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Agenda item 14(a)

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## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### (a) Relations with the United Nations and the specialized agencies

#### Piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia

##### Note by the Secretary-General

### SUMMARY

**Executive summary:** This report draws attention to the United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement on the situation in Somalia, issued on 15 March 2006

**Action to be taken:** Paragraph 13

**Related documents:** C/ES.23/17(a), C/ES.23/D, paragraph 17(a), resolution A.979(24)

1 The Council will recall that, at its twenty-third extraordinary session, it received a submission (C/ES.23/17(a)) by the Secretary-General expressing concern over the reported incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships committed off the coast of Somalia, as highlighted in a report attached to that document, focusing not only on the increasing number of such attacks against merchant shipping but also on the escalating ferocity and violence displayed.

2 The Council shared the Secretary-General's concern and approved, in principle, the draft of an Assembly resolution attached to the Secretary-General's report.

3 The Assembly, at its twenty-fourth regular session, following consideration of the issue and agreeing to a number of amendments proposed to the initial draft, unanimously adopted resolution A.979(24) on Piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia.

4 In operative paragraph 7.1 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General:

*“... to transmit a copy of the present resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for consideration and any further action he may deem appropriate including bringing the matter to the attention of the Security Council for consideration and action as appropriate, taking into account relevant regional co-ordination efforts;”*

5 By a letter dated 28 November 2005, the Secretary-General transmitted the said resolution to the UN Secretary-General.

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6 The UN Secretary-General, by a letter dated 22 December 2005, passed the IMO Secretary-General's letter and the request of the IMO Assembly to the President of the UN Security Council who, in turn, circulated both to all members of the Security Council.

7 The UN Secretary-General, in his quarterly report on Somalia submitted to the Security Council on 21 February 2006 (UN document S/2006/122), included the following text covering the IMO request:

***“33. On 22 December 2005, I transmitted to the President of the Security Council a letter dated 28 November 2005 addressed to me by the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Efthimios E. Mitropoulos, with regard to the increase in the number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia. In his letter, the Secretary-General of IMO stated that, at its twenty-fourth session, the IMO Assembly had requested that its resolution on Somalia be brought to the attention of the Security Council.”***

8 In a Presidential Statement on the situation in Somalia issued on 15 March 2006 (UN document S/PRST/2006/11), the issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia was addressed as follows:

***“The Security Council takes note of resolution A.979(24) adopted on 23 November 2005 at the twenty-fourth session of the International Maritime Organization biennial Assembly, concerning the increasing incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia. The Council encourages Member States whose naval vessels and military aircraft operate in international waters and airspace adjacent to the coast of Somalia to be vigilant to any incidents of piracy therein and to take appropriate action to protect merchant shipping, in particular the transportation of humanitarian aid, against any such act, in line with relevant international law. In this regard, the Council welcomes the communiqué of the IGAD Council of Ministers' meeting in Jawhar on 29 November 2005, which decided to coordinate its strategies and action plans to face this common challenge in close collaboration with the international community. The Council further urges cooperation among all States, particularly regional States, and active prosecution of piracy offences.”***

9 The Secretary-General wishes to express his appreciation to Member Governments, members of the UN Security Council, for their contribution in the Security Council taking the action outlined above, as well as to all other Members which played a role in the same.

10 The Secretary-General invites all Members, within the spirit of resolution A.979(24) and the aforementioned decision of the UN Security Council, to take any action they may be able to in the circumstances to protect merchant shipping using the Indian Ocean waters adjacent to the Somali coast.

11 The Secretary-General is convinced that concerted action taken by Members in a position to deter pirates operating off the coast of Somalia will provide much needed support to merchant shipping and will, eventually, eradicate the reported unlawful acts which jeopardize the safety of navigation, life, property and the environment in the region concerned.

**Implementation of resolution A.979(24)**

12 A report on the implementation of resolution A.979(24) will be provided in an addendum to this document in due course.

**Action requested of the Council**

13 The Council is requested to note the above information and take action as it may deem appropriate.

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