ARTICLE 13

CONTENTS

Text of Article 13
Introductory Note 1-2
Article 13(1)(a) – with regard to the promotion of international cooperation in the political field 1-9
Article 13(1)(a) – With regard to the encouragement of the progressive development of international law and its codification
Article 13(1)(b) and (2)
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 to 9, the Article is treated in three separate studies. The first deals with the initiation of studies and recommendations made by the General 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 General 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 General 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)

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. 9, as for example resolutions on “Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region”, “Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic”, “Maintenance of international security – good-neighbourliness, stability, and development in South-Eastern Europe” and “The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa”, which are referred to paragraphs 3 to 6 below. Other resolutions which contain provisions related to the present study, including “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”, “World Outcome Summit” and “Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion”, are discussed in paragraphs 7 to 9 below. Furthermore, during the period under review, the General 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 General Assembly resolutions adopted in connection with the Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court as well as on other questions such as the scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of the United Nations.

Nations and Associated Personnel, the criminal accountability of United Nations Officials
and Experts on Mission, the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United
Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, and the peaceful uses
of outer space.2

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”.3 In these resolutions, the Assembly expressed satisfaction at the
efforts of Mediterranean countries to eliminate all causes of tension in the region. In this
regard, the Assembly welcomed the launch of a reinforced partnership, “The Barcelona
Process: Union for the Mediterranean,” and commended the Mediterranean countries for
the common political will to revive efforts to transform the Mediterranean basin into an
area of cooperation.4 The Assembly reiterated its call for all States of the Mediterranean
that had not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments
related to the field of disarmament and non-proliferation,5 and encouraged all States of
the region to promote genuine openness and transparency on all military matters.6
Finally, the Assembly encouraged the Mediterranean countries to strengthen their
cooperation in combating terrorism and welcomed in this regard the adoption of the
Euro-Mediterranean Code of Conduct on Countering Terrorism in November 2005.7

4. In the period under review, the General Assembly adopted further resolutions in
connection with the agenda item entitled “Zone of peace and cooperation of the South
Atlantic”.8 In these resolutions, 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 conflict in the region. In particular, the Assembly
encouraged States to cooperate in the prevention and eradication of small arms and light
weapons, commending and calling for continued efforts by members of the zone of peace
to implement their Programme of Action in this regard.9 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 of peace to implement the
zone objectives along with the Luanda Plan of Action.10

5. Under the agenda item entitled “Review of the implementation of the Declaration
on the Strengthening of International Security”, the General Assembly adopted a series of

---

4 See General Assembly resolution 63/86.
5 See e.g. General Assembly resolution 57/99, para. 5.
6 See e.g. General Assembly resolution 55/38, para. 6.
7 See General Assembly resolution 61/101.
8 General Assembly resolutions 55/49 of 29 November 2000, 58/10 of 19 November 2003 and 61/294 of 2
October 2007.
9 See General Assembly resolution 58/10, paras. 3-4.
10 See General Assembly resolution 61/294, paras. 2-4.

Copyright © United Nations
resolutions entitled “Maintenance of international security – good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe.” The Assembly urged countries of the region to consolidate South-Eastern Europe as a region of peace, security, stability, and cooperation. Further, the Assembly called upon participants in the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe and all concerned international organizations to support the efforts towards regional cooperation and stability so as to enable integration into European structures, taking also into account trans-Atlantic relations. The Assembly emphasized the importance of regional efforts aimed at arms control and disarmament, including measures at the national and regional level to prevent all acts of terrorism. Finally, the Assembly stressed the need for a negotiated settlement in line with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) on Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with special attention to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.

