Thirty-fifth session
Agenda item 50

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON
THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its 103rd plenary meeting, on 14 December 1979, the General Assembly adopted resolution 34/100, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security," paragraph 1 of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

..."

"takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General and, having in mind the important role that the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security has played in international life since its adoption, requests the Secretary-General to prepare, with the help of a group of governmental experts, a report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session on the extent of the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration and on actions which should be undertaken by the Assembly in order to secure full compliance with the provisions of the Declaration."

2. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General, on 6 February 1980, addressed a note to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies, transmitting the text of the resolution and asking for information and suggestions which could be helpful for the preparation of the report.

3. As at 14 October 1980, replies had been received from Bangladesh, Benin, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Jordan, Mali, Mexico, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia. The substantive parts of these communications are reproduced in an addendum to the present report.

1/ The Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security was adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 1970 as resolution 2734 (XXV).
4. A list of documents issued since the consideration of the item by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session is also given in that addendum.

5. On 24 March 1980, the Secretary-General, acting in accordance with paragraph 14 of resolution 34/100 and after appropriate consultations, appointed the following governmental experts to help with the preparation of the report:

Mr. Davidson L. Hepburn, Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations;

Mr. Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations;

Mr. Dzevad H. Mujezinović, Minister Plenipotentiary, Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia;

Sr. Hugo V. Palma, Ambassador of Peru to Yugoslavia;

Mr. Muliur Rahman, Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations;

Mr. Nihal Rodrigo, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations;

Mr. Harald Nase, Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic;

Mr. Ibrahim Sy, First Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations.

6. At its 1st meeting, on 25 March 1980, the Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security elected Mr. Davidson L. Hepburn as Chairman and Mr. Nihal Rodrigo as Rapporteur.

7. The Group of Governmental Experts held 17 meetings, from 25 March to 15 September. On 19 September, the Chairman of the Group of Governmental Experts transmitted to the Secretary-General the report which had been adopted unanimously. In submitting the present report to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General wishes to point out that the observations and recommendations contained in the report are those of the governmental experts who participated in its preparation.

8. The Secretary-General wishes to thank the Group of Governmental Experts for their report which he hereby submits to the General Assembly for its consideration.
ANNEX

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

19 September 1980

Mr. Secretary-General,

I have the honour to submit herewith the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, which was appointed by you in pursuance of paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 34/100 of 14 December 1979.

In the preparation of the report, which was unanimously approved on 15 September 1980, the Group took into account the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security as well as other resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly relating to the consolidation of world peace and security. Due consideration was also given to the views which Member States had communicated to you on this subject during the past decade.

The members of the Group of Governmental Experts wish to express their appreciation for the assistance they received from the United Nations Secretariat. They would like, in particular, to convey their thanks to Mr. James S. Sutterlin, Director of the Political Affairs Division, and Mr. Nicolae Micu, Secretary of the Group.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Davidson L. Hepburn
Chairman of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security

His Excellency
Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary-General of the United Nations

/...
I. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

1. The Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 1970 as resolution 2734 (XXV) solemnly reaffirms the universal and unconditional validity of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter as the basis of relations among States, irrespective of their size, geographical location, level of development or political, economic and social systems, and provides that the breach of these principles cannot be justified in any circumstances whatsoever. The Declaration was considered a landmark in the history of the United Nations, providing guidelines and a broad programme for the political strengthening and diplomatic reactivation of the United Nations and an instrument for the easing of international tensions and the creation of conditions for the attainment of a just and lasting peace.

2. The General Assembly considered at each of its last nine regular sessions the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and adopted resolutions 2860 (XXVI), 2993 (XXVII), 3185 (XXVIII), 3332 (XXIX), 3389 (XXX), 31/92, 32/154, 33/75 and 34/100. In these resolutions, the General Assembly solemnly reaffirmed all the principles and provisions contained in the Declaration, and called upon all States to adhere fully to, and implement consistently, the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the provisions of the Declaration, as well as the Declaration on the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States as the basis of relations among all States, irrespective of their size, level of development and political, economic and social systems.

