

the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to exploit fully the current opportunity,

Taking note of the assessment of the Secretary-General that the security situation on the island and along the Green Line remains stable, and urging all sides to avoid any action, including violations of the military status quo, which could lead to an increase in tension, undermine the progress achieved so far or damage the goodwill on the island,

Recalling the Secretary-General's firm belief that the situation in the buffer zone would be improved if both sides accepted the 1989 aide-memoire used by the United Nations,

Noting with regret that the sides are withholding access to the remaining minefields in the buffer zone, and that demining in Cyprus must continue, noting the continued danger posed by mines in Cyprus, noting also recent proposals and discussions on demining, and urging rapid agreement on facilitating the recommencement of demining operations and clearance of the remaining minefields,

Commending the work of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, highlighting the importance of intensifying its activities, urging the opening up of access to all areas expeditiously to allow the Committee to carry out its work, and trusting that this process will promote reconciliation between the communities,

Agreeing that active participation of civil society groups, including women's groups, is essential to the political process and can contribute to making any future settlement sustainable, recalling that women play a critically important role in peace processes, welcoming all efforts to promote bicomunal contacts and events, including on the part of all United Nations bodies on the island, and urging the two sides to promote the active engagement of civil society and the encouragement of cooperation between economic and commercial bodies and to remove all obstacles to such contacts,

Stressing the need for the Council to pursue a rigorous, strategic approach to peacekeeping deployments,

Welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General to keep all peacekeeping operations under close review to ensure efficiency and effectiveness, including a review of the Force when appropriate, and noting the importance of contingency planning in relation to the settlement, including recommendations, as appropriate, for further adjustments to the mandate, force levels and other resources and concept of operations of the Force, taking into account developments on the ground and the views of the parties,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of Ms. Lisa Buttenheim as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and acting Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus, thanking the outgoing Force Commander, Major General Chao Liu, welcoming the incoming Force Commander, Major General Kristin Lund, thanking Mr. Alexander Downer for his efforts over the last six years as Special Adviser, and encouraging the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Adviser in the near future,

Echoing the Secretary-General's gratitude to the Government of Cyprus and the Government of Greece for their voluntary contributions to the funding of the Force and his request for further voluntary contributions from other countries and organizations, and expressing its appreciation to Member States that contribute personnel to the Force,

Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations,

1. *Acknowledges* the progress made so far in the fully fledged negotiations, but notes that this has not been sufficient and has not yet resulted in a comprehensive and durable settlement, and urges the sides to continue their discussions to reach decisive progress on the core issues;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Recalls* Security Council resolution 2026(2011) of 14 December 2011, and calls upon the two leaders:

(a) To put their efforts behind further work on reaching convergences on the core issues;

(b) To continue to work with the technical committees with the objective of improving the daily lives of the Cypriots;

(c) To improve the public atmosphere for the negotiations, including by focusing public messages on convergences and the way ahead and delivering more constructive and harmonized messages;

(d) To increase the participation of civil society in the process, as appropriate;

4. *Urges* the implementation of confidence-building measures, and looks forward to agreement on and implementation of further such mutually acceptable steps, including military confidence-building measures and the opening of other crossing points, that can contribute to a conducive environment for a settlement;

5. *Welcomes* all efforts to accommodate the exhumation requirements of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, and calls upon all parties to provide full access to all areas expeditiously, given the need to intensify the work of the Committee;

6. *Reaffirms* all its relevant resolutions on Cyprus, in particular resolution 1251(1999) of 29 June 1999 and subsequent resolutions;

7. *Expresses its full support* for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, and decides to extend its mandate for a further period ending 31 January 2015;

8. *Calls upon* both sides to continue to engage, as a matter of urgency and while respecting the mandate of the Force, in consultations with the Force on the demarcation of the buffer zone and on the United Nations 1989 aide-memoire, with a view to reaching early agreement on outstanding issues;

9. *Calls upon* the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkish forces to restore in Strovilia the military status quo which existed there prior to 30 June 2000;

10. *Calls upon* both sides to allow access to deminers and to facilitate the removal of the remaining mines in Cyprus within the buffer zone, and urges both sides to extend demining operations outside the buffer zone;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on contingency planning in relation to the settlement, by 10 January 2015 and to keep the Council updated on events as necessary;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by the Force to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code

of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action, including conducting predeployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

13. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

On 29 December, the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on the question of Cyprus would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (**decision 69/554**).

Financing

In June, the General Assembly considered the Secretary-General's report on UNFICYP financial performance for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 [A/68/584], the proposed UNFICYP budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 [A/68/700] and the related ACABQ report [A/68/782/Add.7].

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 30 June [meeting 99], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee [A/68/923], adopted **resolution 68/286** without vote [agenda item 151].

Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Recalling Security Council resolution 186(1964) of 4 March 1964 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 2135(2014) of 30 January 2014, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 31 July 2014,

Recalling also its resolution 47/236 of 14 September 1993 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 67/272 of 28 June 2013,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874(S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101(XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force by certain Governments,

Noting that voluntary contributions were insufficient to cover all the costs of the Force, including those incurred by troop-contributing Governments prior to 16 June 1993, and regretting the absence of an adequate response to appeals for voluntary contributions, including that contained in the letter dated 17 May 1994 from the Secretary-General to all Member States,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011 and 66/264 of 21 June 2012, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus as at 30 April 2014, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 19.3 million United States dollars, representing some 4 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 53 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

5. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

7. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266, 61/276, 64/269, 65/289 and 66/264;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

10. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

11. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus the amount of 62,531,500 dollars for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of 58,004,500 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 3,753,300 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 773,700 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

12. *Notes with appreciation* that a one-third share of the net appropriation, equivalent to 19,949,267 dollars, will be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Cyprus and the amount of 6.5 million dollars from the Government of Greece;

13. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 3,006,852 dollars for the period from 1 to 31 July 2014, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239 of 24 December 2012, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014, as set out in its resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012;

14. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 223,641 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 198,033 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 19,850 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 5,758 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

15. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 33,075,381 dollars for the period from 1 August 2014 to 30 June 2015, at a monthly rate of 3,006,852 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2014 and 2015, as set out in its resolution 67/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

16. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973(X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,460,059 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 2,178,367 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 218,350 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 63,342 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

17. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 638,101 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 67/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013, as set out in its resolution 67/238;

18. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 638,101 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 17 above;

19. *Decides* that the increase of 183,200 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 638,101 dollars referred to in paragraphs 17 and 18 above;

20. *Also decides*, taking into account its voluntary contribution for the financial period ended 30 June 2013, that one third of the net unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 388,333 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be returned to the Government of Cyprus;

21. *Further decides*, taking into account its voluntary contribution for the financial period ended 30 June 2013, that the prorated share of the net unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 138,566 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2013 shall be returned to the Government of Greece;

22. *Decides* that, taking into account the provision in paragraph 19 of its resolution 67/272, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective additional share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 12,284 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2012, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 64/249 of 24 December 2009, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2012, as set out in its resolution 64/248 of 24 December 2009;

23. *Also decides* that, taking into account the provision in paragraph 20 of its resolution 67/272, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective additional share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the amount of 12,284 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2012, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 22 above;

24. *Further decides*, taking into account the provision in paragraph 22 of its resolution 67/272, that the additional amount of 44,200 dollars, representing one third of the unencumbered balance and other income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2012, shall be returned to the Government of Cyprus;

25. *Decides*, taking into account the provision in paragraph 23 of its resolution 67/272, that the additional amount of 15,016 dollars, representing the prorated share of the unencumbered balance and other income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2012, shall be returned to the Government of Greece;

26. *Also decides* to continue to maintain as separate the account established for the Force for the period prior to 16 June 1993, invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to that account, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in appealing for voluntary contributions to the account;

27. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

28. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502(2003) of 26 August 2003;

29. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

30. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus”.

On 29 December, the Assembly decided that the agenda item on the financing of UNFICYP would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session (**decision 69/554**).

Ukraine

In 2014, following months of mass protests in Kiev that culminated in violence, the crisis in Ukraine emerged as a major new concern of the Security Council. The situation came to a head on 28 January when the Government of Ukraine resigned. Negotiations to settle the conflict were held between the parties, with the participation of EU representatives and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of France, Germany and Poland, and a Special Envoy of the President of the Russian Federation. On 21 February, Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovich and opposition leaders signed, in Kiev, the “Agreement on the Settlement of the Crisis in Ukraine.” The Agreement, transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Russian Federation on 23 February [S/2014/121], provided for the restoration of the 2004 Ukrainian Constitution, the creation of a national unity government, constitutional reforms to be completed in September, presidential elections to be held no later than December, and an investigation of the crisis. On 24 February [S/2014/122], Ukraine reported that on 22 February, President Yanukovich renounced the Agreement and refused to sign the law restoring the 2004 Constitution adopted by the Parliament. He left Kiev for an unknown destination, thus removing himself from his constitutional authority. On the same day, the Parliament adopted decrees on the removal of the president and early presidential elections which were set for 25 May. On 26 February [S/2014/132], Ukraine rejected allegations made by the Russian Federation of “threats to civil rights, particularly of minorities and religious confessions” in Ukraine as false and baseless.

Situation in Crimea

Following a request by Ukraine [S/2014/136], due to the deterioration of the situation in Ukraine’s Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the Security Council met on 28 February [S/PV.7123] in closed session to hear a briefing by Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernández-Taranco, and in open session on 1 March [S/PV.7124] by Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliason who said that since briefing the Council the previous day by Mr. Fernández-Taranco, reports continued of serious developments in Ukraine, especially in Crimea,

where key sites, including the regional parliament, reportedly continued to be blocked by unidentified armed men. Armed personnel took control also of regional administration buildings in several cities in the East and South of Ukraine. He recalled the Secretary-General’s statement of the same day reiterating his call for the full respect for and preservation of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. Meanwhile, Ukraine reported that Russian troops had illegally entered Crimea to allegedly protect the Russian-speaking population of the peninsula. It called on the Council to do everything possible to stop the aggression against Ukraine. The Russian Federation, for its part, contended that the Russian troops were deployed in Crimea at the request of local authorities, and submitted, on 3 March [S/2014/146], a statement by Mr. Yanukovich appealing to the Russian Federation to use its armed forces to restore law and order in the country.

