

order to exercise effectively their functions in relation to the maintenance of international peace and security.

3. Fact-finding should be comprehensive, objective, impartial and timely.

4. Unless a satisfactory knowledge of all relevant facts can be obtained through the use of the information-gathering capabilities of the Secretary-General or other existing means, the competent organ of the United Nations should consider resorting to a fact-finding mission.

5. In deciding if and when to undertake such a mission, the competent United Nations organs should bear in mind that the sending of a fact-finding mission can signal the concern of the Organization and should contribute to building confidence and defusing the dispute or situation while avoiding any aggravation of it.

6. The sending of a United Nations fact-finding mission to the territory of any State requires the prior consent of that State, subject to the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

II

7. Fact-finding missions may be undertaken by the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, in the context of their respective responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter.

8. The Security Council should consider the possibility of undertaking fact-finding to discharge effectively its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter.

9. The Security Council should, wherever appropriate, consider the possibility of providing in its resolutions for recourse to fact-finding.

10. The General Assembly should consider the possibility of undertaking fact-finding for exercising effectively its responsibilities under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security.

11. The General Assembly should, wherever appropriate, consider the possibility of providing for recourse to fact-finding in its resolutions relevant to the maintenance of international peace and security.

12. The Secretary-General should pay special attention to using the United Nations fact-finding capabilities at an early stage in order to contribute to the prevention of disputes and situations.

13. The Secretary-General, on his own initiative or at the request of the States concerned, should consider undertaking a fact-finding mission when a dispute or a situation exists.

14. The Secretary-General should prepare and update lists of experts in various fields who would be available for fact-finding missions. He should also maintain and develop, within existing resources, capabilities for mounting emergency fact-finding missions.

15. The Security Council and the General Assembly should, in deciding to whom to entrust the conduct of a fact-finding mission, give preference to the Secretary-General, who may, *inter alia*, designate a special representative or a group of experts reporting to him. Resort to an *ad hoc* subsidiary body of the Security Council or the General Assembly may also be considered.

16. In considering the possibility of undertaking a fact-finding mission, the competent United Nations organ should bear in mind other relevant fact-finding efforts, including those undertaken by the States concerned and in the framework of regional arrangements or agencies.

17. The decision by the competent United Nations organ to undertake fact-finding should always contain a clear mandate for the fact-finding mission and precise requirements to be met by its report. The report should be limited to a presentation of findings of a factual nature.

18. Any request by a State to a competent organ of the United Nations for the sending of a United Nations fact-finding mission to its territory should be considered without undue delay.

III

19. Any request by a competent organ of the United Nations for the consent of a State to receive a fact-finding mission within its territory should be given timely consideration by that State. That State should inform the organ of its decision without delay.

20. In the event a State decides not to admit a United Nations fact-finding mission to its territory, it should, if it deems it appropriate, indicate the reasons for its decision. It should also keep the possibility of admitting the fact-finding mission under review.

21. States should endeavour to follow a policy of admitting United Nations fact-finding missions to their territory.

22. States should cooperate with United Nations fact-finding missions and give them, within the limits of their capabilities, the full and prompt assistance necessary for the exercise of their functions and the fulfilment of their mandate.

23. Fact-finding missions should be accorded all immunities and facilities needed for discharging their mandate, in particular full confidentiality in their work and access to all relevant places and persons, it being understood that no harmful consequences will result to these persons. Fact-finding missions have an obligation to respect the laws and regulations of the State in which they exercise their functions; such laws and regulations should not however be applied in such a way as to hinder missions in the proper discharge of their functions.

24. The members of fact-finding missions, as a minimum, enjoy the privileges and immunities accorded to experts on missions by the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. Without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, members of fact-finding missions have an obligation to respect the laws and regulations of the State in the territory in which they exercise their functions.

25. Fact-finding missions have an obligation to act in strict conformity with their mandate and perform their task in an impartial way. Their members have an obligation not to seek or receive instructions from any Government or from any authority other than the competent United Nations organ. They should keep the information acquired in discharging their mandate confidential even after the mission has fulfilled its task.

26. The States directly concerned should be given an opportunity, at all stages of the fact-finding process, to express their views in respect of the facts the fact-finding mission has been entrusted to obtain. When the results of fact-finding are to be made public, the views expressed by the States directly concerned should, if they so wish, also be made public.

