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Regarding the identification of new subjects, some delegations suggested examining legal matters relating to the Organization's reform and revitalization; others called for the consideration of the proposals submitted at previous sessions. It was also suggested that no new subjects should be explored until the Special Committee had disposed of its current agenda items and that no new proposals should be considered that might envisage amendments to the Charter or duplicate efforts being made elsewhere in the Organization. Some delegations supported the proposal introduced by Ghana in 2010 [YUN 2010, p. 1349] on including a new subject entitled "Principles and practical measures/mechanism for strengthening and ensuring more effective cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations on the maintenance of international peace and security in areas of conflict prevention and resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding and peacekeeping, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations". Ghana subsequently revised the title of the proposal to "Strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements/organizations in the peaceful settlement of disputes" and indicated that it would submit a working paper on the proposal for further discussion at the Committee's next session.

**Reports of Secretary-General.** In response to General Assembly resolution 68/115 [YUN 2013, p. 1352], the Secretary-General in July submitted a report [A/69/119] on implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions. The report highlighted operational changes that had occurred due to the shift in focus in the Security Council and its sanctions committees towards targeted sanctions; recent developments concerning the activities of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the area of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions; and Secretariat arrangements related to assistance to such States.

Also in response to General Assembly resolution 68/115, the Secretary-General reported in July [A/69/159] on progress made in updating the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*.

With respect to the *Repertory*, the Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly note the progress made in the preparation of *Repertory* studies and their posting on the Internet in English, French and Spanish; consider the recommendations of the

Special Committee—including the increased use of the UN internship programme, expanded cooperation with academic institutions for the preparation of the studies and the sponsoring, on a voluntary basis and with no cost to the United Nations, of associate experts to assist in updating the publication; note the progress made towards the elimination of the backlog of the *Repertory* through use of the trust fund; and strongly encourage States to make additional contributions to it.

With regard to the *Repertoire*, the Secretary-General recommended that the Assembly note the progress made towards updating the publication and posting it in electronic form in all language versions on the UN website; call for voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the updating of the *Repertoire* and express appreciation for the contributions received; note the sponsoring by Switzerland, on a voluntary basis, of an associate expert to assist in the preparation of the *Repertoire*, and encourage other States to consider providing such assistance.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/501], adopted **resolution 69/122** without vote [agenda item 81].

#### 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 resolution 3499(XXX) of 15 December 1975, by which it established the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, and its relevant resolutions adopted at subsequent sessions,

*Recalling also* its resolution 47/233 of 17 August 1993 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,

*Recalling further* its resolution 47/62 of 11 December 1992 on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council,

*Taking note* of the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council,

*Recalling* the elements relevant to the work of the Special Committee contained in its resolution 47/120 B of 20 September 1993,

*Recalling also* its resolution 51/241 of 31 July 1997 on the strengthening of the United Nations system and its resolution 51/242 of 15 September 1997, entitled "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace", by which it adopted the texts on coordination and the question of sanctions imposed by the United Nations, which are annexed to that resolution,

*Concerned* about the special economic problems confronting certain States arising from the carrying-out of preventive or enforcement measures taken by the Security Council against other States, and taking into account the

obligation of Members of the United Nations under Article 49 of the Charter to join in affording mutual assistance in carrying out the measures decided upon by the Council,

*Recalling* the right of third States confronted with special economic problems of that nature to consult the Security Council with regard to a solution of those problems, in accordance with Article 50 of the Charter,

*Recalling also* that the International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and reaffirming its authority and independence,

*Mindful* of the adoption of the revised working papers on the working methods of the Special Committee,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “*Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*”,

*Recalling* paragraphs 106 to 110, 176 and 177 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

*Mindful* of the decision of the Special Committee in which it expressed its readiness to engage, as appropriate, in the implementation of any decisions that might be taken at the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly in September 2005 that concerned the Charter and any amendments thereto,

*Recalling* the provisions of its resolutions 50/51 of 11 December 1995, 51/208 of 17 December 1996, 52/162 of 15 December 1997, 53/107 of 8 December 1998, 54/107 of 9 December 1999, 55/157 of 12 December 2000, 56/87 of 12 December 2001, 57/25 of 19 November 2002, 58/80 of 9 December 2003 and 59/45 of 2 December 2004,

*Recalling also* its resolution 64/115 of 16 December 2009 and the document entitled “Introduction and implementation of sanctions imposed by the United Nations” annexed thereto,

*Having considered* the report of the Special Committee on the work of its session held in 2014,

