

The Maastricht Collection (9th Edition)

Edited by Sascha Hardt & Nicole Kornet

Volume I: International and European Law

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Preface to the ninth edition

The Faculty of Law of Maastricht University attaches great importance to the study of European, international, and comparative law. Its curriculum includes several internationally oriented Master programmes and the *European Law School* bachelor programme, in which law is taught from a European and comparative perspective from the very first day. These four volumes, *The Maastricht Collection*, are based on the Maastricht Law Faculty's expertise and experience in teaching law with a European outlook to an international body of students.

The Maastricht Collection comprises a selection of legal instruments and provisions which have proven to be particularly relevant and useful to students and practitioners of European, international, and comparative law. It includes constitutions, codes and statutory law from France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, as well as international treaties, instruments from international organisations, and legal instruments of the European Union.

The content of the present ninth edition of *The Maastricht Collection* is divided into four volumes, corresponding to different areas of the law. Volume I contains selected international treaties and protocols, important resolutions of international organisations, international and European fundamental rights instruments, as well as the treaties of the European Union and selected EU secondary legislation; Volume II contains national instruments of France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom from the areas of constitutional law (where the US constitution is also included as one of the standard points of reference of comparative constitutional law), administrative law, as well as criminal law and procedure; Volume III contains instruments from international and European private law, including international treaties and secondary EU legislation on international business law, private international law, European company law, European private law and civil procedure, as well as tax law; Volume IV contains national legislation from France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom in the area of private law and civil procedure.

With the publication of this ninth edition two years after the previous one (2024), the editors resume the two-year interval that has proven ideal to keep *The Maastricht Collection* an up-to-date companion to an evolving curriculum that remains close to current legal developments. The ninth edition presents an update to all the instruments contained in *The Maastricht Collection* and adds a number of instruments that have become central to legal education at Maastricht University and beyond, such as the EU's Digital Markets Act (Vol. III) or the UN Security Council Resolutions on Gaza and Ukraine (Vol. I). *The Maastricht Collection* thus remains a comprehensive resource for students of European, international, and comparative law. While many of the materials included in these four volumes are reproduced in the original English, *The Maastricht Collection* remains true to its original aim of facilitating the study of comparative law by offering

fresh translations of legal instruments from different national legal traditions. Many existing translations of written law, including official translations available on government websites, are often significantly out of date and not sufficiently faithful to the original. They often seek to turn old-fashioned or ambiguous original texts into modern and elegant English. Or, instead of translating, they seek to *explain* how certain terms or formulations are interpreted in practice. The translations contained in *The Maastricht Collection* remain as much as possible true to the content, style, and syntax of the original, allowing the reader to appreciate not only the substance but also the authentic form of legal sources.

Formatting styles, such as the use of §§ ('Paragraphs') rather than 'Articles' in most German statutes, and 'Sections' in UK legislation, or the absence of paragraph numbering in French legislation, are preserved. In the interest of consistency of style, the headings of individual articles are suppressed in translated materials. Enactment formulas are omitted; preambles to constitutions and international treaties are retained unless indicated otherwise. For easy reference within translated texts, key legal terms and proper names are added in the original language as in-text citations between square brackets.

The idea to create *The Maastricht Collection* came about during a conversation between Philipp Kiiver and Nicole Kornet about the need for English language learning resources for students following a programme on European and comparative law taught entirely in English. Just like students who follow a curriculum oriented on national law, students in the modern international classroom also need a compilation of legislation relevant to their studies. Since the publication of the second edition, the editorship of *The Maastricht Collection* has been continued by Sascha Hardt and Nicole Kornet. We are more than grateful to Philipp for being such a driving force behind the idea of *The Maastricht Collection*.

We would in particular like to thank Mariah Kuijer and Sofija Varkulevičiūtė, students of the *European Law School* and assistants to the editors, without whose meticulous hard work and dedication this ninth edition of *The Maastricht Collection* and its publication next to the many other responsibilities of the editors would not have been possible.