At the Council’s meeting on 3 March [S/PV.7125], Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernández-Taranco reported a continuing build-up of Russian troops in Crimea and that a number of Ukrainian military bases were surrounded by Russian troops. In addition, the situation in Eastern Ukraine remained fluid, with reports of demonstrations in certain cities and attempts by local groups to seize control of some official buildings. On 2 March, Ukraine’s Parliament urged Russia to fulfil the terms of the agreement on its Black Sea Fleet’s temporary presence in Ukraine and to withdraw its troops. Following the Council’s consultation, and in the light of developments on the ground, the Secretary-General asked the Deputy Secretary-General to travel to Ukraine so that he could brief the Secretary-General on next steps.

On 4 March [S/2014/152], Ukraine asserted that since Mr. Yanukovich was no longer a legitimate President of Ukraine, his request to the Russian Federation to use its military forces in Ukraine might not be regarded as an official request. It further informed the Council President on 7 March [S/2014/164], that the Crimean Parliament had decided to hold a referendum on 16 March on the issue of “reuniting Crimea with the Russian Federation.” At its meeting on 13 March [S/PV.7134], Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman informed the Council that on 11 March, reports were received that Crimean authorities had closed down the airspace of the peninsula to all commercial flights, except those from Moscow, and Crimea’s Parliament had adopted a “declaration of independence of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea”. The Parliament of Ukraine adopted a resolution urging the Parliament of Crimea to reconsider its decision of 6 March and to bring it in line with Ukraine’s constitution; if it failed to do so by 12 March, the Parliament of Ukraine would initiate the early termination of its powers.

The Secretary-General continued efforts to speak to all relevant parties with the aim of seeking a peaceful resolution of the crisis. However, local authorities denied the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Šimonović access to Crimea. The human rights monitoring mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was set to become operational in Ukraine. On 13 March [S/2014/186], Ukraine, invoking Article 51 of the UN Charter, requested States and the regional security systems to assist in restoring its sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability. It also informed the Council President, on 15 March [S/2014/193], that its Constitutional Court had found that the 6 March Decree of the Parliament of Crimea on the holding of a referendum on 16 March had violated Ukraine's territorial integrity and breached Ukraine's constitution.

On 15 March [S/PV. 7138], the Council had before it for consideration a draft resolution [S/2104/189] proposed by 42 States by which the Council would have noted with concern the intention to hold a referendum on the status of Crimea on 16 March, and would have declared that the referendum would have no validity and could not form the basis of altering the status of Crimea, and would have called on all States and international organizations and agencies not to recognize such change. The draft resolution was not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Council viz., the Russian Federation. On 17 March [S/2014/196], Ukraine noted that four days earlier it had referred to the European Court of Human Rights a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights by the Russian Federation and lodged an inter-State application *Ukraine v. Russia* under article 33 of that Convention.

Meanwhile, the crisis appeared to have deepened, the Deputy Secretary-General reported to the Council on 19 March [S/PV.7144]. The Crimean authorities announced that close to 97 per cent of those who voted in the 16 March referendum did so in favour of Crimea's secession from Ukraine. Subsequently, Crimea declared its independence, which was recognized by the Russian Federation. On 17 March, the EU and the United States applied targeted sanctions against Russian and Crimean officials. The next day, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin signed a treaty to make Crimea part of the Russian Federation. At the same time, the Government in Kiev committed to never accept Crimea's independence or annexation. In other developments, reports emerged that two Ukrainian naval bases in Crimea were taken over by pro-Russian forces or unidentified groups. According to the Deputy Secretary-General, the latest events had heightened tensions and added new layers of complexity to an already precarious situation.

In an 18 March address to the State Duma [A/68/803-S/2014/201], President Putin defended his country's response to the crisis in Ukraine and indicated that he was submitting to the Federal Assembly a request to consider a constitutional law creating two new constituent entities within the Russian Federation: the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and to ratify the treaty admitting them.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 27 March [meeting 80], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/262** [draft: A/68/L.39 & Add.1] by recorded vote (100-11-58) [agenda item 33(b)].

Territorial integrity of Ukraine

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the paramount importance of the Charter of the United Nations in the promotion of the rule of law among nations,

Recalling the obligations of all States under Article 2 of the Charter to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, and to settle their international disputes by peaceful means,

Recalling also its resolution 2625(XXV) of 24 October 1970, in which it approved the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the principles contained therein that the territory of a State shall not be the object of acquisition by another State resulting from the threat or use of force, and that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and territorial integrity of a State or country or at its political independence is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Recalling further the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed in Helsinki on 1 August 1975, the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum) of 5 December 1994, the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation of 31 May 1997 and the Alma-Ata Declaration of 21 December 1991,

Stressing the importance of maintaining the inclusive political dialogue in Ukraine that reflects the diversity of its society and includes representation from all parts of Ukraine,

Welcoming the continued efforts by the Secretary-General and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international and regional organizations to support de-escalation of the situation with respect to Ukraine,

Noting that the referendum held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on 16 March 2014 was not authorized by Ukraine,

1. *Affirms its commitment* to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders;

2. *Calls upon* all States to desist and refrain from actions aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including any attempts to modify Ukraine's borders through the threat or use of force or other unlawful means;

3. *Urges* all parties to pursue immediately the peaceful resolution of the situation with respect to Ukraine through direct political dialogue, to exercise restraint, to refrain from unilateral actions and inflammatory rhetoric that may increase tensions and to engage fully with international mediation efforts;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international and regional organizations to assist Ukraine in protecting the rights of all persons in Ukraine, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

5. *Underscores* that the referendum held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on 16 March 2014, having no validity, cannot form the basis for any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or of the city of Sevastopol;

6. *Calls upon* all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on the basis of the above-mentioned referendum and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 68/262:

In favour: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Against: Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Comoros, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Guyana, India, Iraq, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zambia.

