

assistance in the field of international law, including assistance in providing textbooks and manuals of international law, is encouraged.

21. In order to make better known the practice of international law, States and international and regional organizations should endeavour to publish, if they have not yet done so, summaries, repertories or yearbooks of their practice. They should also endeavour to place this material on computer networks for wider and instant distribution. The Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat is encouraged to continue its efforts in this regard, including through its participation in the Global Legal Information Network project.

22. The Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Registry of the International Court of Justice, is encouraged to publish, to the extent feasible and in a timely manner, the publication updating the *Summaries of the Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice (1948-1991)*,¹² at present under preparation, in all official languages of the Organization.

23. Other international courts and tribunals, including the European Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, are invited to disseminate more widely their judgements and advisory opinions and to consider preparing thematic or analytical summaries thereof.

24. International organizations are encouraged to publish treaties concluded under their auspices, if they have not yet done so. Timely publication of the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook* is also encouraged.

V. PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS

25. The Sixth Committee, working primarily through its Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law and with the assistance of the Secretariat, will be the coordinating body of the programme for the Decade. The question of the use of an intra-sessional, inter-sessional or existing body to carry out specific activities of the programme may be considered by the General Assembly.

26. States are encouraged to establish, as necessary, national, subregional and regional committees, which may assist in the implementation of the programme for the Decade. Non-governmental organizations are encouraged to promote the purposes of the Decade within their fields of activity, as appropriate.

27. Voluntary contributions from Governments, international organizations and other sources, including the private sector, would be useful and are strongly encouraged in order to implement the programme for the Decade. To that end, the establishment of a trust fund to be administered by the Secretary-General might be considered by the General Assembly.

51/158. Electronic treaty database

The General Assembly,

Conscious of the obligations resulting from Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations and the importance of treaties in the development of international law and the international legal order,

Noting that the recent expansion of the membership of the Organization, combined with an increase in international treaty-making activity, has led to the growth in the volume of work carried out by the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat and contributed to the accumulation of unpublished treaties,

Recognizing, consistent with the obligation contained in Article 102 of the Charter, the importance of the expeditious processing, registration and publication of treaties and treaty-related actions,

Welcoming the range of measures already taken by the Treaty Section to expedite the publication of the United Nations *Treaty Series* and to provide electronic access to the publication *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General* through the Internet,

Desirous that all efforts are made to ensure that the Treaty Section develops a comprehensive electronic database containing all treaty depositary and registration information,

Noting the steps taken by the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Informatics established by the Economic and Social Council to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all Member States,

Noting also that the existing and proposed Internet access to United Nations treaty publications is and will be in addition to the hard-copy printed versions of such publications,

1. *Welcomes* the statement of objective of developing a comprehensive electronic database containing all depositary and registration information and disseminating electronically treaties and treaty law-related information from the database, including through on-line access, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of International Law;¹³

2. *Recalls* the request of the Legal Counsel that in order to expedite the registration and publication of treaties all Member States should submit treaty texts in disk or other electronic format in addition to the certified print copy;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to give priority to the implementation of the computerization programme in the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to ensure that all necessary support is provided to expedite the publication of the

¹² United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.V.5.

¹³ A/51/278, para. 91.

printed version of the United Nations *Treaty Series* through the prompt provision of the necessary equipment and translation services;

5. *Endorses* the proposed Internet dissemination of the United Nations *Treaty Series*, following the same rules applicable to the printed version of the publication, in addition to the current access to the *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General*, and recognizes that Internet access to treaties and treaty law-related information is particularly valuable in countries where the cost of maintaining complete collections of treaties in bound volume form is relatively high;

6. *Also endorses* the Secretary-General's exploring of the economic and practical feasibility of recovering the costs of providing such Internet access to the United Nations *Treaty Series* and the *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General*, subject to Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and other non-commercial users not being charged a user fee, and presenting his findings to Member States;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of translating the list of titles of treaties appearing in the publication *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General* into the other official languages of the United Nations and disseminating such lists via the Internet, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

8. *Invites* the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, other international organizations and Member States with depositary functions for multilateral treaties to use their best endeavours to provide Internet access to treaties and treaty law-related information as soon as practicable.

*85th plenary meeting
16 December 1996*

51/159. Action to be taken in 1999 dedicated to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law

The General Assembly,

Noting that the year 1999 will mark the one-hundredth anniversary of the historic first International Peace Conference, held at The Hague on the initiative of Russia,

Recalling its resolution 44/23 of 17 November 1989, by which it proclaimed the United Nations Decade of International Law, to begin in 1990 and conclude in 1999, marking the centennial of the first International Peace Conference,

Recognizing that the first and the second International Peace Conference, as well as the League of Nations and the United Nations subsequently, have significantly encouraged the progressive development and codification of international law and thereby contributed to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing also the invaluable contribution of the first International Peace Conference to the settling or resolving of international disputes or situations which can cause the infringement of peace, by its adoption of the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes¹⁴ and the establishment of the Permanent Court of Arbitration,

Recalling that the Final Act of the second International Peace Conference¹⁴ incorporated a proposal to convene a third international peace conference,

Recalling that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security, *inter alia*, by means of adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace,

Recalling that, according to its resolution 44/23, one of the main purposes of the Decade of International Law is to promote means and methods for the settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice,

Recalling also that, at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee convened the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law with a view to preparing generally acceptable recommendations on the programme of activities for the Decade, and that the Working Group has been reconvened at all subsequent sessions of the General Assembly and was requested at the fiftieth session to continue its work,

Stressing the need for the international community to continue efforts with a view to strengthening international peace and security, achieving full compliance with international law and promoting its progressive development,

Recalling that in its resolution 44/23 it requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and appropriate international bodies, as well as of non-governmental organizations working in the field, on the programme for the Decade and on appropriate action to be taken during the Decade, including the possibility of holding a third international peace conference or other suitable international conference at the end of the Decade,

Noting that the heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at their ninth summit meeting reaffirmed General Assembly resolution 44/23 and the strong support of the Movement for the programme of the United Nations Decade of International Law, including the recommendation of holding a third international peace conference at the conclusion of the Decade on the occasion of the one-hundredth anniversary of the first International Peace Conference,

Noting also the proposal by the Russian Federation for a third international peace conference with a view to considering international law and order in the post-cold-war world at the threshold of the twenty-first century,

¹⁴ See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).