

TOKYO
INTERNATIONAL
LAW
SEMINAR



Tokyo International Law Seminar 2026 Programme



外務省

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

●	Introductory Message -----	P. 1
●	Schedule of the Seminar -----	P. 2
●	Mr. Paul REICHLER (International Lawyer, IIKBW) -----	P. 3
	✧ <i>International Litigation</i> (24 Aug.)	
●	Judge Sarah CLEVELAND (International Court of Justice) -----	P. 4
	✧ <i>International Court of Justice</i> (24 Aug.)	
●	Prof. Philippa WEBB (University of Oxford) -----	P. 5
	✧ <i>State, State Official, Diplomatic Immunities</i> (25 Aug.)	
●	Prof. Yas BANIFATEMI (Founding Partner, Gaillard Banifatemi Shelbaya Disputes), Mr. Yuri PARKHOMENKO (Partner, Gaillard Banifatemi Shelbaya Disputes) -----	P. 6
	✧ <i>Investor-State Dispute Settlement</i> (25 Aug.)	
●	Ms. Emma LINDSAY (Co-Chief Executive Officer, Clooney Foundation for Justice) ----	P. 7
	✧ <i>Business and Human Rights</i> (26 Aug.)	
●	Prof. Dapo Akande (University of Oxford) -----	P. 8
	✧ <i>International Law and the Use of Force</i> (27 Aug.)	
●	Associate Prof. Federica Paddeu (University of Cambridge) -----	P. 9
	✧ <i>State Responsibility</i> (27 Aug.)	
●	Judge Tomas Heidar (President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea) -----	P. 10
	✧ <i>Law of the Sea</i> (28 Aug.)	
●	Japan's Initiatives on the Rule of Law Among Nations -----	P. 12

Introductory Message

- Welcome to the Tokyo International Law Seminar 2026!
- The world is facing profound structural changes driven by the shifting balance of power and the intensifying conflicts and confrontations.
- We are living in a critically important era that will determine whether the international community as a whole can defend a free and open international order based on the “rule of law”.
- In order to truly anchor the “rule of law” in the international community, it is essential to foster human resources and promote exchanges and coordination beyond borders.
- The Tokyo International Law Seminar was launched to serve as a platform where next-generation practitioners of international law from Asia and Africa can deepen their knowledge through engagement with one another as well as with leading experts.
- Through deepening your understanding of international law, as well as fostering common knowledge and awareness 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 - Tentative Schedule

24-28 August 2026, at United Nations University

**Please note that this program is subject to change by the organizer*

	Mon, Aug. 24th	Tue, Aug. 25th	Wed, Aug. 26th	Thu, Aug. 27th	Fri, Aug. 28th
09:00-10:40	— Opening Session	State, State Official, Diplomatic Immunities (1) Prof. Philippa WEBB University of Oxford	Business and Human Rights (1) Ms. Emma LINDSAY Co-Chief Executive Officer, Clooney Foundation for Justice	Use of Force (1) Prof. Dapo AKANDE University of Oxford	Law of the Sea (1) Judge Tomas HEIDAR President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
11:00-12:40	International Litigation(1) Mr. Paul REICHLER International Lawyer, 11KBW	State, State Official, Diplomatic Immunities (2) Prof. Philippa WEBB University of Oxford	Business and Human Rights (2) Ms. Emma LINDSAY Co-Chief Executive Officer, Clooney Foundation for Justice	Use of Force (2) Prof. Dapo AKANDE University of Oxford	Law of the Sea (2) Judge Tomas HEIDAR President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
Break	—	Practitioners Session @CR3 "International Law beyond Fragmentation: Emerging Legal Responses to a Changing International Order" (P) (TMI Associates)	Practitioners Session @CR2+3 "Workshop on Treaty Drafting" (Nishimura & Asahi)	Practitioners Session @CR3 "Japanese Legal Practice in a Globalized World" (Anderson Mori & Tomotsune)	—
14:30-16:10	International Litigation(2) Mr. Paul REICHLER International Lawyer, 11KBW	ISDS (1) Prof. Yas BANIFATEMI Founding Partner, Mr. Yuri PARKHOMENKO Partner, Gaillard Banifatemi Shlbaya Disputes		State Responsibility (1) Assoc. Prof. Federica PADDEU University of Cambridge	Panel Discusssion "Development and Clarification of International Law through Interaction among United Nations Bodies" <Panelists> Judge Cleveland, Prof. Webb, Ms. Lindsay, Assoc. Prof. Paddeu <Moderator> Mr. Tomohiro MIKANAGI Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN
16:30-18:10	International Court of Justice Judge Sarah CLEVELAND International Court of Justice	ISDS (1) Prof. Yas BANIFATEMI Founding Partner, Mr. Yuri PARKHOMENKO Partner, Gaillard Banifatemi Shlbaya Disputes		State Responsibility (2) Assoc. Prof. Federica PADDEU University of Cambridge	Completion Ceremony
	18:30- Welcome Reception hosted by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan				



Paul Reichler

Associate Member
11 King's Bench Walk
Chambers, London



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



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. 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) Philippines v. China; Bangladesh v. India; Philip Morris v. Uruguay.



