



RRU CENTRE
for
RCIL
INTERNATIONAL LAW

RCIL INTERNATIONAL LAW NEWS COVERAGE

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10 October to 31 October

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UN INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

- The Official Report of the International Law Commission (**Seventy-fourth session**) has been published. The report includes information concerning the organisation of the session, the progress of work and the future work of the Commission on the topics given substantive consideration during the session, the texts of draft articles and commentaries adopted by the Commission during the session, any procedural recommendations of the Commission calling for a decision on the part of the General Assembly as well as other decisions and conclusions of the Commission.
- Prof Bimal N Patel introduced the topic of 'Promoting Accountability for Crimes against Peacekeepers,' a matter of pressing concern for the international community at the Permanent Mission to United Nations of India in New York. **Highlights** of his speech.





- Prof Bimal Patel chaired a panel at the 33rd Informal Meeting of Legal Advisors, focusing on "**interdependence and interconnectedness of international law**". Professor Patel chaired a panel discussion on the "**Democratization of Sources of International Law**", featuring Professor Antony T. Anghie ([University of Utah](#)), Dr. Kamalinne Pinitvupadol ([Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization](#)), and Dr. Danae Azaria ([UCL](#)) as panelists. His speech can be accessed [here](#).




33rd Informal Meeting of Legal Advisors
The Interdependence and Interconnectedness of International Law

Panel Discussion 4 - Democratization of Sources of International Law
 Moderator: Prof. Bimal Patel, ILC

- Prof. Antony T. Anghie, The University of Utah
- Mr. Kamalinne Pinitvupadol, SG, AALCO
- Dr. (Ms.) Danae Azaria, Associate Professor of International Law, University College London, Faculty of Laws; Senior Global Hauser Fellow, NYU Law School

- Prof Bimal Patel spoke at the 61st AALCO Session held in Bali, Indonesia. He highlighted the need of comprehensive studies on Asian and African perspective. The whole video can be accessed [here](#).

UNGA SIXTH COMMITTEE (LEGAL)

- Currently, the seventy-eighth session, the Sixth Committee is in progress. For the month of November, the following will be pursued:

No	Date	Agenda
1	1 November	Expulsion of aliens
2	23 to 25, 27 and 31 October and 1 November	Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventy-third and seventy-fourth sessions
3	6 November	Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
4	8 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Request for observer status (existing items)• Revitalization of the work of General Assembly
5	17 November	Election of officers of the Main Committee
6	2 and 16 November	Reserved days

For further information, please refer [here](#)

UN TREATY COLLECTION – DEPOSITORY NOTIFICATIONS

Date	Country	Issue	Action
25/10/23	Japan	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Chapter XXVII-15)	Withdrawal
25/10/2023	Oman	Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (Chapter III-2)	Accession
23/10/2023	Greece	Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (Chapter XI-B-11-b)	Accession
23/10/2023	France	Amendments to the Convention on the International Maritime Organization (Chapter XII-1-i)	Acceptance

For further information, please refer [here](#).

1. GA/12549

30 OCTOBER 2023

Intimidation, Cyberattacks, Challenges Will Not Stop International Criminal Court from Fulfilling Its Mandate, Says President, as General Assembly Takes Up Report

The President of the International Criminal Court reaffirmed the Court's commitment to its work despite intimidation, cyberattacks, and threats, including those from the Russian Federation. He presented the annual report, which highlighted these challenges and discussed ongoing cases, including the conviction of Dominic Ongwen for crimes in Uganda and the first completion of court-ordered reparations in the Katanga case in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The President of the General Assembly described the ICC as a critical pillar of international law. Several nations praised the Court's role in upholding accountability and justice, while condemning attacks and intimidation against it.

Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania welcomed the issuance of arrest warrants against the Russian President and others for alleged crimes related to Ukraine. Ukraine supported the Court's efforts and called for international support. China emphasized the need for the Court's neutrality and expressed concerns about its approach to State officials' immunity. Uganda stressed the importance of universal ratification of the Rome Statute to ensure justice for victims in conflict-affected countries. Mongolia highlighted the importance of consistent financial support for the Trust Fund for Victims.

Argentina underscored the Court's role in ensuring accountability for atrocity crimes, and the Netherlands introduced a draft resolution calling for national legislation in line with the Rome Statute. The Russian Federation and Syria requested a vote on the resolution, but other nations argued for following established procedures, leading to the postponement of the resolution.

2. GA/SHC/4394

30 OCTOBER 2023

Third Committee Highlights Continued Bias against People of African Descent, Law Enforcement Violence, Underscores Need for UN Declaration on Rights

The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) discussed several important issues. Experts highlighted the need for global dialogue on reparatory justice for people of African descent, emphasizing ongoing economic disparities, racial discrimination, and racial profiling faced by these communities. They also expressed concerns about the treatment of descendants of the Windrush Generation in the UK and the indefinite detention of people of African descent in migration detention in Australia.

