



TOKYO  
INTERNATIONAL  
LAW  
SEMINAR



# Tokyo International Law Seminar 2025

## Programme

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外務省

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

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**Baker McKenzie.**

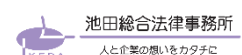
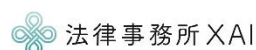


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Shiratori Law Office



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# Introductory Message

- Welcome to the Tokyo International Law Seminar 2025!
- Divisions and confrontations within the international community is becoming more severe, and the “rule of law” is confronting significant challenges in various parts of the world.
- In order to firmly anchor the “rule of law” in the whole international community, it is essential to foster human resources and promote exchanges in the field of international law.
- The Tokyo International Law Seminar was launched to serve as a platform for officials and legal experts from Asia and Africa to deepen their knowledge through engagement with one another as well as with leading experts in these areas.
- Through fostering common knowledge and friendly relationships among international lawyers, the Tokyo International Law Seminar will contribute to the realization of peace guided by the “rule of law”.

## **\*The Tokyo International Law Seminar Foreign Lecturer Advisory Committee**

The following three prominent experts in the area of international law, who are also participating in the Tokyo International Law Seminar as lecturers, have been advising on the selection of foreign lecturers and topics:

- Mr. Paul REICHLER (11 King's Bench Walk Chambers)
- Prof. Dapo AKANDE (University of Oxford, Member of International Law Commission)
- Prof. Philippa WEBB (University of Oxford)

**Tokyo International Law Seminar**  
4-8 August 2025, at United Nations University

	Mon, Aug. 4th	Tue, Aug. 5th	Wed, Aug. 6th	Thu, Aug. 7th	Fri, Aug. 8th
09:00-10:40	—  <b>10:00- Registration</b> <b>10:30-10:50 Opening Session</b>	<b>State, State Official, Diplomatic Immunities (1)</b>  Prof. Philippa WEBB University of Oxford	<b>International Law Applicable to the Cyberspace</b>  Prof. Mohamed HELAL The Ohio State University	<b>Investor-State Dispute Settlement(1)</b>  Ms. Catherine AMIRFAR Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton	<b>Business and Human Rights</b>  Mr. Viren MASCARENHAS Founding Partner, Mascarenhas Law
11:00-12:40	<b>International Litigation(1)</b>  Mr. Paul REICHLER International Lawyer, 11KBW	<b>State, State Official, Diplomatic Immunities (2)</b>  Prof. Philippa WEBB University of Oxford	<b>International Criminal Law and ICC</b>  Mr.Yoshimitsu YAMAUCHI Director, United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI)	<b>Investor-State Dispute Settlement(2)</b>  Ms. Catherine AMIRFAR Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton	<b>Panel Discusssion</b> <b>"AI and International Law</b> <b>- Navigating the Uncharted Waters"</b> <Panelists> Ms. Amirfar, Prof. Helal, Prof. Okowa, Prof. Webb, Prof. Ken SATOH, Director, Center for Juris-Informatics, Research Organization of Information and Systems <Moderator> Amb. Tomohiro MIKANAGI Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN
Break	—	—	—	—	<b>Completion Ceremony</b>
14:00-15:40	<b>International Litigation(2)</b>  Mr. Paul REICHLER International Lawyer, 11KBW	<b>Law of the Sea</b> Dr. Nilufer ORAL Director of the Centre of International Law at the National University of Singapore, ILC member	<b>Asia Cup</b> International Law Moot Court Competition for future international lawyers in Asia  <b>Final Round</b>	<b>International Law and the Use of Force (1)</b>  Prof. Masahiro KUROSAKI National Defense Academy of Japan	—
16:00-17:40	<b>The role of the International Law Commission</b> <b>in the codification and the progressive development of International Law</b> Prof. Phoebe OKOWA Queen Mary University of London, ILC member	<b>The Impact of Climate Change on International Law</b>  Dr. Nilufer ORAL Director of the Centre of International Law at the National University of Singapore, ILC member		<b>International Law and the Use of Force (2)</b>  Prof. Masahiro KUROSAKI National Defense Academy of Japan	—
	<b>Welcome Reception hosted by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan</b>	—	<b>Asia Cup Awards Ceremony, Reception</b>		



# Paul Reichler

**Associate Member**  
**11 King's Bench Walk**  
**Chambers, London**



## About Me

Practitioner of Public International Law since 1981, representing States in disputes against other States before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and international arbitral tribunals; and representation of States in arbitration against foreign investors. Notable cases include: (before the ICJ) Nicaragua v. United States, Argentina v. Uruguay, The Gambia v. Myanmar, Guyana v. Venezuela, Legal Status of the Chagos Archipelago (counsel for Mauritius), Legality of Israel's Prolonged Occupation, Settlement and Annexation of Occupied Palestinian Territory (counsel for Palestine); (before ITLOS) Bangladesh v. Myanmar; Ghana v. Cote d'Ivoire, Mauritius v. Maldives; (before arbitral tribunals)



## Overview of Lecture

International Litigation (1) and (2)

These lectures will focus on Litigation Practice before International Courts, with an emphasis on representation of States in disputes with other States, and with foreign investors.



