

**United Nations
Report of the International
Law Commission**

**Fifty-sixth session
(3 May-4 June and 5 July-6 August 2004)**

**General Assembly
Official Records
Fifty-ninth session
Supplement No. 10 (A/59/10)**

E. International Law Seminar

379. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/77, the fortieth session of the International Law Seminar was held at the Palais des Nations from 5 to 23 July 2004, 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.

380. Twenty-four participants of different nationalities, mostly from developing countries, were able to take part in the session⁶⁵⁷. The participants in the Seminar observed plenary meetings of the Commission, attended specially arranged lectures, and participated in working groups on specific topics.

381. The Seminar was opened by the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Teodor Melescanu. 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.

382. The following lectures were given by members of the Commission: Mr. Joao Clemente Baena Soares: “*The Work of the High Level Commission on UN Reform*”; Mr. John Dugard: “*Diplomatic Protection*”; Mr. Martti Koskenniemi: “*Fragmentation of International Law*”; Mr. Giorgio Gaja: “*Responsibility of International Organizations*”; Mr. Chusei Yamada: “*Shared Natural Resources*”; Mr. Michael Matheson/Mr. Djamchid Momtaz: “*The I.C.J. decision on oil platform (6 November 2003)*”; Mr. P.S. Rao: “*International Liability*”.

⁶⁵⁷ The following persons participated in the fortieth session of the International Law Seminar: Mr. Ghulam Shabbir Akbar (Pakistan); Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Baloushi (United Arab Emirates); Mr. Steven James Barela (United States of America); Mr. Martin Bartoň (Slovak Republic); Mr. Philip Bittner (Austria); Mr. Srinivas Burra (India); Mr. Jean d’Aspremont Lynden (Belgium); Ms. Sandra Deheza Rodriguez (Bolivia); Ms. Rosa Delia Gomez-Duran (Argentina); Ms. Mateja Grašek (Slovenia); Ms. Hisaan Hussain (Maldives); Mr. Mbelwa Kairuki (Tanzania); Mr. Sifana Ibsén Kone (Burkina Faso); Ms. Annemarieke Künzli (Netherlands); Ms. Eneida Lima (Cape Verde); Mr. Maxim Musikhin (Russia); Ms. Jeannette Mwangi (Kenya); Ms. Katya Pineda (El Salvador); Mr. Resfel Pino Alavarez (Cuba); Mr. Pablo Sandomato de León (Uruguay); Mr. Abdoulaye Tounkara (Mali); Mr. Ian Wadley (Australia); Mr. Yehenew Walilegne (Ethiopia); Mr. Chen Wang (China). A Selection Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Jean-Marie Dufour (President of the Geneva International Academic Network, GIAN), met on 21 April 2004 and selected 24 candidates out of 77 applications for participation in the Seminar.

383. Lectures were also given by Mr. Ralph Zacklin, Assistant Secretary-General, Acting Legal Counsel: “*International Tribunals established by the United Nations: lessons learned*”, Ms. Maria Isabel Torres Cazorla, Professor, University of Malaga: “*Unilateral Acts*”, Ms. Pereyra-Frederichsen, Legal Affairs Officer, WTO: “*WTO Dispute Settlement System*”, Ms. Jelena Pejic, Legal Adviser, ICRC: “*Current Challenges to International Humanitarian Law*”, Mr. George Korontzis, Senior Legal Officer, United Nations Office of Legal Affairs: “*The ILC History: working methods, Programme of Work*”, and Mr. Markus Schmidt, Senior Legal Officer, OHCHR: “*The Human Rights Committee and the Individual Complaints Procedures*”.

384. Each Seminar participant was assigned to one of two working groups on “Unilateral Acts” and “Aquifers”. The Special Rapporteurs of the Commission for these subjects, Mr. Victor Rodriguez Cedeño and Mr. Chusei Yamada (“Shared Natural Resources”), 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.

385. 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.

386. 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.

387. Mr. Teodor Melescanu, 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. Srinivas Burra, 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 fortieth session of the Seminar.