

In an explanatory memorandum on another item in the field of international law, Hungary observed that, while considerable progress had been made in codifying and developing public international law, no United Nations organ was systematically handling the similar development and unification of the rules of private international law, particularly those relating to international trade where such unification was needed by developing countries. It therefore initiated a resolution which requested an examination of possible roles in this field for the United Nations or other agencies. After amendments had been made to certain language which prejudged the outcome of the proposed examination in favour of United Nations involvement in private international law, the resolution was unanimously adopted by the Sixth Committee.

General Multilateral Treaties of the League of Nations

The eighteenth session of the Assembly in 1963 instructed the Secretary-General to invite certain new states to accede to those treaties concluded under the auspices of the League of Nations which might be of interest to them. The relevant resolution incorporated the so-called Vienna formula, whereby an invitation to participate in these treaties would be issued only to states which were members of the United Nations or of its Specialized Agencies, parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice or designated for such purpose by the General Assembly. The resolution also called upon the Secretary-General to determine, in consultation with states parties to the treaties, whether any of these had ceased to be in force, had been superseded by later treaties, had otherwise ceased to be of interest or required action to adapt them to contemporary conditions. In the course of the Sixth Committee's debate on this item at the twentieth session, the question was raised as to which states should be invited to accede to these treaties and an unsuccessful effort was made by countries favouring the "all states" formulation to delete, from a draft resolution approving the Secretary-General's report, any reference to those parts of the earlier Assembly resolution which had referred directly to the Vienna formula. The resolution which was approved also drew attention to nine treaties which the Secretary-General had indicated were likely to be of particular interest to new states.

Other Items

The Sixth Committee also dealt with the two items arising out of the amendments to the Charter increasing the size of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. Because the majority vote required for deci-