## Reference/ Guiding Questions

Topics will include: the decision to sue; composition of the legal team; preparation of the case; commencement of the proceedings; the art of written pleading; and the art of oral argument. Questions from the participants are strongly encouraged at any time during the lectures.



## Education

**Harvard Law School**  
**Juris Doctor, 1973**



## Expertise

**Advocacy on behalf of States**  
**before international courts**  
**and arbitral tribunals**



## Experience

**Associate Member, 11 King's Bench**  
**Walk Chambers, London**  
**2023 – Present**

**Partner, Foley Hoag LLP, Washington**  
**DC**  
**1998 – 2022**

**Partner, Reichler, Milton & Medel,**  
**Washington DC**  
**1984 – 1998**

**Partner, Powell, Goldstein, Frazer &**  
**Murphy, Washington DC**  
**1981 – 1984**





# Phoebe Okowa

## Professor

Professor of Public International Law  
Queen Mary University of London  
Member, UN International Law Commission



## Education

Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) in  
Public International Law  
University of Oxford, 1994  
Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL)  
University of Oxford, 1990  
Bachelor of Laws (LLB)  
University of Nairobi, 1987



## Expertise

General International Law



## Experience

Professor of Public International  
Law, Queen Mary University of  
London 2014-Present

Member, United Nations  
International Law Commission  
2023-2027

UCHV Fellow in Law and  
Normative Thinking, Princeton  
University  
2024-2025



## About Me

I am a Kenyan Professor, lawyer and ILC member. I have been teaching and practicing for the past 30 years. My lecture will focus on the role and relevance of the ILC today. It will be an interactive lecture, and I warmly welcome your questions and insights, whether academic or practical.



## Overview of Lecture

This lecture will be in two parts. The first part is explanatory and will look at the ILC's mandate on codification and progressive development in a broad historical perspective. Unlike other organisations dedicated to codification, such as the Institute of International Law or the International Law Association, the commission's work was intended to reflect and support the practical needs of States.

The second part will look at the commissions current project on immunity of foreign state officials, adopted on second reading at the 76th session. The lecture will examine the rationale of the topic; the exceptions to the basic principle of immunity and the procedural safeguards intended to meet the twin demands of accountability and respect for state sovereignty.



## Reference/ Guiding Questions

- Alain Pellet, 'Between Codification and Progressive Development of the Law: Some Reflections from the ILC' (2004) 6 Int'l LF D Int'l 15
- [Amnesty International, Comments and Observations on the Draft Articles on Immunity of State Officials from Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction by the International Law Commission \(AI Index IOR 40/9214/2025, 8 April 2025\)](#)
- [Hugo Relva and Vito Todeschini, 'The Obligation to Notify the State of the Official in the ILC Draft Articles on Immunity of State Officials from Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction: A Backdoor to Impunity?' \(EJIL: Talk!, 29 April 2025\)](#)
- [International Law Commission, Report of the International Law Commission on the Work of its Seventy-sixth Session \(28 April-30 May 2025\) UN Doc A/80/10 \(9 June 2025\)](#)



# Philippa Webb

Professor of Public International Law,  
University of Oxford



## Education

J.S.D. (International Law), Yale Law School, USA

LL.M. (International Law), Yale Law School, USA

LL.B. University of New South Wales, Australia

B.A. (Hons) (Advanced Japanese Studies), University of New South Wales, Australia



## Expertise

Immunities

Dispute settlement

Treaties

State responsibility



## Experience

September 2024- Professor of Public International Law, University of Oxford

2019-2024 Professor of Public International Law, King's College London; Director of the Centre for International Governance and Dispute Resolution

2016- Barrister Specializing in Public International Law, Twenty Essex, London

2015-2019 Associate Professor in Public International Law, King's College London

2012-2015 Lecturer in Public International Law, King's College London

2009-2012 Visiting Assistant Professor, Leiden University and Legal Adviser on International Law

2006-2009 Legal Officer and Special Assistant to President Higgins GBE KC, International Court of Justice

2004-2005 Judicial Clerk to Judges Owada and Higgins, International Court of Justice

2001-2003 Associate Officer, United Nations Headquarters



## About Me

I am a Professor and Barrister specializing in public international law. I appear regularly in the International Court of Justice as well as international tribunals and English courts. I have lived in Australia, Japan, the USA, the Netherlands and France. I am looking forward to a lively exchange on immunity in international law.



