

1. *Decides* that the United Nations Conference on Succession of States in Respect of Treaties, referred to in General Assembly resolution 3496 (XXX), will be held from 4 April to 6 May 1977 at Vienna;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite:

(a) All States to participate in the Conference;

(b) Representatives of organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under its auspices, in the capacity of observers, in accordance with Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974;

(c) Representatives of national liberation movements recognized in its region by the Organization of African Unity, in the capacity of observers, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3280 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974;

(d) The specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as interested organs of the United Nations and interested regional inter-governmental organizations, to be represented at the Conference by observers;

3. *Refers* to the Conference as the basic proposal for its consideration the draft articles on succession of States in respect of treaties adopted by the International Law Commission at its twenty-sixth session;

4. *Decides* that the languages of the Conference shall be those used in the General Assembly and its Main Committees;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Conference all relevant documentation and recommendations relating to its methods of work and procedures and to arrange for the necessary staff, facilities and services which it will require, including the provision of summary records;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to arrange for the presence at the Conference, as an expert, of the International Law Commission's latest Special Rapporteur on the topic of succession of States in respect of treaties.

*77th plenary meeting  
24 November 1976*

### **31/19. Respect for human rights in armed conflicts**

*The General Assembly,*

*Conscious* that a better application of existing humanitarian rules relating to armed conflicts and the development of further rules remains an urgent task in order to reduce the suffering brought about by all such conflicts,

*Recalling* the successive resolutions adopted in the preceding years by the United Nations relating to human rights in armed conflicts and the debates on this subject,

*Noting* the report of the Secretary-General on the third session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, held at Geneva from 21 April to 11 June 1976, and on the second session of the Conference of Government Experts on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons, con-

voked by the International Committee of the Red Cross at Lugano from 28 January to 26 February 1976,<sup>4</sup>

*Welcoming* the substantial progress made at the third session of the Diplomatic Conference and the work of the Conference of Government Experts,

*Noting* that the Diplomatic Conference will continue its consideration of the use of specific conventional weapons, including any which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects, and its search for agreement, for humanitarian reasons, on possible rules prohibiting or restricting the use of such weapons,

1. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflicts to acknowledge and to comply with their obligations under the humanitarian instruments and to observe the international humanitarian rules which are applicable, in particular the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907,<sup>5</sup> the Geneva Protocol of 1925<sup>6</sup> and the Geneva Conventions of 1949;<sup>7</sup>

2. *Calls* the attention of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, and of the Governments and organizations participating in it, to the need for measures to promote on a universal basis the dissemination of and instruction in the rules of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts;

3. *Urges* all participants in the Diplomatic Conference to do their utmost to reach agreement on additional rules which may help to alleviate the suffering brought about by armed conflicts and to respect and protect non-combatants and civilian objects in such conflicts, and to bring the Conference during its final session in 1977 to a successful conclusion;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Swiss Federal Council for convoking the fourth session of the Diplomatic Conference from 17 March to 10 June 1977;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session on relevant developments concerning human rights in armed conflicts, in particular on the proceedings and results of the 1977 session of the Diplomatic Conference;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled "Respect for human rights in armed conflicts".

*77th plenary meeting  
24 November 1976*

### **31/28. Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 992 (X) of 21 November 1955, 2285 (XXII) of 5 December 1967, 2552 (XXIV) of 12 December 1969, 2697 (XXV) of 11 Decem-

<sup>4</sup> A/31/163 and Add.1.

<sup>5</sup> Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

<sup>6</sup> League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV, No. 2138, p. 65.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

ber 1970, 2968 (XXVII) of 14 December 1972 and 3349 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 2925 (XXVII) of 27 November 1972, 3073 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973 and 3282 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 on the strengthening of the role of the United Nations,

*Recalling especially* resolution 3499 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, by which the General Assembly established the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization,

*Having considered* the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization,<sup>8</sup>

*Considering* that the Special Committee has not completed the mandate given to it,

*Reaffirming* its support for the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization;

2. *Decides* that the Special Committee should continue its work in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of General Assembly resolution 3499 (XXX);

3. *Invites* Governments to submit, or to bring up to date, their observations and proposals in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3499 (XXX);

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render all assistance to the Special Committee, including the preparation of summary records of its meetings;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization".

*81st plenary meeting  
29 November 1976*

### 31/76. Implementation by States of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961

*The General Assembly,*

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>9</sup> on the implementation by States of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961,<sup>10</sup>

*Noting* that since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 3501 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 the number of States parties to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 has increased,

*Concerned* at continuing instances of violations of the rules of diplomatic law relating, in particular, to the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier,

<sup>8</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 33 (A/31/33).*

<sup>9</sup> A/31/145 and Add.1.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 500, No. 7310, p. 95.

*Recognizing* the advisability of studying the question of the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier in the light of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961,

*Considering* it desirable that the General Assembly should periodically consider at its sessions the question of implementation by States of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961,

1. *Urges* States which have not yet done so to become parties to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961;

2. *Reaffirms* the need for strict implementation by States of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 in the interest of maintaining normal relations between them, strengthening international peace and security and developing international co-operation;

3. *Invites* Member States to submit or to supplement their comments and observations on ways and means to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and on the desirability of elaborating provisions concerning the status of the diplomatic courier in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 3501 (XXX), with due regard also to the question of the status of the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier;

4. *Requests* the International Law Commission at the appropriate time to study, in the light of the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation by States of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and other information on this question to be received from Member States through the Secretary-General, the proposals on the elaboration of a protocol concerning the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier, which would constitute development and concretization of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session an analytical report on ways and means to ensure the implementation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 on the basis of comments and observations on this question received from Member States and also taking into account the results, if available and ready, of the study by the International Law Commission of the proposals on the elaboration of the above-mentioned protocol;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled "Implementation by States of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961: report of the Secretary-General".

*97th plenary meeting  
13 December 1976*

### 31/97. Report of the International Law Commission

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its twenty-eighth session,<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/31/10).*