operations,

Convinced that the participation of the People's Republic of China will benefit the work of the Special Committee,

1. *Decides* to increase the membership of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations to thirty-four;

2. *Approves* the request of the People's Republic of China to become a member of the Special Committee.

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* * *

As a result, the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations is composed of the following Member States: AFGHANISTAN, ALGERIA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, CANADA, CHINA, DENMARK, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ETHIOPIA, FRANCE, GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, GUATEMALA, HUNGARY, INDIA, IRAQ, ITALY, JAPAN, MAURITANIA, MEXICO, NETHERLANDS, NIGERIA, PAKISTAN, POLAND, ROMANIA, SIERRA LEONE, SPAIN, THAILAND, UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, VENEZUELA and YUGOSLAVIA.

43/60. Questions relating to information⁴⁴

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on questions relating to information,

⁴³ A/43/566.

⁴⁴ See also sect X A., decision 43/316, and/sect X.B.3, decision 43/418.

Reaffirming the mandate given to the Committee on Information by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/182 of 18 December 1979,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information,⁴⁵

Encouraging the Secretary-General to continue necessary action in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, with particular emphasis on securing a co-ordinated approach to priority issues before the Organization,

Taking note of the comprehensive report of the Committee on Information,⁴⁶ which served as an important basis and stimulated further deliberations,

1. *Urges* the full implementation of the following recommendations:

(1) All countries, the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned should co-operate in the establishment of a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process, and based, *inter alia*, on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information, guaranteeing diversity of sources of information and free access to information and, in particular, the urgent need to change the dependent status of the developing countries in the field of information and communication, as the principle of sovereign equality among nations extends also to this field, and intended also to strengthen peace and international understanding, enabling all persons to participate effectively in political, economic, social and cultural life and promoting human rights, understanding and friendship among all nations. The ongoing efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which retains the central role in this field, to eliminate gradually the existing imbalances in the field of information and communication and to encourage a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information in accordance with the relevant resolutions of that organization, adopted by consensus, should be reaffirmed;

(2) Considering the important role that the media worldwide can freely play, particularly under the present situation, it is recommended that:

(a) The mass media should be encouraged to give wider coverage to the efforts of the international community towards global development and, in particular, the efforts of the developing countries to achieve economic, social and cultural progress;

(b) The United Nations system as a whole should co-operate in a concerted manner, through its information services, in promoting a more comprehensive and realistic image of the activities and potential of the United Nations system in all its endeavours, in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions, with particular emphasis on the right to self-determination and the elimination of all forms of racism, aggression, foreign domination and occupation, in order to create a climate of confidence, the strengthening of multilateralism and the promotion of the development activities in the United Nations system;

(c) All countries should be urged to extend assistance to journalists for the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and to ensure respect for their physical integrity;

(3) Considering the existing imbalances in the international distribution of news, particularly that affecting the developing countries, it is recommended that urgent attention should be given to the elimination of existing imbalances by, *inter alia*, diversifying the sources of information and respecting the interests, aspirations and socio-cultural values of all peoples;

(4) The United Nations system as a whole, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the developed countries should be urged to co-operate in a concerted manner with the developing countries towards strengthening the information and communication infrastructures in the latter countries and promoting their access to advanced communications technology, in accordance with the priorities attached to such areas by the developing countries, with a view to enabling them to develop their own information and communications policies freely and independently and in the light of their social and cultural values, taking into account the principle of freedom of the press and information. In this regard, support should be provided for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries;

(5) Note should be taken with appreciation of regional efforts, especially among the developing countries, as well as co-operation between developed and developing countries to develop further the media infrastructure in the developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information, with a view to encouraging a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information;

(6) Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,²¹ which provides that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression and that this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, and article 29, which stipulates that these rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, should be recalled;

(7) The relevant paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 59 (I) of 14 December 1946, in which the Assembly stated, *inter alia*, that freedom of information is a fundamental human right, must be reiterated;

