

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

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1647 (XVI). Enlargement of the International Law Commission: amendments to articles 2 and 9 of the Statute of the Commission

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1103 (XI) of 18 December 1956, by which the membership of the International Law Commission was established at twenty-one members,

Noting that the membership of the United Nations has increased substantially since the adoption of that resolution,

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

“The Commission shall consist of twenty-five 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-five 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”;

3. *Decides*, by way of exception and in consequence of the enlargement of the Commission, to request the Secretariat to include in the list of candidates in the election to be held at the current session, in addition to the nominations already received, such names as shall have been communicated to it in writing before 15 November 1961.

*1047th plenary meeting,
6 November 1961.*

1685 (XVI). International conference of plenipotentiaries on consular relations

The General Assembly,

Having considered chapter II of the report of the International Law Commission covering the work of

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, Supplement No. 9 (A/4843).

its thirteenth session,¹ which contains draft articles and commentaries on consular relations,

Recalling that, according to paragraph 27 of that report, the International Law Commission decided to recommend that the General Assembly should convene an international conference of plenipotentiaries to study the Commission's draft on consular relations and conclude one or more conventions on the subject,

Expressing its firm belief that the successful codification and progressive development of the rules governing consular relations would contribute to the development of friendly relations among nations, irrespective of their differing constitutional and social systems,

Noting with satisfaction that the draft articles on consular relations prepared by the International Law Commission constitute a good basis for the preparation of a convention on that subject,

Desiring to provide an opportunity for completing the preparatory work by further expressions and exchanges of views concerning the draft articles at the seventeenth session of the General Assembly,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Law Commission for its work on consular relations;

2. *Requests* Member States to submit to the Secretary-General written comments concerning the draft articles by 1 July 1962, in order that they may be circulated to Governments prior to the beginning of the seventeenth session of the General Assembly;

3. *Decides* that an international conference of plenipotentiaries be convened to consider the question of consular relations and to embody the results of its work in an international convention and such other instruments as it may deem appropriate;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convoke the conference at Vienna at the beginning of March 1963;

5. *Invites* States Members of the United Nations, States members of the specialized agencies and States parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice to participate in the conference and to include among their representatives experts competent in the field to be considered;

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

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present to the conference documentation and recommendations concerning its methods of work and procedures;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to arrange for the necessary staff and facilities which will be required for the conference;

9. *Refers* to the conference chapter II of the report of the International Law Commission covering the work of its thirteenth session, together with the records of the relevant debates in the General Assembly, as the basis for its consideration of the question of consular relations;

10. *Expresses the hope* that the conference will be fully attended;

11. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Consular relations" in the provisional agenda of its seventeenth session to allow further expressions and exchanges of views concerning the draft articles on consular relations.

*1081st plenary meeting,
18 December 1961.*

1686 (XVI). Future work in the field of the codification and progressive development of international law

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1505 (XV) of 12 December 1960,

Considering that the conditions prevailing in the world today give increased importance to the role of international law in relations among nations,

Emphasizing the important role of codification and progressive development of international law with a view to making international law a more effective means of furthering the purposes and principles set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Mindful of its responsibilities under Article 13, paragraph 1 a, of the Charter to encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification,

Having surveyed the present state of international law with particular regard to the preparation of a new list of topics for codification and progressive development of international law,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Law Commission for the valuable work it has already

accomplished in the codification and progressive development of international law;

2. *Takes note* of chapter III of the report of the International Law Commission covering the work of its thirteenth session;¹

3. *Recommends* the International Law Commission:

(a) To continue its work in the field of the law of treaties and of State responsibility and to include on its priority list the topic of succession of States and Governments;

(b) To consider at its fourteenth session its future programme of work, on the basis of sub-paragraph (a) above and in the light of the discussion in the Sixth Committee at the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the General Assembly and of the observations of Member States submitted pursuant to resolution 1505 (XV), and to report to the Assembly at its seventeenth session on the conclusions it has reached;

4. *Decides* to place on the provisional agenda of its seventeenth session the question entitled "Consideration of principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations".

*1081st plenary meeting,
18 December 1961.*

1687 (XVI). Question of special missions

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1504 (XV) of 12 December 1960, whereby it referred to the United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities the draft articles on special missions contained in chapter III of the report of the International Law Commission covering the work of its twelfth session,²

Noting the resolution on special missions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities at its 4th plenary meeting, held on 10 April 1961, recommending that the subject be referred again to the International Law Commission,³

Requests the International Law Commission, as soon as it considers it advisable, to study further the subject of special missions and to report thereon to the General Assembly.

*1081st plenary meeting,
18 December 1961.*

¹ *Ibid.*, Fifteenth Session, Supplement No. 9 (A/4425).

² *Ibid.*, Sixteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 71, document A/4773, para. 1.