We would further like to thank the following people for their contributions and input to this and the previous editions throughout 16 years of editorial history: Prof. Bram Akkermans, Prof. Chris Backes, Prof. Anna Berlee, Stephanie Blom, Claire Boost, Caroline Calomme, Sylvain Caris, Prof. Fons Coomans, Merel Dekker, Prof. Mariolina Eliantonio, Prof. Sjef van Erp, Dr. Catalina Goanta, Dr. Franziska Grashof, Dr. Nicola Gundt, Prof. René de Groot, Heike Hauröder, Prof. Aalt-Willem Heringa, Dr. Sander Jansen, Prof. Anselm Kamperman Sanders, Dr. Johannes Keiler, Prof. André Klip, Maartje Krabbe, Giesela Kristoferitsch, Alexandra Laplante, Prof. Raymond Lujá, Prof. Gerrit van Maanen, Prof. Mieke Olaerts, Dr. Christina Peristeridou, Dr. Eveline Ramaekers, Dr. Stephan Rammeloo, Prof. Remco van Rhee, Dr. David Roef, Gereon Roetering, Dr. Kees Saarloos, Sarah Sørensen, Dr. René Seerden, Prof. Jan Smits, Prof. Taru

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Maastricht, June 2026

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**Charter of the United Nations, San Francisco, 24 June 1945 (entry into force, 24 October 1945),
Trb. 1979, Nr. 37**

*We the peoples of the United Nations determined
to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought
untold sorrow to mankind, and
to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the
equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and
to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and
other sources of international law can be maintained, and
to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,
And for these ends
to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and
to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and
to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not
be used, save in the common interest, and
to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all
peoples,
Have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.
Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San
Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the
present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be
known as the United Nations.*

Chapter I. Purposes and Principles

Article 1. The Purposes of the United Nations are:

- (1) To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
- (2) To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
- (3) To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
- (4) To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

Article 2. The Organization and its Members, in pursuit of the Purposes stated in Article 1, shall act in accordance with the following Principles.

- (1) The Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members.
- (2) All Members, in order to ensure to all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the present Charter.
- (3) All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.
- (4) All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.
- (5) All Members shall give the United Nations every assistance in any action it takes in accordance with the present Charter, and shall refrain from giving assistance to any state against which the United Nations is taking preventive or enforcement action.
- (6) The Organization shall ensure that states which are not Members of the United Nations act in accordance with these Principles so far as may be necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- (7) Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII.

Chapter II. Membership

Article 3. The original Members of the United Nations shall be the states which, having participated in the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco, or having previously signed the Declaration by United Nations of 1 January 1942, sign the present Charter and ratify it in accordance with Article 110.

Article 4. (1) Membership in the United Nations is open to all other peace-loving states which accept the obligations contained in the present Charter and, in the judgment of the Organization, are able and willing to carry out these obligations.

(2) The admission of any such state to membership in the United Nations will be effected by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

Article 5. A Member of the United Nations against which preventive or enforcement action has been taken by the Security Council may be suspended from the exercise of the rights and privileges of membership by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. The exercise of these rights and privileges may be restored by the Security Council.

Article 6. A Member of the United Nations which has persistently violated the Principles contained in the present Charter may be expelled from the Organization by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

Chapter III. Organs

Article 7. (1) There are established as principal organs of the United Nations: a General Assembly, a Security Council, an Economic and Social Council, a Trusteeship Council, an International Court of Justice and a Secretariat.

(2) Such subsidiary organs as may be found necessary may be established in accordance with the present Charter.

Article 8. The United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs.

Chapter IV. General Assembly

Composition

Article 9. (1) The General Assembly shall consist of all the Members of the United Nations. (2) Each Member shall have not more than five representatives in the General Assembly.

Functions and Powers

Article 10. The General Assembly may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the present Charter, and, except as provided in Article 12, may make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both on any such questions or matters.

