

Committee Overview:

Purpose:

The Legal Committee, also known as the Sixth Committee, is the legal forum of the United Nations General Assembly. Established from article 13 of the United Nations charter, the committee reviews and assesses resolutions on international legal matters and also defining legal terms such as terrorism.¹ GA6 in turn also works hand-in-hand with the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court while establishing and maintaining international law.²

Members and Voting:

United Nations General Assembly Six in which every member state, approximately one hundred and ninety-two countries, may send a delegate to participate are given one corresponding vote in order to represent their own country's view on the current deliberated issues. In order to pass a resolution in GA6, the majority of the member states must be in submission for it to pass.³ In turn, this committee votes on various international lawful issues such as measures to eliminate International Terrorism, and subsequently items such as annual International Law Commission, International Trade Law, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Terrorism are addressed each year.¹ This year at GTMUN, GA6 will address the laws and measures to be taken/implemented for the eradication of International Terrorism, the validity of extraordinary rendition, and the applicability/implementation of universal jurisdiction.

Powers:

Following a formal adoption of a resolution within the committee, the resolution is then submitted to the Plenary of the General Assembly for its final adoption. The Sixth Committee deals with a combination of decision and rule making and its dependence on the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court to help establish and maintain such international law.²

1 United Nations General Assembly Legal - Sixth Committee. United Nations, 2007. Web. <<http://www.un.org/ga/sixth/>>.

2 United Nations Documentation: Research Guide. United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library, 30 Nov. 2009. Web. <<http://www0.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/specil.htm>>.

3 Rosenberg, Matt. The Number of Countries in the World. By Most Accounts, There Are 195 Countries in the World, 31 July 2009. Web. <<http://geography.about.com/cs/countries/a/numbercountries.htm>>.

Limitations:

However, since the Legal Committee is not apart of the Security Council all resolutions are non-binding and a majority of the nations must be in compliance in order for the committee's adopted resolutions to be executed.⁴

⁴ Rosenberg, Matt. United Nations Security Council. The Security Council is the Most Powerful Body of the United Nations, 5 Aug. 2009. Web. <<http://geography.about.com/od/politicalgeography/a/securitycouncil.htm>>.