The Committee also addressed the continued excessive use of force by law enforcement against people of African descent, violence against migrants and asylum seekers of African descent, and challenges in ensuring equal education. The Chair of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent stressed the importance of drafting a UN declaration to protect the human rights of people of African descent.

Furthermore, the Committee discussed the unethical use of mercenaries and their impact on human rights and the right to self-determination. The recruitment, training, financing, and use of mercenaries were identified as systemic issues affecting various regions and conflicts, undermining peace efforts and regional stability. The speakers emphasized that efforts to prevent mercenary recruitment and financing should be complemented by development initiatives to address underlying causes. Additionally, the right to self-determination for Palestinians in Gaza was also highlighted during the discussion.

3. GA/12547

26 OCTOBER 2023

International Court of Justice Docket Reflects Legal Questions Concerning All Humanity in Every Region, President Says, as General Assembly Takes Up Report

The President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) presented the Court's annual report to the General Assembly. She discussed the Court's increasing caseload, which includes nearly two dozen critical legal disputes, and noted that seven cases were brought during the reporting year, covering various legal issues. Two requests for advisory opinions were highlighted, one related to Israeli practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the other regarding state obligations in the context of climate change.

Ms. Donoghue also mentioned specific cases, such as one involving allegations of genocide and violations of the Convention on Genocide between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, and the Court's judgment on the case of Certain Iranian Assets against the United States. She emphasized the Court's ongoing efforts to promote gender equality and mentioned amendments to make its rules more gender-inclusive. The President acknowledged that the ICJ is facing a dynamic period in its history, with a significant increase in its docket. She expressed the need for appropriate adjustments in resources to meet the growing demands effectively.

During the debate, many speakers praised the ICJ for its role in developing international law and its crucial function in preventing conflicts by resolving disputes. They emphasized the importance of expanding the Court's budget to fulfil its mandate effectively, especially in the current context of conflicts and global challenges. Several delegates also highlighted the Court's role in addressing issues like climate change and its potential to clarify legal obligations.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

- On 12 October 2023, the Court heard the Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination ([Armenia v. Azerbaijan](#)). Available in: [English](#), [French](#).
- On 23 October 2023, the Court will be hearing the matter of Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestine Territory, including East Jerusalem ([Request for Advisory Opinion](#)). Available in: [English](#), [French](#).
- On 24 October 2023, the Court released [amended resolution](#) regarding the Rules of Court, the Resolution concerning the Internal Judicial Practice of the Court and the Practice Directions to render their provisions gender inclusive.
- On 27 October 2023, the President of the Court, Her Excellency Joan E Donoghue, addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations on the occasion of the presentation of the Court's Annual Report for the 2022-2023 judicial year. Available in: [English](#), [French](#).

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

- From 13 November to 17 November 2023, the Court shall conduct the trial hearing in Courtroom II, in the case of [The Prosecutor v. Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman](#). Available in: [English](#), [French](#).

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA

- The Court held a public ceremony in which six members of the tribunal were sworn in. These six judges are as follows: Ms. Frida María Armas Pfirter from Argentina, Mr. Hidehisa Horinouchi from Japan, Mr. Thembile Elphus Joyini from South Africa, Mr. Osman Keh Kamara from Sierra Leone, Mr. Konrad Jan Marciniak from Poland, and Mr. Zha Hyoung Rhee from the Republic of Korea. These judges will serve a nine-year term commencing from October 1, 2023. [Link](#) available.
- The Court welcomes the President Judge Heidar from Iceland as the President and Judge Chadha from India as the Vice-President of the Tribunal. [Link](#) available.

INTERNATIONAL LAW CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND LECTURES

- 1. The International Court of Justice invites application for 2024-2025 Judicial Fellowship Programme and Trust Fund Award**
 - **Hosted by:** International Court of Justice
 - **Further Details:** [here](#)
 - **Deadline:** 5 February, 2024
- 2. Call for Papers: LSE Law Review (Winter Issue 2023)**
 - **Hosted by:** Faculty of Law, London School of Economics
 - **Further Details:** [here](#)
 - **Time:** 21 November, 2023
- 3. Blue Security Fellowship**
 - **Hosted by:** Blue Security Program
 - **Further Details:** [here](#)
 - **Expression of Interest:** 31 October, 2023

THIS WEEK'S READS

- 1. Israel's Humanitarian Obligations Toward the Civilian Population in Gaza**
By: Pnina Sharvit Baruch, Tammy Caner (2023)
- 2. Israeli Pre-Transitional Justice and the Nakba Law**
By: Yoav Kapshuk, Lisa Strombom (2021)
- 3. The Perpetual Problem of Palestine–Israel: A Legal Analysis**
By: Mehtaab Singh Sandhu, Parikshit Goyal (2021)

Next Issue: 6 November 2023

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