## Overview of Lecture

This lecture will explore a dynamic and fascinating area of international law: the law of immunities. The topic will be addressed in three parts: (i) the immunity of the State and its officials from the jurisdiction of foreign and international courts; (ii) the immunity of the State from execution against its property; (iii) diplomatic and consular immunities. We will focus on contemporary challenges.



## Reference/Guiding Questions

- [1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations](#)
- [2004 United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and their Property](#)
- [2012, International Court of Justice, Jurisdictional Immunities of the State \(Germany v. Italy: Greece intervening\)](#)
- [2022 United Kingdom Supreme Court, Basfar v Wong](#)
- [EPRS Report by Philippa Webb on Legal Options for Confiscating Russian State Assets](#)





# Nilufer Oral

**Director**  
**Centre for International Law at**  
**the National University of Singapore**



## About Me

I am originally from Türkiye but have been living in Singapore since 2020. I have been studying, writing, and lecturing on different aspects of the law of the sea for over 20 years. The law of the sea is a dynamic and fascinating subject that is multidimensional and always evolving.

I hope the class will be interactive and the participants will ask questions and share their views and experiences also.



## Overview of Lecture

Lecture 1: Forty Years of the law of the sea and key developments

The first lecture will provide the participants an overview of the key developments of the law of the sea over the past forty years, looking at old and new challenges with an emphasis on the most recent developments, in particular the adoption of the BBNJ Agreement (Agreement for the Conservation of Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction).

Lecture 2: The Law of the Sea in face of Climate Change

The second lecture will specifically focus on climate change and the law of the sea highlighting the work at the International Law Commission on sea-level rise and international law, including the recent outcomes of advisory opinions from ITLOS and the International Court of Justice



## Reference/ Guiding Questions

- Nilufer Oral, "A Stocktake of Ocean Governance Fifty Years after Stockholm: New Challenges for International Law," 39 International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law (2024) 419-428
- Nilufer Oral and Bogdan Aurescu, *Sea Level Rise and Maritime Boundaries: The Case for Stability, Legal Certainty and Peaceful Relations* in Charles Bower, Joan Donoghue, Cian Murphy & Cyme Payne (Eds) *By Peaceful Means: International Adjudication and Arbitration* (Cambridge University Press, 2024)



## Education

**SJD in International Law**  
**George Washington University**  
**Law School**



## Expertise

**Law of the Sea**



## Experience

**Director, Centre for International Law at**  
**the National University of Singapore**  
**2020 – present**

**Member, the United Nations International**  
**Law Commission (ILC)**  
**2017 – present**

**Co-Chair, Study Group on Sea Level Rise**  
**of the ILC**  
**2019 – 2025**

**Council, International Union For**  
**Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**  
**2012 – 2016**

**Chair, IUCN Academy of Environmental**  
**Law**  
**2014 – 2017**

**Co-chair, IUCN Specialist Group on**  
**Oceans, Coasts and Coral Reefs**  
**2006 – 2018**



# Mohamed Helal

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Professor  
Ohio State University



## Education

Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D)  
Harvard Law School – 2016  
Master of Laws (LL.M.)  
Harvard Law School – 2010  
Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)  
Ain Shams University– 2009  
Master of Arts (M.A.)  
American University in Cairo – 2005  
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)  
American University in Cairo – 2002



## Expertise

Public International Law



## Experience

Legal Adviser, Mission of Egypt  
to the UN 2024 – Present  
Professor of Law, Ohio State  
University 2016-Present  
Visiting Professor of Law & John  
Harvey Gregory Lecturer on  
World Organization – Harvard  
Law School 2020-2021  
Member, Permanent Court of  
Arbitration 2020-2026  
Member, AU Commission of  
International Law 2020-2030  
Legal Counsel to the Foreign  
Minister of Egypt 2019 –2021



## About Me

I am a professor of law, diplomat serving at the United Nations, and international civil servant serving with the African Union. I am deeply committed to the rule of law and to progressively developing international law to serve the common interests of humankind.