Overview of Lecture

International Litigation (1) and (2) -- These lectures will focus on Litigation Practice in disputes between States before international courts, and arbitral tribunals, especially the International Court of Justice and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.



Reference/ Guiding Questions

Topics include: why and how States decide to sue other States; composition of the State's legal team; preparation of the case; commencement of the proceedings; the art of written pleading; and the art of oral argument. Participation by the attendees, in the form of questions, comments and discussion is strongly recommended and will be encouraged.



Sarah H. Cleveland

Judge
International Court of Justice



Education

Yale Law School, New Haven, CT, Juris Doctor Degree (1992);
University of Oxford, Lincoln College, Oxford, United Kingdom, Master of Studies in British Imperial and Commonwealth History (1989);
Brown University, Providence, RI, Honors AB (magna cum laude), Independent Concentration in Law and Mental Health (1987).



Expertise

Public international law, international and comparative human rights, international humanitarian law, national security law, constitutional law of US foreign relations, and judicial procedure.



Experience

Louis Henkin Professor of Human & Constitutional Rights, Columbia University Law School (on public service leave);
Vice Chair and Member of the UN Human Rights Committee (2015-2018);
Member of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe (2010-2019);
Counselor on International Law to the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (2009-2011);
Co- Coordinating Reporter of the American Law Institute's Restatement (Fourth) of the Foreign Relations Law of the United States (2012-2018);
Law Clerk to Justice Harry A. Blackmun, Supreme Court of the United States (1994-1995).
Visiting professor: Harvard Law School, Oxford University, University of Tokyo, Sciences-Po University (Paris), University of Paris Panthéon-Assas (Paris II), among others.



About Me

I am an American academic, practitioner, government lawyer, and now jurist of international law. I began my career clerking in a U.S. federal trial court and the U.S. Supreme Court and then representing migrant farm workers before entering law teaching. During my career I have worked on the development, interpretation, and application of international law through scholarship, domestic and international litigation, as a government lawyer, and as an independent expert on multilateral bodies, before joining the International Court of Justice in 2024.



Overview of Lecture

The lecture, on the topic of "The International Court of Justice and Other Authorities", will address the approach of the International Court of Justice to consideration of other authorities in the exercise of its contentious and advisory jurisdiction, including the decisions of other international and regional courts, arbitral tribunals, and UN treaty bodies, among others.



Philippa Webb KC

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 (King's Counsel) 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](#)



Education

Ph.D. in Public International Law
Panthéon-Assas University
1997

Master of Laws (LL.M.)
Harvard Law School
1997



Expertise

International Arbitration
Public International Law



Experience

Founding Partner
GAILLARD BANIFATEMI SHEL BAYA
DISPUTES
2021 to date

Partner, co-Head of International
Arbitration (with late Professor Emmanuel
Gaillard) and Head of Public
International Law
SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP

Yas Banifatemi

Founding Partner

Gaillard Banifatemi Shelbaya Disputes
Professor



About Me

I have close to 30 years of experience acting as counsel, arbitrator and expert, and have represented numerous States, State entities and companies.

I have a number of institutional roles and teach international arbitration and investment law at Harvard Law School and Panthéon-Sorbonne University.



Overview of Lecture

NAVIGATING THE EVOLVING LANDSCAPE OF
INVESTMENT ARBITRATION (PART I)

This session will first trace the evolution of the international investment regime to understand how and why it became a defining – and still evolving – feature of the global legal landscape.

It will then map out the legal framework and arbitral process from the respondent State's perspective, equipping State officials to make informed strategic decisions, with particular focus on jurisdictional and admissibility objections as the State's first line of defense.