On 14 December [S/2014/895], Ukraine issued a statement on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) entitled "Definition of Aggression."

Security and human rights situations

On 16 April [S/PV.7157], Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Šimonović told the Security Council that during his visit to Crimea (21–22 March) he interacted with a wide range of interlocutors, including local authorities and civil society, and especially the victims themselves. The media manipulation contributed to a climate of fear and insecurity in the period preceding the referendum. The presence of paramilitary and so-called self-defence groups, as well as soldiers in uniform without insignia, was not conducive to an environment in which voters could freely exercise their right to hold opinions and to freedom of expression during the referendum on 16 March. There were credible allegations of harassment, arbitrary arrests and torture by those groups targeting activists and journalists who did not support the referendum.

Meanwhile, the security situation deteriorated significantly. Reportedly, armed pro-Russian activists established the People's Republic of Donetsk, taking control of Government buildings. In Luhansk, pro-Russian protesters continued to occupy the local security services building. In Kharkiv, participants in a pro-Ukrainian rally were attacked and beaten by pro-Russian demonstrators, resulting in some 50 persons being injured. While reports indicated that the number of protesters, including some allegedly from outside the region, had not significantly increased, the level of violence and the proportion of armed protesters had, with significant human rights implications.

The Council met again on 29 April [S/PV.7165], and was informed by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman that there was a glimmer of hope for the outcome of the four-party talks between Ukraine, the Russian Federation, the United States and the EU held in Geneva on 17 April, aimed at de-escalating the crisis. The resulting Geneva agreement called for all sides to refrain from violence, intimidation and provocative actions; for all illegal armed groups to be disarmed; and for all illegally seized buildings, occupied streets and public places to be vacated. However, the emerging spirit of compromise of the 17 April talks appeared to have evaporated. The implementation of the Geneva agreement stalled as parties sought to give different interpretations of what had been agreed upon. Unhelpful rhetoric further escalated the already high tensions. Meanwhile, the situation in parts of eastern and southern Ukraine continued to deteriorate. On 25 April, a group of OSCE military monitors and accompanying Ukrainian staff

were captured and detained. There were increasing reports of torture, kidnappings and violent clashes. On 27 April, the mayor of Kharkiv was shot by unknown assailants and remained in critical condition. On the same day, self-declared separatists seized a local government building in Kostiantynivka, in Donetsk oblast, while in Donetsk itself a pro-unity rally turned violent when separatist elements reportedly attacked the group with clubs and chains. Also, on 27 April, in Kharkiv, clashes between opponents and supporters of a unitary Ukraine broke out resulting in a number of injuries. On 29 April, self-declared separatist groups reportedly began an operation to take control of Lugansk.

On 14 May [A/68/879-S/2014/340], the Russian Federation transmitted to the Secretary-General the text of comments by its Deputy Defence Minister concerning assertions made by NATO and the United States on the lack of withdrawal of Russian troops from the border with Ukraine. According to the Deputy Defence Minister, no formal protest had been presented to the Russian Federation that it had failed to fulfil, or had directly violated its international obligations regarding conventional weapons. In the interest of preventing further provocation, the Russian Federation had withdrawn from the border. Meanwhile, Ukrainian forces continued to mass on the Russia-Ukraine border, where there was a 15,000-strong concentration of Ukrainian troops. There was a simultaneous build-up of NATO forces in Eastern Europe. He called on NATO and United States officials to refrain from misleading the international community regarding the real situation along the Russia-Ukraine border.

As to Ukraine's early presidential election, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman informed the Council, at its 28 May meeting [S/PV.7185], that reports indicated that 60 per cent of Ukraine's eligible voters had voted, but the numbers varied considerably across the country. In parts of eastern Ukraine, eligible voters were denied their right to vote due to the seizure or blocking of polling stations, the destruction of electoral equipment, intimidation and violence. According to preliminary results, Petro Poroshenko won in the first round with 55 per cent of the vote. The Secretary-General welcomed President-elect Poroshenko's stated intention to engage immediately in dialogue and de-escalation. However, both Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts experienced a dramatic increase in deadly fighting. The Secretary-General was concerned by reports of scores of casualties; by suggestions regarding the circulation and use of heavier weaponry in the east; and by allegations of arms, fighters and trucks entering Ukraine. On 22 May, dozens of Ukrainian servicemen were killed and many wounded in an ambush by unknown armed persons at a military checkpoint

in Volnovakha, and on 26 May, fierce fighting ensued when armed militia attempted to seize control of the Donetsk international airport.

In a 17 June press statement [SC/11442], Council members expressed their condolences to the families of all journalists killed while covering the crisis in Ukraine, encouraged a thorough investigation of all incidents of violence involving journalists and expressed concern about reported cases of detention and harassment of journalists covering the crisis in Ukraine.

