

Reservations to treaties

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.6/68/L.23

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to introduce, on behalf of the Bureau, draft resolution A/C.6/68/L.23, entitled “Reservations to treaties”.

After informal consultations with all delegations, consensus eventually emerged for a draft resolution taking note of the Guide to Practice on Reservations to Treaties, adopted by the International Law Commission at its sixty-third session, and encouraging its widest possible dissemination.

The draft resolution is the outcome of informal consultations. It will be recalled that it is only this year that the Sixth Committee has been able to take up this topic, following the completion by the ILC of its work in 2011.

The draft follows the pattern of previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on texts presented by the ILC.

The first preambular paragraph refers to chapter IV of the report of the ILC on the work of its sixty-third session, which contains the Guide to Practice, including an annex on the reservations dialogue. The second and the third preambular paragraphs take note, respectively, of the two recommendations of the International Law Commission contained in the report. The fourth preambular paragraph emphasizes the continuing importance of the codification and progressive development of international law, and the fifth preambular paragraph notes the importance of the subject in the relations between States. The sixth preambular paragraph recognizes the role that reservations to treaties may play in achieving a satisfactory

balance between the objectives of safeguarding the integrity of multilateral treaties and facilitating wide participation therein.

Mr. Chairman,

The draft resolution contains three operative paragraphs. In the first operative paragraph, the General Assembly would welcome the successful completion of the work of the International Law Commission on the subject of reservations to treaties and its adoption of the Guide to Practice. In the second operative paragraph, the General Assembly would express its appreciation to the International Law Commission for its continuing contribution to the codification and progressive development of international law, as it traditionally does after the completion of its work on a specific topic. In the third operative paragraph, the General Assembly would take note of the Guide to Practice and encourage its widest possible dissemination. The text of the guidelines included in the Guide would be annexed to the resolution.

Mr. Chairman,

This concludes my introduction of draft resolution A/C.6/68/L.23, which I commend to the Sixth Committee for adoption by consensus.

Thank you.