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### REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW ON THE WORK OF ITS TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

#### Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Aliosha NEDELICHEV (Bulgaria)

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-fourth session" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/42 of 28 November 1990.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.
3. In connection with the item, the Sixth Committee had before it the report of the Commission, 1/ which was introduced by the Chairman of the Commission at the 4th meeting of the Sixth Committee, on 26 September 1991, as well as the report of the Secretary-General on possible ways of assisting developing countries to attend meetings of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (A/46/349), which was introduced by the Chairman of the Sixth Committee at its 21st meeting, on 25 October 1991.
4. The following communication was also circulated under the item: letter dated 21 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/587).

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17 and corrigendum (A/46/17 and Corr.1).

5. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 4th to 6th, 21st and 41st meetings, on 26, 27 and 30 September, 25 October and 20 November 1991. The summary records of those meetings (A/C.6/46/SR.4-6, 21 and 41) contain the views of the representatives who spoke on the item.

## II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.6/46/L.11

6. At the 41st meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Austria introduced and orally amended a draft resolution entitled "Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-fourth session" (A/C.6/46/L.11), sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Poland, Spain and Turkey, later joined by Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Guinea, Hungary, India, Kenya, Myanmar, the Netherlands, the Sudan, Sweden, Thailand and Uruguay.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/46/L.11, as orally amended, without a vote (see para. 9).

8. The representatives of Cameroon, India and Ghana made statements in explanation of position before the adoption of the draft resolution.

## III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

9. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

### Report of the United Nations Commission on International T r a d e -

#### The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, by which it created the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with a mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade and in that respect to bear in mind the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries, in the extensive development of international trade, as well as its resolutions 43/166 of 9 December 1988, 44/33 of 4 December 1969 and 45/42 of 28 November 1990,

Reaffirming its conviction that progressive harmonisation and unification of international trade law, in reducing or removing legal obstacles to the flow of international trade, especially those affecting the developing countries, would significantly contribute to universal economic cooperation among all States on a basis of equality, equity and common interest and to the elimination of discrimination in international trade and, thereby, to the well-being of all peoples,

**Having considered** the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of **its** twenty-fourth **session, 2/**

Mindful of the valuable contribution to be rendered by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law within the framework of the United Nations Scheme of International Law, particularly as regards the dissemination of international trade law,

1. **Takes note with appreciation** of the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of **its** twenty-fourth session;

2. **Takes note** of the successful conclusion of the United Nations Conference on the Liability of Operators of Transport Terminals in International Trade, held at Vienna from 2 to 19 April 1991, which has resulted in the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Liability of Operators of Transport Terminals in International Trade **3/**

3. **Reaffirms** the mandate of the Commission, as the core legal body within the United Nations system in the field of international trade law, to coordinate legal activities in this field in order to avoid duplication of effort and to promote efficiency, consistency and coherence in the unification of international trade law and, in this connection, recommends that the Commission, through its secretariat, should continue to maintain close cooperation with the other international organs and organizations, including regional organizations, active in the field of international trade law;

4. **Calls upon** the Commission to continue to take account, as appropriate, of the relevant provisions of the resolutions concerning the new international economic order, as adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth **4/** and seventh **5/** special sessions;

5. **Reaffirms** the importance, in particular for developing countries, of the work of the Commission concerned with training and assistance in the field of international trade law and the desirability for it to sponsor seminars and symposia to provide such training and assistance, and, in this connection:

(a) Expresses its appreciation to the Commission for organizing the symposium on international trade law, **6/** held in conjunction with the

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**2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17** and corrigendum (A/46/17 and Corr.1).

**3/ A/CONF.152/13.**

**4/ Resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI).**

**5/ Resolution 3362 (S-VII).**

**6/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 17** and corrigendum (A/46/17 and Corr.1), paras. 334-336.

twenty-fourth session of the Commission, and the regional seminar on international trade law, held at Douala, Cameroon, in January 1991, <sup>1/</sup> and to the Governments, the contributions of which enabled the symposium and the seminar to take place

(b) Invites Governments, the relevant United Nations organs, organisations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Symposia and, where appropriate, to the financing of special projects, and otherwise to assist the secretariat of the Commission in financing and organising seminars and symposia, in particular in developing countries, and in the award of fellowships to candidates from developing countries to enable them to participate in such seminars and symposia;

6. Commends the Commission on its decision to organize, as a first step in the preparation of its programme of activities for the United Nations Decade of International Law, a Congress on International Trade Law during the last week of the twenty-fifth session of the Commission, to be held in New York from 4 to 22 May 1992, and expresses the hope that all States and interested international organisations will take the opportunity to send appropriate delegates to the Congress to consider the accomplishments achieved in the progressive unification and harmonisation of international trade law during the past twenty-five years and the practical needs that can be foreseen for the future;

7. Repeats its invitation to those States which have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the conventions elaborated under the auspices of the Commission.

**B**

**The General Assembly,**

Recalling its resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, by which it created the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law with a mandate to further the progressive harmonisation and unification of the law of international trade and in that respect to bear in mind the interests of all peoples, in particular those of developing countries, in the extensive development of international trade,

Reaffirming its decision in resolution 2205 (XXI) that the representatives of members on the Commission should be appointed by Member States in so far as possible from among persons of eminence in the field of the law of international trade,

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<sup>1/</sup> Ibid., para. 332.

**Recalling also** its resolution 3108 (XXVIII) of 12 December 1973, by which it expanded the membership of the **Commission** to thirty-six States, namely nine African States, seven Asian States, five Eastern European States, six Latin American States and nine Western European and other States, so as to be representative of the various geographic regions and the principal legal and economic systems of the world,

**Concerned** about the relatively low incidence of expert representation from developing countries at sessions of the **Commission** and particularly of its working groups during recent years, due in part to inadequate resources to finance the travel of such experts,

**Convinced** that the fulfilment of the mandate of the **Commission**, in particular the preparation of universally acceptable legal texts, requires the active participation of representatives from all regions and the various legal and economic systems in an equitable manner, and that representatives need to have special expertise in the field of international trade law, in view of the complex and technical nature of the work of the **Commission** and its working groups,

**Bearing in mind** the arrangements on reimbursement of travel expenses that exist for certain United Nations bodies, pursuant to section IX of resolution 43/217 of 21 December 1988,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Secretary-General On possible ways of assisting developing countries to attend meetings of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law; 8/

2. **Requests** the Fifth Committee to consider, in order to ensure full participation by all Member States, granting travel assistance, within existing resources, to the least developed countries that are members of the Commission, as well as, on an exceptional basis, to other developing countries members of the Commission at their request, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to participate in the sessions of the Commission and its working groups;

3. **Recommends** that the Commission rationalize the organisation of its work and consider, in particular, the holding of consecutive meetings of its working groups)

4. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

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