
Article 10

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Text of Article 10

The General Assembly may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the present Charter, and, except as provided in Article 12, may make recommendations to Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both on any such questions or matters.

Introductory note

1. The present Supplement is devoted to aspects of the practice of the principal organs of the United Nations during the period under review which relate directly or indirectly to the interpretation or application of Article 10 of the Charter.
2. Aspects that relate to the more specific powers and functions of the General Assembly are treated under Articles 11, 13 and 14. Resolutions by which the General Assembly admitted a State as a Member of the United Nations, as well as resolutions containing recommendations to the Security Council concerning the admission of new Members, are treated in the study on Article 4.
3. A list of resolutions that may have a bearing on Article 10 are listed in the annex to this study, together with the corresponding agenda items.

I. General survey

4. During the period under review, no explicit reference to Article 10 was made in the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

5. However, the scope of the powers delegated to the General Assembly under Article 10 suggests that a number of the resolutions adopted during the period under review may be considered as implicitly referring to Article 10.

6. During the period under review, no explicit reference to Article 10 was made in the deliberations of the General Assembly or the other principal organs of the United Nations. However, given the recommendations addressed to those bodies by the General Assembly referring implicitly to Article 10, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretariat took measures that were clearly in application of that provision. The Secretary General did not make explicit reference to Article 10, neither in

his six annual reports on the work of the Organization nor in two specific reports, namely, *An Agenda for Peace* (1992) and *An Agenda for Development* (1994). However, the report of the Secretary General on the work of the Organization submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session (1993),¹ and the Secretary General's report entitled "An Agenda for Peace. Preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping" (pursuant to the statement adopted by the Summit Meeting of the Security Council on 31 January 1992)² contain developments that have a bearing on, among other things, the exercise by the General Assembly of its powers under Article 10 of the Charter.

¹ [A/48/1](#).

² Security Council document [S/24111](#).

II. Analytical summary of practice

7. Under Article 10, the General Assembly may make recommendations to Members of the United Nations, to the Security Council or to both on any questions or matters covered in the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the Charter. Because of the scope of the powers of the General Assembly under Article 10, a large number of resolutions adopted by the Assembly during the period under review made implicit reference to that provision (see in particular all the resolutions listed in the Annex). The subsequent paragraphs provide an overview of the practice of the General Assembly with regard to the recipients of the recommendations made in those resolutions and an overview of some elements of practice relating to the exercise by General Assembly of its powers under Article 10.

8. During the period under review, the General Assembly addressed recommendations to all Member States,³ to Member States,⁴ to some States,⁵ to particular States,⁶ to all States,⁷ to all Governments or countries,⁸ to Governments or countries,⁹ to some Governments,¹⁰ to particular Governments,¹¹ to

nuclear-weapon States,¹² to colonial Powers,¹³ to administering Powers¹⁴ and to interested parties.¹⁵

9. The General Assembly also addressed recommendations to the specialized agencies and to other international organizations,¹⁶ as well as to regional arrangements,¹⁷ to subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly,¹⁸ to the Economic and Social Council and to its subsidiary bodies,¹⁹ to non-governmental organizations,²⁰ to the media²¹ and to individuals.²²

10. The General Assembly also addressed recommendations to the Security Council²³ and its

³ See e.g. GA resolutions 43/232, eighth preambular paragraph; 44/17 paras. 8, 9, 21; 44/25 para. 3; 44/27 B para. 5; 44/40 B paras. 13, 14; 45/13 paras. 9, 10, 15; 45/83 B para. 13; 46/20 para. 15; 48/25 para. 15.

⁴ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/2 para. 7; 44/18 paras. 3 to 9; 44/28 para. 11; 44/45 para. 8; 45/69 para. 7; 46/44 para. 8; 46/76 para. 8; 47/66 para. 8; 48/29 para. 15; 48/38 para. 8; 49/32 para. 8.

⁵ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/19 para. 4; 44/90 para. 6; 44/105 para. 5; 45/49 para. 5; 46/10 para. 12; 45/53 para. 2; 46/31 paras. 2, 3; 47/31 para. 6; 47/49 para. 2; 48/72 para. 2; 49/9 para. 3.

⁶ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/2 para. 2; 44/88 para. 9; 44/104 para. 2; 44/121 para. 5; 45/21 para. 8; 45/69 para. 2; 46/76 para. 2; 47/63 A para. 9; 48/59 B para. 9; 49/87 para. 5.

⁷ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/1 para. 2; 44/12 para. 5; 45/17 paras. 7, 11; 46/62 para. 3; 46/72 B para. 4; 47/24 para. 4; 48/53 para. 4; 49/26 para. 2.

