

(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.

1. *Expresses* to the Committee on International Criminal Jurisdiction its appreciation for its valuable work on the draft statute;

2. *Urges* the Member States which have not yet done so to make their comments and suggestions on the draft statute, in particular if they are of the opinion that further action should be taken by the General Assembly with a view to the establishing of an international criminal court;

3. *Decides* to appoint a Committee composed of one representative each of seventeen Member States, which States shall be designated by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with the Chairman of the Sixth Committee, and directs that this Committee shall meet at the Headquarters of the United Nations in 1953, the exact date to be determined by the Secretary-General, with the following terms of reference:

(a) In the light of the comments⁶ and suggestions on the draft statute submitted by governments, as well as of those made during the debates in the Sixth Committee,

- (i) To explore the implications and consequences of establishing an international criminal court and of the various methods by which this might be done;
- (ii) To study the relationship between such a court and the United Nations and its organs;
- (iii) To re-examine the draft statute;

(b) To submit a report to be considered by the General Assembly at its ninth session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all the necessary services and facilities for the meetings of the Committee.

*400th plenary meeting,
5 December 1952.*

In accordance with the terms of resolution 687 (VII) above, the President of the General Assembly announced, at the 407th plenary meeting on 19 December 1952, that, in consultation with the Chairman of the Sixth Committee, he had designated the following Member States as members of the Committee:

ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CHINA, DENMARK, EGYPT, FRANCE, ISRAEL, THE NETHERLANDS, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PERU, THE PHILIPPINES, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, VENEZUELA AND YUGOSLAVIA.

688 (VII). Question of defining aggression

The General Assembly,

Having regard to its resolution 599 (VI) of 31 January 1952,

Considering that the discussion of the question of defining aggression at the sixth and seventh sessions of the General Assembly and in the International Law Commission⁷ has revealed the complexity of this question and the need for a detailed study of:

⁶ See document A/2186 and Add.1.

⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Session, Supplement No. 9*, para. 35 *et seq.*

(a) The various forms of aggression,

(b) The connexion between a definition of aggression and the maintenance of international peace and security,

(c) The problems raised by the inclusion of a definition of aggression in the Code of Offences against the Peace and Security of Mankind and by its application within the framework of international criminal jurisdiction,

(d) The effect of a definition of aggression on the exercise of the jurisdiction of the various organs of the United Nations,

(e) Any other problem which might be raised by a definition of aggression,

Considering that continued and joint efforts shall be made to formulate a generally acceptable definition of aggression, with a view to promoting international peace and security and to developing international law,

1. *Decides* to establish a Special Committee of fifteen members, each representing one of the following Member States: Bolivia, Brazil, China, Dominican Republic, France, Iran, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Syria, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, to meet at the Headquarters of the United Nations in 1953;

2. *Requests* the said Special Committee:

(a) To submit to the General Assembly at its ninth session draft definitions of aggression or draft statements of the notion of aggression;

(b) To study all the problems referred to above on the assumption of a definition being adopted by a resolution of the General Assembly;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to communicate the Special Committee's report to Member States for their comments and to place the question on the provisional agenda of the ninth session of the General Assembly.

*408th plenary meeting,
20 December 1952.*

689 (VII). Measures to limit the duration of regular sessions of the General Assembly

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The General Assembly,

Having considered the memorandum⁸ submitted by the Secretary-General on measures to limit the duration of regular sessions of the General Assembly,

Recognizing the importance of adopting appropriate measures to this end, consistent with the fulfilment of the Assembly's functions,

Noting the observations and suggestions presented by the Secretary-General with respect to the rules of procedure,

⁸ See document A/2206.