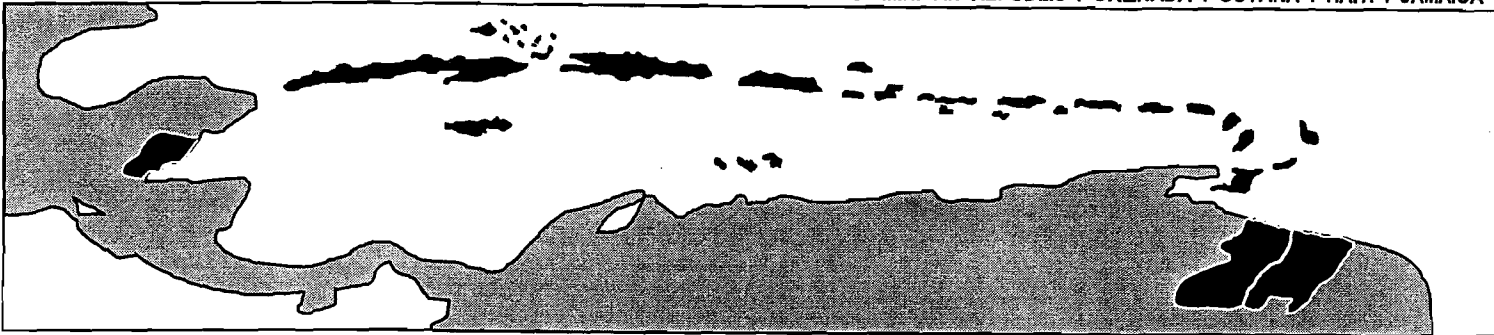




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Eighteenth session of the CDCC
Chaguaramas Convention Centre
Trinidad and Tobago
30 March – 1 April 2000

GENERAL
LC/CAR/G.605
13 March 2000
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**SUMMARIES OF RESOLUTIONS RECENTLY ADOPTED BY THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL
WHICH MAY BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO MEMBER COUNTRIES OF CDCC**



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE



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**SUMMARIES OF RECENT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL
WHICH MAY BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO MEMBER COUNTRIES OF CDCC**

Introduction

In this document, the secretariat brings to the attention of member countries a summary of selected resolutions which were adopted at the fifty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly¹ and the Security Council.

The resolutions included are those which may be of particular interest to member countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) or may be of particular relevance to the work programme or mandate of the Committee.

The full texts of the resolutions, which are summarized in this document, may be obtained from the secretariat.

¹Please note that the resolutions pertaining to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly were obtained from the United Nations Home Page on the World Wide Web, which did not fully contain all of the resolutions passed at that session. Therefore there may be resolutions pertaining to CDCC member countries that have not yet been posted to the General Assembly home page. Please note that at the time of publication that the resolutions pertaining to the 2000 Session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) were not posted on the ECOSOC home page.

**SUMMARIES OF SELECTED RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION**

**Fifty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly
(September – December 1999)**

1. Optional protocol to the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (General Assembly resolution 54/4)

In this resolution, the General Assembly called on all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women to do so as soon as possible so that universal ratification of the Convention can be achieved by the year 2000.

It also adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention and called upon all States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible. It also requested the Secretary-General to include information on the status of the Protocol in her or his regular reports that are submitted to the General Assembly on the status of the Convention.

2. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (General Assembly resolution 54/8)

At the fifty-second session of General Assembly, a resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (SELA) was adopted whereby the parties agreed to strengthen and expand their cooperation in matters that are of common concern in the field of their respective competence pursuant to their constitutional instruments.

In this resolution, the General Assembly takes note of the cooperation that has been taking place between the Latin American Economic System and the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system. It urged these bodies to continue and intensify their support for, and to cooperate in the activities of, the Latin American Economic System.

3. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba (General Assembly resolution 54/21)

In this resolution, the General Assembly expressed concern about the continued promulgation and application by member States of laws and regulations, such as that

promulgated on 12 March 1996 known as the “Helms-Burton Act”, the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

The General Assembly was also concerned that since the adoption of its resolutions, further measures of that nature aimed at strengthening and extending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba continue to be promulgated and applied. Concern was expressed about the adverse effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries. It urged States that have applied and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regimes.

4. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development (General Assembly resolution 54/23)

In this resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed the commitments adopted by heads of State and Government at the World Summit for Social Development, contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action and their pledge to give the highest priority to national, regional and international policies and actions for the promotion of social progress, social justice, the betterment of the human condition and social integration, based on full participation by all.