27. Whenever fact-finding includes hearings, appropriate rules of procedure should ensure their fairness.

IV

28. The Secretary-General should monitor the state of international peace and security regularly and systematically in order to provide early warning of disputes or situations which might threaten international peace and security. The Secretary-General may bring relevant information to the attention of the Security Council and, where appropriate, of the General Assembly.

29. To this end, the Secretary-General should make full use of the information-gathering capabilities of the Secretariat and keep under review the improvement of these capabilities.

V

30. The sending of a United Nations fact-finding mission is without prejudice to the use by the States concerned of inquiry or any similar procedure or of any means of peaceful settlement of disputes agreed by them.

31. Nothing in the present Declaration is to be construed as prejudicing in any manner the provisions of the Charter.

46/60. 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,⁵⁵

Recalling Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations⁵⁶ and the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations⁵⁷ and the responsibilities of the host country,

Recognizing that effective measures should continue to be taken by the competent authorities of the host country, in particular to prevent any acts violating the security of missions and the safety of their personnel,

Welcoming the increased interest shown by Member States in participating in the work of the Committee,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country contained in paragraph 76 of its report;⁵⁵

2. *Considers* that the maintenance of appropriate conditions for the normal work of the delegations and the missions accredited to the United Nations is in the interests of the United Nations and all Member States, and expresses the hope that the host country will continue to take all measures necessary to prevent any interference with the functioning of missions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the host country and hopes that outstanding problems raised at the meetings of the Committee will be duly resolved in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law;

4. *Urges* the host country, in the light of the consideration by the Committee of travel regulations issued by the host country, to continue to bear in mind its obligations to facilitate the functioning of the United Nations and the missions accredited to it;

5. *Stresses* the importance of a positive perception of the work of the United Nations, and urges that efforts be continued to build up public awareness by explaining, through all available means, the importance of the role played by the United Nations and the missions accredited to it in the strengthening of international peace and security;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain actively engaged in all aspects of the relations of the United Nations with the host country;

7. *Requests* the Committee to continue its work, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI) of 15 December 1971;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country".

*67th plenary meeting
9 December 1991*

46/61. Additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/47 of 28 November 1990,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General⁵⁸ containing the replies received from Member States and other States parties to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations⁵⁹ concerning an additional protocol on consular functions to that Convention,

1. *Decides* to hold informal consultations during its forty-seventh session to examine the proposal concerning an additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, particularly in the light of the views of States reflected in the report of the Secretary-General or expressed during the debate on this question in the Sixth Committee;⁶⁰

2. *Invites* Member States as well as other States parties to the Convention to submit their views on this question to the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 45/47;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a further report containing the replies received under paragraph 2 above;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations".

*67th plenary meeting
9 December 1991*

46/62. Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States

The General Assembly,

Recalling that, in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, living together in peace with one another as good neighbours is one of the means by which the ends of the United Nations are to be achieved,

Recalling the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, approved by its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970,

Considering that the great changes of a political, economic and social nature, as well as the scientific and technological advances that have taken place in the world and led to unprecedented interdependence of nations, have given new dimensions to good-neighbourliness in the conduct of States and increased the need to develop and strengthen it,

Bearing in mind that good-neighbourliness should continue to be taken into account by United Nations bodies in their efforts to promote and strengthen the rule of law,

1. *Reaffirms* that, by acting as good neighbours, States can help to ensure that the ends for which the United Nations was established are achieved;

2. *Emphasizes* that States should act as good neighbours whether or not they are contiguous;

3. *Calls upon* all States to keep in mind the need to act as good neighbours both in their dealings with other States and when taking decisions that could affect them;

4. *Expresses the conviction* that good-neighbourliness is best fostered by each State respecting the rule of law in its international relations, and by practical measures designed to promote good relations with other States;

5. *Decides* that the question of development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States should continue to guide States as a goal to be pursued in their consideration of the issues before the United Nations, and notes that it could be considered in the future.

*67th plenary meeting
9 December 1991*

NOTES

¹For the decisions adopted on the reports of the Sixth Committee, see sect. X.B.8.

²A/46/610 and Corr.1.