*Noting with appreciation* the work done by the Special Committee to encourage States to focus on the need to prevent and to settle peacefully their disputes which are likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security,

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 shall hold its next session from 17 to 25 February 2015;

3. *Requests* the Special Committee, at its session in 2015, in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 50/52 of 11 December 1995:

(a) To continue its consideration of all proposals concerning the question of the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations and, in this context, to consider other proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security already submitted or which may be submitted to the Special Committee at its session in 2015;

(b) To continue to consider, in an appropriate, substantive manner and framework, including the frequency of its consideration, the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter based on all of the related reports of

the Secretary-General and the proposals submitted on the question;

(c) To keep on its agenda the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States;

(d) To consider, as appropriate, any proposal referred to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the decisions of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly in September 2005 that concern the Charter and any amendments thereto;

(e) To continue to consider, on a priority basis, ways and means of improving its working methods and enhancing its efficiency and utilization of resources with a view to identifying widely acceptable measures for future implementation;

4. *Invites* the Special Committee, at its session in 2015, to continue to identify new subjects for consideration in its future work with a view to contributing to the revitalization of the work of the United Nations;

5. *Also invites* the Special Committee, at its session in 2015, to consider the question of an appropriate commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the Charter;

6. *Notes* the readiness of the Special Committee to provide, within its mandate, such assistance as may be sought at the request of other subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in relation to any issues before them;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

8. *Recognizes* the important role of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, in adjudicating disputes among States and the value of its work, as well as the importance of having recourse to the Court in the peaceful settlement of disputes, notes that, consistent with Article 96 of the Charter, the Court’s advisory jurisdiction may be requested by the General Assembly, the Security Council or other authorized organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and requests the Secretary-General to distribute, in due course, the advisory opinions requested by the principal organs of the United Nations as official documents of the United Nations;

9. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the progress made in the preparation of studies for the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, including the increased use of the internship programme of the United Nations and further expanded cooperation with academic institutions for this purpose, as well as the progress made towards updating the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions made by Member States to the trust fund for the elimination of the backlog in the *Repertory*, as well as the trust fund for the updating of the *Repertoire*;

11. *Reiterates its call* for voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the elimination of the backlog in the *Repertory* so as to further support the Secretariat in carrying out the effective elimination of that backlog; voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the updating of the *Repertoire*; and the sponsoring, on a voluntary basis and with no cost to the United Nations, of associate experts to assist in the updating of the two publications;

12. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts towards updating the two publications and making them available electronically in all their respective language versions;



13. *Notes with concern* that the backlog in the preparation of volume III of the *Repertory*, although slightly reduced, has not been eliminated, and calls upon the Secretary-General to address that issue effectively and on a priority basis, while commending the Secretary-General for progress made in reducing the backlog;

14. *Reiterates* the responsibility of the Secretary-General for the quality of the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*, and with regard to the *Repertoire* calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to follow the modalities outlined in paragraphs 102 to 106 of his report of 18 September 1952;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on both the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to brief the Special Committee at its next session on the information referred to in paragraph 12 of his report on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions;

17. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, under 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", a report on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth 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".

### UN Programme for the teaching and study of international law

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/110 [YUN 2013, p. 1354], the Secretary-General submitted an October report [A/69/516 & Add.1] on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, which covered implementation of the Programme in 2014. Activities included the holding of the fiftieth session of the International Law Seminar (Geneva, 7–25 July) and the convening of the International Law Fellowship Programme (The Hague, 30 June–8 August).

Lectures, seminars and study visits were organized by the UN Office of Legal Affairs (OLA). The Office organized regional courses in international law, including one for Africa (Addis Ababa, 7 April–2 May). Due to the increasing demand for international law training, OLA considered permanent venues for regional courses in international law for Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law had been accessed by almost 1 million individuals and institutions in 193 Member States since its creation in 2008. It offered almost 350 lectures on a broad range of subjects relating to international law,

including 23 lectures added in 2014, with an extensive online collection of treaties, jurisprudence, publications, scholarly writings, training materials and law journals which could also be viewed on mobile devices since 2013. OLA provided UN legal publications and training materials, upon request, to libraries as well as academic and other training institutes in developing countries and continued disseminating them, together with other legal information, through the Internet. In response to Assembly resolution 68/110, OLA provided guidance to the African Institute of International Law in Arusha in building its research library for African scholars and practitioners as well as for its training seminars on specific topics of international law and African Union law for government officials and practitioners. It also continued to research and collect legal materials, and maintained 23 websites.

