

## **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF ACTS OF NUCLEAR TERRORISM**

At its fifty-first session, in the same resolution in which it approved the Declaration to Supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996; see Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, the General Assembly decided to establish an ad hoc committee to elaborate an international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings and, subsequently, an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, to supplement related existing international instruments, and thereafter to address means of further developing a comprehensive legal framework of conventions dealing with international terrorism. In accordance with the same resolution, the Ad Hoc Committee was open to all States members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The first session of the Ad Hoc Committee was dedicated to the elaboration of the Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, which was adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session (resolution 52/164 of 15 December 1997). On the same day, the General Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Committee continue its work in accordance with its original mandate and that a working group of the Sixth Committee be established for the purpose of considering the question at the following session of the General Assembly (resolution 52/165 of 15 December 1997). At its second session, held in New York from 17 to 27 February 1998, the Ad Hoc Committee started discussion of an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. A draft convention on the matter submitted by the Russian Federation (A/AC.252/L.3) was used as a basis for the discussion in the Committee (see the report of the Ad Hoc Committee, A/53/37). Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/165, the work on the elaboration of the convention continued, at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, in 1998, within the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee, open to members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency. A discussion paper was prepared by the Friends of the Chairman for consideration by the working group (A/C.6/53/WG.1/CRP.1/Rev.1), which was reviewed in light of comments by delegations (A/C.6/53/WG.1/CRP.35/Add.1). Following its debate, the working group issued its report, based on the draft convention proposed by the Russian Federation and on written proposals and amendments made by other delegations, which was considered by the Sixth (Legal) Committee (A/C.6/53/L.4). On the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 53/108 of 8 December 1998, in which it, inter alia, decided that the Ad Hoc Committee should continue to elaborate a draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism with a view to completing the instrument, recommending that the discussion again continue at the following session of the General Assembly within the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee.

From 1999 to 2004, the Ad Hoc Committee held its third to eighth sessions, being annually reconvened by the General Assembly (see resolutions 54/110 of 9 December 1999, 55/158 of 12 December 2000, 56/88 of 12 December 2001, 57/27 of 19 November 2002 and 58/81 of 9 December 2003). In these sessions, the Ad Hoc Committee had before it the revised text of a draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism proposed by the Friends of the Chairman (A/C.6/53/L.4), written amendments and proposals submitted by delegations in relation to that instrument, as well as, at the eighth session, the text of the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism prepared, for discussion, by the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/AC.252/L.13 and Corr.1). (For

the corresponding annual reports of the Ad Hoc Committee, see: A/54/37, A/55/37, A/56/37, A/57/37, A/58/37 and A/59/37.) The work on the elaboration of the convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism continued, pursuant to the General Assembly resolutions referred to above, within the framework of a working group of the Sixth (Legal) Committee from the fifty-fourth to the fifty-ninth sessions of the General Assembly. (For the reports of the Working Groups of the Sixth (Legal) Committee at each of these sessions, see respectively A/C.6/54/L.2, A/C.6/55/L.2, A/C.6/56/L.9, A/C.6/57/L.9, A/C.6/58/L.1 and A/C.6/59/L.10)

At its fifty-ninth session, following its consideration of the report of the eighth session of the Ad Hoc Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/46 of 2 December 2004, in which it decided that the Ad Hoc Committee, on an expedited basis, continue to elaborate the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and resolve the outstanding issues relating to the elaboration of the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism as a means of further developing a comprehensive legal framework of conventions dealing with international terrorism. In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided that the work should continue, if necessary, during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, within the framework of the Working Group of the Sixth Committee, but also requested the Ad Hoc Committee to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session in the event of the completion of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism or the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. In accordance with that resolution, the Ad Hoc Committee held its ninth session from 28 March to 1 April 2005, at the conclusion of which it finalized, on 1 April 2005, the text of the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. As requested, the Ad Hoc Committee reported to the General Assembly on the completion of the draft convention, recommending that the Assembly adopt a draft resolution as proposed, to which was annexed the draft convention (see the report of the Ad Hoc Committee, A/59/766).

At its resumed fifty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 59/290 of 13 April 2005, to which was annexed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and requested the Secretary-General to open the Convention for signature at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 September 2005 to 31 December 2006. Pursuant to article 25, paragraph 1, the Convention entered into force on 7 July 2007 following the deposit of the twenty-second instrument of ratification.