(8) The primary role that the General Assembly is to play in elaborating, co-ordinating and harmonizing United Nations policies and activities in the field of information having been reaffirmed, the Secretary-General is requested to ensure that the activities of the Department of Public Information, as the focal point of the public information tasks of the United Nations, are strengthened and improved, keeping in view the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the priority areas such as those stated in section III, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution 35/201 of 16 December 1980 and other pertinent resolutions of the Assembly and the recommendations of the Committee on Information, so as to ensure an objective and more coherent coverage of, as well as better knowledge about, the United Nations and its work. The Secretary General is further requested to ensure that the Department of Public Information:

⁴⁵ A/43/639.

⁴⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/43/21).*

(a) Co-operate more regularly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, especially at the working level, with a view to maximizing the contributions of the Department to the efforts of that organization in further promoting the attainment of a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information;

(b) Strengthen its co-operation with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, with the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries, with the Eco-Pool of the News Agencies of Non-Aligned Countries and with the Broadcasting Organization of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as with intergovernmental and regional organizations and with the news agencies of the developing countries. In this regard, the Department of Public Information should monitor, as appropriate, important meetings of the Movement, in particular its summit meetings, as well as those of intergovernmental and regional organizations, as this constitutes a concrete step towards the promotion of a wider and better balanced dissemination of information;

(c) Continue to disseminate information about the United Nations activities in the field of human rights, decolonization and the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and foreign occupation;

(d) Give the widest possible dissemination of information pertaining to acute world economic problems in general and, in particular, to the severe economic difficulties of the least developed countries and the need for strengthening the international economic co-operation aimed at resolving the external debt problems of developing countries;

(e) Do its utmost to disseminate widely and to publicize the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990⁴⁷ and the tremendous efforts of the African countries towards recovery and development, as well as the positive response by the international community to alleviate the serious economic situation prevailing in Africa;

(f) Continue adequate coverage of the World Disarmament Campaign;

(g) Disseminate adequately and accurately, in conformity with relevant United Nations resolutions on the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East, information relating to the struggle of the Palestinian people, particularly its current uprising, and of the Arab population in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, for the attainment and exercise of their inalienable national rights, and report thereon to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1989;

(h) Strengthen its activities and the dissemination of information on the policies and practices of *apartheid*, giving due attention to the unilateral measures and official censorship imposed on the local and international media with regard to all aspects of this issue, and report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1989;

(i) Further intensify its efforts in order to alert world public opinion to the illegal occupation of Namibia and continue to disseminate adequately and accurately, with the full assistance of the United Nations Council for Namibia and the United Nations system as a whole, information relating to the struggle of the oppressed people of Namibia for self-determination, national independence

and freedom as well as to the need for the full and speedy implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia;

(j) Continue adequate coverage of the United Nations activities pertaining to the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(k) Further cover adequately and with impartiality the activities of all United Nations peace-keeping operations, in view of the paramount importance of such operations for the maintenance of international peace and security;

(l) Continue to disseminate information concerning United Nations resolutions on terrorism in all its forms, including General Assembly resolutions 40/61 of 9 December 1985 and 42/159 of 7 December 1987;

(m) Strengthen its information programmes relating to women and their role in society;

(n) Strengthen its coverage of the efforts made by the United Nations system and Member States in their campaign against illicit trafficking of narcotics and drug abuse;

(9) In the light of the present international situation, the Department of Public Information should continue its efforts to promote an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations system among the peoples of the world and to strengthen the image of the United Nations system as a whole. In this connection, the Secretary-General is requested to ensure that the Department of Public Information:

(a) Continue to maintain consistent editorial independence and accuracy in reporting for all material it produces, taking necessary measures to ensure that its output contains objective and equitable information about issues before the Organization, reflecting divergent opinions where they occur;

(b) In the context of the review of its role, performance and method of work, continue to explore the feasibility of applying modern technologies for the collection, production, storage, dissemination and distribution of information materials, including the use of satellite facilities, and report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1989 with regard to the effects of the application of such technologies on prevailing arrangements;

