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H. International Law Seminar

427. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/26, the forty-seventh session of the International Law Seminar was held at the Palais des Nations from 4 to 22 July 2011, during the present session of the Commission. The Seminar is intended for young academics and diplomats specializing in international law.

428. Twenty-six participants of different nationalities took part in the session.⁷⁰⁴ The participants attended plenary meetings of the Commission, specially arranged lectures, and participated in working groups on specific topics.

429. The Seminar was opened by Mr. Maurice Kamto, Chairman of the Commission. Mr. Markus Schmidt, Senior Legal Adviser of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), was responsible for the administration, organization and conduct of the Seminar. The scientific coordination of the Seminar was ensured by the University of Geneva. Mr. Vittorio Mainetti, from the University of Geneva, acted as coordinator, assisted by Mr. Martin Denis, Legal Assistant.

430. The following lectures were given by members of the Commission: Mr. Stephen C. Vasciannie: "*The Work of the International Law Commission*"; Mr. Georg Nolte: "*Treaties over Time*"; Mr. Alain Pellet: "*20 years at the International Law Commission*"; Mr. Michael Wood: "*Responsibility of International Organizations*"; Mr. A. Rohan Perera: "*A Comprehensive Convention against Terrorism: Current Status of Negotiations*", and Mr. Lucius Caflisch: "*The Effects of Armed Conflicts on Treaties*".

431. Lectures were also given by Mr. Daniel Müller, Assistant to the Special Rapporteur Mr. Alain Pellet: "*Reservations to Treaties*"; Mr. Eric Tistounet, Chief of the Human Rights Council Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: "*The Human Rights Council After Five Years: A Preliminary Stocktaking*"; Mr. Markus Schmidt: "*Interdependence of International, Regional and National Human Rights Jurisprudence: Some Reflections*".

432. Three special external sessions were organized in the premises of Geneva and of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies of Geneva (HEID). At the University of Geneva, seminar participants attended the international conference:

⁷⁰⁴ The following persons participated in the forty-seventh session of the International Law Seminar: Mr. Kavus Abushov (Azerbaijan), Mr. Muhammad Zeeshan Adhi (Pakistan), Mr. Yawo Akagla Edem Akpemado (Togo), Mr. Ryuji Baba (Japan), Ms. Leticia M.L. Baquerizo Guzman (Ecuador), Mr. Gonzalo Bonifaz (Peru), Mr. Shehzad Charania (United Kingdom), Mr. Aminudin Zaki Dato Abdul Rahman (Brunei), Ms. Tanieris Dieguez La O (Cuba), Mr. Martin Faix (Slovakia), Ms. Martyna M. Falkowska (Poland), Mr. Ruddy J. Flores Monterrey (Bolivia), Ms. Fabiola Jiménez Morán Sotomayor (Mexico), Mr. Sidney G. Kemble (Netherlands), Ms. Belinda M. Kiilu (Kenya), Mr. Duwayne C. Lawrence (Jamaica), Mr. Charles R. Majinge (Tanzania), Mr. Mohamed H. Mohamed Abubacker (Sri Lanka), Ms. Tshenolo B. Moyo (Botswana), Mr. Ragnar Nordeide (Norway), Mr. Gregor Novak (Austria/Croatia), Mr. Clauvis O. Ogoubiyi (Benin), Ms. Rashmi Raman (India), Mr. Javier I. Santander (Argentina), Mr. Romain B. Tchamako (Central African Republic), Ms. Annelle Urriola (Panama). The Selection Committee, chaired by Ms. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Professor of International Law at the University of Geneva, met on 29 April 2011 at the Palais des Nations and selected 28 candidates out of 134 applications for participation in the Seminar. Of the 28, two selected candidates failed to attend.

“Freshwater and International Law: The Multiple Challenges”, organized by Professor Laurence Boisson de Chazourne, Director of the Platform for International Water Law, University of Geneva, and Mr. Stephen McCaffrey, Former Special Rapporteur on the Law of the non-navigational uses of International Watercourses, International Law Commission. The University of Geneva also organized a special session with lectures given by Mr. Salman Salman, former Legal Adviser of the World Bank: *“The New State of South-Sudan and Challenges of Secession”*, Mr. Makane Moïse Mbengue, Lecturer, School of Law, University of Geneva: *“ICJ, Pulp Mills on the River Uruguay (Argentina v. Uruguay)”*, and Ms. Mara Tignino, Senior Researcher, University of Geneva: *“Public Participation in Management of Transboundary Water Resources”*. The session was followed by a reception offered by the International Relations Office of the University of Geneva. At the HEID, seminar participants attended lectures given by Professor Marcelo Kohen: *“Is the Creation of States a Pure Matter of Fact?”*; Professor Vera Gowlland-Debbas: *“The Status of Palestine in International Law”*, Mr. Eric Wyler: *“Recognition of States and States Creation in Light of Recent Practice”* and Professor Lucius Caflisch, *“The Law of International Watercourses: Problems and Perspectives”*.

433. Seminar Participants also took part in the Memorial seminar organized in honour of Professor Paula Escarameia (see sect. G above), and were invited to attend the Gilberto Amado Memorial Lecture (see sect. G above).

434. Two Seminar working groups on *“The Future Role of the International Law Commission”* and the *“Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters”* were organised. Each Seminar participant was assigned to one of them. Two members of the Commission, Mr. Stephen C. Vasciannie and Mr. Eduardo Valencia Ospina, provided expert guidance to the working groups. Each group prepared a report and presented its findings to the Seminar in a special session. The reports were compiled and distributed to all participants, as well as to the members of the Commission.

435. The Republic and Canton of Geneva offered its traditional hospitality to the participants with a guided visit of the Alabama Room at the City Hall.

436. Mr. Bernd H. Niehaus, Second Vice-Chairman of the International Law Commission, Mr. Markus Schmidt, Director of the Seminar, and Ms. Martyna M. Falkowska (Poland) on behalf of the participants of the seminar, addressed the Commission and the participants at the closing ceremony of the Seminar. Each participant was presented with a certificate of participation.

437. The Commission noted with particular appreciation that during the last three years the Governments of Austria, China, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, India, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, 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 for the award of several fellowships to deserving candidates, especially from developing countries, in order to achieve adequate geographical distribution of participants. This year, fellowships (travel and/or subsistence allowance) were awarded to 16 candidates. The Commission notes that the finances of the Seminar have been strained in 2010 and 2011, and encourages Governments to make voluntary contributions to allow the Seminar to continue in its present form.

438. Since 1965, year of the Seminar inception, 1086 participants, representing 163 nationalities, have taken part in the Seminar. Of them, 650 have received fellowships.

439. The Commission stresses the importance it attaches to the Seminar, which enables young lawyers, especially from developing countries and from all geographic regions and legal traditions, 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 2012 with as broad participation as possible.

440. The Commission noted with satisfaction that, in 2011, interpretation services were made available to the Seminar. It expresses the hope that the same services would be provided at the next session, within existing resources.