
Article 13

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Text of Article 13

1. The General Assembly shall initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of:

(a) promoting international cooperation in the political field and encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification;

(b) promoting international cooperation in the economic, social, cultural, educational, and health fields, and assisting in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

2. The further responsibilities, functions and powers of the General Assembly with respect to matters mentioned in paragraph 1 (b) above are set forth in Chapters IX and X.

Introductory note

1. Article 13 contains provisions on the initiation of studies and the making of recommendations by the General Assembly concerning international cooperation in the political, legal, economic, social and human rights fields. Accordingly, as in the *Repertory* and its *Supplements Nos. 1-7* the Article is treated in three separate studies. The first deals with the initiation of studies and recommendations made by the Assembly for the purpose of promoting international cooperation in the political field, under paragraph 1(a), first clause. The second deals with paragraph 1(a), second clause, on the initiation of studies and the recommendations made by the Assembly to encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification. The third deals with paragraphs 1(b) and 2, on the initiation of studies and the recommendations made by the Assembly to promote international cooperation in the economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields, and to assist in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. During the period under review, the close relation between the various fields of international cooperation envisaged in Article 13 was noted in the General Assembly resolutions by which a number of studies were initiated.

Article 13 (1) (a)

With regard to the promotion of international cooperation in the political field

Text of Article 13 (1) (a). Provision relating to the promotion of international cooperation in the political field

1. The General Assembly shall initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of:

(a) promoting international cooperation in the political field ...

1. During the period under review, the General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions which have a bearing on the first part of the study on Article 13 (1) (a). Some of them related to the items discussed in *Supplement No. 7*, for example resolutions on the review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region and the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, which are referred to in paragraphs 3 to 5 below. Other resolutions related to items newly included in the agenda of the Assembly, such as “Maintenance of international security”, “Middle East peace process”, “Protection and security of small States”, “Enhancing international peace, security and international cooperation in all its aspects in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations” and “Agenda for Peace”, are discussed in paragraphs 6 to 10 below. Furthermore, during the period under review, the Assembly adopted several resolutions aimed at strengthening the cooperation between regional organizations and the United Nations.¹

2. Certain decisions taken by the General Assembly during the period under review which also have a bearing on the first part of the study on Article 13 (1) (a) have

been treated in the second part of the study on that Article owing to their important legal aspects, such as the Assembly resolutions adopted in connection with the items “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”,² “Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization”, “Peaceful settlement of disputes between States”, “Report of the Special Committee on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principle of Non-Use of Force in International Relations” and “Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States”.³

3. During the period under review, the General Assembly adopted further resolutions on the agenda item entitled “Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region”.⁴ In these resolutions, the Assembly expressed its satisfaction at the continuing efforts by Mediterranean countries to contribute actively to the elimination of all causes of tension in the region and to the promotion of just and lasting solutions to the problems through peaceful means, and encouraged the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in facing terrorist activities. The Assembly further encouraged the

¹ These GA resolutions include 46/20, 47/148 and 48/25 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity; 44/8, 46/13, 47/18, 48/24 and 49/15 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference; 44/7, 46/24, 47/12, 48/21 and 49/14 on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States; 47/10, 48/19 and 49/13 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe; 47/11 and 49/5 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States; 49/141 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community; and 45/4, 47/6 and 49/8 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee.

² The full title of the agenda item until the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly read as follows: “Measures to prevent international terrorism which endangers or takes innocent human 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 people to sacrifice human lives, including their own, in an attempt to effect radical changes”.

³ See the present volume, under Article 13 (1) (a), second clause.

⁴ GA resolutions 44/125, 45/79, 46/42, 47/58, 48/81 and 49/81. The item is also mentioned in the present volume, under Article 14 (see para. 4 of the study).

continued widespread support among Mediterranean countries for the convening of a conference on security and cooperation in the region.

4. In the resolutions adopted in connection with the agenda item entitled “Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic”,⁵ the Assembly called upon all States to cooperate in the promotion of the objectives established in the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from action which might create or aggravate situations of tension and potential conflict in the region. The Assembly further requested relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to render appropriate assistance in the joint efforts of States of the zone to implement the objectives of the zone, and requested the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of resolution 41/11 under review and to submit reports for its consideration. At the forty-ninth session, the Assembly adopted resolution 49/84, entitled “The South Atlantic region as a nuclear-weapon-free zone”, in which it solemnly endorsed the objective to turn the region of the South Atlantic into a nuclear-weapon-free zone and called upon all States to cooperate fully for the achievement of the objective.