The General Assembly recalled its resolution 50/61, in which it decided to hold a special session in 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and to consider further actions and initiatives.

It reaffirmed the need for effective partnership and cooperation between governments, international organizations, the relevant actors of civil society, including the private sector, social partners and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in the implementation of and follow-up to the Declaration and the Programme of Action and in the preparatory process of the special session. In this context, it reiterated its invitation to all relevant organs, funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies of the United Nations to continue to contribute to and be actively involved in the preparatory process and the special session. It also took note of the decision adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its resumed first session on accreditation and modalities for participation of non-governmental organizations at the special session.

It also recalled the decision taken by the General Assembly on 8 October 1999, by which the special session would be entitled “ World Summit for Social Development and beyond: Achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”. This special session will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 26 to 30 June 2000.

5. Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: A society for all ages (General Assembly resolution 54/24)

The General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of the United Nations principles for Older Persons, as adopted by its resolution 46/91 of 16 December 1991, especially in light of the fact that the population of the world will age much faster in the next half-century than previously.

In this resolution, the General Assembly:

- noted with satisfaction the successful celebration of the International Year of Older Persons, with the theme ‘A society for all ages’, and resolved to maintain the momentum created by the Year;
- emphasized the need to address the developmental aspects of ageing with particular attention to the situation of developing countries;
- noted with appreciation the offer by the Government of Germany to host a regional ministerial conference on ageing under the aegis of the Economic Commission for Europe in 2002; and
- took note with appreciation of the offer by the Government of Spain to host a second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002.

6. Oceans and the Law of the Sea (General Assembly resolution 54/31)

In this resolution, the General Assembly focused on the issue of the oceans and law of the sea and took note of the report of the Secretary-General which reaffirmed the importance of the annual consideration and review by the General Assembly of the overall developments pertaining to the implementation of the Convention, as well as of other developments relating to the law of the sea and ocean affairs. The resolution also:

- called upon all States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Agreement (which relates to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention).
- Requested the Secretary-General to convene the tenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in New York from 22 to 26 May 2000;
- Noted with appreciation the adoption of the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Authority;

- Approved the convening by the Secretary-General of the seventh session of the Commission in New York from 1 to 5 May 2000 and, if necessary, an eighth session from 28 August to 1 September 2000; and
- Called upon States to become parties to and to implement the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter.

7. Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (General Assembly resolution 54/32)

In this resolution, the General Assembly recognized that this Agreement set forth the rights and obligations of States in authorizing the use of vessels flying their flags for fishing on the high seas and noted that while 24 States or entities have ratified or acceded to the Agreement, the Agreement has not entered into force.

The General Assembly, further recognized that a number of regional fishing organizations and arrangements with competence to establish conservation and management measures regarding straddling fish stocks and/or highly migratory fish stocks are already taking significant conservation measures to promote the recovery and long-term sustainable use of fish stocks worldwide. It stated that in order for those efforts to succeed it is important that all States and entities, including those which are not members of these organizations or party to these arrangements, cooperate and observe these conservation and management measures. The General Assembly therefore called upon all States to ensure that their vessels comply with the conservation and management measures in accordance with the Agreements adopted by subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements.

The General Assembly also called upon States to provide assistance to developing States as outlined in the Agreement, and noted the importance of participation by representatives of developing States in forums in which fisheries are discussed. It also encouraged States and other entities to integrate in an appropriate manner the requirements for the protection of the environment, notably those resulting from multilateral environmental agreements, in the management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks.

8. Results of the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development of the sectional theme of “Oceans and seas”: International coordination and cooperation (General Assembly resolution 54/33)

This resolution is focused on the importance of the oceans and seas for the earth’s ecosystem and for providing the vital resources for food security and for sustaining economic prosperity and the well-being of present and future generation.

The General Assembly welcoming the review of the sectional theme of “Oceans and seas” by the Commission on Sustainable Development, in particular those aspects related to international coordination and cooperation:

- Decided to establish an open-ended informal consultative process in order to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly, in an effective and constructive manner, of developments in ocean affairs by considering the Secretary-General’s report on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it, with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced;
- Highlighted the importance of the participation of developing countries, including least developed countries and small island developing States, in the consultative process, and encouraged States and international organizations to support efforts in this regard;

9. Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies. (General Assembly resolution 54/36)

In this resolution, the General Assembly noted that a considerable number of societies have recently undertaken significant efforts to achieve their social, political and economic goals through democratization and the reform of their economies, pursuits that are deserving of the support and recognition of the international community.