Reference/Guiding

- Emmanuel Gaillard, [Abuse of Process in International Arbitration](#), 32(1) ICSID Review-FILJ 17 (2017)
- Emmanuel Gaillard and Yas Banifatemi, [The Long March towards a Jurisprudence Constante on the Notion of Investment](#), in BUILDING INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT LAW: THE FIRST 50 YEARS OF ICSID 97
- [Orascom v. Algeria](#), ICSID Case No. ARB/12/35, Award (31 May 2017)



Education

Master of Laws (LL.M.)
Harvard Law School
2009

Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy
The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy
2006 – 2008

Master of Public International Law
Lund University Law School
2000



Expertise

Public International Law

International Litigation and Arbitration

Law of the Sea



Experience

Partner
GAILLARD BANIFATEMI SHELBYA DISPUTES
2025 to date

Partner
International Litigation and Arbitration
FOLEY HOAG LLP
2009 – 2025

Diplomat
Foreign Service of Ukraine
1999 – 2006

Yuri Parkhomenko

Partner

Gaillard Banifatemi Shelbaya Disputes



About Me

For over two decades, I have advised and represented States before the ICJ, ITLOS, ICSID, and other international courts and tribunals in complex disputes with other States and foreign investors.



Overview of Lecture

NAVIGATING THE EVOLVING LANDSCAPE OF INVESTMENT ARBITRATION (PART II)

This session will examine the most frequently invoked investment treaty protections and the strategic considerations involved in defending against claims on matters of liability, causation and damages. It will also highlight practical steps to reduce dispute risk and mitigate exposure through proactive dispute management.



Reference / Guiding Questions

- *Philip Morris v. Uruguay*, ICSID Case No. ARB/10/7, Award (8 July 2016)
- "Does the *Chorzów Factory* Standard Apply in Investment Arbitration? A Contextual Reappraisal," 32(2) ICSID Review-FILJ 304 (2017)



Emma Lindsay

Co-Chief Executive Officer
Clooney Foundation for Justice



Education

LL.M. (International Law), New
York University School of Law, USA
2002 – 2003

M.A. (Hons) (Jurisprudence),
Oxford University, UK
1998 – 2001



Expertise

General Public International Law
Investment & Commercial Arbitration
Human Rights



Experience

Co-Chief Executive Officer, Clooney
Foundation for Justice, 2024 – present
Partner, Withers LLP, 2018 – 2023
Counsel, Bryan Cave LLP, 2014 – 2018
Senior Associate, Simpson Thacher &
Bartlett LLP, 2005 – 2014
Judicial Clerk to Judges Shi and
Kooijmans, International Court of
Justice, 2004 – 2005
Researcher, British Institute of
International & Comparative Law,
2001 – 2002



About Me

I am an international lawyer with 20+ years of experience and have lived in Australia, Fiji, France, Hong Kong, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. I look forward to an interactive lecture and welcome your questions and insights.



Overview of Lecture

BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS:

The discussion will explore the leading global soft-law framework in this field – the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights – and examine their influence on state policy, regulation and business practice.



Reference/ Guiding Questions

- [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#)
- [International Bar Association's Practical Guide on BHR for Business Lawyers](#)
- Explore global BHR law and case developments: <https://www.bhr-law.org>



Dapo Akande

Chichele Professor of
Public International Law
University of Oxford



About Me

I am a generalist international lawyer, both in the academic and as practitioner. I also practice as barrister, counsel or arbitrator. I have appeared in the proceedings before the International Court of Justice, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the European Court of Human Rights, the African Court of Human and People's Rights, including in the Advisory Opinion proceedings before the ICJ on occupied Palestinian territory as a counsel to Japan.



Overview of Lecture

This lecture will review the law governing recourse to force by States. We will examine the meaning and scope of the prohibition of the use of force before turning to the exceptions to that prohibition. In particular, the lecture will address the right to self-defence, including collective self-defence and self defence in response to attacks by non-state armed groups. There will also be discussion of the doctrine of humanitarian intervention and brief consideration of the UN collective security scheme.



Reference/ Guiding Questions

- Gray & Sanger, "The Use of Force and the International Legal Order", in Evans (ed.), *International Law* (2024), Chapter 20/ Harris & Sivakumaran, *Cases & Materials on International Law* (2020) ch. 11
- What amounts to "force" and "armed attack" under Articles 2(4) & 51 of the UN Charter?
- Does the right of self-defence relate only to an attack attributable to another State or does it extend to attacks from non-State actors such as terrorists?
- To what extent does international law allow the use of force in order for humanitarian purposes?



