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RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

Algeria, Bangladesh, Cuba, Egypt, Guinea, India, Kenya, Lao
People's Democratic Republic, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and
Uganda: revised draft resolution

Use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights
and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to
self-determination

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/150 of 23 December 1994 on the use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination,

Recalling also all of its relevant resolutions, in which, inter alia, it condemned any State that permitted or tolerated the recruitment, financing, training, assembly, transit and use of mercenaries with the objective of overthrowing the Governments of States Members of the United Nations, especially those of developing countries, or of fighting against national liberation movements, and recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Organization of African Unity,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations concerning the strict observance of the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity of States and self-determination of peoples,

Alarmed and concerned about the danger that the activities of mercenaries constitute to developing countries, particularly in Africa, where democratically elected Governments have been sacked by mercenaries or through mercenary activities,

Deeply concerned about the loss of life, the substantial damage to property and the negative effects on the polity and economies of affected countries resulting from mercenary aggression and criminal activities,

Convinced that it is necessary for Members to ratify the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, 1/ adopted by the General Assembly in 1989, for Members to develop and maintain international cooperation among States for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of mercenary activities,

1. Takes note of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights 2/ on the use of mercenaries and mercenary-related activities to topple sovereign Governments and to undermine the rights of peoples to self-determination despite General Assembly resolution 49/150;

2. Reaffirms that the use of mercenaries and their recruitment, financing and training are causes of grave concern to all States and violate the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

3. Urges all States to take the necessary steps and to exercise the utmost vigilance against the menace posed by the activities of mercenaries and to take necessary legislative measures to ensure that their territories and other territories under their control, as well as their nationals, are not used for the recruitment, assembly, financing, training of and transit for mercenaries for the planning of activities designed to destabilize or overthrow the Government of any State or threaten the territorial integrity and political unity of sovereign States, or to promote secession or fight the national liberation movements struggling against colonial or other forms of alien domination or occupation;

4. Calls upon all States that have not yet done so to consider taking early action to sign or to ratify the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries;

5. Urges all States to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his mandate;

6. Requests the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, as a matter of priority, to publicize the adverse effects of mercenary activities on the right to self-determination and, when requested where necessary, render advisory services to States that are affected by the activities of mercenaries;

7. Requests the Special Rapporteur to report, with specific recommendations, his findings on the new elements identified in the use of mercenaries to undermine the rights of peoples to self-determination to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

1/ General Assembly resolution 44/34, annex.

2/ A/50/390 and Add.1.