

ARTICLE 56

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ARTICLE 56

TEXT OF ARTICLE 56

All Members pledge themselves to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. The present study contains a brief review of the decisions taken by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council during the period covered by this *Supplement* in which Article 56 was referred to or its language paraphrased.

I. GENERAL SURVEY

2. As in the past, only in a few decisions of the General Assembly and the Council was there reference to Article 56. Most of these references were made in the preambles of resolutions and relate primarily to questions of economic development,¹ social progress,² and human rights.³ Decisions in the economic, social and human rights fields which contained no reference to Article 56, but referred in a general way to the obligations assumed by Members under the Charter, are not dealt with here.⁴

3. However, as noted in the *Repertory*,⁵ since Article 56 contains a general pledge relating to the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55, it cannot be said with certainty that the pledge in Article 56 has not been taken into account in those decisions which contain only a general reference to obligations of Members under the Charter. It should be noted that, in the study of Article 55 in this *Supplement*, which deals, *inter alia*, with the types of action taken for the "achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55", the section on international co-operation is pertinent to this study.

¹G A resolutions 2152(XXI) and 2299(XXII).

²G A resolutions 2542(XXIV) and 2543(XXIV).

³G A resolutions 2144 A (XXI) and 2200(XXI).

⁴G A resolutions 2188(XXI), 2205(XXI), 2584(XXIV), 2555(XXIV) and E S C resolutions 1459(XLVII) and 1367(XLV).

⁵See *Repertory*, vol. III, under Article 56, footnote 1, and also paras, 1-3.

II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

The scope of the pledge to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization

Joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization

1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

4. By resolution 2152(XXI) of 17 November 1966, the General Assembly decided to establish the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as an organ of the General Assembly. The purpose of the Organization as set forth in its constitution would be "to promote industrial development, in accordance with Article 1, paragraph 3, and Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter of the United Nations, and by encouraging the mobilization of national and international resources to assist in, promote and accelerate the industrialization of the developing countries, with particular emphasis on the manufacturing sector". In resolution 2299(XXII) the General Assembly, recalling its resolution 2152(XXI), took note with satisfaction of the report of the Industrial Development Board on its first session.

2. SOCIAL PROGRESS

5. By resolution 2542(XXIV) of 11 December 1969, the General Assembly, mindful of the pledge of Members of the United Nations under the Charter to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization to promote higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development, solemnly proclaimed the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and called for national and international action for its use as a common basis for social development policies. In Part III of the Declaration, the Assembly set forth specific means and methods of mobilization of the necessary resources by national and international action in order to achieve the objectives of social progress and development.

6. In resolution 2543(XXIV) on the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the General Assembly, conscious of the importance of the Declaration for the formulation and implementation of national policies and measures and for undertaking joint and separate action to promote higher and

improved standards of living, full employment and conditions conducive to rapid economic and social progress, recommended that all Governments should take into consideration in their policies, plans and programmes the principles, objectives and means and methods of the Declaration; decided that the Declaration should be taken into account in the formulation of the strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and in the implementation of programmes of international action to be carried out during the Decade; and urged all Governments to take into account the provisions of the Declaration in their bilateral and multilateral relations in the field of development.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS

7. In resolution 2144 A (XXI) entitled "Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of *apartheid*, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories",⁶ the General Assembly, "bearing in mind the obligation of all Member States under Article 56 of the Charter of the United Nations to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55, which include the promotion of universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and

fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion", *inter alia*, urged all States to take effective measures, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, the General Assembly resolutions pertaining to human rights, and the relevant Security Council resolutions, for the suppression of the policies of *apartheid* and segregation and for the elimination of racial discrimination, wherever it occurs, especially in colonial and other dependent countries and territories. In subsequent resolutions 2439(XXIII) and 2547 B (XXIV), the General Assembly, *inter alia*, reaffirmed the provisions contained in resolution 2144 A (XXI), with special reference to southern Africa.

8. By resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, the General Assembly, considering that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, and further considering that in Article 56 of the Charter all Members of the United Nations have pledged themselves to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization for the achievement of that purpose, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession three international instruments, namely: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.⁷

⁶Based on E S C resolution 1164(XLI). See *Repertory, Supplement No. 3*, vol. II, under Article 56, para. 5 and footnote 7.

⁷For detailed discussion on these International Covenants on human rights, see this *Supplement*, under Article 55.