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UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteurs: Mr. Aliosha I. NEDELICHEV (Bulgaria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly pursuant to paragraph 8 of Assembly resolution 45/40 of 28 November 1990.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.
3. In connection with the item, the Sixth Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/372), submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 45/40.
4. The following documents were also circulated under this item:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Rules for the Conciliation of Disputes between States (A/46/383 and Add.1);
 - (b) Letter dated 4 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/79);
 - (c) Letter dated 22 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/317-S/22823);

(d) Letter dated 30 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/335);

(e) Note verbale dated 19 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.6/46/4);

(f) Letter dated 21 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/587).

5. The General Assembly, in its resolution 45/40, requested the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law to continue its work at the forty-sixth session in accordance with its mandate and methods of work. Pursuant to that resolution, the Sixth Committee, at its 15th meeting, on 16 October 1991, decided to reconvene the Working Group and elected Mr. Aftab Farrukh (Pakistan) Chairman of the Working Group.

6. At the 37th meeting, on 13 November 1991, the Chairman of the Working Group introduced the report of the Working Group (A/C.6/46/L.8).

7. The Sixth Committee considered the item, as well as the report of the Working Group, at its 37th to 39th and 43rd meetings, between 13 and 18 November and on 25 November 1991. The summary records of those meetings are contained in documents A/C.6/46/SR.37-39 and 43).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.6/46/L.12

8. At the 43rd meeting, on 25 November 1991, the representative of Pakistan introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law" (A/C.6/46/L.12) sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zaire, later joined by Algeria, Bahrain, Belgium, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Estonia, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania, Ukraine, Uruguay and Venezuela.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/46/L.12 without a vote (see para. 10).

III. RECOMMENDATIO. OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

10. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Decade of International Law

The General Assembly.

Recalling its resolution 44/23 of 17 November 1989 by which it declared the period 1990-1999 the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Recalling also that the main purposes of the Decade, according to resolution 44/23, should be, inter alia:

(a) To promote acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law;

(b) To promote means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice;

(c) To encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification;

(d) To encourage the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law;

Recalling further its resolution 45/40 of 28 November 1990, to which was annexed the programme for the activities to be commenced during the first term (1990-1992) of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Expressing its appreciation for the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Decade of International Law, 1/ submitted pursuant to resolution 45/40,

Recalling that the Sixth Committee established at the forty-fifth session the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law with a view to preparing generally acceptable recommendations on the programme of activities for the Decade,

Noting that the Sixth Committee reconvened the Working Group at the forty-sixth session to continue its work in accordance with resolution 45/40,

1/ A/46/372.

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Sixth Committee and its Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law for their work at the current session and requests the Working Group to continue to work at the forty-seventh session in accordance with its mandate and methods of work;

2. Also expresses its appreciation to States and international organizations and institutions that have undertaken activities in implementation of the programme, including sponsoring conferences on various subjects of international law;

3. Invites all States and international organizations and institutions referred to in the programme to provide, update or supplement information on activities they have undertaken in implementation of the programme, as appropriate, to the Secretary-General, as well as to submit their views on possible activities for the next term of the Decade;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit, on the basis of such information, a report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the programme of activities for the first term (1990-1992) of the United Nations Decade of International Law, together with views on possible activities for the next term of the Decade;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to supplement his report, as appropriate, with new information on the activities of the United Nations relevant to the progressive development of international law and its codification and to submit it to the General Assembly on an annual basis;

6. Encourages States to disseminate, as appropriate, information contained in the report of the Secretary-General at the national level;

7. Appeals to States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations working in this field and to the private sector to make financial contributions or contributions in kind for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the programme;

8. Requests the Secretary-General once again to bring to the attention of States and international organizations and institutions working in the field of international law the programme annexed to resolution 45/40;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law".
