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Report of the International Law Commission

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E. International Law Seminar

300. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/112, the fiftieth session of the International Law Seminar was held at the Palais des Nations from 7 to 25 July 2014, during the present session of the International Law Commission. The Seminar is intended for young jurists specializing in international law, including young professors or government officials pursuing an academic or diplomatic career in posts in the civil service of their country.

301. Twenty-four participants of different nationalities, from all regional groups took part in the session.⁸⁶⁵ The participants attended plenary meetings of the Commission, specially arranged lectures, and participated in working groups on specific topics.

302. Mr. Kirill Gevorgian, Chairman of the Commission, opened the Seminar. Mr. Markus Schmidt, Senior Legal Adviser to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), was responsible for the administration, organization and conduct of the Seminar. The University of Geneva ensured the scientific coordination of the Seminar. Mr. Vittorio Mainetti, an international law expert from the University of Geneva, acted as coordinator, assisted by Ms. Yusra Suedi, legal assistant, and Mr. Morgan Crump, intern in the Legal Liaison Office of UNOG.

303. The following lectures were given by members of the Commission: Mr. Ernest Petrič: *“The Work of the International Law Commission”*; Ms. Marie Jacobsson: *“Protection of the Environment in relation to Armed Conflict”*; Mr. Sean D. Murphy: *“Crimes Against Humanity”*; Mr. Shinya Murase: *“Protection of the Atmosphere”*; Mr. Mahmoud D. Hmoud: *“Prevention of Terrorism”*; Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina: *“Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters”*; Mr. Dire Tladi: *“Jus cogens”*; and Mr. Juan Manuel Gómez-Robledo: *“Provisional Application of Treaties”*.

304. A lecture was also given by Mr. Jordi Agusti-Panareda, Senior Legal Officer at the International Labour Organization (ILO), on *“The Proliferation of Labour Provisions in FTAs and Their Interplay with the ILO Standards System”*.

305. Seminar participants attended four external sessions. A workshop on *“Identification of Customary International Law”* was organized at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, in the presence of Mr. Michael Wood, Special Rapporteur on the topic, and chaired by Prof. Andrea Bianchi (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies). A special session on *“Immunity and International Crimes”* was held at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, featuring Ms. Concepción Escobar Hernández, Special Rapporteur on Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction and chaired by Prof. Paola Gaeta (University of Geneva), with the participation of other members of the Commission. Seminar participants also attended a conference organised by the University of Geneva in collaboration with the journal *The Law and Practice of International Courts and Tribunals*, on the topic: *“The ILC and International Courts and Tribunals: A Fruitful Dialogue?”*. The Conference was addressed by the following speakers: Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina (member of the Commission and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal); Mr. Shinya Murase (member of the Commission); Prof. Attila Tanzi (University of Bologna, Italy); Prof. Pierre Bodeau-Livinec (University Paris 8 – Vincennes Saint-Denis, France); Mr. Mathias Forteau (member of the Commission); Mr. Dire Tladi (member of the Commission); Prof. Robert Kolb (University of Geneva); Mr. Michael Wood (member of the Commission); Prof. Makane Mbengue (University of Geneva); and Prof. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (University of Geneva). Finally, a session was organised at the World Health Organization (WHO) focusing on International Health Law. Presentations were given by Mr. Gian Luca Burci, Legal Counsel of the WHO, Steven A. Solomon, Principal Legal Officer, and Mr. Jakob Quirin, Associate Legal Officer.

