

The suggestion has been made that there should be a reallocation on the basis of political groupings. However such an approach is contrary to the objects and aims for which the Commission was created.

The Sixth Committee has a great responsibility to ensure that the original purpose of the Commission is not defeated. Members of the Commission were conceived not so much as representatives of their states but rather as individual experts in the field of international law in general and in particular in the field of international law and domestic law as applied in the region represented by the expert.

Also the expert by virtue of these qualifications is expected not only to be able to interpret international law or domestic law insofar as applied in his geographical region but also to express views which take into account general principles of international law and the views of his colleagues concerning international law or domestic law as applied in other geographical areas. This means that in the selection of members to serve on the Commission great emphasis must be placed on the provision in Article 8 of the Statute of the International Law Commission that "at the election the electors shall bear in mind that the persons to be elected to the Commission should individually possess the qualifications required". Also the tendency should be resisted of implementing in too wooden a fashion the provision in Article 8 that "in the Commission as a whole representation of the main forms of civilization and of the principal legal system of the world should be assured". An implementation of this kind would occur if there were insistence on arbitrarily allotting seats to a very specific geographical area without regard being had to the qualifications of the individual concerned.