The report also outlined activities planned for 2015 and provided administrative and financial implications of UN participation in the Programme during 2014 and 2015.

The Advisory Committee on the Programme held its forty-ninth session on 8, 13 and 14 October.

**Communication.** By a 29 August letter [A/69/524], Mauritania transmitted the African Union's decision encouraging the African Union Commission on International Law to bolster its activities in the development and codification of international law with specific focus on African Union law, and calling on its member States to provide the Commission with information on relevant issues of international law.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/497], adopted **resolution 69/117** without vote [agenda item 77].

#### United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2099(XX) of 20 December 1965, in which the General Assembly established the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law to contribute towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States,

*Reaffirming* that the Programme of Assistance is a core activity of the United Nations and that it has provided the foundation for the efforts of the United Nations to promote a better knowledge of international law for nearly half a century,

*Recognizing* the major contribution of the Programme of Assistance to the teaching and dissemination of international law for the benefit of lawyers in all countries,

legal systems and regions of the world for almost half a century,

*Emphasizing* the important contribution of the Programme of Assistance, in particular the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, to the furtherance of United Nations rule of law programmes and activities,

*Reaffirming* that the increasing demand for international law training and dissemination activities creates new challenges for the Programme of Assistance,

*Recognizing* the importance of the Programme of Assistance effectively reaching its beneficiaries, including with regard to languages, while bearing in mind limitations on available resources,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance and the views of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, which are contained in the report,

*Noting with concern* that the activities of the Programme of Assistance, in particular the organization of the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law on a regular basis and the further development of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, cannot be sustained with the resources available under the current programme budget, notwithstanding its resolutions 64/113 of 16 December 2009, 65/25 of 6 December 2010, 66/97 of 9 December 2011, 67/91 of 14 December 2012 and 68/110 of 16 December 2013,

*Noting with regret* that the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2014 were cancelled owing to insufficient funds and that no United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean has been held in the past decade,

*Considering* that international law should occupy an appropriate place in the teaching of legal disciplines at all universities,

*Convinced* that States, international and regional organizations, universities and institutions should be encouraged to give further support to the Programme of Assistance and to increase their activities to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, in particular those activities which are of special benefit to persons from developing countries,

*Reaffirming* that in the conduct of the Programme of Assistance it would be desirable to use as far as possible the resources and facilities made available by Member States, international and regional organizations, universities, institutions and others,

*Reaffirming also* the hope that, in appointing highly qualified lecturers for the seminars to be held within the framework of the fellowship programmes in international law, account would be taken of the need to secure the representation of major legal systems and balance among various geographical regions,

1. *Reiterates its approval* of the guidelines and recommendations contained in section III of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, in particular those designed to strengthen and revitalize the United Nations Programme of Assistance

in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law in response to the increasing demand for international law training and dissemination activities;

2. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to carry out the activities specified in his reports in 2015;

3. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General to award a minimum of one scholarship in 2015 under the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea;

4. *Further authorizes* the Secretary-General to continue and further develop the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law as a major contribution to the teaching and dissemination of international law around the world and to continue to finance this activity from provisions in the regular budget as well as, when necessary, from voluntary financial contributions, which would be received as a result of the requests set out in paragraphs 22 and 23 below;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the activities conducted under the Programme of Assistance and, in particular, for the efforts to strengthen, expand and enhance the international law training and dissemination activities within the framework of the Programme of Assistance in 2014;

6. *Notes with serious concern* that the provisions of paragraph 7 of resolutions 66/97, 67/91 and 68/110 have not been implemented, and therefore decides to revisit the matter of funding for the Programme of Assistance under the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, in particular the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law for the year 2015;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include additional resources under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016–2017 for the organization of the Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, for Asia-Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean each year, and for the continuation and further development of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in the regular budget, for consideration by the General Assembly, the necessary funding for the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea with effect from the biennium 2016–2017, should voluntary contributions be insufficient for granting at least one fellowship a year;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to consider admitting, for participation in the various components of the Programme of Assistance, candidates from countries willing to bear the entire cost of their participation;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of the United Nations legal publications prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, and once again requests the Secretary-General to issue the publications referred to in his previous report in various formats, including hard copy publications, which are essential for developing countries;

11. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General issue the next volume of the *United Nations Legislative Series* containing materials on the responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts;

12. *Appreciates* the efforts that were undertaken by the Office of Legal Affairs to bring up to date the United