Meeting again on 24 June [S/PV. 7205], the Council was informed by Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Tayé-Brook Zerihoun that, due in large part to the initiative by President Petro Poroshenko since his inauguration on 7 June, and the efforts of the international community, there were encouraging signs of a de-escalation of the conflict in Ukraine. On 20 June, Ukraine provided the Secretary-General with an official copy of President Poroshenko's peace plan [S/2014/431], which included de-escalatory measures, such as amnesty for those who did not participate in serious crimes, disarmament, the decentralization of power and early local and parliamentary elections, and a programme for creating jobs in the region. Simultaneously, he announced the start of a one-week unilateral ceasefire to give armed militia an opportunity to disarm. Government forces were ordered to withdraw from their engagements, allowing rebels a chance to lay down their weapons. According to the plan, all rebels who surrendered peacefully and had not committed grave crimes would be granted amnesty. Also, with a view to engaging with Ukraine's eastern regions, the President travelled on 19 June to the Donbass region, and the following day, to Donetsk and Lugansk. The Secretary-General was pleased that peace talks had reportedly started with representatives of the armed groups in eastern Ukraine, led by former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. He also noted that the armed militia groups had agreed to reciprocate the ceasefire, despite previously rejecting the President's plan. In a welcome development, President Putin asked the Russian Parliament to revoke the authorization given to him to send troops to Ukraine. President Poroshenko's office welcomed the move as the first practical step after President Putin expressed support for the peace plan. Nevertheless, even after President Poroshenko's announced ceasefire, the armed groups publicly rejected the offer and continued their assault on Ukrainian forces. Other reports indicated that Ukrainian forces also continued their security operations. On 14 June, a Ukrainian Ilyushin-76 military transport airplane was shot down in Luhansk by armed militia, killing all 49 people on board (see p. 000). On 1 July [S/2014/460], Ukraine informed the Council President of President Poroshenko's decision not to continue the

unilateral ceasefire as at 30 June, as insurgents had violated it over 100 times. However, the peace plan remained in force.

Downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH-17

At its 18 July meeting [S/PV.7219], the Security Council expressed its deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of those who had lost their lives aboard the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH-17 on 17 July over Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, and to the people and Governments of all the countries that had lost their citizens in the crash. Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman told the Council that, while the United Nations had at that point no independent verification of the circumstances regarding the tragic crash, reports suggested that a sophisticated surface-to-air missile was used. Nearly 300 people were killed, two-thirds of them from the Netherlands, including 80 children. The Secretary-General stated that there was clearly a need for a full and transparent international investigation. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) offered to put together an international team.

Also, in an 18 July press statement [SC/11480], Council members called for a full and thorough international investigation into the incident and on all parties to grant access to the crash site to determine the cause of the incident.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

On 21 July [meeting 7221], the Security Council unanimously adopted **resolution 2166(2014)**. The draft [S/2014/510] was submitted by Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chad, Chile, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States and Viet Nam.

The Security Council,

Deploing the downing of a civilian aircraft on an international flight, Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, on 17 July 2014 in Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, with the loss of all 298 passengers and crew on board,

Reaffirming the rules of international law that prohibit acts of violence that pose a threat to the safety of international civil aviation, and emphasizing the importance of holding those responsible for violations of these rules to account,

Recalling its statement to the press of 18 July 2014,

Stressing the need for a full, thorough and independent international investigation into the incident in accordance with international civil aviation guidelines, noting in this regard the crucial role played by the International Civil Aviation Organization in aircraft accident and incident investigations, and welcoming the decision of the Organization to send a team to work in coordination with the Ukrainian National Bureau of Incidents and Accidents

Investigation of Civil Aircraft in this investigation, following a request for assistance by Ukraine to the Organization and others,

Expressing serious concern that armed groups in Ukraine have impeded immediate, safe, secure and unrestricted access to the crash site and the surrounding area for the appropriate investigating authorities, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and representatives of other relevant international organizations assisting the investigation in accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organization and other established procedures,

1. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 on 17 July 2014 in Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, resulting in the tragic loss of 298 lives;

2. *Reiterates its deepest sympathies and condolences* to the families of the victims of this incident and to the people and Governments of the victims' countries of origin;

3. *Supports* efforts to establish a full, thorough and independent international investigation into the incident in accordance with international civil aviation guidelines;

4. *Recognizes* the efforts under way by Ukraine, working in coordination with the International Civil Aviation Organization and other international experts and organizations, including representatives of the States of Occurrence, Registry, Operator, Design and Manufacture, as well as States that have lost nationals on MH17, to institute an international investigation of the incident, and calls upon all States to provide any requested assistance to civil and criminal investigations related to this incident;

5. *Expresses grave concern* at reports of insufficient and limited access to the crash site;

6. *Demands* that the armed groups in control of the crash site and the surrounding area refrain from any actions that may compromise the integrity of the crash site, including by refraining from destroying, moving or disturbing wreckage, equipment, debris, personal belongings or remains, and immediately provide safe, secure, full and unrestricted access to the site and the surrounding area for the appropriate investigating authorities, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and representatives of other relevant international organizations according to International Civil Aviation Organization and other established procedures;