3. The General Assembly considered under the same item the question of the non-interference in the internal affairs of States and adopted resolutions 31/91, 32/153, 33/74 and 34/101. It also considered and approved under the same subject resolutions 33/73, containing the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace; 33/76 entitled "Situation in Nicaragua"; and 34/99 concerning the development and strengthening of good neighbourliness between States.

4. Furthermore, the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/155 containing the Declaration on the Deepening and Consolidation of International Détente, and resolution 34/103 concerning the inadmissibility of the policy of hegemonism in international relations.

5. In resolutions adopted on the subject, the General Assembly noted that the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security has played an important role in consolidating peace and security and promoting co-operation among States on the basis of the purposes and principles of the United Nations. The positive impact of the Declaration on international life was also noted in comments by various nations on the implementation of this important document of the Assembly. It was pointed out in particular that the vast majority of Member States adhered to the Declaration and actively contributed to the implementation of its provisions. The positive developments which took place along the lines of the Declaration's...
provisions include the completion of the work on the definition of aggression; the successful evolution of action by the international community to implement resolution 1514 (XV) on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples; the continued efforts to establish the new international economic order; the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament; the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and the ensuring of its continuity; the continuation of action for the elaboration of guidelines for peace-keeping operations. Viewed in this light, the Declaration continues to provide an important platform for the conduct of international actions aimed at strengthening and consolidating peace and security in the world as well as promoting co-operation on terms of equality among all countries, on the basis of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

6. At the same time, the General Assembly noted with profound concern in its resolutions that many of the principles and provisions of the Declaration have been ignored or violated. It was particularly disturbed by the escalation of acts in violation of the United Nations Charter, especially of the principles of respect for national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-intervention and non-interference and the free social development of countries, recourse to the threat or use of force resulting in breaches of the peace and threats to international peace and security, and non-compliance by States with their obligations to solve disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter, disregard of the role of the United Nations and the lessening of confidence in the effectiveness of the Security Council in ensuring compliance with the Charter. The Assembly repeatedly stressed its grave concern with the continuing existence of crises and focal points of tension in various regions, the emergence of new conflicts between States endangering international peace and security, the continuation and escalation of the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, the manifestations of tendencies to divide the world into spheres of influence and domination, continued interference in the internal affairs of States, including the use of mercenaries, repetition of acts of terrorism, including those against diplomatic Missions and personnel, and the continuing existence of colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid, which remain the main obstacles to the strengthening of international peace and security.

7. A more specific review of the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security would lead to the following observations and conclusions.

8. The Declaration recommends that all States contribute to the efforts to ensure peace and security for all nations and to establish in accordance with the Charter an effective system of universal collective security without military alliances. While a world war has been averted, struggle for spheres of influence, the use of force and military intervention, and attempts against the territorial integrity and political independence of States have continuously endangered peace and security in various regions of the world. Despite the dissolution of CINATO and GBATO, the establishment of an effective system of universal collective security without military alliances still remains to be achieved. Some countries have felt the need to continue membership in military alliances and blocs. On
the other hand, the vast majority of States have, in their commitment to the principles of non-alignment, eschewed membership in military alliance as a means of ensuring their security and embraced the policy of non-alignment by joining the non-aligned movement. Members of one military alliance have proposed a simultaneous dissolution of all military alliances.

9. The concept of détente has been welcomed by the international community as a positive and hopeful alternative to the policy of confrontation. The process of détente, which has been evolving, has made some positive contributions to international security through the easing of tensions. However, détente, which has remained limited in scope as well as in its geographic application, has lately encountered setbacks. In Europe, following patient negotiations, the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States, as contained in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, has been an important factor in the strengthening of international security and provides a political and legal basis for the promotion of the process of détente and for the creation of more stable security conditions in Europe.

10. Among noteworthy regional measures promoting peace and security are proposals relating to the establishment of zones of peace in various parts of the world, including South-East Asia, the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean. The United Nations stands at a crucial stage in its progress towards the establishment of a zone of peace and co-operation in the Indian Ocean, a major strategic area which is witnessing a sharp escalation of foreign military presence.