Nations legal publications, in particular by the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs for its desktop publishing initiative from 2003 to 2013, which greatly enhanced the timely issuance of its legal publications and made possible the preparation of legal training materials, regrets that none of the publications referred to in the previous report of the Secretary-General was issued in 2014, when desktop publishing was discontinued owing to lack of resources, and recommends that the necessary resources be made available to resume this successful initiative;

13. *Requests* the Office of Legal Affairs to continue to maintain and expand its websites listed in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General as an invaluable tool for the dissemination of international law materials as well as for advanced legal research;

14. *Requests* that interns and research assistants be enlisted for the preparation of materials for the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law;

15. *Commends* the Codification Division for the cost-saving measures undertaken with regard to the International Law Fellowship Programme to maintain the number of fellowships available for this comprehensive international law training programme;

16. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Hague Academy of International Law for the valuable contribution it continues to make to the Programme of Assistance, which has enabled candidates under the International Law Fellowship Programme to attend and participate in the Fellowship Programme in conjunction with courses at the Academy;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions of the Hague Academy to the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, and calls upon Member States and interested organizations to give favourable consideration to the appeal of the Academy for a continuation of support and a possible increase in their financial contributions, to enable the Academy to carry out its activities, particularly those relating to the summer courses, regional courses and programmes of the Centre for Studies and Research in International Law and International Relations;

18. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Codification Division to revitalize and conduct United Nations Regional Courses in International Law as an important training activity;

19. *Expresses its appreciation* to Ethiopia for hosting and to Thailand and Uruguay for agreeing to host the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law in 2014, and to Ethiopia, Thailand and Uruguay for agreeing to host the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, for Asia-Pacific and, for the first time in over a decade, for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2015, and also expresses its appreciation to Costa Rica for its willingness to host this Regional Course in the future;

20. *Expresses its appreciation* to the African Union for the valuable contribution it continues to make to the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Africa, which has enabled participants to attend and participate in the Regional Course and the lectures at the African Union;

21. *Once again encourages* the Codification Division to cooperate with the African Institute of International Law, dedicated to offering higher learning and research in international law needed for the development of Africa, in the implementation of the relevant activities under the Programme of Assistance;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to publicize the Programme of Assistance and periodically to invite Member States, universities, philanthropic foundations and other interested national and international institutions and organizations, as well as individuals, to make voluntary contributions towards the financing of the Programme or otherwise to assist in its implementation and possible expansion;

23. *Reiterates its request* to Member States and interested organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions, inter alia, for the International Law Fellowship Programme and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law;

24. *Urges*, in particular, all Member States and interested organizations, institutions and individuals to make voluntary contributions for the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law organized by the Codification Division as an important complement to the International Law Fellowship Programme, thus alleviating the burden on prospective host countries and making it possible to conduct the Regional Courses on a regular basis;

25. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have made voluntary contributions to support the Programme of Assistance;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance in 2015 and, following consultations with the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, to submit recommendations regarding the Programme in subsequent years;

27. *Concludes once again* that voluntary contributions have not proven to be a sustainable method for funding the activities under the Programme of Assistance, in particular the United Nations Regional Courses in International Law and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, and that, consequently, there is a need to provide more reliable funding for all its activities, taking into account the conclusion of the Advisory Committee at its forty-ninth session;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled “United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law”.

### Host country relations

At five meetings held in New York (6 February, 22 April, 31 July, 1 October, 4 November), the 19-member Committee on Relations with the Host Country considered the following aspects of relations between the UN diplomatic community and the United States, the host country: entry visas issued by the host country; the question of privileges and immunities; host country activities to assist members of the UN community; transportation: the use of motor vehicles, parking and related matters; and other matters. The recommendations and conclusions on those items, approved by the Committee at its 4 November meeting, were incorporated into its report [A/69/26]. The Committee expressed appreciation for the host



country's efforts to maintain appropriate conditions for delegations and missions accredited to the United Nations and anticipated that all issues raised at its meetings would be settled in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law.

Noting the importance of the observance of privileges and immunities, the Committee emphasized the need to solve, through negotiations, problems that might arise in that regard for the normal functioning of accredited delegations and missions. It urged the host country to continue to take appropriate action, such as the training of police, security, customs and border control officers, with a view to maintaining respect for diplomatic privileges and immunities. In case of violations, the Committee urged the host country to ensure that such cases were investigated and remedied, in accordance with applicable law. Considering that the security of missions and the safety of their personnel were indispensable for their effective functioning, the Committee appreciated the host country's efforts to that end and anticipated that the host country would continue to take all measures necessary to prevent any interference with the missions' functioning.