Article 11. (1) The General Assembly may consider the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments, and may make recommendations with regard to such principles to the Members or to the Security Council or to both.

(2) The General Assembly may discuss any questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security brought before it by any Member of the United Nations, or by the Security Council, or by a state which is not a Member of the United Nations in accordance with Article 35(2), and, except as provided in Article 12, may make recommendations with regard to any such questions to the state or states concerned or to the Security Council or to both. Any such question on which action is necessary shall be referred to the Security Council by the General Assembly either before or after discussion.

(3) The General Assembly may call the attention of the Security Council to situations which are likely to endanger international peace and security.

(4) The powers of the General Assembly set forth in this Article shall not limit the general scope of Article 10.

Article 12. (1) While the Security Council is exercising in respect of any dispute or situation the functions assigned to it in the present Charter, the General Assembly shall not make any recommendation with regard to that dispute or situation unless the Security Council so requests.

(2) The Secretary-General, with the consent of the Security Council, shall notify the General Assembly at each session of any matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security which are being dealt with by the Security Council and shall similarly notify the General Assembly, or the Members of the United Nations if the General Assembly is not in session, immediately the Security Council ceases to deal with such matters.

Article 13. (1) The General Assembly shall initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of:

(a) promoting international co-operation in the political field and encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification;

(b) promoting international co-operation in the economic, social, cultural, educational, and health fields, and assisting in the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

(c) The further responsibilities, functions and powers of the General Assembly with respect to matters mentioned in paragraph (1) (b) above are set forth in Chapters IX and X.

Article 14. Subject to the provisions of Article 12, the General Assembly may recommend measures for the peaceful adjustment of any situation, regardless of origin, which it deems likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations among nations, including situations resulting from a violation of the provisions of the present Charter setting forth the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations.

Article 15. (1) The General Assembly shall receive and consider annual and special reports from the Security Council; these reports shall include an account of the measures that the Security Council has decided upon or taken to maintain international peace and security.

(2) The General Assembly shall receive and consider reports from the other organs of the United Nations.

Article 16. The General Assembly shall perform such functions with respect to the international trusteeship system as are assigned to it under Chapters XII and XIII, including the approval of the trusteeship agreements for areas not designated as strategic.

Article 17. (1) The General Assembly shall consider and approve the budget of the Organization.

(2) The expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the Members as apportioned by the General Assembly.

(3) The General Assembly shall consider and approve any financial and budgetary arrangements with specialized agencies referred to in Article 57 and shall examine the administrative budgets of such specialized agencies with a view to making recommendations to the agencies concerned.

Voting

Article 18. (1) Each member of the General Assembly shall have one vote.

(2) Decisions of the General Assembly on important questions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. These questions shall include: recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security, the election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council, the election of the members of the Economic and Social Council, the election of members of the Trusteeship Council in accordance with paragraph (1) (c) of Article 86, the admission of new Members to the United Nations, the suspension of the rights and privileges of membership, the expulsion of Members, questions relating to the operation of the trusteeship system, and budgetary questions.

(3) Decisions on other questions, including the determination of additional categories of questions to be decided by a two-thirds majority, shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Article 19. A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member.

Procedure

Article 20. The General Assembly shall meet in regular annual sessions and in such special sessions as occasion may require. Special sessions shall be convoked by the Secretary-General at the request of the Security Council or of a majority of the Members of the United Nations.

Article 21. The General Assembly shall adopt its own rules of procedure. It shall elect its President for each session.

Article 22. The General Assembly may establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

Chapter V. The Security Council

Composition

Article 23. (1) The Security Council shall consist of fifteen Members of the United Nations. The Republic of China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America shall be permanent members of the Security Council. The General Assembly shall elect ten other Members of the United Nations to be non-permanent members of the Security Council, due regard being specially paid, in the first instance to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organization, and also to equitable geographical distribution.

(2) The non-permanent members of the Security Council shall be elected for a term of two years. In the first election of the non-permanent members after the increase of the membership of the Security Council from eleven to fifteen, two of the four additional members shall be chosen for a term of one year. A retiring member shall not be eligible for immediate re-election.