⁸⁶⁵ The following persons participated in the Seminar: Mr. Sattar Azizi (Iran (Islamic Republic of)), Ms. Diana Cucos (Moldova), Mr. Tommaso Di Ruzza (Holy See), Mr. Christian Djeflal (Germany), Ms. Marie Françoise Fernandez (France), Mr. Harouna Garba Hamani (Niger), Ms. Daniela Gauci (Malta), Ms. Lusine Hakobyan (Armenia), Ms. Ritta Raundjua Hengari (Namibia), Mr. Ata Hindi (State of Palestine), Mr. Michael Khetha Kabai (South Africa), Ms. Hermine Kembo Takam Gatsing (Cameroon), Mr. Piotr Kobielski (Poland), Mr. Senthil Kumar (India), Mr. Suzgo Lungu (Malawi), Mr. Pablo Andrés Moscoso De La Cuba (Peru), Mr. Luis Xavier Oña Garces (Ecuador), Mr. Mohamed Hassam Negm (Egypt), Mr. Alberto Manuel Poletti Adorno (Paraguay), Ms. Lucía Raffin (Argentina), Ms. Silvana Schimanski (Brazil), Ms. Ryoko Shinohara (Japan), Mr. Benjamin Santorlino Kuron Tombe (South Sudan), Mr. Fajar Yusuf (Indonesia). The Selection Committee, chaired by Ms. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Professor of International Law at the University of Geneva, met on 3 April 2014 and selected 25 candidates out of 143 applications. One selected candidate could not attend the Seminar.

306. Two Seminar working groups on “*Protection of the Atmosphere*” and “*Immunity of State Officials from Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction*” were organized. Each Seminar participant was assigned to one of them. Two members of the Commission, Ms. Concepción Escobar Hernández and Mr. Shinya Murase, supervised and provided expert guidance to the working groups. Each group prepared a report and presented its findings during the last working session of the Seminar. The reports were compiled and distributed to all participants as well as to the members of the Commission.

307. The Republic and Canton of Geneva offered its traditional hospitality at the Geneva Town Hall where the Seminar participants visited the Alabama room and attended a cocktail reception.

308. Mr. Kirill Gevorgian, Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Markus Schmidt, Director of the International Law Seminar, and Mr. Michael Khetlha Kabai, on behalf of the Seminar participants, addressed the Commission during the closing ceremony of the Seminar. Each participant was presented with a certificate of attendance.

309. The Commission noted with particular appreciation that since 2011 the Governments of Argentina, Austria, China, Czech Republic, Finland, India, Ireland, Mexico, Sweden, Switzerland, and of the United Kingdom had made voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Law Seminar. Though the recent financial crisis affected contributions, the situation of the Fund still allowed granting a sufficient number of fellowships to deserving candidates especially from developing countries in order to achieve adequate geographical distribution of participants. This year, 14 fellowships (6 for travel and living expenses, 7 for living expenses only and 1 for travel expenses only) were granted. 310. Since 1965, the year of the Seminar inception, 1139 participants, representing 171 nationalities, have taken part in the Seminar. 699 participants have received fellowships.

311. The Commission stresses the importance it attaches to the Seminar, which enables young lawyers, especially from developing countries, to familiarize themselves with the work of the Commission and the activities of the many international organizations based in Geneva. The Commission recommends that the General Assembly should again appeal to States to make voluntary contributions in order to secure the organization of the Seminar in 2015 with as broad participation as possible.

F. Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the International Law Seminar

312. The Commission held a meeting to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Seminar on 22 July 2014. The meeting coincided with the visit to the Commission of Judge Peter Tomka, President of the International Court of Justice. The theme of the Session was “International Law as a Profession”. The Chairman of the Commission, the President of the International Court of Justice,⁸⁶⁶ members of the Commission who were once participants of the seminar,⁸⁶⁷ a member of the Commission who was associated with the Seminar at its inception,⁸⁶⁸ the Director of the Seminar⁸⁶⁹ and representatives of participants to the 2013 and 2014⁸⁷⁰ sessions of the International Law Seminar made statements.

⁸⁶⁶ Participant in 1982.

⁸⁶⁷ Mr. E.J.A. Candiotti (1970), Mr. S. Murase (1975), Mr. N. Singh (1980), Mr. C.M. Peter (1984) and Mr. P. Šturma (1989).

⁸⁶⁸ Mr. E. Valencia-Ospina.

⁸⁶⁹ Mr. Markus Schmidt, Senior Legal Adviser of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

⁸⁷⁰ Ms. Carolina Abreu (2013) and Mr. Christian Djeflal (2014).