7. *Also demands* that all military activities, including by armed groups, be immediately ceased in the immediate area surrounding the crash site to allow for security and safety of the international investigation;

8. *Insists* on the dignified, respectful and professional treatment and recovery of the bodies of the victims, and calls upon all parties to ensure that this happens with immediate effect;

9. *Calls upon* all States and actors in the region to cooperate fully in relation to the international investigation of the incident, including with respect to immediate and unrestricted access to the crash site as referred to in paragraph 6 above;

10. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the statement made on 17 July 2014 by the Trilateral Contact Group of senior representatives of Ukraine, the Russian Federation and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and demands that the commitments outlined in that statement be implemented in full;

11. *Demands* that those responsible for this incident be held to account and that all States cooperate fully with efforts to establish accountability;

12. *Urges* all parties to the Convention on International Civil Aviation to observe to the fullest extent applicable the international rules, standards and practices concerning the safety of civil aviation, in order to prevent the recurrence of such incidents, and demands that all States and other actors refrain from acts of violence directed against civilian aircraft;

13. *Welcomes* the full cooperation of the United Nations offered by the Secretary-General in this investigation, and requests the Secretary-General to identify possible options for United Nations support to the investigation and to report to the Security Council on relevant developments;

14. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

On 22 July [A/68/954-S/2014/524], the Russian Federation transmitted to the Secretary-General the transcript of the special briefing held the previous day by its Ministry of Defence on the crash of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17. On 7 August [S/2014/576], Ukraine clarified the decision of its President to maintain a ceasefire in the immediate area surrounding the crash site. The Netherlands, on 28 August [S/2014/639], informed the Council that, at the request of Ukraine, it had taken the lead in coordinating international efforts regarding the incident with flight MH17. The approach was twofold: recovery of the remains of the victims and their repatriation to their respective home countries; and an international technical investigation into the cause of the crash coordinated by the independent Dutch Safety Board, in accordance with annex 13 of the 1944 Convention on International Civil Aviation [YUN 1946-1947, pp. 728–740]. As at 22 August, 173 of the 298 victims had been identified. Regrettably, efforts to recover remains and belongings were severely hampered by the volatile security situation on the ground. Continuing armed clashes in the area prevented any resumption of activities on site in the immediate future.

At the Council's session on 19 September [S/PV.7269], convened at the request of the Russian Federation [S/2014/264], Under-Secretary-General Jeffrey Feltman updated the Council on developments related to the investigation of the crash. He recognized the pivotal role of the Netherlands in leading the investigation, with contributions by a number of countries, ICAO and the European Aviation Safety Agency. On 9 September, the Dutch Safety Board submitted its preliminary report [S/2014/657] containing the first actual findings based on various sources, including the cockpit voice recorder, the flight data recorder, air traffic control data, and radar and satellite images. While the report was preliminary, it asserted that the plane broke apart due to penetration by a large number of "high-energy objects from outside the aircraft." There was no indication that the plane had any technical or operational issues and no distress signal was received.

Also, on the same day [S/2014/690], the Russian Federation informed the Council President of issues that it considered should be examined during further investigation of the crash of the Malaysia Airlines plane.

The Netherlands, on 16 December [S/2014/903], updated the Council on steps it had taken regarding the repatriation and recovery efforts, the technical investigation and the accountability process. After the decision on 6 August to suspend the recovery mission owing to the volatile security situation on the ground, the Netherlands maintained daily contact with the OSCE mission in Ukraine. So far, 294 of the 298 victims had been identified. For the purposes of the investigation by the Dutch Safety Board, pieces of debris relevant to the investigation were recovered from the crash site between 16 and 23 November. The Board aimed to deliver its final public report by mid-2015.

Further developments

At the request of the Russian Federation [S/2104/264], the Council met on 5 August [S/PV.7234] on the situation in Ukraine. John Ging, Director of the Coordination and Response Division of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that efforts to find a political solution to the crisis in Ukraine had borne little fruit. Insecurity and violence prevailed in conflict areas, resulting in a steadily worsening humanitarian situation. An estimated 3.9 million people lived in areas directly affected by violence. Fighting caused significant damage to infrastructure. Health supplies were running low and an estimated 70 per cent of health personnel had fled the area, leaving access to medical care significantly reduced. Damage to housing had so far affected 1,600 families. Supply routes were increasingly disrupted, and coping mechanisms among the affected populations were deteriorating. The OHCHR human rights monitoring mission and the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that at least 1,367 people, both civilians and combatants, had been killed and 4,087 wounded in eastern Ukraine since mid-April. An additional 58,000 people had fled their homes since the start of July. Currently, 117,910 people were registered as internally displaced throughout Ukraine, 87 per cent of whom were from the east of the country. The Russian Federation reported that 740,000 people had crossed its borders since the start of the year. UNHCR was reaching hosting areas for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and areas to which people were able to return, while OCHA deployed a humanitarian advisory team to Ukraine to assess needs and support the coordination of the response. On 11 August [S/2104/581], Ukraine informed that President Petro Poroshenko was sending an international humanitarian aid mission to the Luhansk region.