(3) Each member of the Security Council shall have one representative.

Functions and Powers

Article 24. (1) In order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations, its Members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on their behalf.

(2) In discharging these duties the Security Council shall act in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations. The specific powers granted to the Security Council for the discharge of these duties are laid down in Chapters VI, VII, VIII, and XII.

(3) The Security Council shall submit annual and, when necessary, special reports to the General Assembly for its consideration.

Article 25. The Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter.

Article 26. In order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, the Security Council shall be responsible for formulating, with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee referred to in Article 47, plans to be submitted to the Members of the United Nations for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments.

Voting

Article 27. (1) Each member of the Security Council shall have one vote.

(2) Decisions of the Security Council on procedural matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members.

(3) Decisions of the Security Council on all other matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members; provided that, in decisions under Chapter VI, and under paragraph (3) of Article 52, a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting.

Procedure

Article 28. (1) The Security Council shall be so organized as to be able to function continuously. Each member of the Security Council shall for this purpose be represented at all times at the seat of the Organization.

(2) The Security Council shall hold periodic meetings at which each of its members may, if it so desires, be represented by a member of the government or by some other specially designated representative.

(3) The Security Council may hold meetings at such places other than the seat of the Organization as in its judgment will best facilitate its work.

Article 29. The Security Council may establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

Article 30. The Security Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its President.

Article 31. Any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council may participate, without vote, in the discussion of any question brought before the Security Council whenever the latter considers that the interests of that Member are specially affected.

Article 32. Any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council or any state which is not a Member of the United Nations, if it is a party to a dispute under consideration by the Security Council, shall be invited to participate, without vote, in the discussion relating to the dispute. The Security Council shall lay down such conditions as it deems just for the participation of a state which is not a Member of the United Nations.

Chapter VI. Pacific settlement of disputes

Article 33. (1) The parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice.

(2) The Security Council shall, when it deems necessary, call upon the parties to settle their dispute by such means.

Article 34. The Security Council may investigate any dispute, or any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute, in order to determine whether the continuance of the dispute or situation is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article 35. (1) Any Member of the United Nations may bring any dispute, or any situation of the nature referred to in Article 34, to the attention of the Security Council or of the General Assembly.

(2) A state which is not a Member of the United Nations may bring to the attention of the Security Council or of the General Assembly any dispute to which it is a party if it accepts in advance, for the purposes of the dispute, the obligations of pacific settlement provided in the present Charter.

(3) The proceedings of the General Assembly in respect of matters brought to its attention under this Article will be subject to the provisions of Articles 11 and 12.

Article 36. (1) The Security Council may, at any stage of a dispute of the nature referred to in Article 33 or of a situation of like nature, recommend appropriate procedures or methods of adjustment.

(2) The Security Council should take into consideration any procedures for the settlement of the dispute which have already been adopted by the parties.

(3) In making recommendations under this Article the Security Council should also take into consideration that legal disputes should as a general rule be referred by the parties to the International Court of Justice in accordance with the provisions of the Statute of the Court.

Article 37. (1) Should the parties to a dispute of the nature referred to in Article 33 fail to settle it by the means indicated in that Article, they shall refer it to the Security Council.

(2) If the Security Council deems that the continuance of the dispute is in fact likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, it shall decide whether to take action under Article 36 or to recommend such terms of settlement as it may consider appropriate.

Article 38. Without prejudice to the provisions of Articles 33 to 37, the Security Council may, if all the parties to any dispute so request, make recommendations to the parties with a view to a pacific settlement of the dispute.

Chapter VII. Actions with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression

Article 39. The Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Articles 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Article 40. In order to prevent an aggravation of the situation, the Security Council may, before making the recommendations or deciding upon the measures provided for in Article 39, call upon the parties concerned to comply with such provisional measures as it deems necessary or desirable.