⁸ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/28 paras. 9, 12; 44/46 para. 17; 45/72 para. 16; 46/50 para. 16; 47/67 para. 17; 48/29 para. 16; 48/156 para. 4.

⁹ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/10 para. 3; 44/35 para. 11; 45/91 para. 11; 45/101 paras. 2, 4; 46/103 I para. 3; 47/89 para. 3; 48/101 para. 2; 48/128 para. 11.

¹⁰ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/27 C para. 3; 44/127 para. 7; 46/46 H para. 3; 47/69 H para. 3; 47/75 para. 2; 48/40 G para. 3; 48/133 para. 1.

¹¹ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/9 paras. 2, 4; 44/97 para. 4; 46/9 paras. 2, 3; 48/56 paras. 2, 4; 48/144 paras. 4, 11; 49/7 para. 3; 49/18 paras. 2, 4.

¹² See e.g. GA resolutions 44/105 para. 4; 44/108 para. 6; 45/49 para. 4; 45/51 para. 4; 46/29 para. 6; 47/47 para. 3; 48/73 para. 3.

¹³ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/101 para. 9; 45/33 para. 5; 45/34 para. 10.

¹⁴ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/83 para. 3; 44/87 para. 4; 44/102 para. 4; 45/20 para. 4; 45/34 paras. 8, 13; 46/64 paras. 12, 13; 47/15 paras. 12, 13; 47/17 para. 4.

¹⁵ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/15 paras. 7, 9; 44/50 I; 44/108 para. 1; 46/73 A; 47/73 A; 48/44 A; 49/10 para. 18.

¹⁶ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/4 para. 5; 44/7 para. 8; 44/143 para. 5; 45/5 para. 5; 45/82 para. 8; 46/24 para. 9; 47/13 para. 4; 47/32 para. 4; 48/21 para. 9; and 49/6 para. 4.

¹⁷ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/8 paras. 4 and 9; 44/14 B para. 6; 44/51 para. 3; and 47/18 paras. 4 and 10.

¹⁸ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/19 para. 3; 44/33 para. 3; 44/35 paras. 2, 4, 5, 7 and 12; 44/46 paras. 26, 27 and 30; 45/21 para. 9; 45/55 A paras. 6, 7 and 9; 45/72 paras. 26, 27 and 29; 46/67 para. 7; 47/25 para. 5; and 48/49 para. 5.

¹⁹ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/17 para. 22; 44/71 para. 1; 45/13 para. 22; 45/18 para. 20; 46/20 para. 8; and 48/115 para. 2.

²⁰ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/25 para. 5; 44/82 para. 4; 44/143 para. 5; 45/12 para. 11; 45/95 para. 5; 46/37 F para. 3; 46/53 para. 3; and 48/30 paras. 3 and 8.

²¹ See e.g. GA resolutions 44/2 para. 7; 44/27 G para. 7; 47/15 para. 15; and 48/46 para. 11.

²² See e.g. GA resolutions 44/27 G para. 7; 46/80 para. 11; 47/15 para. 15; 49/17 para. 7.

²³ GA resolutions 44/2 para. 6; 44/17 para. 22; 45/13 para. 22; 45/69 para. 6; 46/20 para. 8; 46/76 para. 7; 48/25 para. 4; 48/88 paras. 4, 15, 17, 21 and 27; and 49/10 paras. 21, 22 and 24.

permanent members,²⁴ to the Secretary-General²⁵ and to the Secretariat.²⁶

11. The General Assembly adopted resolutions that had a bearing on the report of the Secretary-General entitled “*An Agenda for Peace. Preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping*” (pursuant to the statement adopted by the Summit Meeting of the Security Council on 31 January 1992),²⁷ which sought to ensure better coordination of the organs of the Organization in all activities relating to peacekeeping. At its 3225th meeting, the Council welcomed Assembly resolution 47/120 dealing with preventive diplomacy and greater use of fact-finding missions.²⁸ It also welcomed Assembly resolution 48/43 on urgent measures relating to strengthening the military command of peacekeeping operations.²⁹ There were numerous references to decisions of the Assembly during the 3449th meeting of the Council,³⁰ during

which several members stressed the importance of resolution 48/43 and the need to implement that resolution.³¹ The representative of the Netherlands welcomed the transparency of the work being undertaken as “a very positive development in the institutional relations between the Council and the General Assembly, which will, we hope, enhance the spirit of solidarity needed to cope with the increasing challenges of the Organization”.³²

12. In his report on the work of the Organization submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session (1993),³³ the Secretary-General stated that the work of the General Assembly “could be further streamlined”, noting in particular that “many resolutions, especially but not exclusively those affecting the economic and social areas, do not address policy issues, but are in the nature of work programme decisions (taking note of a report and requesting the Secretary-General to prepare another report)”.³⁴

²⁴ GA resolutions 47/59 para. 5, and 48/82 para. 3.