Updating the Council on 8 August [S/PV.7239] on the situation in Ukraine, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Šimonović reported that since April, 924 people had been abducted and 113 servicemen, military border guards and security personnel detained. In Crimea, UNHCR estimated that 15,200 people had left the Republic while tens of thousands continued to flee the fighting in the east of Ukraine, bringing the number of IDPs to over 117,910 as at 5 August.

On 11 August [S/2014/580], Ukraine informed the Council of the closure, beginning on 15 July, of the seaports of Kerch, Sevastopol, Feodosia, Yalta and Yevpatoria, located in Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, owing to the temporary occupation of those territories. On 15 August [S/2014/599, S/2014/602], Ukraine protested against Russian Federation attempts to establish its national jurisdiction over Ukrainian nuclear facilities located in Crimea, and over the continued aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. On 22 August [S/2014/612], Ukraine also protested the illegal crossing of its border by a Russian Federation convoy.

As the crisis escalated, on 28 August [S/PV.7253] Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman reported to the Council that Presidents Putin and Poroshenko met officially on 26 August and multilateral talks were initiated. The Secretary-General called for the continuation of those talks, with a view to forging a peaceful way out of the conflict, based on President Poroshenko's peace plan (see p. 000). However, those events were overshadowed by reports of intensified fighting in south-eastern Ukraine. Illegal armed groups operating in the Donetsk region reportedly had intensified their activities, spreading violence along Ukraine's southern coast in the direction of the strategic port of Mariupol. The town of Novoazovsk was seized by the armed groups. The southward spread of fighting along the border with the Russian Federation and the Sea of Azov marked a dangerous escalation in the conflict. The battle for Luhansk continued, and hostilities in Donetsk were spreading. The United Nations had no way of verifying information of Russian military involvement in that new wave of escalation, and the Russian Federation had rejected those reports.

On 3 September [S/2014/647], the Russian Federation forwarded to the Council President the 'Putin Plan' for the settlement of the conflict in Ukraine, which proposed that the parties to the conflict should agree on ending offensive operations by armed units and militia groups in southeast Ukraine in the Donetsk and Lugansk areas; the withdrawal of Ukraine forces to a safe distance from populated areas; allowing international monitoring of compliance with the ceasefire; excluding use of all military aircraft against civilians; organizing the exchange of

those detained; opening humanitarian corridors; and repairing and rebuilding facilities.

President Poroshenko, in a 5 September statement [S/2014/652], said that, taking into account the Russian President's call for a ceasefire addressed to illegal armed groups of the Donbas and the signing of the protocol at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on the implementation of the peace plan of the President of Ukraine, he had ordered a cease-fire starting that same day. On 17 September [S/2014/677], Ukraine expressed concern over a statement by the Russian defence minister concerning the deployment of full-scale and self-sufficient military force in Crimea, and on 25 September [S/2014/704], drew the Council President's attention to the discovery of a mass grave on 23 September in a coal mine in Komunar, near the village of Nyzhnia Krynka, sixty kilometres from Donetsk. On 3 October [SC/11588], Council members condemned the killing of a staff member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Laurent DuPasquier, in Donetsk, Ukraine, on 2 October, and stressed the need for an objective investigation into the tragic death.

On 24 October [S/PV.7287], Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernández-Taranco told the Council that efforts to end the conflict in Ukraine remained mixed. On 5 September, under the auspices of the Trilateral Contact Group, the Minsk protocol to halt the conflict in eastern Ukraine was signed, and the Minsk memorandum, which clarified implementation of the ceasefire agreement, was signed on 19 September. The Secretary-General joined other leaders in welcoming those agreements and in urging their full implementation. Initial steps were undertaken to implement the Minsk protocol and memorandum, including, the implementation of the ceasefire, the exchange of detained persons and Ukrainian Government's steps [S/2014/755] toward decentralization, including by the adoption of a special status, or interim self-governance, for certain areas in Donetsk and Luhansk. However, violation of the ceasefire agreement was a daily occurrence, with regular loss of life. The OSCE special monitoring mission, charged with monitoring and verifying the ceasefire and other provisions of the Minsk protocol, was doing its utmost to carry out its mandate in the face of logistical challenges. The United Nations engaged continuously with the mission and the OSCE secretariat to identify specific areas where its expertise and resources could be of assistance. There were reports also on the alleged widespread use of internationally banned cluster munitions. In the run up to the elections, reports were received of alleged violence against parliamentary candidates and representatives of various parties, as well as inflammatory statements by armed rebel groups threatening to disrupt voting in areas of eastern Ukraine and to hold their own elections on 2

November. International election monitoring efforts, led by OSCE, as well as international observers and domestic NGOs would be critical.

The Parliamentary elections were held on schedule on 26 October, Assistant Secretary-General ad interim for Political Affairs Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen reported to the Council on 12 November [S/PV.7311]. Although there was no voting in Crimea and those parts of Donbas under rebel control, elections were held throughout the rest of Ukraine. On 11 November, the Central Electoral Commission announced the official results of the elections. On 2 November, rebels in Donetsk and Luhansk held their own elections, in defiance of the Ukrainian Government. Following the elections, the rebels declared themselves as de facto independent from Ukraine and threatened to expand the territory under their control. A full mobilization, including the creation of local armies and security forces, was also announced. In response, President Poroshenko proposed that Parliament revoke the law providing for three years of greater autonomy or special status for the rebel-controlled areas that had been offered as fulfilment of a key tenet of the Minsk Protocol. On 5 November, Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatsenyuk announced that pensions and subsidies would be halted to areas under rebel control.