The General Assembly invited the Secretary-General, Member States, the relevant specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, to collaborate in the holding of the Fourth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies. It recognized that the Organization has an important role to play in providing timely, appropriate and coherent support to the efforts of governments to achieve democratization within the context of their development efforts.

In this context, it encouraged Member States to promote democratization and to make additional efforts to identify possible steps to support the efforts of governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies.

10. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 54/84)

In this resolution, the General Assembly focused on the economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It reaffirmed the solemn obligation of the Administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses.

It recalled the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State or Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community whereby they:

- Reaffirmed the right of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;
- Affirmed the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories; and
- Decided to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, including the indigenous population, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories.

11. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 54/85)

In this resolution, the General Assembly recalling its resolution 53/62 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations:

- Recommended that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations ;
 - Requested the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:
 - (a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
 - (b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanoes, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;
 - (c) Ways and means to assist the Territories in fighting drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;
 - (d) The illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories; and
 - Recommended that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs.
12. Offers by member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 54/86)

In this resolution, the General Assembly invited all States to make or continue to make generous offers of study and training facilities to the inhabitants of those Territories that have not yet attained self-government or independence and, wherever possible, to provide travel funds to prospective students.

13. Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 54/90)

In this resolution, the General Assembly expressed its concern that despite the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples 38 years ago, there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The General Assembly also highlighted that there needs to be full and speedy implementation of the Declaration to eradicate colonialism if the target date of 2000 is to be met.

It also requested the Administering Powers to transmit to the Secretary General information on the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories regarding their future political status. It also reaffirmed that it was ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions.

Anguilla

In the case of Anguilla, the General Assembly:

- was aware of the efforts of the Government of Anguilla to develop the territory as a viable offshore centre and well-regulated financial centre for investors, by enacting modern company and trust laws, as well as partnership and insurance legislation and computerizing the company registry system;
- highlighted the need for continued cooperation between the Administering Power and the territorial Government in tackling the problems of drug-trafficking and money laundering; and
- called upon the Administering Power and all States, organizations and United Nations agencies to continue to assist the Territory in social and economic development;

British Virgin Islands

In the case of the British Virgin Islands, the General Assembly:

- took note of the statement made in 1995 by the Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands that the Territory was ready for constitutional and political advancement towards full internal self-government and that the Administering Power should assist through the gradual transfer of power to elected territorial representatives;

- noted that that the Territory is emerging as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres; and
- also requested the Administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and all financial institutions to continue to provide assistance to the Territory for socio-economic development and the development of human resources, bearing in mind the vulnerability of the Territory to external factors.

Montserrat

In the case of Montserrat, the General Assembly:

- took note with interest the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in Montserrat provided by the elected representatives of the Territory to the Caribbean regional seminar, held in Castries, Saint Lucia, from 25-27 May 1999;
- took note of the reported statement of the Chief Minister that his preference was for independence within a political union with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and that self-reliance was more of a priority than independence;
- noted with concern the dire consequences of a volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the Territory's population to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory, in particular Antigua and Barbuda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and which continues to have a negative impact upon the economy of the island;
- noted the efforts of the Administering Power and the Government of the Territory to meet the emergency situation caused by the volcanic eruption, including the implementation of a wide range of contingency measures for both the private and the public sectors in Montserrat; and
- noted with deep concern that a substantial number of the inhabitants of the Territory continue to live in shelters because of volcanic activity.

The United States Virgin Islands

In the case of the United States Virgin Islands, the General Assembly:

- noted the continuing interest of the territorial Government in seeking associate membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and observer status in the Caribbean Community and the Association of Caribbean States;

- also requested the Administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;
- expressed concern that the territorial Government is facing severe fiscal problems, which has resulted in an accumulated debt of more than \$1 billion; and
- welcomed the measures being taken by the newly elected territorial Government in addressing the fiscal crisis and called upon the Administering Power to provide every assistance required by the Territory to alleviate the financial crisis, including, *inter alia*, the provision of appropriate debt relief and loans.

14. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 54/91)

In this resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed its resolution 1514 (XV) and all other resolutions on decolonization, including its resolution 43/47, in which it declared the decade that began in 1990 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon the Administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all necessary steps to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned to exercise fully and as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence.

The General Assembly was aware of the pressing need of remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, newly independent and emerging States for assistance from the United Nations in its system of organizations in the economic, social and other fields. It took special note of the fact that the Special Committee held a Caribbean regional seminar to review the situation in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly their political evolution towards self-determination for the year 2000 and beyond, held in Castries, Saint Lucia from 25-27 May 1999.

15. Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 54/92)

In this resolution, the General Assembly recalled its resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It reiterated the importance of disseminating information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and was mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self determination.

The General Assembly requested the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to take into account the suggestions of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It urged them to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization.

16. Special session of the General Assembly in 2001 for follow-up to the World Summit for Children (General Assembly resolution 54/93)

In this resolution, the General Assembly recalled its decision in December 1998 to convene a special session to review the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children and decided that this Summit should be held in September 2001. It requested the preparatory committee to convene one organizational session on 7 and 8 February 2000 and one substantive session from 30 May to 2 June 2000.

It strongly encouraged the full and effective participation of member States, and recognized the important role of all relevant actors, including non-governmental organizations, in implementing the Plan of Action, and stressed the need for their active involvement in the preparatory process. It stressed the importance of the full participation of the least developed countries in the special session and the preparations for the session, and invited governments to make appropriate contributions to a trust fund to be established by the Secretary-General for that purpose.

17. The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti (General Assembly resolution 54/95)

The General Assembly reaffirmed that the goal of the international community remained the full observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the promotion of social and economic development in Haiti. It also paid tribute to the Haitian people in their own ongoing quest for strong and lasting democracy, justice and prosperity.

It stressed the importance of continuing to improve the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti, and noted that the Haitian authorities remain committed to upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms and to improving accountability. Accordingly, the General Assembly welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendation to extend for one year the United Nations component of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti.

The General Assembly reaffirmed once again the commitment of the international community to continue its technical, economic and financial cooperation with Haiti in support of its economic and social development efforts. It also agreed to strengthen Haitian institutions responsible for dispensing justice and guaranteeing democracy, respect for human rights, political stability and economic development. It also requested the Secretary General to continue to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system in providing humanitarian aid and contributing to the development of Haiti.

18. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century” (General Assembly resolution 54/142)

In this resolution, the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to governments that have not yet done so to prepare national action plans and reports on the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and underlined the importance of involving relevant actors of civil society, especially non-governmental organizations.

The General Assembly encouraged all the regional commissions and other intergovernmental regional organizations to carry out activities in support of the preparations for this special session, by holding preparatory meetings to ensure a regional perspective on implementation and on further actions and initiatives, as well as on a vision for gender equality, development and peace in the twenty-first century. It also requested that they make their reports available in 2000 to the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session.

It decided that the provisional agenda should include the following:

- (a) Review and appraisal of progress made in implementation in the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform of Action; and
- (b) Further actions and initiatives for overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Platform for Action.

19. Protection of migrants (General Assembly resolution 54/166)

In this resolution, the General Assembly noted the situation of vulnerability in which migrants frequently find themselves, owing, *inter alia*, to their absence from their State of origin and to the difficulties they encounter because of differences of language, custom and culture, as well as the economic and social difficulties and obstacles for the return to their States of origin of migrants who are non-documented or in an irregular situation.

Further, it called upon all States to review and, where necessary, revise immigration policies with a view to eliminating all discriminatory policies and practices against migrants and to provide specialized training for government policy-making and law enforcement, immigration and other concerned officials, this underlining the importance of effective action to create conditions that foster greater harmony and tolerance within societies.

20. Towards a stable international financial system, responsive to the challenges of development, especially in the developing countries (General Assembly resolution 54/197)

In this resolution, the General Assembly recognized that the increasing globalization of financial markets and capital flows has presented governments, the multilateral financial institutions and the international community, at large, with new challenges and opportunities for the mobilization of adequate and more stable resources for promoting economic development and social welfare. It stressed the importance of the provision of adequate financial resources for the development of all countries, in particular developing countries, *inter alia*, through public and private financial flows, international trade, official development assistance and an adequate level of funding support for debt relief.

The General Assembly was also deeply concerned at the overall declining trend in official development assistance, which is a significant external resource for financing development and an important source of support for the efforts of developing countries, in particular, the least developed countries, to create an enabling environment for eradicating poverty and tackling basic social needs, especially where private capital flows may be either inadequate or unavailable.

It recognized the importance of international financial stability, and in this context invited developed countries, in particular major industrialized countries, when formulating their macroeconomic policies to take into account the priorities of growth and development, in particular of developing countries. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to support, *inter alia*, through collaboration with the regional commissions and regional and subregional initiatives, the ongoing work on the identification of measures that will contribute to a more stable and predictable international financial system that is responsive to the challenges of development, in particular of developing countries.

21. Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries (General Assembly resolution 54/200)

In this resolution, the General Assembly was gravely concerned that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures might adversely affect the economy and development efforts of developing countries, in particular, and have a general negative impact on

international economic cooperation and on worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open multilateral trading system.

Therefore, it urged the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations or are inconsistent with the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system. In addition, it requested the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the imposition of measures of this nature and to study the impact of such measures.

22. Women in development (General Assembly resolution 54/210)

In this resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth.

It called for the accelerated and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the relevant provisions contained in the outcomes of all other major United Nations conferences and summits, and in this regard expressed the hope that the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”, which will be held from 5 to 9 June 2000, can take tangible and significant steps to enhance the effective participation of women in development.

The General Assembly urged governments to develop and to promote methodologies for mainstreaming a gender perspective in all aspects of policy-making, including economic policy-making. It also urged the international community, the United Nations system and relevant organizations to give priority to assisting the efforts of developing countries to ensure the full and effective participation of women in deciding and implementing development strategies and integrating gender concerns into national programmes, including by providing adequate resources to operational activities for development in support of the efforts of governments to ensure, *inter alia*, increased access of women to health care, capital, education, training and technology and full and equal participation in all decision-making.

23. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: Successor arrangements (General Assembly resolution 54/219)

In this resolution, the General Assembly expressed deep concern at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters, which have resulted in massive losses of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies worldwide, in particular developing countries. It requested the Secretary-General to establish, from voluntary contributions, a trust fund for disaster reduction to enable the funding of the inter-agency secretariat for disaster reduction and to transfer all assets of the Trust Fund for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to the new trust fund for disaster reduction, effective 1 January 2000.

The General Assembly also reaffirmed the need for strengthening an international framework for the improvement of early warning systems and disaster preparedness by developing an effective international mechanism for early warning, including the transfer of technology related to early warning to developing countries, under the auspices of the United Nations, as an integral part of future strategies and frameworks or any arrangements for natural disaster reduction.

24. Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States (General Assembly resolution 54/224)

In this resolution, the General Assembly bearing in mind the over 300 projects that were presented for financing within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States at the meeting of representatives of donors and small island developing States held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1999, reiterated the significance of the effective implementation of the Declaration and review document adopted at the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly called upon governments, the regional commissions and organizations and other intergovernmental organizations to support the efforts of the small island developing States, taking into account those areas identified in the review document for priority action, and urged them to take the action necessary for the further implementation of and effective follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

It urged all relevant organizations to finalize, preferably before the end of 2000, the work on the development of a vulnerability index, in particular for the small island developing States, which would assist in defining the vulnerability of those States and in

identifying the challenges to their sustainable development, for consideration by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly at the appropriate time.

25. Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development (General Assembly resolution 54/225)

In this resolution, the General Assembly stated that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States which are ecologically fragile and economically vulnerable and also affected, *inter alia*, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, social problems, high levels of poverty and the challenges and opportunities of globalization,

It also considered that the Caribbean Sea area, nearly all of which is separated from the open ocean by either continental or insular land masses, is characterized by a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems, such as the second largest coral reef system in the world, the heavy reliance of most States, countries and territories on their coastal areas and the marine environment in general to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals, the number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national sovereignty and jurisdiction, which present a challenge to the effective management of resources, the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea area for maritime transportation and, notwithstanding the increase in the number of regulatory measures, the threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and from the release of hazardous and noxious substances in violation of relevant international rules and standards.

In this context, the General Assembly encouraged further development of the integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, which will include environmental, economic, social, legal and institutional elements and will take into account the experience gained, as well as the provisions of Agenda 21, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in conformity with relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

26. Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (General Assembly resolution 54/226)

In this resolution, the General Assembly recognized the fact that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing economic and technical cooperation among themselves, and reiterated the need for the international

community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation through the modality of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. It also made reference to the important contribution that the upcoming South Summit, to be held in Havana in April 2000, could provide for the strengthening South-South cooperation.

It called upon all governments and all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral regional financial institutions to consider increasing allocations of financial resources for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and to strengthen funding modalities to promote South-South cooperation, such as triangular cooperation and private sector funding.

Security Council Resolutions – 2000

1. **Security Council Resolution 1290 (2000)** on the Admission of New Members (Tuvalu)

In this resolution the Security Council, having examined the application of Tuvalu for admission to the United Nations, recommended to the General Assembly that Tuvalu be admitted to membership in the United Nations.