(c) Consider expanding the programme of telephone news bulletins that are paid for by its users;

(d) Continue its co-operation with those countries which have expressed readiness to assist the United Nations in resuming the short-wave broadcasts through their respective national networks free of charge and encourage expansion of this type of co-operation with those developed and developing countries with recognized capabilities in this field;

(e) Take adequate measures to resume the taped radio programmes, which it temporarily curtailed, bearing in mind the objective of their effective utilization and maximum audience impact and report on this matter to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

(f) Continue its annual training programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries;

(g) Extend all assistance to educational institutions of Member States and continue to organize seminars for educators and education policy makers;

(h) Guarantee daily coverage of all United Nations meetings through issuance of daily press releases in the working languages, reflecting the views of all delegations

⁴⁷ Resolution S-13/2, annex.

with accuracy and objectivity. It should also continue to co-operate closely with and provide assistance to members of the United Nations Correspondents Association, taking into account their needs and requirements, especially in the area of press releases, which provide them with the necessary raw material for adequate reporting, and through press conferences and briefings;

(i) Use the official languages of the United Nations adequately in its documents and audio-visual documentation and make balanced use of the two working languages of the Secretariat;

(j) Ensure timely distribution of its material to subscribers and to United Nations information centres;

(10) In view of the proposals of the Department of Public Information to eliminate certain programmes, the Secretary-General is requested to stop any action on the proposed elimination and to submit a comprehensive report on the matter to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

(11) The Secretary-General is urged to continue his efforts to secure a sound and stable financial basis for the Department of Public Information to produce its publications on time, particularly *Development Forum*, *The United Nations Yearbook*, the *UN Chronicle*, the *Africa Recovery Report* and the *World Newspaper Supplement*, and to ensure that they retain their editorial policy of intellectual independence and reflect adequately the United Nations activities, and to submit a report thereon to the Committee on Information at its 1989 substantive session;

(12) The unique function of the United Nations information centres, recognized as one of the most important means of disseminating information about the United Nations among the peoples of the world, should be enhanced. In this regard, United Nations information centres should intensify direct and systematic communication exchange with local media information and educational institutions and non-governmental organizations recognized by the Economic and Social Council in a mutually beneficial way and arrange for constant evaluation of their activities in this regard. Every effort should be made to establish close co-ordination with other field offices of the United Nations system, particularly those of the United Nations Development Programme, in order to avoid duplication of work, taking into account the functional autonomy of the United Nations information centres. The Department of Public Information should ensure open and unhindered access by all people to all United Nations information centres and to all materials distributed through the centres. It is also urged to accelerate the process of linking the remaining United Nations information centres that have not been linked with electronic mail;

(13) In recognition of the need for co-ordinating information activities of the United Nations system and of the important role that the Joint United Nations Information Committee plays in this regard, the Department of Public Information is encouraged to continue its active participation in the work of that Committee;

(14) It is recognized that the free distribution of materials is necessary in the public information activities of the United Nations. However, as demands increase and whenever it is desirable and possible, the Department of Public Information should actively encourage the sale of its materials;

(15) The Secretary-General is requested to ensure that the reorganization and restructuring of the Department of Public Information strengthen and improve the

output of the mandated programmes and activities of the Department, taking into account the need for equitable geographical distribution of posts in the Department;

(16) The Secretary-General is requested to take effective steps to increase in the Department of Public Information the representation of underrepresented developing countries and of other underrepresented groups of countries, especially at the senior levels, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and to submit a report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1989;

(17) The Secretary-General is requested to ensure full programme delivery by the Caribbean Unit, including implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/82 B of 15 December 1983, and to submit a report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1989 on the measures taken in the implementation of the present recommendation;

(18) The Secretary-General is requested to maintain the functions of the Middle East/Arabic Unit as the producer of Arabic television and radio programmes, to strengthen and expand this Unit to enable it to function in an effective manner and to report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1989 on the implementation of the present recommendation;