On 3 November, hostilities in the east reignited. Citing credible threats from the rebel leadership that it would launch a new offensive, on 4 November, President Poroshenko ordered army reinforcements to key cities in southern and eastern Ukraine. Reaffirming that Kiev saw no military solution to the conflict and that it would not attempt to retake rebel areas held by rebel force, the President's stated objective was to protect Ukraine's territory from any further incursions [S/2014/792, S/2014/798]. On 9 November, hostilities were reported to be at their worst, with a heavy exchange of artillery and shelling in and around Donetsk. The upsurge in fighting came amidst regular reports from OSCE of an influx of large convoys of heavy weapons, tanks and troops flowing into rebel-held areas. With the onset of winter, the number of IDPs was expected to increase.

Other issues

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative

The General Assembly, in **resolution 69/8** of 11 November on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative (see p. 000), valued the continuing contribution of the Initiative to the political dialogue and its project management support, providing its member States with a flexible and pragmatic platform for regional cooperation.

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/67 [YUN 2013, p. 375], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/69/169] containing replies received from Colombia, Lebanon, Portugal and Spain to his 7 February note requesting the views of States on ways to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 2 December [62 meeting], the General Assembly adopted, on the recommendation of the First (Disarmament and International Security) Committee [A/69/445], adopted **resolution 69/80** without vote [agenda item 101].

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution 68/67 of 5 December 2013,

Reaffirming the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in strengthening and promoting peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region,

Welcoming the efforts deployed by the Euro-Mediterranean countries to strengthen their cooperation in combating terrorism, in particular through the adoption of the Euro-Mediterranean Code of Conduct on Counter-Terrorism by the Euro-Mediterranean Summit, held in Barcelona, Spain, on 27 and 28 November 2005,

Bearing in mind all the previous declarations and commitments, as well as all the initiatives taken by the riparian countries at the recent summits, ministerial meetings and various forums concerning the question of the Mediterranean region,

Recalling, in this regard, the adoption on 13 July 2008 of the Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean, which launched a reinforced partnership, named the "Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean", and the common political will to revive efforts to transform the Mediterranean into an area of peace, democracy, cooperation and prosperity,

Welcoming the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)¹ as a contribution to the strengthening of peace and security both regionally and internationally,

Recognizing the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and that the enhancement of cooperation among Mediterranean countries with a view to promoting the economic and social development of all peoples of the region will contribute significantly to stability, peace and security in the region,

Recognizing also the efforts made so far and the determination of the Mediterranean countries to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations with a view to resolving the problems existing in the Mediterranean region and to eliminating the causes of tension and the consequent threat to peace and security, as well as their growing awareness of the need for further joint efforts to strengthen

economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation in the region,

Recognizing further that prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in all spheres can be enhanced by positive developments worldwide, in particular in Europe, in the Maghreb and in the Middle East,

Reaffirming the responsibility of all States to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region and their commitment to respecting the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,²

Noting the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

Expressing concern at the persistent tension and continuing military activities in parts of the Mediterranean that hinder efforts to strengthen security and cooperation in the region,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,³

1. *Reaffirms* that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the continuing efforts by Mediterranean countries to contribute actively to the elimination of all causes of tension in the region and to the promotion of just and lasting solutions to the persistent problems of the region through peaceful means, thus ensuring the withdrawal of foreign forces of occupation and respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries of the Mediterranean and the right of peoples to self-determination, and therefore calls for full adherence to the principles of non-interference, non-intervention, non-use of force or threat of use of force and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Commends* the Mediterranean countries for their efforts in meeting common challenges through coordinated overall responses, based on a spirit of multilateral partnership, towards the general objective of turning the Mediterranean basin into an area of dialogue, exchanges and cooperation, guaranteeing peace, stability and prosperity, encourages them to strengthen such efforts through, inter alia, a lasting multilateral and action-oriented cooperative dialogue among States of the region, and recognizes the role of the United Nations in promoting regional and international peace and security;

4. *Recognizes* that the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development and other obstacles, as well as respect and greater understanding among cultures in the Mediterranean area, will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries through the existing forums;

5. *Calls upon* all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, thus creating the conditions necessary for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region;

6. *Encourages* all States of the region to favour the conditions necessary for strengthening the confidence-building measures among them by promoting genuine openness and transparency on all military matters, by participating, inter alia, in the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures and by providing accurate data and information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms;

7. *Encourages* the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the possible resort by terrorists to weapons of mass destruction, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and in combating international crime and illicit arms transfers and illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking, which pose a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation and which jeopardize friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled “Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region”.

Maintenance of international security-good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe.

On 2 December, the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first (2016) session the item entitled “Maintenance of international security-good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe” (**decision 69/514**).

Organization for Democracy and Economic Development-GUAM

The Organization for Democracy and Economic Development-GUAM (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine), a regional cooperation organization established by the 2006 Kyiv Declaration [YUN 2006, p. 486], was headquartered in Kyiv, Ukraine. On the issue of conflict settlement, GUAM emphasized respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of its members States.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on the protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.