## Overview of Lecture

The Application of International Law in Cyberspace:  
Exploring a Debate that is Recoding International Law



## Reference/ Guiding Questions

- EJIL:Talk! The Common African Position on the Application of International Law in Cyberspace: Reflections on a Collaborative Lawmaking Process ([Link](#))



# Yoshimitsu Yamauchi

Director,  
United Nations Asia and Far East Institute  
for the Prevention of Crime and  
the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI)



## Education

Bachelor of Laws,  
Sophia University, Japan  
1988



## Expertise

Criminal Justice and  
International Cooperation



## Experience

Director, United Nations Asia and Far East  
Institute for the Prevention of Crime and  
the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI)  
Dec 2023 – Present

Chief Public Prosecutor, Asahikawa  
District Prosecutors Office  
Jan 2022 – Dec 2023

Assistant Vice-Minister of Justice  
Feb 2018 – Sep 2021

Director, International Affairs Division,  
Criminal Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Justice  
Oct 2015 – Feb 2018

First Secretary of Japanese Embassy in  
the United States of America  
Jul 2005 – Jul 2008

Public Prosecutor, Tokyo District Public  
Prosecutors Office  
Apr 1995– Jun 1995



## About Me

- Appointed public prosecutor in 1995. Extensively worked as a practitioner and government attorney in the field of criminal justice and international cooperation. Led multiple negotiations of bilateral mutual legal assistance (MLA) treaties and handled numerous MLA and extradition cases.
- Represented the Ministry of Justice of Japan in various international conferences including those organized by the United Nations, G7, FATF and OECD.
- Currently serve as the Director of UNAFEI, leading its research and capacity-building initiatives for criminal justice practitioners, aimed at strengthening fair, effective and accountable criminal justice systems worldwide.



## Overview of Lecture

International Criminal Law and the International Criminal Court

The lecture will examine key UN instruments aimed at facilitating international cooperation in criminal matters and highlight the unique features of the Rome Statute



## Reference/Guiding Questions

- UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME
- UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION
- ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT



# Catherine Amirfar

Co-Chair of Int'l Dispute Resolution and  
Public Int'l Law  
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP



## Education

J.D. *cum laude*  
New York University School of Law  
1997 – 2000

B.A. with Honors, Int'l Relations  
Stanford University  
1991 – 1995



## Expertise

General Public International Law  
Investor-State Arbitration  
International Commercial Arbitration



## Experience

Partner, Co-Chair of International  
Dispute Resolution Group and  
the Public International Law Group,  
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP  
2002 – present (Partner since 2008)

President, American Society of  
International Law (ASIL)  
2020 – 2022

Counselor on International Law,  
Office of the Legal Adviser,  
U.S. Department of State  
2014 – 2016



## About Me

I have over twenty years' experience representing States and International Organizations before international courts and tribunals, including before investor-State tribunals and the International Court of Justice. I am looking forward to bringing this experience to bear in discussing the practical aspects of engaging, strategizing, and managing an investor-State arbitration from the State's perspective.



## Overview of Lecture

INVESTOR-STATE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT: The seminar involves two main components. *First*, we will examine the life cycle of investor-State treaty arbitrations, from notice of the dispute to award enforcement and annulment. We will focus on key practical and strategic considerations for Respondent States at each phase, including strategies for pre-empting disputes, mitigating risk, and adopting a proactive, rather than reactive, approach. *Second*, we will examine a case study to discuss how we might apply these principles and analyze these considerations at each phase of this arbitration. In addressing these topics we will also discuss the various proposals for the reform of the investor-State dispute system.



## References/Guiding Questions

- Please skim the following to get a sense of the structure and function:
  - [2012 US Model Bilateral Investment Treaty](#)
  - [2022 ICSID Arbitration Rules](#)
  - [1958 New York Convention](#)
- [Hydro v. Albania, ICSID \(Procedural Details tab\)](#)
- [Analysis: Hydro v. Albania, IA Reporter](#)





# Masahiro Kurosaki

Professor of International Law  
National Defense Academy  
of Japan



## Education

MA /International Law  
University of Tokyo  
2002



## Expertise

The Law of Armed Conflict and  
the Use of Force



## Experience

Professor, National Defense  
Academy of Japan  
2022-present

Associate Professor, National  
Defense Academy of Japan  
2011-2022

Lecturer, National Defense  
Academy of Japan  
2008-2011



## About Me

I was born and grew up in Kansai, the most energetic region of Japan. I look forward to your active and candid participation.



## Overview of Lecture

In this lecture, we will discuss (1) the scope of the prohibition on the use of force and (2) the right to self-defense as an exception to that prohibition.



## Reference/ Guiding Questions

- Christine Gray and Andrew Sanger, "The Use of Force and the International Legal Order," in Malcolm Evans (ed.), *International Law*, 6th edn. (Oxford University Press, 2024).
- To what extent does international law prohibit the resort to force by a State, and how can the international community contribute to the effective implementation of that prohibition?





