



**United Nations**

# **Report of the International Law Commission**

**Fifty-seventh session  
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**General Assembly  
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## E. International Law Seminar

512. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/41, the forty-first session of the International Law Seminar was held at the Palais des Nations from 11 July to 29 July 2005, during the present session of the Commission. The Seminar is intended for advanced students specializing in international law and for young professors or government officials pursuing an academic or diplomatic career or posts in the civil service in their country.

513. Twenty-four participants of different nationalities, mostly from developing countries, were able to take part in the session<sup>407</sup>. The participants in the Seminar observed plenary meetings of the Commission, attended specially arranged lectures, and participated in working groups on specific topics.

514. The Seminar was opened by the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Djamchid Momtaz. Mr. Ulrich von Blumenthal, Senior Legal Adviser of the United Nations Office at Geneva, was responsible for the administration, organization and conduct of the Seminar.

515. The following lectures were given by members of the Commission: Mr. Victor Rodriguez-Cedeño: “*Unilateral Acts*”, in cooperation with Ms. Maria Isabel Torres Cazorla; Mr. John Dugard: “*Diplomatic Protection*”; Mr. Djamchid Momtaz: “*Advisory opinion of ICJ of 9 July 2004*”; Mr. P.S. Rao: “*International Liability of acts not prohibited by International law*”; Mr. Chusei Yamada: “*Shared Natural Resources*”; Mr. M. Koskeniemi: “*Fragmentation of International Law*”; Mr. Giorgio Gaja: “*Responsibility of international organizations*”.

516. Lectures were also given by Mr. Arnold Pronto, United Nations Office of Legal Affairs: “*The Work of the ILC*”; Mr. Vincent Cochetel, UNHCR: “*International Refugee Law – Recent Developments*”; Mr. Yves Renouf, Legal Adviser WTO: “*The WTO Dispute Settlement System*”; Mr. Markus Schmidt, OHCHR: “*The Work of the Human Rights Committee*”. Study visits were organized to CERN and to Palais Wilson.

517. Each Seminar participant was assigned to one of two working groups on “*Unilateral Acts*” and “*Diplomatic Protection*”. The special rapporteurs of the Commission for these

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<sup>407</sup> The following persons participated in the forty-first session of the International Law Seminar: Ms. Paula Cristina Aponte-Urdaneta (Colombia); Ms. Nicola Brown (Jamaica); Mr. Daniel Costa (USA); Mr. Eric De Brabandère (Belgium); Mr. Diallo Madou (Mali); Mr. Ekouevi Eucher Eklu-Koevanu (Togo); Ms. Amelia Emran (Malaysia); Ms. Ginette Goabin Y.A. (Benin); Mr. Øyvind Hernes (Norway); Mr. Kumar Karki Krishna (Nepal); Mr. Lazarus Kpasaba Istifanus (Nigeria); Ms. Magdalena Lickova (Czech Republic); Ms. Norma Irina Mendoza Sandoval (Mexico); Ms. Loretta Mensa-Nyarko (Ghana); Mr. Makenga Mpasi (Congo); Ms. Maryam Norouzi (Iran); Mr. Eric Rabkin (Canada); Ms. Aušra Raisytė-Daukantiene (Lithuania); Mr. Shikhar Ranjan (India); Ms. Neni Ruhaeni (Indonesia); Mr. Scott Sheeran (New Zealand); Ms. Annika Elisabeth Tahvanainen (Finland); Mr. Knut Traisbach (Germany); Mr. Lijiang Zhu (China). A Selection Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Jean-Marie Dufour (President of the Geneva International Academic Network, GIAN), met on 20 April 2005 and selected 24 candidates out of 110 applications for participation in the Seminar.

subjects, Mr. Victor Rodriguez Cedeño and Mr. John Dugard, provided guidance for the working groups. The groups presented their findings to the Seminar. Each participant was also assigned to submit a written summary report on one of the lectures. A collection of the reports was compiled and distributed to all participants.

518. Participants were also given the opportunity to make use of the facilities of the United Nations Library, which extended its opening hours during the event.

519. The Republic and Canton of Geneva offered its traditional hospitality to the participants with a guided visit of the Alabama and Grand Council Rooms followed by a reception.

520. Mr. Djamchid Momtaz, Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Mr. Ulrich von Blumenthal, Director of the Seminar, and Mr. Scott Sheeran, on behalf of the participants, addressed the Commission and the participants at the close of the Seminar. Each participant was presented with a certificate attesting to his or her participation in the forty-first session of the Seminar.

521. The Commission noted with particular appreciation that the Governments of the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Mexico, New Zealand, Sweden and Switzerland had made voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Law Seminar. The financial situation of the Fund allowed to award a sufficient number of fellowships to deserving candidates from developing countries in order to achieve adequate geographical distribution of participants. This year, full fellowships (travel and subsistence allowance) were awarded to 10 candidates and partial fellowship (subsistence only) to 6 candidates.

522. Of the 927 participants, representing 157 nationalities, who have taken part in the Seminar since 1965, the year of its inception, 557 have received a fellowship.

523. The Commission stresses the importance it attaches to the sessions of the Seminar, which enables young lawyers, especially those from developing countries, to familiarize themselves with the work of the Commission and the activities of the many international organizations, which have their headquarters in Geneva. The Commission recommends that the General Assembly should again appeal to States to make voluntary contributions in order to secure the holding of the Seminar in 2006 with as broad participation as possible.

524. The Commission noted with satisfaction that in 2005 comprehensive interpretation, services were made available to the Seminar. It expresses the hope that the same services will be provided for the Seminar at the next session, within existing resources.