

(h) To draw the attention of the States and other participants referred to in subparagraphs (d) to (g) above to the desirability of appointing as their representatives persons especially competent in the field to be considered;

(i) To place before the Conference:

(i) All comments and proposals received from Governments;

(ii) Working and background papers which may be received from the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other interested international organizations, taking into consideration the legal, economic and shipping trade aspects of the draft Convention;

(iii) Draft provisions concerning implementation, reservations and other final clauses and all relevant documentation and recommendations relating to methods of work and procedure;

(j) To ensure that all relevant documentation for the Conference will be distributed to all participants in the Conference at the earliest possible date;

(k) To arrange for adequate staff and facilities required for the Conference, bearing in mind the fact that the legal, economic and shipping trade aspects of the carriage of goods by sea should receive due consideration at the Conference.

*99th plenary meeting
15 December 1976*

31/101. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country,²¹

1. *Accepts* the recommendations of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country contained in paragraph 65 of its report;

2. *Decides* to continue the work of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI) of 15 December 1971, with the purpose of examining all matters falling within its terms of reference and requests the Secretary-General to provide the Committee with all necessary assistance;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country".

*99th plenary meeting
15 December 1976*

31/102. 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

The General Assembly,

Deeply perturbed over acts of international terrorism which are occurring with increasing frequency and which take a toll of innocent human lives,

Recognizing the importance of international co-operation in devising measures effectively to prevent their occurrence and of studying their underlying causes with a view to finding just and peaceful solutions as quickly as possible,

Recalling the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,²²

Noting that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on International Terrorism, established under General Assembly resolution 3034 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, has been obliged to suspend its work,

Deeply convinced of the importance to mankind of the continuation of the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee,

1. *Expresses deep concern* over increasing acts of international terrorism which endanger or take innocent human lives or jeopardize fundamental freedoms;

2. *Urges* States to continue to seek just and peaceful solutions to the underlying causes which give rise to such acts of violence;

3. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right to self-determination and independence of all peoples under colonial and racist régimes and other forms of alien domination, and upholds the legitimacy of their struggle, in particular the struggle of national liberation movements, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the organs of the United Nations;

4. *Condemns* the continuation of repressive and terrorist acts by colonial, racist and alien régimes in denying peoples their legitimate right to self-determination and independence and other human rights and fundamental freedoms;

5. *Invites* States to become parties to the existing international conventions which relate to various aspects of the problem of international terrorism;

6. *Invites* States to take all appropriate measures at the national level with a view to the speedy and final elimination of the problem, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 3 above;

7. *Invites* the *Ad Hoc* Committee on International Terrorism to continue its work in accordance with the mandate entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 3034 (XXVII);

8. *Invites* the States which have not yet done so to submit their observations and concrete proposals as soon as possible to the Secretary-General so as to enable the *Ad Hoc* Committee to carry out its mandate more efficiently;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the *Ad Hoc* Committee an analytical study of the observations of States submitted under paragraph 8 above;

²¹ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 26 (A/31/26).

²² Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

10. *Requests* the *Ad Hoc* Committee to consider the observations of States under paragraph 8 above and to submit its report with recommendations for possible co-operation for the speedy elimination of the problem, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 3, to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the *Ad Hoc* Committee with the necessary facilities and services, including summary records;

12. *Decides* to include the item in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session.

99th plenary meeting
15 December 1976

31/103. Drafting of an international convention against the taking of hostages

The General Assembly,

Considering that the progressive development of international law and its codification contribute to the implementation of the purposes and principles set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Considering that, in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter, freedom, justice and peace in the world are inseparable from the recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family,

Having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights²³ and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,²⁴ which provide that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security,

Recognizing that the taking of hostages is an act which endangers innocent human lives and violates human dignity,

Gravely concerned at the increase of such acts,

Recalling the prohibition of the taking of hostages in articles 3 and 34 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,²⁵ the Hague Convention of 1970 for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft,²⁶ the Montreal Convention of 1971 for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation,²⁷ the Convention of 1973 on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents,²⁸ as well as General Assembly resolution 2645 (XXV) of 25 November 1970 condemning aerial hijacking or interference with civil air travel,

Recognizing the urgent need for further effective measures to put an end to the taking of hostages,

Mindful of the need to conclude, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international convention against the taking of hostages,

1. *Decides* to establish an *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, composed of thirty-five Member States;

2. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, after consultations with the chairmen of the regional groups, to appoint the members of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and of representation of the principal legal systems of the world;

3. *Requests* the *Ad Hoc* Committee to draft at the earliest possible date an international convention against the taking of hostages and authorizes the Committee, in the fulfilment of its mandate, to consider suggestions and proposals from any State, bearing in mind the views expressed during the debate on this item at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to afford the *Ad Hoc* Committee any assistance and provide it with all facilities it may require for the performance of its work, to provide the Committee with pertinent information on the taking of hostages and to ensure that summary records of the meetings of the Committee will be drawn up and submitted;

5. *Requests* the *Ad Hoc* Committee to submit its report and to make every effort to submit a draft convention to the General Assembly in good time for consideration at its thirty-second session and requests the Secretary-General to communicate the report to Member States;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled "Drafting of an international convention against the taking of hostages".

99th plenary meeting
15 December 1976

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The President of the General Assembly subsequently informed the Secretary-General²⁹ that he had appointed as members of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages thirty-three of the thirty-five States to be appointed by him in accordance with paragraph 2 of the above resolution.

As a result, the Ad Hoc Committee is composed of the following Member States: ALGERIA, BARBADOS, CANADA, CHILE, DEMOCRATIC YEMEN, DENMARK, EGYPT, FRANCE, GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF, GUINEA, IRAN, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KENYA, LESOTHO, LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, MEXICO, NETHERLANDS, NICARAGUA, NIGERIA, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, SOMALIA, SURINAM, SWEDEN, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, VENEZUELA and YUGOSLAVIA.

²⁹ A/31/479.

²³ Resolution 217 A (III).

²⁴ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

²⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.

²⁶ *United States Treaties and Other International Agreements*, vol. 22, part 2 (1971), p. 1644.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 24, part 1 (1973), p. 568.

²⁸ Resolution 3166 (XXVIII), annex.