5. In the resolutions adopted in connection with the agenda item entitled “Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security”,⁶ the General Assembly called for regional dialogues to promote security and urged all States to take immediate steps aimed at promoting and using effectively the system of collective security as envisaged in the Charter. In resolution 47/60 B of 9 December 1992, entitled “Maintenance of international security”, the Assembly, having decided to continue consideration of the question of maintenance of international security while taking into account the new international realities and new task before the United Nations, invited all Member States to provide their views on this matter.

6. Pursuant to resolution 47/60 B, the General Assembly adopted, at the forty-eighth session, a resolution on a new agenda item, entitled “Maintenance of international security”.⁷ In resolution 48/84 A of 16 December 1993, entitled “Maintenance

of international security”, the Assembly emphasized the need to develop appropriate political mechanisms for the timely and peaceful resolution of any situation that might impair friendly relations among States and recognized the need to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations with those of regional arrangements and organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security. In resolution 48/84 B, entitled “Development of good-neighbourly relations among Balkan States”, the Assembly stressed that closer engagement of Balkan States in cooperation arrangements would favourably influence the political situation in the region and called upon these States to endeavour to promote good-neighbourly relations. It further requested the Secretary-General to seek views of Member States and of international organizations on measures and preventive activities aimed at the creation of a stable zone of peace and cooperation in the Balkans by the year 2000.

7. During the period under review, the General Assembly also adopted a resolution entitled “Enhancing international peace, security and international cooperation in all its aspects in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations”⁸ in connection with a new agenda item bearing the same title. In that resolution, the Assembly called upon all States to intensify their practical efforts towards ensuring international peace and security through cooperative means and encouraged Member States to consult and cooperate within the framework of the United Nations system.

8. During the same period, the General Assembly also adopted resolutions entitled “Middle East peace process”,⁹ under the agenda item entitled “The situation in the Middle East”. In these resolutions, the Assembly stressed the need for achieving rapid progress on the tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations within the peace process and considered that an active United Nations role in the process could make a positive contribution. The Assembly called upon all Member States to render support for the peace process and encouraged regional development and cooperation in the areas where work had begun within the framework of the Peace Conference on the Middle East.

⁵ GA resolutions 46/19, 47/74, 48/23 and 49/26.

⁶ GA resolutions 44/126, 45/80, 47/60A and 48/83.

⁷ The item is also mentioned in the present volume, under Article 14 (see para. 6 of the study).

⁸ GA resolution 44/21.

⁹ GA resolutions 48/58 and 49/88.

9. Furthermore, the General Assembly adopted resolutions in connection with the new agenda item entitled “Protection and security of small States”.¹⁰ The Assembly, having stressed the importance of strengthening regional security arrangements by increasing interaction, cooperation and consultation, appealed to the relevant regional and international organizations to provide assistance requested by small States for the strengthening of their security, and invited the Secretary-General to explore ways and means of preserving the security of small States.

10. Finally, during the period under review the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/120 A, entitled “An agenda for peace: preventive diplomacy and related matters”, which addressed aspects relating to, *inter alia*, the peaceful settlement of disputes, confidence-building measures and the role of the General Assembly in preventive diplomacy. In that resolution the Assembly decided to explore ways and means for a full utilization of the provisions of the Charter, whereby the Assembly might recommend measures for the peaceful adjustment of any situation which would be deemed likely to impair the general

welfare or friendly relations among nations. With regard to confidence-building measures, the Assembly recognized that the application of appropriate confidence-building measures would promote mutual confidence and good faith, which were essential to reducing the likelihood of conflicts and enhancing prospects for the peaceful settlement of disputes. Thus, it encouraged the Secretary-General to consult with parties in existing or potential disputes, other interested Member States and regional arrangements and organizations, on the possibilities of initiating confidence-building measures in their respective regions. Finally, the General Assembly decided, in that resolution, to explore ways to promote the utilization of the Assembly by Member States, so as to bring greater influence to bear in pre-empting or containing any situation which was potentially dangerous or might lead to international friction or disputes. In addition, in resolution 47/120 B of 20 September 1993, the Assembly further decided to consider appropriate ways and means to improve cooperation among the competent United Nations organs in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the promotion of peace, and encouraged regional arrangements and agencies to consider such means for promoting closer cooperation and coordination with the United Nations with the objective of contributing to the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter.

¹⁰ GA resolutions 44/51, 46/43 and 49/31. The item is also mentioned in the present volume, under Article 14 (see para. 6 of the study).