



Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Program of the 34th Informal Meeting of Legal Advisers
21-22 October 2024
Trusteeship Council, United Nations Headquarters

Monday 21 October

3 – 3.20 pm Inauguration of the 34th Informal Meeting of Legal Advisers

- Opening remarks by Ambassador Elinor Hammarskjöld, Legal Adviser and Director-General for Legal Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden
- Remarks by Mr. D. Stephen Mathias, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and UN Legal Counsel

3.20 – 6 pm Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the International Law Commission

- Remarks by Mr. Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez, Chair of the International Law Commission
- Remarks by H.E. Mr. Rui Vinhas, Sixth Committee Chair

The Evolution of the Role of the International Law Commission

As the Sixth Committee embarks on its debate on the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-fifth session, it is an opportune moment to take stock of the work of the Commission in its entirety. Over the past seventy-five years, the work of the Commission has served as the basis for many of the foundational treaties and other instruments of the international legal order. Yet, as the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the most recent codification convention, the

United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and their Property arrives, the question arises as to how the role of the Commission has shifted over time. Following introductory remarks, a panel discussion will be held to consider that question, with particular attention being given to the increasing diversity of the outcomes of the Commission's work. The panel will also provide an opportunity to evaluate how the Commission is contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and how its contribution can be enhanced.

Panel chair: Ms. Natalie Morris-Sharma, Government legal counsel, Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore

Panellists:

- Ms. Alina Orosan, Director General for Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, and Member of the International Law Commission
- Ms. Ligia Lorena Flores Soto, Vice-Chair of the Sixth Committee and Counsellor, Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations
- Mr. Mohamad Sami Mohamed Helal, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations
- Ms. Christiane Ahlborn, Assistant Professor of Public International Law, Trinity College Dublin

6.30 – 8.45 pm New York City Bar Association Reception

Venue: 42 West 44th Street

Tuesday 22 October

The 34th Informal Meeting of Legal Advisers

3 – 4.30 pm Panel 1: Peaceful Resolution of Disputes – Reflections on Prospects and Challenges

Among the purposes of the United Nations is to bring about the settlement of international disputes in conformity with the principles of justice and international law. As the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice plays a central role for the peaceful resolution of disputes, involving an ever-increasing range of areas. The expanding caseload of the Court, and other international dispute settlement mechanisms, as well as the geographical distribution of cases, and the diversity of the subject-matters considered confirm the significance of the peaceful resolution of disputes. It would be timely to reflect on the current dynamic period.

Guiding questions:

- How has the contribution of the ICJ to the peaceful settlement of disputes developed over time?
- In view of expanding dockets, what does the future of international courts look like?
- How could States, legal advisers of ministries of foreign affairs and agents further support the ICJ and other mechanisms going forward?

Panel chair: Ambassador Elinor Hammar-skjöld

Panellists:

- Judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, International Court of Justice
- Mr. René Lefeber, Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
- Ms. Rosa Delia Gomez Duran, Legal Adviser and Director-General for International Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina
- Professor Lori F. Damrosch, Hamilton Fish Professor of International Law and Diplomacy, Columbia Law School

4.30 – 6 pm Panel 2: Freedom of Navigation – A Fundamental Interest of Continued Relevance

Freedom of navigation is a central principle of the law of the sea and a common interest of cross-regional relevance. As a core element of the law of the sea, overt and covert challenges to the freedom of navigation threaten to undermine the very 'legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out'. It would appear timely to among legal advisers reflect on the fundamental importance of the principle of freedom of navigation and to address challenges and threats in this regard.

Guiding questions:

- What is the contemporary significance of the freedom of navigation?
- Is the freedom of navigation at risk – are there reasons for concern and, if so, what are they?
- What is the role of international law and international institutions in promoting the freedom of navigation?
- How can States co-operate in addressing potential challenges and threats?

Panel chair: Ms. Daphne Hong, Director-General, International Affairs Division, Solicitor-General, Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore

Panellists:

- Judge Konrad J. Marciniak, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
- Dr. Nilüfer Oral, Member of the International Law Commission, Director, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore
- Professor Ronán Long, Director of the WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute, Nippon Foundation Professorial Chair of Ocean Governance & the Law of the Sea, World Maritime University (WMU)