

Abstract

The United Nations Security Council is primarily responsible for maintenance of international peace and security according to the Charter of the United Nations. To achieve this goal, it is authorized to adopt resolutions binding on member states under Chapter VII of the Charter. Considering the character of situations to which the Security Council responds through its Chapter VII resolutions, this legal instrument often stirs emotions among the general public. But what does the law itself say about the Chapter VII resolutions? What is their legal nature and value in the field of public international law?

This thesis provides an analysis of the Chapter VII resolutions, offers a definition of a Chapter VII resolution and analyzes some specific resolutions by which the Security Council acted more as a quasi-judicial or a quasi-legislative body. Through analysis of content limits of the Security Council powers, the thesis endeavors to confirm that binding nature of the Chapter VII resolutions as well as an obligation of member states to give effect to those resolutions do have its boundaries; and despite the special role of the Security Council in the field of public international law, its Chapter VII resolutions cannot have unlimited content. First of all, the resolutions cannot be in conflict with the *ius cogens* norms of public international law; furthermore, they may not contravene the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations; and last but not least, they must not contravene basic human rights and basic norms of international humanitarian law. Otherwise, the member states are not obliged to accept and give effect to such Chapter VII resolutions.

Key words: United Nations, Security Council, resolutions, Charter of the United Nations, Chapter VII