

The UN @ 75: International law and the future we want
International Law Day 2020
Monday, 26 October 2020, at 10:00 (NY time)

While circumstances owing to the global COVID-19 pandemic have made the traditional International Law Week impossible, the Sixth Committee (Legal) of the United Nations General Assembly continues its vital work in the progressive development of international law and its codification. To celebrate this work and mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, an International Law Day will be organized on Monday, 26 October 2020, in the morning. This International Law Day is intended to reflect on the evolution of the United Nations, its contribution to international law and the prospects for the future.

The theme of International Law Day is: **The UN @ 75: International Law and the future we want**. Inspired by the theme of this year's celebratory events, "*The future we want, the United Nations we need*", it will focus on how the work of the United Nations is already contributing and can further contribute to the development of international law in support of the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Special attention will be given to the role of the United Nations system in the progressive development of international law and its codification, including in the promotion and protection of human rights and its response to the climate crisis. The global UN75 survey, with over one million respondents, identified these as key priorities for the future work of the United Nations.

International Law Day will be a two-hour virtual event, with interpretation, and it will be webcast on UN Web TV. Invited distinguished panellists will include the President of the General Assembly, the President of the International Court of Justice, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, two academics, the Chair designate for the seventy-second session of the International Law Commission and the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel. The remaining time will be reserved for a question-and-answer segment.

Programme:

10:00-1200 (NY time)

Opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Milenko E. Skoknic Tapia
Chair of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly

Statement by H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkır
President of the General Assembly

Statement by H.E. Judge Abdulqawi A. Yusuf
President of the International Court of Justice

Statement by Ms Michelle Bachelet Jeria
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Statement by Prof. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes
Professor of International Law, University of Geneva

Statement by Prof. Patrícia Galvão Teles
Professor of International Law, Autonomous University of Lisbon

Statement by Mr. Mahmoud D. Hmoud
Chair-designate for the seventy-second session of the International Law Commission

Statement by Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel

Question & Answer segment