11. The solemn reaffirmation in the Declaration of the obligation of States fully to respect the sovereignty of other States and the right of peoples to determine freely their own destinies, and further the reaffirmation that States should refrain from any attempt made at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and territorial integrity of any State or country has been violated in a number of cases, although the vast majority of States adhere to the Charter in their conduct of international relations.

12. The independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, particularly smaller States, have been threatened and continue to be threatened by interventions and interferences in their internal affairs. Such interventions and interferences have taken different guises ranging from the crude use of superior military force to more subtle and insidious means of subversion and destabilization. Political, economic, military, psychological, financial, ideological and other pressures and interventions have continued to threaten the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States and to hamper their political and economic development, including the exercise of sovereignty over their natural resources. The inalienable right of all peoples and States, freely and without hindrance, to pursue their own national destiny in accordance with their political, economic and social aspirations has not been universally respected.

13. During the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, the non-aligned countries, taking into account the Declaration on the inadmissibility of intervention in the domestic affairs of States and the protection of their independence and sovereignty adopted as resolution 2131 (XX), initiated a detailed
examination of the principle of non-interference in internal affairs as a separate item within the over-all context of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. The resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in consequence of this positive initiative have served to identify and focus on the different manifestations of interference in internal affairs. Following the adoption of the resolution 32/153, as a means of strengthening co-operation and friendly relations among States and protecting the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States, work has begun on the drafting of a Declaration on the inadmissibility of intervention and interference in the internal affairs of States.

14. It can be argued that the Charter principles of the non-resort to threat or use of force and the inadmissibility of military occupation and acquisition of territory have not always been honoured. Principles of the Charter relating to the non-resort to threat or use of force and the inadmissibility of aggression, foreign military occupation, acquisition of territory by force and the right of States to choose their political, economic and social systems and freely to dispose of their natural resources have been grossly violated. Similarly, the duty of States to refrain from organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in acts of civil strife or terrorist acts in another State has also not been honoured. On the question of prohibiting force, a proposal to conclude a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations was submitted to the General Assembly, which by resolution 32/150 decided to establish the Special Committee on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principle of Non-use of Force in International Relations to consider proposals and suggestions of States pertaining to the elaboration of such a treaty.

15. Some potentially dangerous disputes have been defused by the wise and timely application by the States concerned of the relevant Charter provisions. However, where disputes or clashes of national interests have occurred, States have not always taken heed of the urgings in the Declaration to make full use and seek improved implementation of the means and methods provided in the Charter and in the existing organs of the United Nations for their peaceful settlement. Efforts by some States to solve their disputes by peaceful means have been at times hindered, and the peaceful settlement of disputes has also been prevented by the unwillingness of some States to implement decisions of the United Nations.

16. The Declaration reaffirms the objectives of resolution 1514 (XV) in its call to all States to desist from any forcible or other action which deprives peoples, in particular those still under colonial or other foreign or external domination, of their inalienable right to self-determination, freedom and independence. The United Nations has long since affirmed the principle of the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples under colonial and alien domination to achieve self-determination and independence. Since the adoption of the Declaration in 1970 over 20 countries have won their freedom and joined the United Nations and the process of decolonization is drawing to an end.

17. The total implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other resolutions of the United Nations on
the elimination of colonialism, racism, apartheid, alien domination and occupation remains to be completed. Vestiges of colonialism, apartheid, racism and alien domination remain to be eliminated, notably in South Africa and Namibia. Tendencies also exist for a more subtle and devious form of neo-colonialism and foreign domination to assert itself, particularly against newly-independent States struggling to consolidate their hard-won freedom.

18. The close nexus between the strengthening of international security, disarmament and economic development is affirmed in the Declaration. In the achievement of genuine disarmament and the attainment of the goal of general and complete disarmament, the political will of States, particularly nuclear-weapon States, is the most important factor. Despite a continuous focus on all aspects of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, only modest progress has been possible. The arms race, particularly the nuclear-arms race, continues unabated with disastrous consequences for international security. The escalating build-up of arms and the resultant massive wastage of human and material resources are directly contradictory to the efforts being directed towards the elimination of the danger of nuclear war and the establishment of the new international economic order.

