

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

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1103 (XI). Amendments to articles 2 and 9 of the Statute of the International Law Commission

The General Assembly,

Having regard to the present composition of the United Nations and to the duties and responsibilities of the International Law Commission,

Considering that, for the purpose of securing in the Commission an adequate presentation of the main forms of civilization and of the principle legal systems of the world, it is appropriate to increase the number of the members of the Commission,

1. *Decides* to amend as follows article 2, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the International Law Commission:

“The Commission shall consist of twenty-one members who shall be persons of recognized competence in international law”;

2. *Decides*, as a consequence, to amend as follows article 9, paragraph 1, of the said Statute:

“The twenty-one candidates who obtain the greatest number of votes and not less than a majority of the votes of the Members present and voting shall be elected”.

*623rd plenary meeting,
18 December 1956.*

1104 (XI). Amendments to rules 31, 38, 39 and 101 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly¹

The General Assembly,

Having regard to its decision, taken at the 577th plenary meeting on 15 November 1956, to change the name of the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee to “Special Political Committee” and to confer a permanent character on that Committee,

Decides to amend as follows rules 31, 38, 39 and 101 of its rules of procedure:

¹ See “Composition of General Committee,” footnote 2, p. viii.

“Rule 31

“The General Assembly shall elect a President and eight Vice-Presidents, who shall hold office until the close of the session at which they are elected. The Vice-Presidents shall be elected, after the election of the Chairmen of the seven Main Committees referred to in rule 101, on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee.”

“Rule 38

“The General Committee shall comprise the President of the General Assembly, who shall preside, the eight Vice-Presidents and the Chairmen of the seven Main Committees. No two members of the General Committee shall be members of the same delegation, and it shall be so constituted as to ensure its representative character. Chairmen of other committees upon which all Members have the right to be represented and which are established by the General Assembly to meet during the session, shall be entitled to attend meetings of the General Committee and may participate without vote in the discussions.”

Rule 39

“If a Vice-President of the General Assembly finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting of the General Committee he may designate a member of his delegation as his substitute. The Chairman of a Main Committee shall, in case of absence, designate the Vice-Chairman of the Committee as his substitute. A Vice-Chairman shall not have the right to vote if he is of the same delegation as another member of the Committee.”

Rule 101

“The Main Committees of the General Assembly are:

“(a) Political and Security Committee (including the regulation of armaments) (First Committee);

“(b) Special Political Committee;

“(c) Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee);

“(d) Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee);

“(e) Trusteeship Committee (including Non-Self-Governing Territories) (Fourth Committee);

“(f) Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee);

“(g) Legal Committee (Sixth Committee)”.

623rd plenary meeting,
18 December 1956.

1105 (XI). International conference of plenipotentiaries to examine the law of the sea

The General Assembly,

Having received the report of the International Law Commission covering the work of its eighth session,² which contains draft articles and commentaries on the law of the sea,

Recalling that the General Assembly, in resolution 798 (VIII) of 7 December 1953, having regard to the fact that the problems relating to the high seas, territorial waters, contiguous zones, the continental shelf and the superjacent waters were closely linked together juridically as well as physically, decided not to deal with any aspect of those matters until all the problems involved had been studied by the International Law Commission and reported upon by it to the General Assembly,

Considering that, by its resolution 899 (IX) of 14 December 1954, it requested the International Law Commission to submit its final report on these subjects in time for the General Assembly to consider them as a whole at its eleventh session,

Taking into account also paragraph 29 of the report of the International Law Commission wherein it is stated that the Commission considers—and the comments of Governments have confirmed this view—that the various sections of the law of the sea hold together, and are so closely interdependent that it would be extremely difficult to deal with only one part and leave the others aside,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the International Law Commission for its valuable work on this complex subject;

2. Decides, in accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 28 of the report of the International Law Commission covering the work of its eighth session, that an international conference of plenipotentiaries should be convoked to examine the law of the sea, taking account not only of the legal but also of the technical, biological, economic and political aspects of the problem, and to embody the results of its work in one or more international conventions or such other instruments as it may deem appropriate;

3. Recommends that the conference should study the question of free access to the sea of land-locked countries, as established by international practice of treaties;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to convoke the conference early in March 1958;

5. Invites all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies to par-

ticipate in the conference and to include among their representatives experts competent in the fields to be considered;

6. Invites the interested specialized agencies and inter-governmental bodies to send observers to the conference;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to invite appropriate experts to advise and assist the Secretariat in preparing the conference, with the following terms of reference:

(a) To obtain, in the manner which they think most appropriate, from the Governments invited to the conference any further provisional comments the Governments may wish to make on the Commission's report and related matters, and to present to the conference in systematic form any comments made by the Governments, as well as the relevant statements made in the Sixth Committee at the eleventh and previous sessions of the General Assembly;

(b) To present to the conference recommendations concerning its method of work and procedures, and other questions of an administrative nature;

(c) To prepare, or arrange for the preparation of, working documents of a legal, technical, scientific or economic nature in order to facilitate the work of the conference;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to arrange also for the necessary staff and facilities which would be required for the conference, it being understood that the technical services of such experts as are needed will be utilized;

9. Refers to the conference the report of the International Law Commission as the basis for its consideration of the various problems involved in the development and codification of the law of the sea, and also the verbatim records of the relevant debates in the General Assembly, for consideration by the conference in conjunction with the Commission's report;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the conference all such records of world-wide or regional international meetings as may serve as official background material for its work;

11. Calls upon the Governments invited to the conference and groups thereof to utilize the time remaining before the opening of the conference for exchanges of views on the controversial questions relative to the law of the sea;

12. Expresses the hope that the conference will be fully attended.

658th plenary meeting,
21 February 1957.

1106 (XI). Special allowance to be paid to members of the International Law Commission

The General Assembly,

Recalling that, by its resolution 485 (V) of 12 December 1950, it amended article 13 of the Statute of the International Law Commission, in consequence of which that article reads as follows:

“Members of the Commission shall be paid travel expenses, and shall also receive a special allowance, the amount of which shall be determined by the General Assembly”.

² Official Records of the General Assembly, Eleventh Session, Supplement No. 9 (A/3159).