(19) The United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, should aim at providing all possible support and assistance to the developing countries with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already taken within the United Nations system, including, in particular:

(a) Development of human resources as 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;

(b) Creation of conditions that will gradually enable the developing countries to produce, by using their own resources, the communications technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, specifically for radio and television broadcasting;

(c) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;

(20) In this regard, full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,⁴⁸ which constitutes an important step in the development of these infrastructures, should always be provided;

2. *Requests* that the provisions of the present resolution relating to the activities of the Department of Public Information be implemented within existing resources, taking into account the priorities set by the General Assembly;

⁴⁸ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-first Session, vol. I, Resolutions*, sect. III, resolution 4/21

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1989 on the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination⁴⁹ and requests the Secretary-General to submit a detailed report to the Committee on Information at its eleventh session on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, bearing in mind resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987;

6. *Requests* the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

71st plenary meeting
6 December 1988

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 34/181 and 34/182 of 18 December 1979, 35/201 of 16 December 1980, 36/149 A of 16 December 1981, 37/94 A and B of 10 December 1982, 38/82 A of 15 December 1983, 39/98 A and B of 14 December 1984, 40/164 A and B of 16 December 1985, 41/68 A and B of 3 December 1986 and 42/162 A and B of 8 December 1987,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the final documents of the first Conference of the Ministers of Information of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 26 to 30 January 1984,⁵⁰ and of the Second Conference, held at Harare from 10 to 12 June 1987,⁵¹ the Declarations of the Seventh and Eighth Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at New Delhi from 7 to 12 March 1983,⁵² and at Harare from 1 to 6 September 1986,⁵³ and the Final Political Declarations adopted by the Conferences of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Luanda from 4 to 7 September 1985⁵⁴ and at Nicosia from 7 to 10 September 1988,⁵⁵

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its eighteenth ordinary session, held at Nairobi from 24 to 27 June 1981,⁵⁶ and the Conference of Ministers of Information of States members of the Organization of African Unity at its third ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 27 to 30 March 1985, and at its first extraordinary session, held at Cairo from 20 to 25 November 1985, especially those encouraging regional co-operation in the field of information,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975, and those of the

Concluding Document of the meeting of representatives of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, held at Madrid from 11 November 1980 to 9 September 1983,

Recalling article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,²¹ which provides that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression and that this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, and article 29, which stipulates that these rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace,⁵⁷

Conscious that, in order progressively to remedy existing imbalances, it is essential to strengthen and intensify the development of infrastructure, networks and resources in the communications field and thus encourage a free flow and a wider and better balanced dissemination of information,

Emphasizing its full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,⁴⁸ which constitutes an essential instrument for the development of human and material resources and communication infrastructures in the developing countries,

Recognizing the central role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of information and communications within its mandate, as well as the progress accomplished by that organization in that field,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;⁵⁸

2. *Recalls* the Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racialism, *Apartheid* and Incitement to War,⁵⁹ adopted on 28 November 1978 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

3. *Considers* that the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization represents a significant step towards the gradual elimination of existing imbalances in the field of information and communications, and welcomes the decisions adopted by the Intergovernmental Council of the Programme at its ninth session, held in Paris from 2 to 8 February 1988;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to all Member States that have made or pledged a contribution towards the implementation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication;

5. *Again calls upon* Member States and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system as well as other international governmental and non-governmental organizations and concerned public and private enterprises to respond to the appeals of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Or-

⁴⁹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/43/16)*, part two, paras. 82-88.

⁵⁰ See A/39/139 S/16430, annex.

⁵¹ See A/42/431 and Corr.1, annex.

⁵² See A/38/132-S/15675 and Corr.1 and 2, annex, sect. I, para. 173.

⁵³ See A/41/697-S/18392, annex, sect. I, paras. 294-312.

⁵⁴ See A/40/854 S/17610 and Corr.1, annex I, sect. XXXIV.

⁵⁵ See A/43/667-S/20212, annex, sect. I, paras. 266-281.