19. The Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament, convened after several years of agitation by the Non-Aligned countries, focused global attention on the imperatives for disarmament and although its Final Document was unable to achieve the high goals set for the session, the Document constitutes, nevertheless, a major landmark in the progress towards the goal of general and complete disarmament in that it sets forth a principled basis and a programme of action for initiating a genuine process of disarmament. The enlargement of the Committee on Disarmament to enhance its representative character and the revitalization of the Disarmament Commission are two institutional reforms in the disarmament field which can be considered in a positive light.

20. There is close interrelationship between disarmament, development and the strengthening of international security. Concerted international co-operation in the economic field on the basis of an agreed strategy to reduce and eliminate the gap between the developed and developing countries is a vital precondition for the strengthening of international peace and security. Gross inequalities exist in international economic relations with the disparities between developed and developed countries getting wider and more critical. It is essential that the developed and the surplus-fund countries demonstrate the necessary political will to better understand the plight of the developing countries and join their efforts to avoid an economic cataclysm with unforeseen consequences on international peace and security.

21. The sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly and the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of the New International Economic Order and the Charter on the Economic Rights and Duties of States fulfilled a historic task in laying down the essentials for the establishment of a just and equitable new international economic order. While the urgency of the need for the restructuring of economic relations and the establishment of the
new international economic order has been accepted, little real progress has been made to advance the dialogue between the developed and developing countries for the restructuring of international economic relations on the basis of justice and equality. Despite the adoption of two resolutions on Emergency Action Programme for Least Developed Countries and other developing countries, the eleventh special session of the General Assembly has regrettably been unable to adopt the new international development strategy and an agenda for initiation of global negotiations on international economic co-operation and development.

22. The Declaration reaffirms that universal respect for and the full exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms are essential for the strengthening of international security. Two binding international covenants on human rights - one on economic, social and cultural rights, and the other on civil and political rights - entered into force in 1976. While increasing international attention is being focused on some aspects of the human rights issue, violations of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, including various forms of occupation, oppression, tyranny and discrimination, continue to be manifested, particularly in association with the forces of racism and apartheid. Selective approaches to human rights for political ends tend to deflect from the real crux of the issue.

23. Some significant advances have been made in the progressive development and codification of international law, which provide a practical means of enhancing international security by helping the regulation of inter-State relations. The definition of aggression has been accepted by the General Assembly, by consensus, in resolution 3314 (XXIX). The conclusion of a number of international legal instruments in various fields, including the prohibition of certain weapons of mass destruction, outer space, prevention and punishment of the crime of apartheid, human rights, the taking of hostages, and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, are some other important contributions to the growing body of international law to which all States have contributed. A major enterprise nearing fruition which would assist the orderly and peaceful conduct of relations among States is the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

24. Peace-keeping operations, although no substitute for the achievement of lasting solutions to international conflicts, have nevertheless helped in the preservation of conditions of security on a temporary basis. Still, the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations has not yet been able to agree upon acceptable guidelines to govern peace-keeping operations including provisions for agreed measures of equitable financing in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

25. The United Nations has no equal as an institution for promoting international peace and co-operation based on the sovereign equality of States. The hopes and aspirations of the vast majority of the peoples of the world are directed to the United Nations and its Charter. The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization continues to examine views of Member States on enhancing the capacity of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace and security, the development of co-operation and the promotion of rules of international law in relations among States.

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26. The Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security reaffirms the competence of the General Assembly under the Charter to discuss and recommend measures for the peaceful adjustment of any situation which it deems likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations among States. In several instances, the General Assembly has been called upon in special and emergency special sessions to consider critical international problems affecting or threatening international peace and security.

27. The Security Council is accorded grave responsibilities under the Charter. Over the years, it has been at the centre of world crises and has been instrumental in the resolution or prevention of a number of conflicts. However, on various occasions the Security Council has not been successful in exercising its functions and powers.

II. ACTIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN ORDER TO SECURE FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

28. In its consideration of steps which could be taken by the General Assembly to ensure full implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, the Group of Governmental Experts proceeded from the understanding that this important document of the United Nations had been elaborated through negotiations and mutual accommodation over a considerable span of time. The Declaration is a carefully balanced document which took into account the views of Member States from all regions and political systems. It is firmly anchored to the basic principles of the Charter. This is why it remains as valid today as it was a decade ago.

29. As suggested earlier in this report, the consolidation of international security today requires not only the elimination of the use or threat of force, intervention, interference and coercion in relations between States: it also requires the elimination of points of tension and crisis, and a wider and deeper co-operation between States and peoples, progress in disarmament and arms limitations, the elimination of colonialism and all other forms of foreign domination and exploitation, the peaceful solution of political international issues and disputes, the realization of a more just international economic order, the ensuring of human rights and the eradication of all forms of oppression and discrimination, particularly racism and racial discrimination. In short, the Declaration envisages the gradual establishment of a stable world order in which peace and security will be maintained.

30. In the context of the critically deteriorating climate of international relations and the lack of progress in the solution of existing international problems and the emergence of new crises, there is an imperative need to increase collective efforts of Member States and to take specific steps for the full implementation of the Declaration.
31. The Group believes that it would be in the highest interest of peace and understanding among nations for the General Assembly to solemnly reaffirm, at this thirty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, the universal and unconditional validity of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter as the basis of relations among States, irrespective of their size, geographical location, level of development or political, economic and social systems as a basic way to ensure peace. The Group recommends, therefore, that the General Assembly should be requested strongly to urge all Member States to abide strictly in their international relations by their commitments under the Charter and, to this end, to implement consistently all the provisions of the Declaration.

32. Of special importance in this regard is the consolidation of the political and legal foundations for strengthening international security and the peaceful coexistence of States, and particularly the consolidation of the principle of the non-use of force in international relations and of the principles and means provided by the United Nations for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States. The Group is, therefore, of the view that increased efforts should be made to expedite the work of the Special Committee on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principle of Non-Use of Force in International Relations.

33. The Group is deeply convinced that the adoption of a declaration on the inadmissibility of intervention and interference in the internal affairs of States would serve to guarantee the free, sovereign and independent existence of all States without exception, would contribute to the strengthening of peace and security in the world and would promote mutually beneficial co-operation and friendly relations among nations.

34. The Group expresses the conviction that the adoption of a declaration on the peaceful settlement of disputes between States would enhance the United Nations system for the peaceful settlement of disputes and prevention of armed conflicts. It would encourage States to have more frequent recourse to the mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes as provided in the Charter, strengthen mutual confidence and respect among nations and contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security.

35. Peaceful settlement of the existing conflicts in various parts of the world and the prevention of new armed conflicts in the future are indispensable conditions for the preservation and strengthening of international peace and security. The Group is convinced that increased efforts on the part of the United Nations as well as a new manifestation of political will on the part of Member States are imperative in order to bring about just and lasting solutions to such conflicts, in conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. This would make it possible to give a new impetus to the relaxation of international tension and to its extension to all regions of the globe.

36. The preservation and strengthening of world peace and security depend decisively on the cessation of the arms race and on the implementation of substantive steps to limit and reduce armaments. The Group believes that it is imperative for all States, the nuclear-weapon Powers in particular, to make maximum efforts for the
implementation of the decisions of the tenth special session of the General Assembly on the programme of action unanimously adopted at that session. It is the considered opinion of the Group that the international community must, before it is too late, progress beyond the phase of general discussion about disarmament to the consideration of specific and practical measures to halt the arms race. In this respect, the Group considers that it would be extremely important to have the Treaty on the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (SALT II) ratified as soon as possible, which would open the way to a new phase of talks between the Soviet Union and the United States on further limitation and reduction of their strategic nuclear weapons. The Group also believes that efforts should be intensified in order to achieve complete prohibition of nuclear tests, and also to conclude an agreement on the prohibition of the chemical weapons. The Group stresses the urgent need for effective international arrangements to guarantee the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The Group further feels that regional disarmament measures, where appropriate, should be vigorously pursued. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, should be encouraged by preventing all forms of nuclear co-operation with racist régimes. These measures would, in the opinion of the Group, significantly contribute to the creation of favourable conditions for taking new steps to bring the arms race to a halt and achieve genuine disarmament.

