

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

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683 (VII). Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fourth session

The General Assembly,

Pending its consideration in due course of the questions dealt with in the report¹ of the International Law Commission covering the work of its fourth session,

Takes note of the report.

*391st plenary meeting,
6 November 1952.*

684 (VII). Methods and procedures of the General Assembly for dealing with legal and drafting questions

The General Assembly,

Considering that it is desirable to introduce adequate methods and procedures for dealing with the legal questions with which it is concerned, while leaving its

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Supplement No. 9.*

Committees sufficient latitude for conducting their proceedings concerning matters within their competence,

Taking note of the report² and recommendations of the Special Committee established under resolution 597 (VI) of 20 December 1951,

1. *Recommends:*

(a) That, whenever any Committee contemplates making a recommendation to the General Assembly to request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice, the matter may, at some appropriate stage of its consideration by that Committee, be referred to the Sixth Committee for advice on the legal aspects and on the drafting of the request, or the Committee concerned may propose that the matter should be considered by a joint Committee of itself and the Sixth Committee;

(b) That, whenever any Committee contemplates making a recommendation to the General Assembly to refer a matter to the International Law Commission, the Committee may, at some appropriate stage of its consideration, consult the Sixth Committee as to the advisability of such a reference and on its drafting;

² See document A/2174.

(c) That, whenever any Committee contemplates making a recommendation for the adoption by the General Assembly of any amendment to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the matter shall, at some appropriate stage of its consideration by that Committee, be referred to the Sixth Committee for advice on the drafting of such amendment and of any consequential amendment;

(d) That, when a Committee considers the legal aspects of a question important, the Committee should refer it for legal advice to the Sixth Committee or propose that the question should be considered by a joint Committee of itself and the Sixth Committee;

2. *Directs:*

(a) That the terms of the foregoing recommendations shall be embodied as an annex to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

(b) That the said annex shall also set out, verbatim, paragraphs 19, 20, 29, 30, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39 of the report of the Special Committee.

391st plenary meeting,
6 November 1952.

685 (VII). Request to the International Law Commission to give priority to the codification of the topic "Diplomatic intercourse and immunities"

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes of the United Nations and the provision of the Preamble of the Charter according to which the "peoples of the United Nations" are determined "to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours",

Expressing its desire for the common observance by all governments of existing principles and rules and recognized practice concerning diplomatic intercourse and immunities, particularly in regard to the treatment of diplomatic representatives of foreign States,

Considering that early codification of international law on diplomatic intercourse and immunities is necessary and desirable as a contribution to the improvement of relations between States,

Noting that the International Law Commission has included the topic "Diplomatic intercourse and immunities" in its provisional list³ of topics of international law selected for codification,

Requests the International Law Commission, as soon as it considers it possible, to undertake the codification of the topic "Diplomatic intercourse and immunities", and to treat it as a priority topic.

400th plenary meeting,
5 December 1952.

686 (VII). Ways and means for making the evidence of customary international law more readily available

The General Assembly,

Considering the report⁴ of the Secretary-General on

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourth Session, Supplement No. 10*, para. 16.

⁴ See document A/2170.

ways and means for making the evidence of customary international law more readily available submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 602 (VI) of 1 February 1952,

Having regard to the detailed plans in the report as to the form, contents and budgetary implications of certain publications referred to in the aforesaid resolution and to the conclusions of the Secretary-General stated in the report,

1. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to undertake, as soon as feasible, the publication of:

(a) A list of treaty collections, to be compiled taking into account the suggestions made during the debate in the Sixth Committee;

(b) A *répertoire* of the practice of the Security Council;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare and circulate to the governments of Member States a comparative study of the extent to which developments in the field of customary international law and selected legal activities of the United Nations can usefully be covered by an expansion of existing United Nations publications, by the launching of new special publications of limited scope and by a United Nations juridical yearbook; such study shall cover form, contents and budgetary implications.

400th plenary meeting,
5 December 1952.

687 (VII). International criminal jurisdiction

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that, by resolution 489 (V) of 12 December 1950, the General Assembly established a Committee on International Criminal Jurisdiction, consisting of representatives of seventeen Member States, charged with the task of preparing one or more preliminary draft conventions and proposals relating to the establishment of an international criminal court,

Recalling that, by the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to communicate the report of the Committee to the governments of Member States so that their observations could be submitted not later than 1 June 1952, and to place the question on the agenda of the seventh session of the General Assembly,

Noting that the Committee, meeting in August 1951, has prepared a report⁵ containing a draft statute for an international criminal court and that the Secretary-General, by a letter of 13 November 1951, has transmitted the Committee's report to the governments of Member States requesting their observations thereon,

Considering, however, that the number of States which have given their comments and suggestions is very small,

Considering that there is need for further study of problems relating to an international criminal jurisdiction,

⁵ See document A/AC.48/4, annex I.