

ensure the participation of an increasing number of jurists of developing countries;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to forward to the International Law Commission the records of the discussion on the report of the Commission at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

II

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Law Commission for its valuable work on the question of succession of States in respect of treaties and to the Special Rapporteurs on the topic for their contribution to this work;

2. *Invites* Member States to submit to the Secretary-General, not later than 1 August 1975, their written comments and observations on the draft articles on succession of States in respect of treaties contained in the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its twenty-sixth session,¹⁰ including comments and observations on proposals referred to in paragraph 75 of that report, which the Commission was prevented from discussing by lack of time, and on the procedure by which and the form in which work on the draft articles should be completed;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate, before the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, the comments and observations submitted in accordance with paragraph 2 above;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirtieth session an item entitled "Succession of States in respect of treaties".

2319th plenary meeting
14 December 1974

3316 (XXIX). Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its seventh session,¹³

Recalling its resolution 2205 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, by which it established the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and defined the object and terms of reference of the Commission,

Further recalling its resolutions 2421 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968, 2502 (XXIV) of 12 November 1969, 2635 (XXV) of 12 November 1970, 2766 (XXVI) of 17 November 1971, 2928 (XXVII) of 28 November 1972 and 3108 (XXVIII) of 12 December 1973 concerning the reports of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its first to sixth sessions,

Reaffirming its conviction that the progressive harmonization and unification of international trade law, in reducing or removing legal obstacles to the flow of international trade, especially those affecting the developing countries, would significantly contribute to universal economic co-operation among all States on a basis of equality and to the elimination of discrimination in international trade and, thereby, to the well-being of all peoples,

¹³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/9617).*

Bearing in mind that the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at its fourteenth session, took note with appreciation¹⁴ of the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its seventh session;

2. *Commends* the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for the progress made in its work and for its efforts to enhance the efficiency of its working methods;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* that work on uniform rules on the liability of ocean carriers for loss, damage or delay with respect to cargo is nearing completion and that a draft convention setting forth such rules will be transmitted to Governments and interested international organizations in 1975 for their comments;

4. *Recommends* that the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law should:

(a) Continue in its work to pay special attention to the topics to which it has decided to give priority, namely, the international sale of goods, international payments, international commercial arbitration and international legislation on shipping;

(b) Continue to consider the legal problems presented by different kinds of multinational enterprises and the advisability of preparing uniform rules governing the liability for damage caused by products intended for or involved in international trade, in accordance with the decisions thereon adopted by the Commission at its seventh session;

(c) Intensify its work on training and assistance in the field of international trade law, taking into account the special interests of the developing countries;

(d) Maintain a close collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and continue to collaborate with international organizations active in the field of international trade law;

(e) Continue to give special consideration to the interests of developing countries and to bear in mind the special problems of land-locked countries;

(f) Keep its programme of work and working methods under review with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of its work;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to forward to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law the records of the discussions at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly on the Commission's report on the work of its seventh session.

2319th plenary meeting
14 December 1974

3317 (XXIX). United Nations Conference on Prescription (Limitation) in the International Sale of Goods

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2929 (XXVII) of 28 November 1972 and 3104 (XXVIII) of 12 December 1973 on the convening of a United Nations Conference on Prescription (Limitation) in the International Sale of Goods,

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 15 (A/9615/Rev.1), para. 539.

Noting that the United Nations Conference on Prescription (Limitation) in the International Sale of Goods was held at United Nations Headquarters from 20 May to 14 June 1974 and that the Conference adopted, on 12 June 1974, a Convention on the Limitation Period in the International Sale of Goods,¹⁵

Noting further that the Convention was opened for signature by all States on 14 June 1974 and will remain open until 31 December 1975, in accordance with its provisions, at United Nations Headquarters, and was also opened for accession in accordance with its provisions,

Reaffirming the conviction, expressed in the foregoing resolutions, that the harmonization and unification of national rules governing prescription (limitation) in the international sale of goods would contribute to the removal of obstacles to the development of world trade,

Invites all States which have not yet done so to consider the possibility of signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Limitation Period in the International Sale of Goods.

*2319th plenary meeting
14 December 1974*

3318 (XXIX). Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict

The General Assembly,

Having considered the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council contained in its resolution 1861 (LVI) of 16 May 1974,

Expressing its deep concern over the sufferings of women and children belonging to the civilian population who in periods of emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence are too often the victims of inhuman acts and consequently suffer serious harm,

Aware of the suffering of women and children in many areas of the world, especially in those areas subject to suppression, aggression, colonialism, racism, alien domination and foreign subjugation,

Deeply concerned by the fact that, despite general and unequivocal condemnation, colonialism, racism and alien and foreign domination continue to subject many peoples under their yoke, cruelly suppressing the national liberation movements and inflicting heavy losses and incalculable sufferings on the populations under their domination, including women and children,

Deploring the fact that grave attacks are still being made on fundamental freedoms and the dignity of the human person and that colonial and racist foreign domination Powers continue to violate international humanitarian law,

Recalling the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of women and children in time of peace and war,

Recalling, among other important documents, its resolutions 2444 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2597

¹⁵ See *Official Records of the United Nations Conference on Prescription (Limitation) in the International Sale of Goods* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.74.V.8), document A/CONF.63/15.

(XXIV) of 16 December 1969 and 2674 (XXV) and 2675 (XXV) of 9 December 1970, on respect for human rights and on basic principles for the protection of civilian populations in armed conflicts, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1515 (XLVIII) of 28 May 1970 in which the Council requested the General Assembly to consider the possibility of drafting a declaration on the protection of women and children in emergency or wartime,

Conscious of its responsibility for the destiny of the rising generation and for the destiny of mothers, who play an important role in society, in the family and particularly in the upbringing of children,

Bearing in mind the need to provide special protection of women and children belonging to the civilian population,

Solemnly proclaims this Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict and calls for the strict observance of the Declaration by all Member States:

1. Attacks and bombings on the civilian population, inflicting incalculable suffering, especially on women and children, who are the most vulnerable members of the population, shall be prohibited, and such acts shall be condemned.

2. The use of chemical and bacteriological weapons in the course of military operations constitutes one of the most flagrant violations of the Geneva Protocol of 1925,¹⁶ the Geneva Conventions of 1949¹⁷ and the principles of international humanitarian law and inflicts heavy losses on civilian populations, including defenceless women and children, and shall be severely condemned.

3. All States shall abide fully by their obligations under the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949, as well as other instruments of international law relative to respect for human rights in armed conflicts, which offer important guarantees for the protection of women and children.

4. All efforts shall be made by States involved in armed conflicts, military operations in foreign territories or military operations in territories still under colonial domination to spare women and children from the ravages of war. All the necessary steps shall be taken to ensure the prohibition of measures such as persecution, torture, punitive measures, degrading treatment and violence, particularly against that part of the civilian population that consists of women and children.

5. All forms of repression and cruel and inhuman treatment of women and children, including imprisonment, torture, shooting, mass arrests, collective punishment, destruction of dwellings and forcible eviction, committed by belligerents in the course of military operations or in occupied territories shall be considered criminal.

6. Women and children belonging to the civilian population and finding themselves in circumstances of emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence, or who live in occupied territories, shall not be deprived of shelter, food, medical aid or other inalienable rights, in accordance with the provisions

¹⁶ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV, No. 2138, p. 65.

¹⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.