⁵⁶ See A/36/534, annex II.

⁵⁷ See Resolution 33/73

⁵⁸ A/43/670.

⁵⁹ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twentieth Session*, vol. I. *Resolutions*, pp. 100-104.

ganization to contribute to the International Programme for the Development of Communication by making financial resources available as well as staff, equipment, technologies and training resources;

6. *Recalls* resolution 4/22 of 27 October 1980⁶⁰ concerning the reduction of telecommunication tariffs for news exchanges, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and takes note of the efforts made by Member States in this respect;

7. *Reaffirms* its support for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, its Constitution and the ideals reflected in it;

8. *Invites* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue his efforts in the information and communication field and to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-fourth session, a detailed report on the application of the International Programme for the Development of Communication as well as on the social, economic and cultural effects of the accelerated development of communication technologies;

9. *Reaffirms* the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which retains the central role in the field of information, gradually to eliminate existing imbalances, particularly with respect to the development of infrastructures and production capacities, and to encourage a free flow and wider and better balanced dissemination of information with a view to the establishment of a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process, in accordance with the relevant consensus resolutions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

*71st plenary meeting
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43/61. Science and peace

The General Assembly,

Considering that progress in science and technology profoundly affects international peace and security, economic and social development, respect for human rights and many other aspects of civilization and culture,

Considering also that political and economic decisions have a decisive effect on the direction of scientific research and the use of the results obtained thereby,

Recalling that scientific and technological achievements must be used to advance socio-economic progress and the effective enjoyment of human rights throughout the world,

Considering further that the arms race absorbs a substantial proportion of the scientific talent and financial resources used in related research and development, which, in a more peaceful and secure world, could be used to solve other pressing problems facing mankind,

Recalling that in its resolution 40/3 of 24 October 1985, by which it proclaimed the International Year of Peace, it recognized the role of science for peace,

Recalling also its resolution 42/13 of 28 October 1987 on the achievements of the International Year of Peace, in

which it urged Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the world community to persevere in their efforts, developing initiatives conducive to the objectives of the Year, and expressed the hope that the ideals and objectives contained in the Proclamation of the International Year of Peace would continue to be an inspiration for concerted action,

Affirming that it is necessary to promote greater awareness among scientists world wide of the usefulness of science to increase international peace, security and co-operation, the social and economic development of mankind, the promotion of human rights and the protection of the environment,

Affirming, in particular, the need for scientists to establish a free and open dialogue between one another, and with political leaders and the public in general, with regard to scientific developments and their present and potential implications for our civilization,

Considering the importance of encouraging scientists to work towards constructive objectives, to improve the climate for arms control and disarmament, and to promote a dialogue on important topics in connection with the positive contributions that scientific knowledge can make to peace, security and ecological balance,

Noting with appreciation the joint efforts made by scientists and members of other professional groups to promote the achievement of those aims through the holding of the First International Week of Scientists for Peace from 10 to 16 November 1986 and the Second International Week of Scientists for Peace from 9 to 15 November 1987,

Considering that the celebration each year of a special week of action devoted to the topic "Science and peace" is an important means of generating and increasing public interest in this topic and of stimulating activities and initiatives leading to the study and dissemination of information on the links between progress in science and technology and the maintenance of peace and security,

1. *Decides* to proclaim the "International Week of Science and Peace", which will take place each year during the week in which 11 November falls;

2. *Urges* Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to encourage universities and other institutions of advanced studies, scientific academies and institutes, and professional associations and individuals in the scientific community to hold, during that Week, lectures, seminars, special debates and other activities conducive to the study and dissemination of information on the links between progress in science and technology and the maintenance of peace and security;

3. *Urges* Member States to promote international co-operation among scientists by facilitating exchanges of experts and information;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to draw the attention of Member States and interested organizations to the importance of the International Week of Science and Peace and invite them to report to him on their activities and initiatives in connection with this event, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty fifth session.

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⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, Twenty-first Session, vol. I, Resolutions, sect. III.