The General Conference,

(a)   Recalling resolution GC(39)/RES/4 of 1995 and all other relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Conference and the Board of Governors,

(b)   Noting resolution CM/Res.1592 (LXII)/Rev.1 adopted at the sixty-second meeting of the Council of Ministers of the OAU, which adopted the Pelindaba Text of the Treaty on an African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone on 23 June 1995, and

(c)   Also noting resolution A/RES/50/78 adopted by the UN General Assembly which, inter alia, "welcomed with special satisfaction the adoption by the African leaders of the final text of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (the Pelindaba Treaty)",

(d)   Noting and welcoming with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the ceremony that took place in Cairo on 11 April 1996,

(e)   Recalling the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion which emphasized that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones especially in regions of tension such as the Middle East enhances global and regional peace and security,

1.   Takes note of the report of the Director General on the establishment of an African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone contained in document GC(40)/14;

2.   Encourages African States to make every effort to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible so that the Treaty can enter into force without delay;

3.   Reaffirms its conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and viability of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone;

4.   Expresses appreciation to the international community, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, for the necessary support to the Pelindaba Treaty, especially through their accession to the Protocols when the Treaty opened for signature; and

5.   Commends the African States for their concerted efforts directed towards the establishment of an African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and requests the Director General to continue to assist them in this regard.

20 September 1996
Agenda item 21
GC(40)/OR.9, paras 16 and 17