²⁵ For the recommendations addressed to the Secretary-General, see the studies on Articles 97 and 98.

²⁶ GA resolutions 44/7 para. 5; 45/99 para. 3; and 46/24 para. 6.

²⁷ Security Council document [S/24111](#).

²⁸ Security Council, 3225th meeting, p. 6.

²⁹ Security Council, 3372nd meeting, pp. 4-5.

³⁰ Security Council, 3449th meeting, Spain: p. 8. See also Nigeria: p. 11, Austria: p. 14, Japan: p. 13.

³¹ *Ibid.*, Sweden: p. 15.

³² *Ibid.*, Netherlands: p. 17.

³³ [A/48/1](#).

³⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 35.

Annex

List of General Assembly resolutions bearing upon Article 10

Forty-fourth session of the General Assembly

- 44/9 Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte
- 44/10 The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives
- 44/15 The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security
- 44/22 The situation in Kampuchea
- 44/27 Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa
- 44/29 Measures to prevent international terrorism which endangers or takes innocent lives or jeopardizes fundamental freedoms and study of the underlying causes of those forms of terrorism and acts of violence which lie in misery, frustration, grievance and despair and which cause some peoples to sacrifice human lives, including their own, in an attempt to effect radical changes
- 44/31 Peaceful settlement of disputes between States
- 44/32 Draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind
- 44/37 Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
- 44/40 The situation in the Middle East
- 44/41 Question of Palestine
- 44/42 Question of Palestine
- 44/47 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- 44/48 Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories
- 44/49 Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects
- 44/52 Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
- 44/69 Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid
- 44/84 Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa

- 44/85 Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations
- 44/88 Question of Western Sahara
- 44/101 Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
- 44/113 Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa
- 44/121 Israeli nuclear armament
- 44/126 Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security

Forty-fifth session of the General Assembly

- 45/11 Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte
- 45/12 The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security
- 45/15 The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives
- 45/17 Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Namibia and in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa
- 45/18 Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations
- 45/34 Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
- 45/44 Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
- 45/56 Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearisation of Africa
- 45/58 General and complete disarmament
- 45/63 Israeli nuclear armament
- 45/67 Question of Palestine
- 45/68 International Peace Conference on the Middle East
- 45/73 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- 45/74 Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories

- 45/75 Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects
- 45/80 Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security
- 45/83 The situation in the Middle East
- 45/84 Adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist and colonial regime of South Africa

Forty-sixth session of the General Assembly

- 46/7 The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti
- 46/9 Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte
- 46/18 The situation in Cambodia
- 46/23 The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security
- 46/34 Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa
- 46/36 General and complete disarmament
- 46/39 Israeli nuclear armament
- 46/46 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- 46/47 Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories
- 46/48 Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects
- 46/58 Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
- 46/59 Declaration on Fact-finding by the United Nations in the Field of the Maintenance of International Peace and Security
- 46/62 Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States
- 46/64 Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Namibia and in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa
- 46/65 Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations
- 46/71 Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

- 46/74 Question of Palestine
- 46/79 Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa
- 46/82 The situation in the Middle East
- 46/101 Respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking

Forty-seventh session of the General Assembly

- 47/9 Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte
- 47/15 Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Namibia and in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa
- 47/20 The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti
- 47/23 Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
- 47/38 Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
- 47/55 Israeli nuclear armament
- 47/60 Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security
- 47/63 The situation in the Middle East
- 47/64 Question of Palestine
- 47/69 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- 47/70 Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories
- 47/71 Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects
- 47/76 Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa
- 47/78 Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- 47/98 Respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking

Forty-eighth session of the General Assembly

- 48/27 The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti
- 48/36 Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
- 48/40 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- 48/41 Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories
- 48/42 Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects
- 48/46 Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Namibia and in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa
- 48/47 Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations
- 48/52 Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
- 48/56 Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte
- 48/58 Middle East peace process
- 48/59 The situation in the Middle East
- 48/78 Israeli nuclear armament
- 48/83 Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security
- 48/88 The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 48/89 Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid
- 48/158 Question of Palestine
- 48/159 The elimination of apartheid and establishment of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa
- 48/161 The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Forty-ninth session of the General Assembly

- 49/10 The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 49/18 Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte
- 49/27 The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti

Eighteenth special session

- ES-18/3 International economic cooperation