# Article 13

## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text of Article 13</th>
<th>Paragraphs</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductory note</td>
<td>1–2</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 13 (1) (a) Provision relating to the promotion of international cooperation in the political field</td>
<td>1–7</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 13 (1) (a) Provisions relating to the progressive development and codification of international law</td>
<td>1–118</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 13 (1) (b) and (2)</td>
<td>1–77</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 8, 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 co-operation 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. 8, as for example resolutions on “Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region”, “Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic”, “Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security” and “Maintenance of international security”, which are referred to in paragraphs 3 to 6 below. Other resolutions which contain provisions related to the present study, including “The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa” and “Supplement to an Agenda for Peace”, are referred to in paragraph 7 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 items “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”, “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”, “Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States” and “Establishment of an international criminal court”.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 commended the efforts by the Mediterranean countries in meeting common challenges through coordinated responses towards the objective of turning the Mediterranean basin into

---


² See Repertory, Supplement No. 9, vol. II, under Article 13 (1) (a), second clause.

³ GA resolutions 50/75, 51/50, 52/43, 53/82 and 54/59.
an area of cooperation, and encouraged them to strengthen such efforts through a lasting multilateral and action-oriented cooperative dialogue. It further encouraged the States in the region to strengthen their cooperation in combating terrorism and requested the Secretary-General to submit reports on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region for consideration by the Assembly.

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”. 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. 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.

5. Under the agenda item entitled “Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security”, the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/62 of 1 December 1999, entitled “Maintenance of international security — stability and development of South-Eastern Europe”. In the resolution, the Assembly urged the strengthening of the mutual cooperation of the States of South-Eastern Europe within the principle of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect, and stressed that closer engagement of the South-Eastern European States in furthering cooperation on the European continent would favourably influence the security and political situation.

6. Furthermore, the General Assembly adopted further resolutions in connection with the agenda item entitled “Maintenance of international security”. In the resolutions 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. In the resolutions entitled “Maintenance of international security — prevention of the violent disintegration of States”, the Assembly called upon all States to solve their disputes with other States by peaceful means and stressed the importance of regional efforts aimed at preventing bilateral conflicts endangering the maintenance of international peace and security.

--

4 GA resolutions 50/18, 51/19, 52/14, 53/34 and 54/35. The item was also mentioned in the Repertory, Supplement No. 9, vol. II, under Article 14 (see para. 8 of the study).
5 GA resolutions 50/80 B and 52/48. The item was also mentioned in the Repertory, Supplement No. 9, vol. II, under Article 14 (see para. 6 of the study).
6 GA resolution 53/71.
7. Finally, during the period under review, the General Assembly adopted resolutions which contain provisions that may have a bearing on the studies of Article 13 (1) (a), first clause. In the resolution adopted under the agenda item entitled “The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa”,\(^7\) the Assembly urged all States to strengthen the capacity of Africa to participate in all aspects of peacekeeping operations, in particular through increased cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity and between the United Nations and subregional organizations. The General Assembly also adopted resolution 51/242 of 15 September 1997, entitled “Supplement to an agenda for peace”. In that resolution, the Assembly adopted the texts on, inter alia, coordination in the Supplement to an Agenda for Peace, which promoted coordination between the United Nations and Member States within the United Nations system, and coordination with regional organizations and non-governmental organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

\(^7\) GA resolution 53/92.