

Noting that the United Nations Conference on Prescription (Limitation) in the International Sale of Goods was held at United Nations Headquarters from 20 May to 14 June 1974 and that the Conference adopted, on 12 June 1974, a Convention on the Limitation Period in the International Sale of Goods,¹⁵

Noting further that the Convention was opened for signature by all States on 14 June 1974 and will remain open until 31 December 1975, in accordance with its provisions, at United Nations Headquarters, and was also opened for accession in accordance with its provisions,

Reaffirming the conviction, expressed in the foregoing resolutions, that the harmonization and unification of national rules governing prescription (limitation) in the international sale of goods would contribute to the removal of obstacles to the development of world trade,

Invites all States which have not yet done so to consider the possibility of signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Limitation Period in the International Sale of Goods.

*2319th plenary meeting
14 December 1974*

3318 (XXIX). Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict

The General Assembly,

Having considered the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council contained in its resolution 1861 (LVI) of 16 May 1974,

Expressing its deep concern over the sufferings of women and children belonging to the civilian population who in periods of emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence are too often the victims of inhuman acts and consequently suffer serious harm,

Aware of the suffering of women and children in many areas of the world, especially in those areas subject to suppression, aggression, colonialism, racism, alien domination and foreign subjugation,

Deeply concerned by the fact that, despite general and unequivocal condemnation, colonialism, racism and alien and foreign domination continue to subject many peoples under their yoke, cruelly suppressing the national liberation movements and inflicting heavy losses and incalculable sufferings on the populations under their domination, including women and children,

Deploring the fact that grave attacks are still being made on fundamental freedoms and the dignity of the human person and that colonial and racist foreign domination Powers continue to violate international humanitarian law,

Recalling the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of women and children in time of peace and war,

Recalling, among other important documents, its resolutions 2444 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2597

(XXIV) of 16 December 1969 and 2674 (XXV) and 2675 (XXV) of 9 December 1970, on respect for human rights and on basic principles for the protection of civilian populations in armed conflicts, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1515 (XLVIII) of 28 May 1970 in which the Council requested the General Assembly to consider the possibility of drafting a declaration on the protection of women and children in emergency or wartime,

Conscious of its responsibility for the destiny of the rising generation and for the destiny of mothers, who play an important role in society, in the family and particularly in the upbringing of children,

Bearing in mind the need to provide special protection of women and children belonging to the civilian population,

Solemnly proclaims this Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict and calls for the strict observance of the Declaration by all Member States:

1. Attacks and bombings on the civilian population, inflicting incalculable suffering, especially on women and children, who are the most vulnerable members of the population, shall be prohibited, and such acts shall be condemned.

2. The use of chemical and bacteriological weapons in the course of military operations constitutes one of the most flagrant violations of the Geneva Protocol of 1925,¹⁶ the Geneva Conventions of 1949¹⁷ and the principles of international humanitarian law and inflicts heavy losses on civilian populations, including defenceless women and children, and shall be severely condemned.

3. All States shall abide fully by their obligations under the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949, as well as other instruments of international law relative to respect for human rights in armed conflicts, which offer important guarantees for the protection of women and children.

4. All efforts shall be made by States involved in armed conflicts, military operations in foreign territories or military operations in territories still under colonial domination to spare women and children from the ravages of war. All the necessary steps shall be taken to ensure the prohibition of measures such as persecution, torture, punitive measures, degrading treatment and violence, particularly against that part of the civilian population that consists of women and children.

5. All forms of repression and cruel and inhuman treatment of women and children, including imprisonment, torture, shooting, mass arrests, collective punishment, destruction of dwellings and forcible eviction, committed by belligerents in the course of military operations or in occupied territories shall be considered criminal.

6. Women and children belonging to the civilian population and finding themselves in circumstances of emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence, or who live in occupied territories, shall not be deprived of shelter, food, medical aid or other inalienable rights, in accordance with the provisions

¹⁵ See *Official Records of the United Nations Conference on Prescription (Limitation) in the International Sale of Goods* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.74.V.8), document A/CONF.63/15.

¹⁶ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV, No. 2138, p. 65.

¹⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹⁸ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹⁸ the Declaration of the Rights of the Child¹⁹ or other instruments of international law.

2319th plenary meeting
14 December 1974

3319 (XXIX). Respect for human rights in armed conflicts

The General Assembly,

Conscious that a better application of existing humanitarian rules relating to armed conflicts and the development of further rules remains an urgent task in order to reduce the suffering brought about by all such conflicts,

Recalling the successive resolutions adopted in the preceding years by the United Nations relating to human rights in armed conflicts and the debates on this subject,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General²⁰ on the first session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, held at Geneva from 20 February to 29 March 1974, and on the Conference of Government Experts on Weapons That May Cause Unnecessary Suffering or Have Indiscriminate Effects, convoked by the International Committee of the Red Cross at Lucerne from 24 September to 18 October 1974,

Welcoming the decision by the Diplomatic Conference to invite national liberation movements recognized by the regional intergovernmental organizations concerned to participate in its work,

Welcoming the work of the first session of the Diplomatic Conference and the work of the Conference of Government Experts,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Swiss Federal Council for convoking the second session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts in 1975 and to the International Committee of the Red Cross for its readiness to convoke in 1975 another Conference of Government Experts on Weapons That May Cause Unnecessary Suffering or Have Indiscriminate Effects;

2. Urges all participants in the Diplomatic Conference to do their utmost to reach agreement on additional rules which may help to alleviate the suffering brought about by armed conflicts and to respect and to protect non-combatants and civilian objects in such conflicts;

3. Calls upon all parties to armed conflicts to acknowledge and to comply with their obligations under the humanitarian instruments and to observe the international humanitarian rules which are applicable, in particular the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907,²¹

the Geneva Protocol of 1925²² and the Geneva Conventions of 1949;²³

4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session on relevant developments concerning human rights in armed conflicts, in particular on the proceedings and results of the 1975 session of the Diplomatic Conference;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirtieth session the item entitled "Respect for human rights in armed conflicts" and emphasizes the need to allocate adequate time during that session to consider the results of both sessions of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts.

2319th plenary meeting
14 December 1974

3320 (XXIX). Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country,²⁴

Drawing attention to its resolutions 2747 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, 2819 (XXVI) of 15 December 1971, 3033 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972 and 3107 (XXVIII) of 12 December 1973, in which it urged the Government of the host country to make certain that the measures taken to ensure the protection and security of permanent missions to the United Nations and their personnel were adequate to enable those missions to perform properly the functions entrusted to them by their Governments,

Recalling the responsibilities of the Government of the host country with respect to the United Nations and the missions accredited to it, their personnel and their correspondence under the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations,²⁵ the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations²⁶ and general international law,

Recalling the duty of missions accredited to the United Nations and their personnel to respect the laws and regulations of the host country,

Considering that the problems related to the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and to the status of the missions accredited to it are of mutual concern to Member States, including the host country, as well as to the Secretary-General,

Noting the recommendations of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, contained in paragraph 88 of its report,

Taking note of the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country,

1. Expresses its deep concern at incidents which have taken place at some missions accredited to the United Nations and which have involved the personnel of these missions;

²² League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV, No. 2138, p. 65.

²³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

²⁴ Official Records of the General Assembly, *Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 26 (A/9626)*.

²⁵ Resolution 169 (II).

²⁶ Resolution 22 A (I).

¹⁸ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

¹⁹ Resolution 1386 (XIV).

²⁰ A/9669 and Add.1.

²¹ Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).