

International Law Seminar

Sixtieth session

The 60th session of the International Law Seminar took place at the *Palais des Nations* in Geneva from 29 June to 17 July 2026, during the 77th session of the International Law Commission. The Legal Office of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) was responsible for the administration and organization of the Seminar. Michael Schoiswohl, Senior Legal Adviser to the UNOG, served as its Director, assisted by Vinuon In. Vittorio Mainetti, international law expert and consultant, acted as Coordinator, assisted by Aure Allexandre, Assistant-Coordinator, and Adrien Aurejac, Legal intern, who was responsible for the development and realization of the Seminar's 60th anniversary commemorative project.

This year, 23 participants from diverse nationalities representing all regional groups participated in the Seminar: Abdulahi Mohamed Abdulahi (Somalia), Sauryk Abirbek (Kazakhstan), Carlos Alarcón Armendáriz (Ecuador), Alan Amadio (Italy), Karin Arana Chacón (Guatemala), Jonathan Brosseau-Rioux (Canada), Quazi Omar Foysal (Bangladesh), Eduardo Frago Jacobo (Mexico), Yinuo Kang (China), Haidy Mahmoud (Egypt), Desrie Markham (Antigua and Barbuda), El Hadj Mohamedou (Mauritania), Marang Sanyang (The Gambia), Jutha Saovabha (Thailand), Ioana-Alexandra Smărăndescu (Romania), Sergej Stoma (Lithuania), Linda Sydänmaanlakka (Finland), Elisée Judicaël Tiehi (Côte d'Ivoire), Mawuto Tossa (Togo), Özge Türk (Türkiye), Velina Valcheva (Bulgaria), Melinda Vittay (Hungary) and Hla Yadanar Win (Myanmar).



Participants of the Seminar during a session of the International Law Commission with UN Secretary-General António Guterres © Ewen Leheude

The Seminar was officially opened by Andreas D. Mavroyiannis, Chair of the Commission. Michael Schoiswohl, Director of the International Law Seminar, and Vittorio Mainetti, Coordinator of the Seminar welcomed participants. During the three-week programme, participants benefited from specialized lectures and briefings by several Commission members, UN staff, and professors from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies on the following topics: “The work of the International Law Commission” (Giuseppe Nesi), “Simulating the work of the International Law Commission” (Keun-Gwan Lee), “Subsidiary means for the determination of rules of international law” (Charles Chernor Jalloh), “Immunity of State officials in respect of State responsibility” (Claudio Grossman Guiloff), “Succession of States in respect of State responsibility” (Bimal N. Patel), “Prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea”

Official photograph of the participants of the 60th session of the International Law Seminar © François Vioud





Participants of the 60th session of the International Law Seminar in front of the Palais des Nations © François Vioud

(Louis Savadogo), “Non-legally binding international agreements” (Mathias Forteau), “Compensation for the damage caused by internationally wrongful acts” (Mārtiņš Pāparinskis), “General principles of law” (Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez), “Settlement of disputes to which international organizations are parties” (August Reinisch), “Due diligence in international law” (Penelope Ridings), and “The work of the Codification Division” (Arnold Pronto). These lectures were complemented by a round table on “Climate Change before International Courts and Tribunals: Reflections for the International Law Commission” (Roberto Virzo, Makane Moïse Mbengue, Nilüfer Oral, Claudio Grossman Guiloff, Mara Tignino).

Participants also attended the launch of two publications: *International Law for Diplomats*, organized by the United Nations Library and Archives Geneva, and *The Cambridge Handbook on the League of Nations and International Law*. A presentation of the United Nations Library and of the premises of UNOG was also organized.

For the second time in the Seminar’s history, participants took part in a simulation exercise organized and chaired by Keun-Gwan Lee, member of the Commission, providing an opportunity to experience the working methods and proceedings of the International Law Commission. The exercise focused on the topic “Non-legally binding international agreements,” currently under consideration by the Commission. The programme also featured an International Law Research Forum during which participants presented their own research to their peers.

Participants also visited the International Labour Organization (ILO), where they were briefed on ILO standard-setting and related developments. They also had the opportunity to visit the Geneva City Hall, including the historic Alabama Room, as well as the premises of the cantonal authorities, guided by the Protocol Service of the Republic and Canton of Geneva.

The Seminar concluded on 17 July with a joint session with the Commission, marking the end of the 2026 session of the International Law Seminar and the commemoration of its 60th anniversary. During the ceremony, each participant was presented with a diploma. Andreas D. Mavroyiannis, Michael Schoiswohl, Vittorio Mainetti, Keun-Gwan Lee, and a participant from each regional group on behalf of all the participants attending the Seminar, addressed the Commission.



Participants in the Alabama Room of the Geneva City Hall © Sauryk Abirbek

Former participants of the Seminar who are now serving as members of the Commission, namely George Rodrigo Bandeira Galindo, Claudio Grossman Guiloff, Ivon Mingashang, and Patrícia Galvão Teles, also took the floor to share their experience and to reflect on the significant contribution of the Seminar to their professional development and careers.

Contact:

For any further information on the International Law Seminar’s 60th anniversary commemorative project or if you are an alumnus/alumna wishing to share your experience, please contact:

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