# Viren Mascarenhas

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Founding Partner  
Mascarenhas Law PLLC



## Education

LLM with Distinction/ International  
Dispute Resolution  
University of London, 2009  
Juris Doctor (JD)  
Columbia Law School, 2005



## Expertise

Investment Arbitration  
Commercial Arbitration (esp. in the  
energy and metals and mining  
sectors)  
Human Rights



## Experience

Adjunct Professor, Columbia  
Law School, 2009 – Present  
Partner, Milbank LLP and King &  
Spalding, 2014 – 2025  
Associate, Freshfields LLP and  
Skadden Arps LLP, 2006 – 2014  
Legal Officer, Special Court for  
Sierra Leone, 2007 – 2008  
Law Clerk for H.E. Rosalyn  
Higgins, President of the ICJ,  
2005 – 2006



## About Me

I am a U.S. litigator with over two decades of experience in arbitration and litigation. While advising and representing investors and governments in arbitration, I also have advised defense, energy, and mining companies on a range of human rights issues.



## Overview of Lecture

BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
We will discuss the evolution of the field from 2011 to present-day challenges and developments relevant to governments.



## Reference/ Guiding Questions

- <https://www.ohchr.org/en/publications/reference-publications/guiding-principles-business-and-human-rights>

# JAPAN'S INITIATIVE FOR THE RULE OF LAW AMONG NATIONS



- The rule of law is the concept that recognizes the superiority of the law over all forms of power.
- In the UN resolutions, the importance of the rule of law has been affirmed both at the national and international levels.
- The rule of law at the international level calls on States to respect basic international norms, in particular the prohibition of use of force.

## **Friendly Relations Declaration (A/RES/25/2625) (1970)**

*(Preamble) Bearing in mind also the paramount importance of the Charter of the United Nations in the promotion of the rule of law among nations,*



## **Resolution adopted at the 2005 UN World Summit (A/RES/60/1)**

*134. Recognizing the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law both at the national and international levels, we:*

*(a) Reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law and to an international order based on the rule of law and international law, which is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States;*



## **Pact for the Future**

*"We reaffirm our commitment to act in accordance with international law, including the Charter and its purposes and principles, and to fulfil our obligations in good faith. We reaffirm the imperative of upholding and promoting the rule of law at the international level in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in this regard recall the importance of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations."*

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## ADDRESS AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2022)

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On September 20, 2022, Prime Minister Kishida stated at the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly that Japan is fully committed to the realization of a United Nations that promotes the rule of law in the international community. In his statement, he emphasized the following three points:



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

- *Break away from “rule by force” and pursue “rule of law” through observing international law in good faith;*
- *Do not allow any attempts to change the status quo of territories and areas by force or coercion; and*
- *Cooperate with one another against serious violations of the principles of the UN Charter*

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## MINISTERIAL OPEN DEBATE OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE "RULE OF LAW AMONG NATIONS" CHAIRED BY THEN FOREIGN MINISTER HAYASHI (2023)

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On January 12, 2023, then Foreign Minister Hayashi stated at the ministerial open debate of the UN Security Council “Rule of Law among Nations” that the rule of



law among nations is about returning to the unshakable principles that the Member States have built upon since 1945, and called upon all Member States "Uniting for the rule of law." (See also the concept note for the open debate)



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## G7 FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN KARUIZAWA, NAGANO (2023)

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### G7 Foreign Ministers' Communiqué

On April 18, 2023, G7 Foreign Ministers met in Karuizawa, Japan, and issued a G7 Foreign Ministers' Communiqué containing the following paragraph relating to the rule of law among nations:



*“We are determined to strengthen the free and open international order based on the rule of law, respect for the UN Charter, the sovereignty, and territorial integrity of all states, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Countries, large and small, benefit from these principles. We are determined to uphold and protect them, and we stand ready to work with all willing partners in this endeavor.*

*The prohibition of threats or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter, constitutes the cornerstone of the post-war international system. Yet, territorial ambition is again driving some states to return to rule by force, so we have redoubled our efforts to uphold peace guided by the rule of law. The prohibition on the acquisition of territory resulting from the threat or use of force, reaffirmed in the Friendly Relations Declaration of 1970, should be observed in good faith. We strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the peacefully established status of territories by force or coercion anywhere in the world. In this regard, sending regular or irregular forces to unilaterally annex a territory is prohibited.”*

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## G7 HIROSHIMA SUMMIT (2023)

