

**Twenty-ninth session**  
Agenda item 48

**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly**

**3281 (XXIX). Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States**

**Preamble**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the fundamental purposes of the United Nations, in particular the maintenance of international peace and security, the development of friendly relations among nations and the achievement of international co-operation in solving international problems in the economic and social fields,

*Affirming* the need for strengthening international co-operation for development,

*Declaring* that it is a fundamental purpose of the present Charter to promote the establishment of the new international economic order, based on equality, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and co-operation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems,

*Desirous* of contributing to the criterion of conditions for:

- a. The attainment of wider prosperity among all countries and of higher standards of living for all peoples,
- b. The promotion by the entire international community of the economic and social progress of all countries, especially developing countries,
- c. The encouragement of co-operation, on the basis of mutual advantage and equitable benefits for all peace-loving States which are willing to carry out the provisions of the present Charter, in the economic, trade, scientific and technical fields, regardless of political, economic or social systems,
- d. The overcoming of main obstacles in the way of economic development of the developing countries,
- e. The acceleration of the economic growth of developing countries with a view to bridging the economic gap between developing and developed countries,
- f. The protection, preservation and enhancement of the environment,

*Mindful* of the need to establish and maintain a just and equitable economic and social order through:

- a. The achievement of more rational and equitable international economic relations and the encouragement of structural changes in the world economy,
- b. The creation of conditions which permit the further expansion of trade and intensification of economic co-operation among all nations,
- c. The strengthening of the economic independence of developing countries,
- d. The establishment and promotion of international economic relations, taking into account the agreed differences in development of the developing countries and their specific needs,

*Determined* to promote collective economic security for development, in particular of the developing countries, with strict respect for the sovereign equality of each State and through the co-operation of the

entire international community,

(...).

*Convinced* of the need to develop a system of international economic relations on the basis of sovereign equality, mutual and equitable benefit and the close interrelationship of the interests of all States,

*Reiterating* that the responsibility for the development of every country rests primarily upon itself but that concomitant and effective international cooperation is an essential factor for the full achievement of its own development goals.

*Firmly convinced* of the urgent need to evolve a substantially improved system of international economic relations,

*Solemnly adopts* the present Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

## **Chapter 1**

### **Fundamentals of International Economic Relations**

Economic as well as political and other relations among States shall be governed, *inter alia*, by the following principles:

- a. Sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States;
- b. Sovereign equality of all States;
- c. Non-aggression;
- d. Non-intervention;
- e. Mutual and equitable benefit;
- f. Peaceful coexistence;
- g. Equal rights and self-determination of peoples;
- h. Peaceful settlement of disputes;
- i. Remedying of injustices which have been brought about by force and which deprive a nation of the natural means necessary for its normal development;
- j. Fulfillment in good faith of international obligations;
- k. Respect for human rights and international obligations;
- l. No attempt to seek hegemony and spheres of influence;
- m. Promotion of international social justice;
- n. International co-operation for development;
- o. Free access to and from the sea by land-locked countries within the framework of the above principles.

## **Chapter II**

### **Economic Rights and Duties of States**

#### **Article 1**

Every State has the sovereign and inalienable right to choose its economic system as well as its political, social and cultural systems in accordance with the will of its people, without outside interference, coercion or threat in any form whatsoever.

#### **Article 2**

1. Every State has and shall freely exercise full permanent sovereignty, including possession, use and

disposal, over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activities. (...)

## **Article 7**

Every State has the primary responsibility to promote the economic, social and cultural development of its people. To this end, each State has the right and the responsibility to choose its means and goals of development, fully to mobilize and use its resources, to implement progressive economic and social reforms and to ensure the full participation of its people in the process and benefits of development. All States have the duty, individually and collectively, to co-operate in eliminating obstacles that hinder such mobilization and use.

## **Article 16**

1. It is the right and duty of all States, individually and collectively, to eliminate colonialism, *apartheid*, racial discrimination, neo-colonialism and all forms of foreign aggression, occupation and domination, and the economic and social consequences thereof, as a prerequisite for development. States which practise such coercive policies are economically responsible to the countries, territories and peoples affected for the restitution and full compensation for the exploitation and depletion of, and damages to, the natural and all other resources of those countries, territories and peoples. It is the duty of all States to extend assistance to them.

2. No State has the right to promote or encourage investments that may constitute an obstacle to the liberation of a territory occupied by force.

## **Article 17**

International co-operation for development in the shared goal and common duty of all States. Every State should co-operate with the efforts of developing countries to accelerate their economic and social development by providing favourable external conditions and by extending active assistance to them, consistent with their development needs and objectives, with strict respect for the sovereign equality of States and free of any conditions derogating from their sovereignty.

## **Chapter III**

### **Common Responsibilities Towards the International Community**

## **Article 29**

The sea-bed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, as well as the resources of the area, are the common heritage of mankind. On the basis of the principles adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2749 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, all States shall ensure that the exploration of the area and exploitation of its resources are carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes and that the benefits derived therefore are shared equitably by all States, taking into account the particular interest and needs of developing countries; an international regime applying to the area and its resources and including appropriate international machinery to give effect to its provisions shall be established by an international treaty of a universal character, generally agreed upon.

## **Article 30**

The protection, preservation and enhancement of the environment for the present and future generations is the responsibility of all States. All States shall endeavour to establish their own environment and development policies in conformity with such responsibility. The environmental policies of all States should enhance and not adversely affect the present and future development potential of developing countries. All States have the responsibility to ensure that activities within their

jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. All States should co-operate in evolving international norms and regulations in the field of the environment.