



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.6/31/L.10*
24 November 1976

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOV 29 1976

UN/SA COLLECTION

Thirty-first session
SIXTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 123

DRAFTING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST
THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES

Austria, Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador,
Germany, Federal Republic of, Iran, Italy, Liberia, Luxembourg, Nepal,
Netherlands, Surinam, Sweden, Turkey and Venezuela: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Considering that the progressive development of international law and its codification contribute to the implementation of the purposes and principles set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Considering that, in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter, freedom, justice and peace in the world are founded on the recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family,

Having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which provide that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security,

Recognizing that the taking of hostages constitutes an act which must be denounced as absolutely intolerable and incompatible with universally accepted standards of human conduct,

Gravely concerned at the increase in such acts which endanger or take human lives and violate human dignity,

* Reissued for technical reasons.

Recalling the prohibition of the taking of hostages in articles 3 and 34 of the Geneva Convention of 1949 Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, the Tokyo Convention of 1963 on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft and the Hague Convention of 1970 for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, as well as General Assembly resolution 2645 (XXV) of 25 November 1970 condemning aerial hijacking or interference with civil air travel,

Recognizing the urgent need for further effective measures to put an end to all acts involving the taking of hostages,

Mindful of the need to conclude, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international convention against the taking of hostages,

1. Decides to establish an ad hoc committee on the "Drafting of an international convention against the taking of hostages" composed of 35 Member States;

2. Requests the President of the General Assembly, after consultations with the Chairmen of the regional groups, to appoint the members of the Committee on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and representing the principal legal systems of the world;

3. Requests the Committee to draft at the earliest possible date an international convention against the taking of hostages on the basis that the taking of hostages should be condemned, prohibited and punished and that persons who perpetrate such acts should be prosecuted or extradited for the purpose of prosecution;

4. Authorizes the Committee, in the fulfilment of its mandate, to consider suggestions and proposals from any State, bearing in mind the views expressed during the debate on this item at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to afford the Committee any assistance and provide it with all facilities it may require for the performance of its work, to prepare for the use of the Committee a study containing all pertinent information regarding possible measures against the taking of hostages, as well as to assure that summary records on the Committee's meetings will be drawn up and submitted;

6. Requests the Committee to present its report and to make every effort to submit a draft convention to the General Assembly in good time for consideration at its thirty-second session, and requests the Secretary-General to communicate the report to the Member States;

7. Decides to include the item entitled "Drafting of an international convention against the taking of hostages" in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session.