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In May 2023, Japan hosted the G7 Hiroshima Summit. G7 Leaders issued the G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué containing the following reference relating to the rule of law among nations:



*“We will champion international principles and shared values by:*

- *upholding and reinforcing the free and open international order based on the rule of law, respecting the UN Charter to the benefit of countries, large and small;*

- *strongly opposing any unilateral attempts to change the peacefully established status of territories by force or coercion anywhere in the world and reaffirming that the acquisition of territory by force is prohibited;”*



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

Also at the Summit, the G7 leaders along with the leaders of 8 invited countries and Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy discussed the peace and stability of the world, and shared the recognition on the importance of the following points:

- *All countries should adhere to the principles of the UN Charter, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.*
- *Confrontation should be resolved peacefully through dialogue, and we support a just and durable peace that is based on respect for international law and the principles of the UN Charter.*
- *Any unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force is unacceptable anywhere in the world.*
- *We strive to uphold the free and open international order based on the rule of law.*

*[Note] 8 invited countries are Australia, Brazil, Comoros (African Union Chair), Cook Island (Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Chair), India (G20 Presidency), Indonesia (ASEAN Chair), Republic of Korea and Vietnam.*

\* In preparation for the G7 Hiroshima Summit, where various issues relating to international law were discussed, the Japanese Legal Advisor/Director-General for International Legal Affairs invited G7 Legal Advisors to Tokyo and held a meeting of the Working Group of G7 Legal Advisors in April 2023.



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## ADDRESS AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2023)

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(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On September 19, 2023, Prime Minister Kishida referred to the importance of the rule of law again at the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, while emphasizing Japan's determination to safeguard and strengthen 'human dignity'.

- ❑ *"The principles of the UN Charter, such as sovereign equality, respect for territorial integrity and the prohibition of the use of force, are fundamental principles of international law for people to live in peace and provide the basis of the 'rule of law.'"*
- ❑ *"International law is there for the benefit of weaker states. Together, under the 'rule of law', Japan would like to protect the right of vulnerable nations and peoples to live in peace, in order to safeguard and strengthen 'human dignity'."*

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## THE NINTH JAPAN-CHINA-ROK TRILATERAL SUMMIT (2024)

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The 9th Japan-China-ROK Summit was held in Seoul on May 27th. The Joint Declaration of the 9th Summit released after the meeting reads:

*"We reaffirmed our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to an international order based on the rule of law and international law. In this context, we shared the importance for states to abide by their commitments under the international law and agreements among states."*

## JAPAN'S STATEMENTS REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

### **“Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem” (2023, 2024)**

With regard to the request for advisory opinion submitted by the General Assembly of the United Nations for the International Court of Justice on “Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem”, Japan submitted its written statement on July 2023 and participated in the public sitting to deliver its oral statement on 22 February 2024.



(Photo : International Court of Justice)

In its statements, reiterating its basic position on the Middle East Peace Process, Japan took the opportunity to present its views on legal aspects regarding the principle of the “prohibition of the acquisition of territory by force”, an important element of the rule of law in the international community. By continuing its contribution to the activities in the ICJ, including its participation in this oral proceedings, Japan will actively engage in the efforts to promote the rule of law in the international community.

Written statement of  
Japan (July 2023):



Oral statement of  
Japan (February 2024):



## “Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change” (2024)



(Photo : International Court of Justice)

With regard to the request for advisory opinion submitted by the General Assembly of the United Nations for the International Court of Justice on “Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change”, Japan submitted its written statement on March 2024 and participated in the public sitting to deliver its oral statement on 9 December 2024.

In its statements, reiterating its basic position on climate change measures, Japan took the opportunity to present its views on obligations and legal consequences under international law in the field of climate change. By continuing its contribution to the activities in the ICJ, including its participation in this oral proceedings, Japan will actively engage in the efforts to promote the rule of law in the international community and take action to address the issue of climate change, which is an urgent challenge common to all humankind.

Written statement of  
Japan (March 2024):



Oral statement of Japan  
(December 2024):

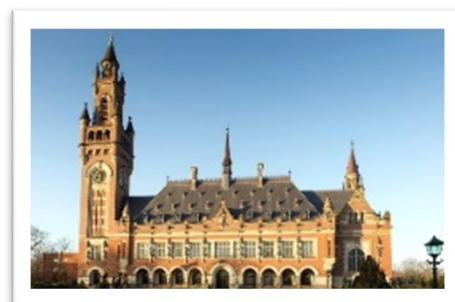


## JAPAN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

### International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Japan encourages the rule of law in the international community via peaceful settlement of international disputes. From this perspective, Japan has accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ, and calls upon others including major countries to declare likewise. Japan has consistently issued Japanese Judges.

