

to facilitating recourse to it for the judicial settlement of disputes, *inter alia* by simplifying the procedure, reducing the likelihood of undue delays and costs and allowing for greater influence of parties on the composition of *ad hoc* chambers,

Recalling the increasing development and codification of international law in conventions open for universal participation and the consequent need for their uniform interpretation and application,

Recognizing that the development of international law may be reflected, *inter alia*, by declarations and resolutions of the General Assembly which may to that extent be taken into consideration by the International Court of Justice,

Recalling further the opportunities afforded by the power of the International Court of Justice, under Article 38, paragraph 2, of its Statute, to decide a case *ex aequo et bono* if the parties agree thereto,

1. *Recognizes* the desirability that States study the possibility of accepting, with as few reservations as possible, the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in accordance with Article 36 of its Statute;

2. *Draws the attention* of States to the advantage of inserting in treaties, in cases considered possible and appropriate, clauses providing for the submission to the International Court of Justice of disputes which may arise from the interpretation or application of such treaties;

3. *Calls upon* States to keep under review the possibility of identifying cases in which use can be made of the International Court of Justice;

4. *Draws the attention* of States to the possibility of making use of chambers as provided in Articles 26 and 29 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice and in the Rules of Court, including those which would deal with particular categories of cases;

5. *Recommends* that United Nations organs and the specialized agencies should, from time to time, review legal questions within the competence of the International Court of Justice that have arisen or will arise during their activities and should study the advisability of referring them to the Court for an advisory opinion, provided that they are duly authorized to do so;

6. *Reaffirms* that recourse to judicial settlement of legal disputes, particularly referral to the International Court of Justice, should not be considered an unfriendly act between States.

2280th plenary meeting
12 November 1974

3233 (XXIX). Participation in the Convention on Special Missions, its Optional Protocol concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes and the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties

The General Assembly,

Recalling that, by its resolution 2530 (XXIV) of 8 December 1969, it adopted and opened for signature and ratification or for accession the Convention on Special Missions and its Optional Protocol concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes and resolved to consider at a later session the question of issuing

invitations in order to ensure the widest possible participation therein,

Noting the Declaration on Universal Participation in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties,⁴ in which the General Assembly was invited to give consideration to the matter of issuing invitations in order to ensure the widest possible participation in that Convention,

Decides to invite all States to become parties to the Convention on Special Missions, its Optional Protocol concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes and the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.⁵

2280th plenary meeting
12 November 1974

3247 (XXIX). Participation in the United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations

The General Assembly,

Recalling that by its resolution 3072 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973 it decided that the United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations would be held early in 1975 at Vienna,

1. *Decides* to invite all States to participate in the United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations and requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps to give effect to resolution 3072 (XXVIII) and the present resolution;

2. *Decides* to invite also the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States in their respective regions to participate in the Conference as observers, in accordance with the practice of the United Nations.

2303rd plenary meeting
29 November 1974

3314 (XXIX). Definition of Aggression

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee on the Question of Defining Aggression, established pursuant to its resolution 2330 (XXII) of 18 December 1967, covering the work of its seventh session held from 11 March to 12 April 1974, including the draft Definition of Aggression adopted by the Special Committee by consensus and recommended for adoption by the General Assembly,⁶

Deeply convinced that the adoption of the Definition of Aggression would contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security,

1. *Approves* the Definition of Aggression, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

⁴ *Official Records of the United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties, Documents of the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.70.V.5), document A/CONF.39/26, p. 285.

⁵ *Ibid.*, document A/CONF.39/27, p. 287.

⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/9619 and Corr.1).*

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Special Committee on the Question of Defining Aggression for its work which resulted in the elaboration of the Definition of Aggression;

3. Calls upon all States to refrain from all acts of aggression and other uses of force contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;⁷

4. Calls the attention of the Security Council to the Definition of Aggression, as set out below, and recommends that it should, as appropriate, take account of that Definition as guidance in determining, in accordance with the Charter, the existence of an act of aggression.

