



United Nations

International Law Commission

**Report on the work of its fifty-second session
(1 May-9 June and 10 July-18 August 2000)**

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Official Records
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E. International Law Seminar

- (a) Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/111, the thirty-sixth session of the International Law Seminar was held at the Palais des Nations from 10 to 28 July 2000, 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.
- (b) Twenty-four participants of different nationalities, mostly from developing countries, were able to take part in the session.¹ The participants in the Seminar observed plenary meetings of the Commission, attended specially arranged lectures, and participated in working groups on specific topics.
- (c) The Seminar was opened by the Commission's Chairman, Mr. Chusei Yamada. Mr. Ulrich von Blumenthal, Senior Legal Officer of the United Nations Office at Geneva, was responsible for the administration and organization of the Seminar.
- (d) The following lectures were given by members of the Commission:
Mr. Pemmaraju Sreenivasa Rao: "The Work of the ILC"; Mr. Christopher Dugard: "Diplomatic Protection"; Mr. Ian Brownlie: "The International Court of Justice"; Mr. Giorgio Gaja: "The concept of 'Injured State'"; Mr. Djamchid Momtaz: "Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court"; Mr. Victor Rodríguez-Cedeño: "Unilateral Acts of States"; and Mr. James Crawford: "Countermeasures".
- (e) Lectures were also given by Mr. Gudmundur Eiriksson, former Member of the Commission, Judge at the United Nations International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea: "The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea"; Mr. Pieter Kuijper, Director, Legal Affairs Division, World Trade Organization: "WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism"; Mr. Volker Türk,

¹ The following participated in the thirty-sixth session of the International Law Seminar: Mr. Abdelrahman Afifi (Palestinian); Mr. Chatri Archjananun (Thailand); Mr. Boukar Ary Tanimoune (Niger); Mr. Vidjea Barathy (India); Ms. Maria Manuela Farrajota (Portugal); Ms. Monica Feria Tinta (Peru); Mr. Márcio Garcia (Brazil); Ms. Julie Gaudreau (Canada); Mr. Mahmoud Hmoud (Jordan); Mr. Frank Hoffmeister (Germany); Mr. Mactar Kamara (Senegal); Mr. Konstantin Korkelia (Georgia); Mr. Davorin Lapas (Croatia); Mr. Erasmo Lara-Cabrera (Mexico); Ms. Carolane Mayanja (Uganda); Mr. Mischa Morgenbesser (Switzerland); Ms. Lipuo Moteetee (Lesotho); Ms. Karen Odaba (Kenya); Mr. Marcos Orellana (Chile); Mr. Guillermo Padrón-Wells (Venezuela); Mr. Payam Shahrjerdi (Islamic Republic of Iran); Ms. Maria Isabel Torres Cazorla (Spain); Ms. Barbara Tószegi (Hungary); Mr. Alain Edouard Traore (Burkina Faso). A Selection Committee, under the Chairmanship of Professor Nguyen-Huu Tru (Honorary Professor, Graduate Institute of International Relations, Geneva), met on 18 May 2000 and selected 24 candidates out of 124 applications for participation in the Seminar.

Legal Adviser, Division of International Protection, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): “International Protection of Refugees”; Mr. Bertie Ramcharan, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights: “Activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights”; and Mrs. Anne Ryniker, Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): “International Humanitarian Law and the Work of the ICRC”.

(f) Seminar participants were assigned to working groups whose main task consisted of preparing the discussions following each conference and of submitting written summary reports on each lecture. A collection of the reports was compiled and distributed to the participants. Under the guidance of Professor Gerhard Hafner, one group elaborated annotated bibliography on “The Effects of Armed Conflicts on Treaties”.

(g) Participants were also given the opportunity to make use of the facilities of the United Nations Library and to visit the Museum of the ICRC.

(h) 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.

(i) Mr. Chusei Yamada, Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Ulrich von Blumenthal, on behalf of the United Nations Office at Geneva, and Ms. Monica Feria Tinta and Mr. Payam Shahrjerdi, 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 thirty-sixth session of the Seminar.

(j) The Commission noted with particular appreciation that the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Germany and Switzerland had made voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Law Seminar. The financial situation of the Fund allowed to award a sufficient number of fellowships to achieve adequate geographical distribution of participants and to bring from developing countries deserving candidates who would otherwise have been prevented from taking part in the session. This year, full fellowships (travel and subsistence allowance) were awarded to 12 candidates and partial fellowship (subsistence or travel only) to 5 candidates.

(k) Of the 807 participants, representing 147 nationalities, who have taken part in the Seminar since its inception in 1965, 461 have received a fellowship.

(l) The Commission stresses the importance it attaches to the sessions of the Seminar, which enables young lawyers, especially those from developing countries, 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 2001 with as broad a participation as possible. It has to be emphasized that, due to the increasingly limited number of contributors, the organizers of the Seminar had to draw on the reserve of the Fund this year. Should this situation continue, it is to be feared that the financial situation of the Fund will not allow the same amount of fellowships to be awarded in the future.

(m) The Commission noted with satisfaction that in 2000 comprehensive interpretation services were made available to the Seminar. It expresses the hope that the same services will be provided for the Seminar at the next session, despite existing financial constraints.