To date, only 74 out of 193 UN member States have accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice. We need to redouble our efforts to uphold the rule of law among nations.



Judge Iwasawa

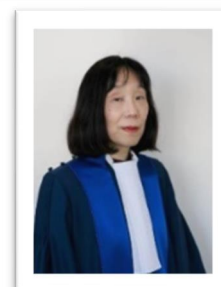
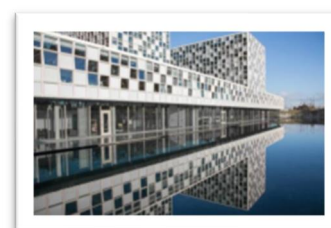
Japanese Government's statement  
on the role of ICJ (2023):



### International Criminal Court (ICC)

As the largest financial contributor, Japan has consistently supported the ICC's activities through sending Japanese judges and dispatching prosecutors. The universality of the Rome Statute continues to be an important goal for Japan.

Japan is the only country in Asia to have referred the Situation in Ukraine to the ICC.



Judge Akane

# International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

Japan attaches great importance to maintaining and developing the maritime order based on the rule of law and highly appreciates ITLOS's contribution to the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes. Japan will continue to cooperate with ITLOS.

Japan has consistently produced Judges since the establishment of the Tribunal in 1996 and is the second largest fiscal contributor.



Judge Horinouchi

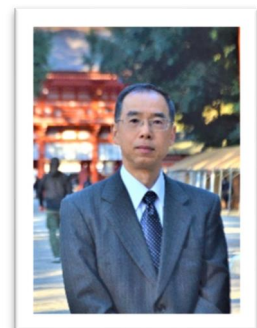
## International Law Commission (ILC)

Progressive development of international law and its codification is another important effort in promoting the rule of law among nations and Japan is fully committed to support and contribute to the work of the ILC.



Not only has Japan consistently sent Japanese international law experts as members of the ILC since its admission to the UN, but also three of them had been appointed as Special Rapporteurs and had led to successful completion of each topic.

Besides actively engaging in discussions at the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly, Japan has made its best efforts to submit comments and observations and other related information to the ILC.



















Professor Asada,  
Member of the ILC



## TOKYO INTERNATIONAL LAW SEMINAR (2024)

- The Tokyo International Law Seminar provides lectures in the field of international law, for officials and legal experts from Asia and Africa. Through the exchanges between the participants, the seminar aims to contribute to the peace guided by the rule of law.
- The seminar is also designed to foster professionals in the fields of international law by opening the door to lawyers and international law researchers from Japan.
- Approximately 90 people attended the seminar in 2024. The participants included 32 government officials from Asia and Africa, namely Botswana, Brunei, Cambodia, Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Tanzania, Vietnam, AALCO, and African Union Commission, as well as lawyers from Japanese law firms that sponsored the seminar and young researchers in the field of international law.
- During the seminar, prominent international law experts from abroad and international law scholars from Japan gave lectures on various areas of particular importance in the practice of international law, as well as on practices related to international litigation.



- 1   **International Litigation (1) – Mr. Paul REICHLER (International Lawyer, 11KBW)**  
外務省 / MOFA • 206 回視聴 • 3 か月前  
1:42:32
- 2   **International Litigation (2) – Mr. Paul REICHLER (International Lawyer, 11KBW)**  
外務省 / MOFA • 133 回視聴 • 3 か月前  
1:49:47
- 3   **Influence of the Common Law and Civil Law Traditions on International Adjudication and Arbitration**  
外務省 / MOFA • 180 回視聴 • 3 か月前  
1:43:32
- 4   **International Criminal Law/ICC – Judge AKANE Tomoko (President of ICC)**  
外務省 / MOFA • 861 回視聴 • 3 か月前  
1:01:02
- 5   **Business and Human Rights – Ms. Rachel Davis (Co-Founder and Vice President, Shift)**  
外務省 / MOFA • 186 回視聴 • 3 か月前  
1:35:18
- 6   **The Reform of the Investment Regime and of ISDS - Prof. Makane Moïse MBENGUE (University of Geneva)**  
外務省 / MOFA • 225 回視聴 • 3 か月前  
1:43:39
- 7   **Responsibility of States - Prof. HAMAMOTO Shotaro (Kyoto University)**  
外務省 / MOFA • 203 回視聴 • 3 か月前  
1:28:04
- 8   **Panel Discussion "Rule of Law in International Community--Perspectives from the Global South"**  
外務省 / MOFA • 154 回視聴 • 3 か月前  
1:30:54