37. The Group considers that today, more than ever before, the achievement of real progress towards the establishment of the new international economic order and towards a more sustained economic development of the developing countries has become a central ingredient of a peaceful and secure world. The deliberations and consultations at the eleventh special session of the General Assembly have clearly shown the need and urgency of doing everything possible to overcome the existing unsatisfactory situation which, if allowed to continue, may bring irreparable damage to international peace and security. The Group expresses strong hope that the global negotiations will start early next year and that they will lead to a significant improvement in the present state of international economic order.

38. Further steps, including assistance to liberation movements, should be taken by the international community to accelerate the process of decolonization. Similarly, the international community should take further measures aimed at the early elimination of the policy of apartheid of South Africa and of its policy of occupation and aggression.

39. The Group recommends that renewed efforts should be made to foster and promote respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the provisions of the Covenants on economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. It believes that the United Nations action should be mainly directed at ensuring the adherence of all States to the international instruments concluded under the auspices of the United Nations and strict observance of their provisions. Efforts should also be encouraged for the elaboration of new international conventions which would further promote respect for those rights.

40. A more effective United Nations is inseparable from the efforts to build a more peaceful and secure world. States should make greater use of the possibilities /...
provided by the United Nations for the consolidation of international peace and security and for the development of wide and equitable co-operation among nations in order to build a world in which stable peace and security, free of the danger of war and conflict, could be preserved. To bring about the fulfilment of the basic purposes for which the Organization was established, it is vital to enhance the effectiveness and the authority of the United Nations. To this end, the Group recommends that Member States should be urged to co-operate with the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization for the fulfilment of the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

41. The Group considers that the key to the increase in the effectiveness of the United Nations and in the confidence of States in the Organization lies in more resolute steps aimed at ensuring the implementation of the decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. The setting of time-frames for the implementation of resolutions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security is one of the ideas which could be explored in this regard.

42. The Group considers as particularly important an appeal by the General Assembly to all States to support the implementation of those provisions of the Declaration relating to the activation of the Security Council. A further development of the practice of consultations among members and the establishment of subsidiary organs of the Council, in conformity with Article 29 of the Charter, to assist the Council in the performance of its functions can bring a substantial contribution to the exercise of its responsibilities under the Charter. In this regard, conclusion of the agreements envisaged in Article 43 of the Charter could enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council. The Group further believes that the Security Council should fulfill in a more resourceful and firm manner its responsibilities under the Charter by taking all measures, including steps to ensure that parties to disputes settle them by resort to means envisaged in the Charter. Given the state of the current international situation, the need of a strong Security Council is more evident than ever before. It is, therefore, a matter of the highest urgency that Member States individually and within the United Nations examine in particular how the authority and enforcement capacity of the Security Council can be strengthened. Periodic meetings at the ministerial level in specific cases, to consider and review outstanding problems and crises and unsettled disputes would enable the Council to play a more active role in preventing potential conflicts. This would undoubtedly contribute greatly to the increase of the confidence of Member States in the Security Council and of their readiness to bring disputes before it. Within this context, existing and new proposals for the purpose of enhancing the capacity of the United Nations for preventing conflicts and for the strengthening of its peace-building capacities should be explored.

43. The Group considers that Member States should be called upon again to co-operate towards the fulfilment by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations of the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly and thus contribute to enhancing the peace-keeping capacity of the United Nations.
44. Wider co-operation between the United Nations and regional organizations could be useful in the effort to promote the consolidation of international security.

45. The Group considers that successful implementation of all provisions of the Declaration would require greater awareness on the part of world public opinion of the activities of the United Nations relating to the strengthening of international security. To this end, it may be useful for the United Nations, through its information system and with the co-operation of non-governmental organizations, to publicize more widely major United Nations resolutions and decisions relating to the strengthening of world peace and security. Member States should be urged to encourage the diffusion through national media of United Nations resolutions and decisions in this field.