The Committee noted that the missions continued to implement the Parking Programme for Diplomatic Vehicles, which came into force in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 1338]. It would remain seized of the matter to ensure its proper implementation in a manner that was fair, nondiscriminatory, effective and consistent with international law. It also requested that the host country continue to bring to the attention of New York City officials reports about other problems experienced by permanent missions or their staff, in order to improve the conditions for their functioning and promote compliance with international norms concerning diplomatic privileges and immunities.

The Committee anticipated that the host country would enhance its efforts to ensure the issuance, in a timely manner, of entry visas to representatives of Member States to travel to New York on official UN business, and remained seized of the matter of the host country's failure to issue a visa to a designated permanent representative of a Member State, noting the position of the affected Member State, other Member States and the host country in that regard. It also noted that a number of delegations had requested shortening the time frame applied by the host country for issuance of entry visas, since the existing time frame posed difficulties for the full-fledged participation of Member States in UN meetings. The Committee urged the host country to remove remaining travel restrictions for personnel of certain missions and staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities. It also stressed the importance of permanent missions, their personnel and Secretariat personnel meeting their financial obligations.

The Committee expressed concern over the difficulties experienced by some permanent missions in obtaining suitable banking services, which affected those missions' ability to perform their functions, and welcomed the host country's efforts to facilitate the opening of bank accounts for permanent missions with other financial institutions.

### Bank accounts of Permanent Missions

At the meeting of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country on 22 April, the Syrian Arab Republic reiterated its concern raised in previous Committee meetings over the preceding two years about opening a bank account, stressing that a swift solution to the banking issue was needed. At a meeting on 31 July, the Sudan requested consideration of an item on the closure of bank accounts, stating that its mission had no bank account for three years and was unable to function, despite the host country's efforts to find a solution. Subsequently, Cuba raised similar concerns with regard to the transfer of funds to and from its account, which were the subject of its letters addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country on 27 November 2013 [A/AC.154/405] and on 30 September 2014 [A/AC.154/406].

The host country responded that it had no authority to direct a financial institution to open an account but took up the issues concerned with the relevant banks, and noted that the United Nations Federal Credit Union had begun opening accounts for the permanent missions affected.

On 9 September, Bolivia, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced to the General Assembly a draft resolution [A/68/L.42/Rev.1] addressing the issue of decisions made over previous years by several banking institutions in the City of New York to close bank accounts of Member and Observer States' missions and refuse to continue to provide services to them, which negatively affected their normal functioning. According to Bolivia, the objective of the draft resolution was to achieve a long-term solution to the problem through additional measures by the host country to assist accredited missions and their staff.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 September [meeting 107], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 68/306** [draft: A/68/L.42/Rev.1] without vote [agenda items 124 & 125].

### Enhancement of the administration and financial functioning of the United Nations

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and its relevant provisions,

*Recalling* the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquar-

ters of the United Nations of 26 June 1947, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 169(II) of 31 October 1947, and the obligations it establishes for the host country,

*Taking into consideration* the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961, and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations adopted by the General Assembly on 13 February 1946,

*Recognizing* the problems that have arisen as a result of the decisions made on a number of occasions by several banking institutions in regard to the closing of the accounts of some Permanent Missions to the United Nations and those of their staff members accredited to the United Nations and of their family members,

*Noting with concern* the difficulties experienced by such Permanent Missions and individuals as a result of such account closures,

*Stressing* that the Governments of Member and Observer States, the Permanent Missions and their staff, as well as the United Nations at its Headquarters and the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system should have appropriate banking services for the normal functioning of their facilities in order to discharge their duties,

*Bearing in mind* the need for the Permanent Missions and the United Nations as a whole to benefit from appropriate banking services based on mutual trust and respect, especially in the light of the latest actions taken by some banking institutions in this regard,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and report to the General Assembly, within 150 days following the adoption of the present resolution, any impediments or obstacles with respect to the accounts opened by the Permanent Missions of Member and Observer States to the United Nations or their staff in the City of New York, and the impact that any such impediments or obstacles have on the adequate functioning of their offices, and to this end invites Member and Observer States to provide the Secretary-General with relevant information that will facilitate the elaboration of such a report;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the financial relations of the Secretariat with the banking institutions in the City of New York, in the context of the report mentioned in paragraph 1 above;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, within 120 days of the adoption of the present resolution, to provide Member and Observer States with information on alternative options regarding banking services in the City of New York so as to enable them and their Permanent Missions to adequately manage and maintain their accounts, assessed budgetary contributions, voluntary contributions, transfers and other financial responsibilities directly related to their membership in the United Nations;

