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DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

Report of the Sub-Committee on Good-Neighbourliness

Chairman-Rapporteur: Mr. Václav MIKULKA (Czechoslovakia)

1. By its resolution 41/84 of 3 December 1986 the General Assembly decided:  
(a) to take note of the report of the Sub-Committee on Good-Neighbourliness (A/C.6/41/L.14), which functioned within the Sixth Committee during the forty-first session of the General Assembly; and (b) to continue and complete, on the basis of the above-mentioned resolution and the report of the Sub-Committee, the task of identifying and clarifying the elements of good-neighbourliness within the framework of a sub-committee on good-neighbourliness.
2. At its 3rd meeting, held on 22 September 1987, the Sixth Committee decided to re-establish the Sub-Committee on Good-Neighbourliness and at its 7th meeting, held on 28 September 1987, it elected Mr. Václav Mikulka (Czechoslovakia) as Chairman of the Sub-Committee.
3. The Sub-Committee on Good-Neighbourliness held eight meetings, on 29 September 1987, 2, 8, 15 and 23 October and 2, 6 and 12 November 1987. It had before it the report which it had submitted to the Sixth Committee at the forty-first session of the General Assembly (A/C.6/41/L.14).
4. The Sub-Committee began its work with a discussion of the points or parts thereof enclosed in square brackets in the list in the above-mentioned report, which were those which had raised particular difficulties or which the Sub-Committee had not been able to consider owing to lack of time.
5. As a result of the work of the Sub-Committee, the changes made in the list in the report (A/C.6/41/L.14), which are reflected in the list reproduced in paragraph 9 below, are as follows: incorporation of point No. 1 in section I A of the list

below and, consequently, deletion of the part enclosed in square brackets of former point No. 3 of section I B in the list in document A/C.6/41/L.14; transfer of former point No. 6 of the list in document A/C.6/41/L.14 to section I A of the list below as point No. 3; removal of the square brackets from point No. 6 of section II A and, consequently, rewording of the heading of section I B and of point No. 5 of this section in the list below; reversal of the order of former points Nos. 2 and 3 of section I B in the list in document A/C.6/41/L.14, which have become points Nos. 5 and 4, respectively, of section I B in the list below; rewording of point No. 7 of section II A and removal of the square brackets. With regard to former point No. 24 of section II D in the list in document A/C.6/41/L.14, the Sub-Committee amended the wording to read as it appears in point No. 28 of section II D in the list below, and, consequently, it incorporated new point No. 16 in section II B in the list below. With regard to former point No. 25 of section II D of document A/C.6/41/L.14, the Sub-Committee deleted it as a result of the rewording of point No. 15 of section I B and point No. 19 of section II C in the list below. The Sub-Committee also decided to incorporate new point No. 25 in section II D and consequently, to reword the heading of this section as it appears in the list below. The points in the list below have been renumbered as a result of the changes incorporated.

6. Point No. 3 of section II A and the part of point No. 20 of section II C, which are enclosed in square brackets in the list below, although they were considered by the Sub-Committee, raised particular difficulties.

7. As in the previous year the Sub-Committee made progress in the consideration of the elements that might enter into the concept of good-neighbourliness. Nevertheless, there was still no general agreement on those elements.

8. It was understood: (a) that the following list of elements of good-neighbourliness was not exhaustive and did not establish any hierarchy or any order of priority among the headings contained in it; and (b) that the positioning of the points in the list had a provisional character. The sole purpose of the list drawn up in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/84 is to assist in identifying and clarifying the elements of good-neighbourliness.

9. The list of elements is as follows:

I. LEGAL AND OTHER ELEMENTS RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT  
AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS

A. Generally accepted principles and norms of international law concerning good-neighbourliness\*

1. Universal applicability of the concept of good-neighbourliness between neighbouring States.

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\* The wording of this heading is subject to further consideration.

2. Observance of generally accepted principles and norms of international law as a basic requirement of good-neighbourliness.
3. Mutual tolerance.

B. Development by neighbouring States of legal régimes to enhance their mutual relations and co-operation between them

4. Taking of measures for improving and developing friendly relations between neighbouring States.
5. Exchange of information between States on activities and events on their own territory which clearly may affect neighbouring States.
6. Negotiations between States with a view to considering and solving issues of common interest between neighbouring States.
7. Taking of measures by States to eliminate or minimize the effects of some domestic activities on neighbouring States or on States of the same area.
8. Refraining by States from domestic activities which clearly may have harmful effects on the territory of neighbouring States.
9. Refraining by States from actions which may aggravate a conflict situation or a dispute between neighbouring States.
10. Taking of measures by States to attenuate gradually a conflict situation or a dispute between neighbouring States.

II. AREAS OF CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING  
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS

A. Political fields, such as:

1. Promotion of friendly relations, of mutual understanding, knowledge and confidence.
2. Acting towards the strengthening of world peace and security, well-being, economic and social progress.
- [3. Promotion of disarmament and limitation of armaments.]
4. Elimination of situations of tension and friction.
5. Development of political contacts.
6. Consultation and co-operation by States on activities and events on their own territory which clearly may affect neighbouring States.

7. Adoption by neighbouring States of reciprocal measures aimed at the prevention and elimination of any attempt on their respective security, as well as strengthening of their mutual security and confidence.

B. Fields of trade, industry, agriculture, science and technology, environment and other fields of economic activity, such as:

8. Commercial exchanges.
9. Industrial co-operation.
10. Co-operation in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fishery.
11. Co-operation in the fields of science and technology.
12. Protection of the environment.
13. Exploration and exploitation of mineral resources, in particular in border and adjacent areas.
14. Meteorology.
15. Co-operation in the field of transportation, including transit of goods in the territory of the State, and in the field of communication.
16. Customs matters.
17. Co-operation in the fields of oceanography, hydrology, glaciology, seismology, vulcanology and other related fields.
18. Conservation of living resources and use of border rivers and waters.

C. Humanitarian and other fields, such as:

19. Movement of persons and human contacts.
20. Co-operation in the protection and promotion of human rights [including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities].
21. Protection of migrant workers and their families.
22. Dissemination of information, access to information and exchange of information on various aspects of life in neighbouring States.
23. Public health.
24. Co-operation in the fields of culture, education and sports.

D. Legislative, judicial, administrative and other fields, such as:

25. Exchange of information in legislative fields of common interest.
26. Co-operation and exchange of information concerning judicial and criminal matters, including, in particular, the elimination of international terrorism and of the illegal use of and trafficking in narcotics.
27. Co-operation in the case of natural calamities and other disasters.
28. Co-operation on border matters.

III. WAYS AND MEANS OF DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING  
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS

1. Diplomatic and consular relations.
2. Contacts and visits.
3. Agreements and declarations.
4. Programmes of co-operation and projects of mutual interest.
5. Joint bodies.
6. Meetings and conferences.
7. Negotiations and consultations.
8. Harmonization of technical norms and standards between neighbouring countries.

IV. ACTION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, IN PARTICULAR  
REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, IN DEVELOPING  
AND STRENGTHENING GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS

1. Utilization of possibilities and capabilities of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and existing intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the political, economic, humanitarian, scientific, cultural and other fields.
2. Promotion of common objectives and programmes.
3. Implementation of regional and subregional projects, in particular among developing countries.