



## **International Law for Humankind: the Legacy of Judge Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade**

**27 October 2022, from 8.00 to 9.45am, Conference Room 6, UN Headquarters**

### **Welcome and introductory remarks**

Ambassador Ronaldo Costa Filho, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the UN

### **Moderation**

George Rodrigo Bandeira Galindo, Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil and incoming member of the International Law Commission

### **Panel**

Joan Donoghue, President of the International Court of Justice  
Abdulqawi Yusuf, Judge and former President of the International Court of Justice  
Hilary Charlesworth, Judge of the International Court of Justice  
Philippe Gautier, Registrar of the International Court of Justice  
Claudio Grossman, member of the International Law Commission  
Patrícia Galvão Teles, member of the International Law Commission  
Cordula Droege, Chief Legal Officer, International Committee of the Red Cross

### **Questions and interventions**

**RSVP**

***A breakfast will be available***

## Background Note

Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade, a judge first in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (1995-2008) — having been its President (1999-2004) — and later in the International Court of Justice (2009-2022), played a leading role in the evolution of contemporary international law. Cançado Trindade devoted an enormous amount of research to his two-volume General Course on Public International Law delivered at the Hague Academy of International Law in 2005, entitled *International Law for Humankind: Toward a New Jus Gentium* as well as to his *Treatise (Tratado de Direito Internacional dos Direitos Humanos*, published in Brazil in 3 volumes). Furthermore, his individual Opinions in both tribunals encompass a rich collection of thoughts on the evolution of contemporary international law, fusing the intellectual rigour of the academic and the reformist zeal of the legal practitioner— with insightful observations on legal concepts and frequent allusions to literature, philosophy and history.

His opinions in the two international jurisdictions he served, delivered in the exercise of both the contentious and advisory functions, reflect his perception of the role of the judge not only as a person concerned with the need to bring justice, but also as an educator. Such opinions, a source of inspiration for many — fellow judges, lawyers, academics, students, State officials, and victims of human rights violations — dwell upon the foundations of international law, including general principles of law; the jurisdiction of international tribunals and the position of individuals therein; international legal personality; international responsibility of States; and the convergence between international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international refugee law. His vision was to revive the universalist conception of the law of nations or, as he termed in his General Course at the Hague Academy of International Law, to promote “the *humanization* of international law and the construction of a new *jus gentium* of our times”.

Born in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, on 17 September 1947, Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade obtained a Bachelors’s degree in law from the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil. He then pursued his Master’s and PhD in international law at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom (awarded the *Yorke Prize*). He later obtained further honorary titles and prizes from various universities across Latin America, Europe, and Asia. Author of 78 books and over 790 monographs on public international law, Cançado Trindade taught for decades at the University of Brasilia and Brazil’s Diplomatic Academy, the Rio Branco Institute. He was a Visiting Professor at various universities of Latin America, United States, Europe, and Asia, as well as a member of the *Institut de Droit International* (since 1997). Judge Cançado Trindade was also a research supervisor for the project on International Humanitarian Law and Customary Law of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as member of the Commission of Advisors to UNESCO on the Right to Peace as a Human Right and legal adviser to the UNHCR for numerous regional consultations on international refugee law.

Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade played many roles throughout his distinguished career. In Brazil, he served as Legal Adviser to the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil (1985-1990) and represented the country in a number of regional and international conferences. As Legal Adviser, he made a significant contribution to Brazil's decision to ratify international human rights instruments. He was also the author of a provision in Brazil's Constitution that provides for the incorporation of international human rights and guarantees to domestic law with constitutional status (Article 5, paragraph 2).

### **Most representative works include**

*The application of the rule of exhaustion of local remedies in international law: its rationale in the international protection of individual rights*, 1983.

*Tratado de Direito Internacional dos Direitos Humanos*, vol. I, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2003; vol. II, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., 1999, vol. III, 1<sup>st</sup> ed., 2003.

*El acceso directo del individuo a los tribunales internacionales de derechos humanos*, 2002.

*A humanização do Direito Internacional*, 2006.

*Evolution du droit international au droit des gens : L'accès des individus à la justice*, 2008.

*International Law for Humankind: Towards a New Jus Gentium*, 2010.

*The Access of Individuals to International Justice*, 2011.

*Le Droit international pour la personne humaine*, 2012.

*The Construction of a Humanized International Law: A Collection of Individual Opinions, 1991-2013, 2013-2018* (vols.1 & 2).

*The Construction of a Humanized International Law: A Collection of Individual Opinions 2013-2016, 2018* (vol. 3).

*El Ejercicio de la Función Judicial Internacional: Memorias de la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos*, 2018.