6. The General Assembly adopted several resolutions under the agenda item entitled “The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,” in addition to adopting a series of related resolutions on the implementation of recommendations from the report of the Secretary-General on the topic. The Assembly encouraged efforts to develop the capacity of African countries to undertake peace support operations, including through increased cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity as well as the establishment of a continental early warning system. The Assembly reaffirmed that the implementation of the recommendations in the Secretary General’s report must remain a priority on the agenda of the United Nations and of the Member States. In this context, the Assembly noted the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission in the World Summit Outcome (2005) and recognized its role in the peacebuilding process for countries emerging from conflict. Lastly, the Assembly stressed the importance of a regional approach to conflict prevention, in particular to cross-border issues such as disarmament and the prevention of illegal exploitation of natural resources, emphasizing in this regard the central role of the African Union and subregional organizations.

7. During each of the years of the period under review, the General Assembly annually adopted resolutions entitled “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”,

---

12 See e.g. General Assembly resolution 59/59, para. 4.
13 See e.g. General Assembly resolution 56/18, para. 13.
14 See e.g. General Assembly resolutions 55/27, para. 3; and 61/53, para. 5.
17 See e.g. General Assembly resolution 63/304, para. 3.
18 See e.g. General Assembly resolution 59/255.
19 See e.g. General Assembly resolution 61/230, para. 18.
20 See e.g. General Assembly resolution 62/275, para. 10.
stressing the need to strengthen international cooperation to prevent, combat and
eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Assembly called upon States
to refrain from financing or otherwise supporting terrorist activities, to intensify the
exchange of information on facts related to terrorism, and to enter into international
covenants and protocols for the suppression of terrorism. In its “Condemnation of
terrorist attacks in the United States of America”, the Assembly called for urgent
international cooperation to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of
the attacks of 11 September 2001. The General Assembly also adopted multiple
resolutions relating to specific aspects of terrorism, such as the importance of multilateral
cooperation in disarmament and non-proliferation to contribute to global efforts against
terrorism. In a similar vein, the Assembly called upon States to take measures and
support international cooperation to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass
destruction and radioactive materials. In a resolution entitled “The United Nations
Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy”, the Assembly adopted a counter-terrorism strategy
based upon elements identified by the Secretary General to promote comprehensive,
coordinated and consistent responses to counter terrorism at the national, regional, and
international levels. This measure was taken pursuant to the General Assembly
resolution on the “2005 World Summit Outcome” in which it called for such a strategy
that would take into account the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and
urged the international community to assist States in building national and regional
capacity to combat terrorism.

8. In the “2005 World Summit Outcome”, the General Assembly reaffirmed the
“United Nations Millennium Declaration” and the obligation of States to settle their
disputes by peaceful means in addition to refraining from any threat or use of force in any
manner inconsistent with the Charter. The Assembly also asserted that each individual
State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic
cleansing and crimes against humanity. The Assembly added that this responsibility
entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, and that the international
community should encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility and support
the United Nations in establishing an early warning capability. The resolution went on
to describe the responsibility of the international community, through the United Nations,
to use the appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian, and other peaceful means in accordance
with the Charter to help protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing

of 4 December 2006, 62/71 of 6 December 2007, 63/129 of 11 December 2008 and 64/118 of 16 December
2009.

22 See e.g. General Assembly resolution 55/158, paras. 5, 4, and 7.
23 General Assembly resolution 56/1 of 12 September 2001.
of 2 December 2008 and 64/38 of 2 December 2009.
27 General Assembly resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006.
28 General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005, paras. 81-91.
29 General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.
30 General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005, paras. 2, 73-80.
31 Id., para. 138.
and crimes against humanity. In this context, the Assembly expressed the preparedness to take collective action in accordance with the Charter, should peaceful means be inadequate and national authorities are manifestly failing to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.32

9. Finally, in the period under review, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions entitled “Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion.”33 The Assembly took note of the opposition of the international community to unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures and expressed concern over the negative impact of such measures because they are contrary to the recognized principles of international law. The Assembly reiterated its call for the repeal of unilateral extraterritorial laws that impose coercive economic measures contrary to international law on corporations and nationals of other States, further calling upon States not to recognize or apply such measures enacted by other States.

32 Id., para. 139.
33 General Assembly resolutions 55/6 of 26 October 2000 and 57/5 of 16 September 2002.