4. *Requests* the host country to take, as soon as possible, additional measures to assist the Permanent Missions accredited to the United Nations and their staff to obtain appropriate banking services;

5. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring the confidentiality of the personal data and information of persons affected by the closure of accounts by the banking institutions, invites the host country to submit information on the norms and regulations applicable to the banking system regarding the confidentiality of personal data and information, and

requests the Secretary-General to include such information in the report referred to in paragraph 1 above;

6. *Decides* to keep this matter under review during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

On 10 December [meeting 68], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee [A/69/510], adopted **resolution 69/128** without vote [agenda item 168].

### 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,

*Recalling* Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations and the responsibilities of the host country,

*Recalling also* that, in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 2819(XXVI) of 15 December 1971, the Committee should consider, and advise the host country on, issues arising in connection with the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement,

*Recognizing* that effective measures should continue to be taken by the competent authorities of the host country, in particular to prevent any acts violating the security of missions and the safety of their personnel,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country contained in paragraph 55 of its report;

2. *Considers* that the maintenance of appropriate conditions for the normal work of the delegations and the missions accredited to the United Nations and the observance of their privileges and immunities, which is an issue of great importance, are in the interest of the United Nations and all Member States, requests the host country to continue to solve, through negotiations, problems that might arise and to take all measures necessary to prevent any interference with the functioning of missions, and urges the host country to continue to take appropriate action, such as training of police, security, customs and border control officers, with a view to maintaining respect for diplomatic privileges and immunities and if violations occur to ensure that such cases are properly investigated and remedied, in accordance with applicable law;

3. *Notes* the problems experienced by some Permanent Missions to the United Nations in connection with the implementation of the Parking Programme for Diplomatic Vehicles, and notes that the Committee shall remain seized of the matter, with a view to continuing to maintain the proper implementation of the Parking Programme in a manner that is fair, non-discriminatory, effective and therefore consistent with international law;

4. *Requests* the host country to consider removing the remaining travel restrictions imposed by it on staff of certain missions and staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities, and in this regard notes the long-standing positions of affected States, of the Secretary-General and of the host country;

5. *Recalls* article IV of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, and notes the concerns expressed by some delegations concerning the denial and delay of entry visas to representatives of Member States;

6. *Notes* that the Committee anticipates that the host country will continue to enhance its efforts to ensure the issuance of entry visas to representatives of Member States pursuant to article IV, section 11, of the Headquarters Agreement and in a timely manner, to enable travel to New York on United Nations business, that the Committee remains seized of the matter of the host country's not issuing a visa to a designated Permanent Representative of a Member State, and that the Committee anticipates that the host country will continue to enhance efforts, including visa issuance, to facilitate the participation of representatives of Member States in other United Nations meetings, as appropriate;

7. *Also notes* that a number of delegations have requested shortening the time frame applied by the host country for issuance of entry visas to representatives of Member States since the time frame poses difficulties for the full-fledged participation of Member States in United Nations meetings, and invites the host country to inform the Committee, as appropriate, of efforts to address such difficulties;

8. *Notes with concern* the difficulties that continue to be experienced by some Permanent Missions to the United Nations in obtaining suitable banking services, welcomes the continued efforts of the host country to facilitate the opening of bank accounts for those Permanent Missions, and also welcomes the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/306 of 9 September 2014 in this respect;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the host country, and expects that the issues raised at the meetings of the Committee will continue to be resolved in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law, including the Headquarters Agreement;

10. *Affirms* the importance of the Committee being in a position to fulfil its mandate and meet on short notice to deal with urgent and important matters concerning the relations between the United Nations and the host country, and in that connection requests the Secretariat and the Committee on Conferences to accord priority to requests from the Committee on Relations with the Host Country for conference-servicing facilities for meetings of that Committee that must be held while the General Assembly and its Main Committees are meeting, without prejudice to the requirements of those bodies and on an "as available" basis;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain actively engaged in all aspects of the relations of the United Nations with the host country, and recalls that the Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the Committee issues of mutual concern relating to the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations;

12. *Requests* the Committee to continue its work in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2819(XXVI) and, in this framework, to consider additional appropriate measures to enhance the work of the Committee and its effectiveness;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country".