The list of lecturers below (video recordings are available for some lecturers):



- (a) “International Litigation” (1), **Mr. Paul REICHLER**, International Lawyer, 11KBW
- (b) “International Litigation” (2), **Mr. Paul REICHLER**, International Lawyer, 11KBW
- (c) “Influence of the Common Law and Civil Law Traditions on International Adjudication and Arbitration”, Judge **Joan E. DONOGHUE**, Former President of the ICJ
- (d) “International Criminal Law/ICC”, Judge **AKANE Tomoko**, President of ICC
- (e) “Business and Human Rights”, **Ms. Rachel Davis**, Co-Founder and Vice President, Shift
- (f) “The Reform of the Investment Regime and of ISDS”, **Prof. Makane Moïse MBENGUE**, University of Geneva
- (g) “Responsibility of States”, **Prof. HAMAMOTO Shotaro**, Kyoto University
- (h) Panel Discussion "Rule of Law in International Community -- Perspectives from the Global South", Panelists: **Prof. Erika de WET**, University of Graz, **Prof. Dapo AKANDE**, University of Oxford, ILC member, **Prof. Makane Moïse MBENGUE**, Moderator: **Prof. HAMAMOTO Shotaro**

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## RELEVANT PARTS OF “FRIENDLY RELATIONS DECLARATION”

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“The rule of law among nations” is a term used in the preamble of the Friendly Relations Declaration (GA res 2625 (XXV) “Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,” 1970). Some of the relevant parts of the Declaration are as follows:

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“The General Assembly,

Reaffirming in the terms of the Charter of the United Nations that the maintenance of international peace and security and the development of friendly relations and co-operation between nations are among the fundamental purposes of the United Nations, (...)

Bearing in mind also **the paramount importance of the Charter of the United Nations in the promotion of the rule of law among nations, (...)**

Considering that **the faithful observance of the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States and the fulfillment in good faith of the obligations assumed by States, in accordance with the Charter, is of the greatest importance for the maintenance of international peace and security** and for the implementation of the other purposes of the United Nations, (...)

1. Solemnly proclaims the following principles:

**The principle that States shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations**

Every State has the duty to refrain in its international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. **Such a threat or use of force constitutes a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and shall never be employed as a means of settling international issues. (...)**

Every State has **the duty to refrain from the threat or use of force to violate the existing international boundaries of another State or as a means of solving international disputes, including territorial disputes and problems concerning frontiers of States. (...)**

The territory of a State shall not be the object of military occupation resulting from the use of force in contravention of the provisions of the Charter. **The territory of a State shall not be the object of acquisition by another State resulting from the threat or use of force. No territorial acquisition resulting from the threat or use of force shall be recognized as legal. (...)**

**The duty of States to co-operate with one another in accordance with the Charter**

**States have the duty to co-operate with one another**, irrespective of the differences in their political, economic and social systems, in the various spheres of international relations, in order **to maintain international peace and security** and to promote international economic stability and progress, the general welfare of nations and international co-operation free from discrimination based on such differences.

To this end:

**a. States shall co-operate with other States in the maintenance of international peace and security; (...)**

**The principle that States shall fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the Charter,**

**Every State has the duty to fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by it in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.**

Every State has the duty to fulfil in good faith its obligations under the generally recognized principles and rules of international law.

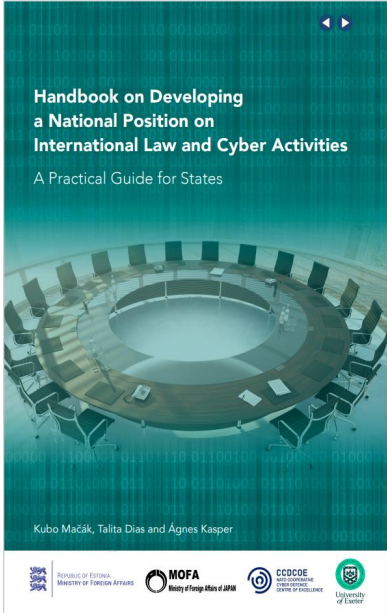
Every State has the duty to fulfil in good faith its obligations under international agreements valid under the generally recognized principles and rules of international law. (...)"

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Talita Dias & Antonio Coco

Talita Dias: Shaw Foundation Junior Research Fellow in Law, Jesus College, University of Oxford; Research Fellow, Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict.

Antonio Coco: Lecturer, School of Law, University of Essex, Visiting Fellow, Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict.

The research underlying this report was carried out under the supervision of Professor Talita Dias, and with the sponsorship of the Government of Japan. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the position of our sponsor.



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