The General Assembly

Minding the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations stipulating that a function of the General Assembly is to consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms limitation,


Aware of the widespread support for the revitalization of the Regional Centre and the important role that the Centre can play in the present context in promoting confidence-building and arms-limitation measures at the regional level, thereby promoting progress in the area of sustainable development.

*On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations this are members of the Group of African States.*
Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General that the Centre has received an increasing number of requests from Member States in the African region for substantive support for several peace initiatives and conflict resolution activities in the region,

Taking note also of the report by the Secretary-General that very limited financial contributions were made to the Centre despite continued fundraising efforts,

Considers that the continued financial difficulties faced by the Centre have impaired its ability to realize its full potential and to fulfill its mandate adequately,

Bearing in mind the efforts undertaken in the framework of the revitalization of the activities of the Regional Centre for the mobilization of the resources necessary for its operational costs,

Taking into account the need to establish close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution of the African Union, in conformity with the decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held at Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999;¹

Welcoming the adoption by consensus of the report of the United Nations First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the IIllicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 7 to 11 July 2003;²

1. Commends the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa in continuing to carry out, in particular in support of the efforts made by the African States in the areas of peace and security;

2. Reaffirms its strong support for the revitalization of the Regional Centre; and emphasizes the need to provide it with the necessary resources to enable it to strengthen its activities and carry out its programmes;

3. Appeals once again to all States, as well as to international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the programmes and activities of the Regional Centre and facilitate their implementation;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary support to the Regional Centre for better achievements and results;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to facilitate close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the African Union, in particular in the area of peace, security and development, and to continue to assist the Director of the Regional Centre in his efforts to stabilize the financial situation of the Centre and revitalize its activities;

¹ A/58/139.
² See A/59/139, para. 46.
³ A/54/424, annex II, decision A/HRC/178 (XXVIII), on 8 July 2002; the Organization of African Unity ceased to exist and, in its place, the African Union came into being, on 8 July 2002.
⁴ A/CONF.92/1 IMS/2003/1.
6. Appeals in particular to the Regional Centre, in cooperation with the African Union, regional and subregional organizations and the African States, to take steps to promote the consistent implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects\(^5\)

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled “United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa”.