2319th plenary meeting
14 December 1974

ANNEX

Definition of Aggression

The General Assembly,

Basing itself on the fact that one of the fundamental purposes of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security and to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace,

Recalling that the Security Council, in accordance with Article 39 of the Charter of the United Nations, shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Articles 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security,

Recalling also the duty of States under the Charter to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in order not to endanger international peace, security and justice,

Bearing in mind that nothing in this Definition shall be interpreted as in any way affecting the scope of the provisions of the Charter with respect to the functions and powers of the organs of the United Nations,

Considering also that, since aggression is the most serious and dangerous form of the illegal use of force, being fraught, in the conditions created by the existence of all types of weapons of mass destruction, with the possible threat of a world conflict and all its catastrophic consequences, aggression should be defined at the present stage,

Reaffirming the duty of States not to use armed force to deprive peoples of their right to self-determination, freedom and independence, or to disrupt territorial integrity,

Reaffirming also that the territory of a State shall not be violated by being the object, even temporarily, of military occupation or of other measures of force taken by another State in contravention of the Charter, and that it shall not be the object of acquisition by another State resulting from such measures or the threat thereof,

Reaffirming also the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the adoption of a definition of aggression ought to have the effect of deterring a potential aggressor, would simplify the determination of acts of aggression and the implementation of measures to suppress them and would also facilitate the protection of the rights and lawful interests of, and the rendering of assistance to, the victim,

Believing that, although the question whether an act of aggression has been committed must be considered in the

light of all the circumstances of each particular case, it is nevertheless desirable to formulate basic principles as guidance for such determination,

Adopts the following Definition of Aggression:⁸

Article 1

Aggression is the use of armed force by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations, as set out in this Definition.

Explanatory note: In this Definition the term "State":

(a) Is used without prejudice to questions of recognition or to whether a State is a member of the United Nations;

(b) Includes the concept of a "group of States" where appropriate.

Article 2

The first use of armed force by a State in contravention of the Charter shall constitute *prima facie* evidence of an act of aggression although the Security Council may, in conformity with the Charter, conclude that a determination that an act of aggression has been committed would not be justified in the light of other relevant circumstances, including the fact that the acts concerned or their consequences are not of sufficient gravity.

Article 3

Any of the following acts, regardless of a declaration of war, shall, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of article 2, qualify as an act of aggression:

(a) The invasion or attack by the armed forces of a State of the territory of another State, or any military occupation, however temporary, resulting from such invasion or attack, or any annexation by the use of force of the territory of another State or part thereof;

(b) Bombardment by the armed forces of a State against the territory of another State or the use of any weapons by a State against the territory of another State;

(c) The blockade of the ports or coasts of a State by the armed forces of another State;

(d) An attack by the armed forces of a State on the land, sea or air forces, or marine and air fleets of another State;

(e) The use of armed forces of one State which are within the territory of another State with the agreement of the receiving State, in contravention of the conditions provided for in the agreement or any extension of their presence in such territory beyond the termination of the agreement;

(f) The action of a State in allowing its territory, which it has placed at the disposal of another State, to be used by that other State for perpetrating an act of aggression against a third State;

(g) The sending by or on behalf of a State of armed bands, groups, irregulars or mercenaries, which carry out acts of armed force against another State of such gravity as to amount to the acts listed above, or its substantial involvement therein.

Article 4

The acts enumerated above are not exhaustive and the Security Council may determine that other acts constitute aggression under the provisions of the Charter.

Article 5

1. No consideration of whatever nature, whether political, economic, military or otherwise, may serve as a justification for aggression.

⁸ Explanatory notes on articles 3 and 5 are to be found in paragraph 20 of the report of the Special Committee on the Question of Defining Aggression (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/9619 and Corr.1)*). Statements on the Definition are contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the report of the Sixth Committee (A/9890).

