

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Law Commission**

*19-20 May 2008*

**Programme**

11am—12.30 pm

## Solemn Meeting

19 May 2008—Morning

Council Chamber of the Palais des Nations  
(Old building)

### Opening of the meeting

**Musical interlude** -- *W.A. Mozart Allegro K 439b*  
*Trio d'anches de l'OSR*

Welcome by Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze,  
Director-General of the United Nations Office at  
Geneva

Statement by H.E. Mrs. Micheline Calmy-Rey,  
Federal Counselor of the Swiss Confederation

Statement by Mr. Nicolas Michel,  
Legal Counsel of the United Nations

**Musical interlude** -- *W.A. Mozart Rondo K 439b*  
*Trio d'anches de l'OSR*

Message by H.E. Mr. Srgian Kerim,  
President of the General Assembly of the  
United Nations

Keynote address by H.E. Judge Rosalyn Higgins,  
President of the International Court of Justice

Concluding address by the Chairman of the  
International Law Commission

**Musical interlude** -- *Jacques Ibert*  
*Cinq piècess en trio Allegro quasi marziale*  
*Trio d'anches de l'OSR*

### Closure of the meeting

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12.45pm—2.45pm

*Reception offered by the United Kingdom  
at the Escargot Bar, Palais des Nations  
(E-Building)*

**Seminar with Legal Advisers:**

**The International Law Commission:  
Sixty Years . . . And Now?**

*19 May 2008—Afternoon*

**Conference Room XXI (E-Building)**

General Introduction

3pm—3.20pm

**“What Role for the International Law  
Commission in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?”**

Georges Abi-Saab

3.20pm—6pm

**A Subsidiary Organ Composed of Independent  
Experts: Is the Commission Adapted to its  
Purposes?**

3.20pm-3.35pm

**Introduction**

*Sir Michael Wood (15 min.)*

3.35pm—4.30pm

**The Membership of the Commission: Profiles of  
a Codifier**

*{Choice, qualifications, independence of the Mem-  
bers of the Commission; specificities in the compo-  
sition of the Commission, etc.}*

- Panel discussion with a Member of the Com-  
mission (A. Pellet) (10 min.) and a Legal Adviser  
(R.E. Fife, Norway) (10 min.)

- Open discussion (30 min.)

*Coffee break*

5pm—6pm

**The Commission and Governments: Mutual Indifference or Ongoing Interaction?**

*{Comments from Governments (or lack thereof) on draft articles prepared by the Commission, reluctance and difficulties of Governments to put their position in writing, influence of the Sixth Committee on the work of the Commission, provision of information on State practice, ways of obtaining a more effective relationship, etc.}*

- Panel discussion with a Member of the Commission (Z. Galicki (10 min.) and a Legal Adviser (J.B. Bellinger, United States) (10 min.)
- Open discussion (40 min.)

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6.30pm—8.30pm

*Reception offered by the Swiss Confederation at the Ariana Museum*

*20 May 2008—Morning*

**Conference Room XXI (E-Building)**

10am—1pm

**The Commission and its Methods of Work: How to Achieve the Mandate?**

10am—10.15am

**Introduction**

James Crawford (15 min.)

10.15am—11.30am

**Within the Commission: Is There a Need to Renew the Methods of Work?**

*{Selection among different methods for elaborating drafts, role of the Special Rapporteurs, relations between the plenary and the Drafting Committee, role of the Secretariat, etc.}*

- Panel discussion with a Member of the Commission (C. Yamada) (10 min.) and a Legal Adviser (A.E. Villalta, El Salvador) (10 min.)
- Open discussion (55 min.)

*Coffee break*

12pm—1pm

**Opening up the Commission: Sharing Experiences with Other Bodies?**

*{Overview of recent meetings with other bodies, necessity of devoting specific time and resources to that effect, impact of this dialogue on the work of the Commission, cooperation with experts in other fields, etc.}*

- Panel discussion with a Member of the Commission (P. Escarameia) (10 min.) and a Legal Adviser (A. Havas Oegroseno, Indonesia) (10 min.)
- Open discussion (40 min.)

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1.15pm—2.45pm

*Reception offered by the United States at their Permanent Mission*

*20 May 2008—Afternoon*

**Conference Room XXI (E-Building)**

3pm—6pm

**Prospects for the Commission: Which Outcomes for Future Topics?**

3pm—3.15pm

**Introduction**

Ahmed Mahiou (15 min.)

3.15pm—4.30pm

**Future topics for the Commission: The End of the Golden Age?**

*{Procedure and criteria for the selection of topics, review of the topics recently suggested, etc.}*

- Panel discussion with a Member of the Commission (E. Candioti) (10 min.) and a Legal Adviser (I. Mkwawa-Kasyanju, United Republic of Tanzania) (10 min.)
- Open discussion (55 min.)

Coffee break

4.45pm—5.40pm

**The Outcomes of the Commission's Work:  
Should Codification and Progressive  
Development Still Be Achieved Through  
Treaties?**

*{Review of the possible outcomes of the Commission's drafts, consideration of recent debates on this issue (State responsibility, diplomatic protection, fragmentation of international law), existence of a preference for soft law instruments?, etc.}*

- Panel discussion with a Member of the Commission (J. Dugard) (10 min.) and a Legal Adviser (Ms. A. Lepik von Wiren, Estonia) (10 min.)
- Open discussion (35 min.)

5.40pm—6pm

**General Conclusions**

Brigitte Stern (20 min.)