

International Law Association
Resolution on the Protection of Water Resources and Water Installations in Times
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Article I

Water which is indispensable for the health and survival of the civilian population should not be poisoned or rendered otherwise unfit for human consumption.

Article II

Water supply installations which are indispensable for the minimum conditions of survival of the civilian population should not be cut off or destroyed.

Article III

The diversion of waters for military purposes should be prohibited when it would cause disproportionate suffering to the civilian population or substantial damage to the ecological balance of the area concerned. A diversion that is carried out in order to damage or destroy the minimum conditions of survival of the civilian population or the basic ecological balance of the area concerned or in order to terrorize the population should be prohibited in any case.

Article IV

The destruction of water installations containing dangerous forces, such as dams and dykes, should be prohibited when such destruction may involve grave dangers to the civilian population or substantial damage to the basic ecological balance.

Article V

The causing of floods as well as any other interference with the hydrological balance by means not mentioned in Articles II to IV should be prohibited when it involves grave dangers to the civilian population or substantial damage to the ecological balance of the area concerned.

Article VI

1. The prohibitions contained in Articles I to V above should be applied also in occupied enemy territories.



2. The occupying power should administer enemy property according to the indispensable requirements of the hydrologic balance.

3. In occupied territories, seizure, destruction or intentional damage to water installations should be prohibited when their integral maintenance and effectiveness would be vital to the health and survival of the civilian population.

Article VII

The effect of the outbreak of war on the validity of treaties or of parts thereof concerning the use of water resources should not be termination but only suspension. Such suspension should take place only when the purpose of the war or military necessity imperatively demand the suspension and when the minimum requirements of subsistence for the civil population are safeguarded.

Article VIII

1. It should be prohibited to deprive, by the provisions of a peace treaty or similar instrument, a people of its water resources to each an extent that a threat to the health or to the economic or physical conditions of survival is created.

2. When, as the result of the fixing of a new frontier, the hydraulic system in the territory of one State is dependent on works established within the territory of another State, arrangements should be made for the safeguarding of uninterrupted delivery of water supplies indispensable for the vital needs of the people.