



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/687
2 December 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 128

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION ON THE WORK OF ITS FORTY-THIRD SESSION

Report of the Sixth Committee

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item "Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-third session" and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.
2. In connection with this item, the Sixth Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-third session; 1/
 - (b) Note by the Secretary-General containing the text of the draft articles adopted by the International Law Commission on topics considered at its forty-third session (A/46/405).
3. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 22nd to 37th meetings and at its 43rd and 44th meetings held from 28 October to 13 November and on 25 and 26 November 1991. The summary records of those meetings (A/C.6/46/SR.22 to 37, 43 and 44) contain the views of the representatives who spoke on the item.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/46/10).

4. At the 22nd meeting, on 28 October, Mr. Abdul G. Koroma, Chairman of the International Law Commission at its forty-third session, introduced the Commission's report on the work of that session. At the 37th meeting, on 13 November, the Chairman of the Commission made a closing statement.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolution A/C.6/46/L.16

5. At the 43rd meeting of the Sixth Committee, on 25 November, the representative of Canada introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-third session" (A/C.6/46/L.16), sponsored by Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay, and later joined by Bolivia, Ecuador, France, Mali, Mexico, Peru, Spain, Venezuela and Viet Nam.

6. At the 44th meeting, on 26 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/46/L.16 without a vote (see para. 9, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.6/46/L.15

7. At the 43rd meeting, on 25 November, the representative of Austria introduced a draft resolution entitled "Consideration of the draft articles on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property" (A/C.6/46/L.15), sponsored by Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Czechoslovakia, India, Italy, Japan, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela, and later joined by France, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Spain.

8. At the 44th meeting, on 26 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/46/L.15 without a vote (see para. 9, draft resolution II).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

9. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Report of the International Law Commission on the work
of its forty-third session

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-third session, 1/

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 the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations 2/ and to give increased importance to its role in relations among States,

Recognizing the importance of referring legal and drafting questions to the Sixth Committee, including topics that might be submitted to the International Law Commission, and of enabling the Sixth Committee and the Commission further to enhance their contribution to the progressive development of international law and its codification,

Recalling the need to keep under review those topics of international law which, given their new or renewed interest for the international community, may be suitable for the progressive development and codification of international law and therefore may be included in the future programme of work of the International Law Commission,

Recognizing the role of the International Law Commission in the fulfilment of the objectives of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Taking note with appreciation of the section of the report of the International Law Commission concerning the question of the possible establishment of an international criminal jurisdiction and noting also the debate in the Sixth Committee pertaining to this topic,

Considering that experience has demonstrated the usefulness of structuring the debate on the report of the International Law Commission in the Sixth Committee in such a manner that conditions are provided for concentrated attention on each of the main topics dealt with in the report, and that this process is facilitated when the Commission indicates specific issues on which expressions of views by Governments are of particular interest for the continuation of its work,

2/ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

1. Takes note of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-third session; 1/
2. Expresses its appreciation to the International Law Commission for the work accomplished at that session, in particular for the completion of the final draft articles on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property and of the provisional draft articles on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses and on the draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind;
3. Invites the International Law Commission, within the framework of the draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind, to consider further and analyse the issues raised in its 1990 report 3/ concerning the question of international criminal jurisdiction, including proposals for the establishment of an international criminal court or other international criminal trial mechanism in order to enable the General Assembly to provide guidance on the matter;
4. Recommends that, taking into account the comments of Governments, whether in writing or expressed orally in debates in the General Assembly, the International Law Commission should continue its work on the topics in its current programme;
5. Expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the International Law Commission to improve its procedures and methods of work;
6. Requests the International Law Commission:
 - (a) To consider thoroughly:
 - (i) The planning of its activities and programme for the term of office of its members, bearing in mind the desirability of achieving as much progress as possible in the preparation of draft articles on specific topics;
 - (ii) Its methods of work in all their aspects, including the possibility of dividing its annual session into two parts, bearing in mind that the staggering of the consideration of some topics might contribute, inter alia, to a more effective consideration of its report in the Sixth Committee;
 - (b) To continue to pay special attention to indicating in its annual report, for each topic, those specific issues on which expressions of views by Governments, either in the Sixth Committee or in written form, would be of particular interest for the continuation of its work;

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/45/10), chap. II, sect. C.

7. Takes note of the comments of the Commission on the question of the duration of its session, as presented in paragraph 338 of its report, 1/ and expresses the view that the requirements of the work for the progressive development of international law and its codification and the magnitude and complexity of the subjects on the agenda of the Commission make it desirable that the usual duration of its sessions be maintained;

8. Reaffirms its previous decisions concerning the role of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat and those concerning the summary records and other documentation of the International Law Commission;

9. Draws the attention of Governments to the importance, for the International Law Commission, to have their views on the draft articles on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses and on the draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind, adopted on first reading by the Commission, and urges them to present in writing their comments and observations by 1 January 1993, as requested by the Commission;

10. Once again expresses the wish that seminars will continue to be held in conjunction with the sessions of the International Law Commission and that an increasing number of participants from developing countries will be given the opportunity to attend those seminars, appeals to States that can do so to make the voluntary contributions that are urgently needed for the holding of the seminars, and expresses the hope that every effort will continue to be made by the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to provide the seminars with adequate services, including interpretation, as required;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to forward to the International Law Commission, for its attention, the records of the debate on the report of the Commission at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, together with such written statements as delegations may circulate in conjunction with their oral statements, and to prepare and distribute a topical summary of the debate;

12. Recommends the continuation of efforts to improve the ways in which the report of the International Law Commission is considered in the Sixth Committee, with a view to providing effective guidance for the Commission in its work;

13. Also recommends that the debate on the report of the International Law Commission at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly commence on 26 October 1992.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Consideration of the draft articles on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property

The General Assembly,

Noting that the International Law Commission, taking into account the written comments of Governments as well as views expressed in debates in the Assembly, completed at its forty-third session the second reading of the draft articles on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property, 4/

Noting also that, as reflected in paragraph 25 of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-third session, 1/ the Commission decided to recommend that the General Assembly should convene an international conference of plenipotentiaries to examine the draft articles on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property prepared by the Commission and to conclude a convention on the subject,

Mindful of Article 13, paragraph 1 a, of the Charter of the United Nations, which provides that the General Assembly shall initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification,

Believing that the successful codification and progressive development of the rules of international law governing jurisdictional immunities of States and their property would assist in promoting and implementing the purposes and principles set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter,

Recognizing the desirability of the conclusion of a convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property,

Recognizing also the importance, for the successful completion of such a convention, of the promotion of general agreement,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the International Law Commission for its valuable work on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property and to the Special Rapporteurs for their contribution to this work;

2. Invites States to submit, not later than 1 July 1992, their written comments and observations on the draft articles adopted by the International Law Commission;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to circulate such comments and observations so as to facilitate a discussion on the subject at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly;

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/46/10), chap. II.

4. Decides to establish at its forty-seventh session an open-ended working group of the Sixth Committee to examine, in the light of the written comments of Governments, as well as views expressed in debates at the forty-sixth session of the Assembly;

(a) Issues of substance arising out of the draft articles, in order to facilitate a successful conclusion of a convention through the promotion of general agreement;

(b) The question of the convening of an international conference, to be held in 1994 or subsequently, to conclude a convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session an item entitled "Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property".