⁷ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

2. A war of aggression is a crime against international peace. Aggression gives rise to international responsibility.

3. No territorial acquisition or special advantage resulting from aggression is or shall be recognized as lawful.

Article 6

Nothing in this Definition shall be construed as in any way enlarging or diminishing the scope of the Charter, including its provisions concerning cases in which the use of force is lawful.

Article 7

Nothing in this Definition, and in particular article 3, could in any way prejudice the right to self-determination, freedom and independence, as derived from the Charter, of peoples forcibly deprived of that right and referred to in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, particularly peoples under colonial and racist régimes or other forms of alien domination; nor the right of these peoples to struggle to that end and to seek and receive support, in accordance with the principles of the Charter and in conformity with the above-mentioned Declaration.

Article 8

In their interpretation and application the above provisions are interrelated and each provision should be construed in the context of the other provisions.

3315 (XXIX). Report of the International Law Commission⁹

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its twenty-sixth session,¹⁰

Emphasizing the need for the progressive development of international law and its codification in order to make it a more effective means of implementing the purposes and principles set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States,¹¹ and to give increased importance to its role in relations among States,

Noting with appreciation that, at its twenty-sixth session, the International Law Commission, in the light of comments received from Member States, completed the second reading of the draft articles on succession of States in respect of treaties, as recommended by the General Assembly in resolution 3071 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973,

Taking note of the draft articles prepared at the same session by the International Law Commission on State responsibility and on treaties concluded between States and international organizations or between international organizations,

Welcoming the fact that the International Law Commission commenced its work on the law of non-navigational uses of international watercourses by adopting the required preliminary measures,

Bearing in mind that the outstanding achievements of the International Law Commission during its twenty-six sessions in the field of the progressive development

of international law and its codification, in accordance with the aims of Article 13, subparagraph 1 (a) of the Charter, contribute to the fostering of friendly relations among nations,

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1. Takes note of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its twenty-sixth session;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the International Law Commission for the work it accomplished at that session;

3. Approves the programme of work planned by the International Law Commission for 1975;

4. Recommends that the International Law Commission should:

(a) Continue on a high priority basis at its twenty-seventh session its work on State responsibility, taking into account General Assembly resolutions 1765 (XVII) of 20 November 1962, 1902 (XVIII) of 18 November 1963, 2400 (XXIII) of 11 December 1968, 2926 (XXVII) of 28 November 1972 and 3071 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973, with a view to the preparation of a first set of draft articles on responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts at the earliest possible time and to take up, as soon as appropriate, the separate topic of international liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law;

(b) Proceed with the preparation, on a priority basis, of draft articles on succession of States in respect of matters other than treaties;

(c) Proceed with the preparation of draft articles on the most-favoured-nation clause;

(d) Proceed with the preparation of draft articles on treaties concluded between States and international organizations or between international organizations;

(e) Continue its study of the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses, taking into account General Assembly resolutions 2669 (XXV) of 8 December 1970 and 3071 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973 and other resolutions concerning the work of the International Law Commission on the topic, and comments received from Member States on the questions referred to in the annex to chapter V of the Commission's report;

5. Approves, in the light of the importance of its existing work programme, a twelve-week period for the annual sessions of the International Law Commission, subject to review by the General Assembly whenever necessary;

6. Recognizes the efficacy of the methods and conditions of work by which the International Law Commission has carried out its tasks and expresses confidence that the Commission will continue to adopt methods of work well suited to the realization of the tasks entrusted to it;

7. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for having completed the supplementary report on the legal problems relating to the non-navigational uses of international watercourses,¹² requested by the General Assembly in resolution 2669 (XXV);

8. Expresses the wish that, in conjunction with future sessions of the International Law Commission, further seminars might be organized, which should continue to

⁹ See also p. 149, item 87.

¹⁰ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/9610/Rev.1).

¹¹ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

¹² A/9732 (vols. I and II).