Education

LL.M./International Law
LONDON SCHOOL OF
ECONOMICS & POLITICAL
SCIENCE (1994)



Expertise

General International Law



Experience

CHICHELE PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC
INTERNATIONAL LAW, UNIVERSITY
OF OXFORD & FELLOW, ALL SOULS
COLLEGE, OXFORD
Oct 2023 – present

MEMBER, UNITED NATIONS
INTERNATIONAL LAW
COMMISSION
2023 to date

BARRISTER, ESSEX COURT
CHAMBERS, LONDON

JUDGE AD HOC, INTERNATIONAL
TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
2026 to date

PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC
INTERNATIONAL LAW, UNIVERSITY
OF OXFORD (Previously Associate
Professor & Lecturer) 2004-2023



Federica Paddeu

Associate Professor of Law
Queens' College
University of Cambridge



Education

PhD (International Law),
University of Cambridge, 2009
– 2013

LLM (International Law),
University of Cambridge, 2007-
2008

Abogado, Universidad



Expertise

State Responsibility

Law on use of force
Countermeasures



Experience

Associate Professor of Law
Queens' College,
Cambridge
2016-2026

Fellow, Lauterpacht Centre
for International Law
2013-2026

Junior Research Fellow
Queens' College,
Cambridge
2013-2016



About Me

I am from Venezuela, and also have Italian citizenship through both of my parents. I have been thinking and researching on topics concerning State responsibility for the 15 years, and find it a doctrinally and theoretically interesting and practically very relevant field of international law. So I am very much looking forward to discussing these issues with you all!

In my spare time I am a passionate baker and ice-cream maker: I also look forward to finding the best bakeries and ice cream parlours in Tokyo!



Overview of Lecture

STATE RESPONSIBILITY

These lectures will cover the current law of State responsibility, as reflected in the ARSIWA, as well as the ongoing discussion about UNGA action in this respect.



Reference/ Guiding Questions

- ARSIWA and Commentaries
- Crawford, 'State Responsibility' in MPEIL



Education

Cand. jur. (B.A. and LL.M.)

University of Iceland

1982–1988

Further studies:

University of Copenhagen

1992–1993

Europe Institute, University of Saarland

1993–1994



Expertise

Law of the Sea



Experience

Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

2014 - present

Co-Director and Lecturer, Rhodes

Academy for Oceans Law and Policy

2003 - present

Director, Law of the Sea Institute of Iceland

2002 - present

Lecturer, University of Iceland

1998 - present

Legal Adviser, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland

1996–2014

Attorney at Law, Reykjavik, Iceland

1988–1992

Tomas Heidar

President

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea



About Me

I am from Iceland, an island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, and my professional life for over thirty years has evolved around the law of the sea. I find the law of the sea a fascinating subject that is both dynamic and multidimensional.

I have lectured extensively on the law of the sea and am looking forward to lecturing at TILS 2026. I hope the class will be interactive and that the participants will share their views and ask many questions.



Overview of Lecture

Lecture 1: Overview of the framework of the law of the sea

The first lecture will provide the participants an introduction to the law of the sea. It will focus primarily on the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and explain the rights and obligations of States in different maritime zones ("the zonal approach") and other main aspects of UNCLOS. The lecture will also include a brief discussion on the three implementing agreements under UNCLOS, i.e., the 1994 Part XI Agreement, the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the 2023 BBNJ Agreement.

Lecture 2: Dispute settlement and the role and jurisprudence of ITLOS

The second lecture will give an overview of the dispute settlement mechanisms of UNCLOS and explain the role of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. The lecture will also include some highlights from its jurisprudence, including maritime delimitation and climate change.



Reference/Guiding Questions

- Tomas Heidar, "Bringing Climate Change into the Realm of UNCLOS: The ITLOS Advisory Opinion", Cambridge International Law Journal (2025), 170–184

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."

ADDRESS AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2022)

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*

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

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)



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

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.”

G7 HIROSHIMA SUMMIT (2023)

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.

ADDRESS AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2023)



(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'."*

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

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):



ICJ ADVISORY OPINION PROCEEDINGS ON THE RIGHT TO STRIKE UNDER ILO CONVENTION NO. 87

In November 2023, the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) requested the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to render an advisory opinion on whether the right to strike of workers and their organizations is protected under ILO Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise. In May 2026, the ICJ issued its advisory opinion.

Japan submitted a written statement to the ICJ in May 2024, with the cooperation of Professor Shotaro Hamamoto (Kyoto University), Professor Yohei Okada (Kyoto University), and Associate Professor Kei Nakajima (The University of Tokyo). Japan subsequently filed written comments in September of the same year.

Written statement of Japan
(May 2024):



Written comments of Japan
(September 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.

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



President Iwasawa

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.



President 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.

International Law Commission (ILC)

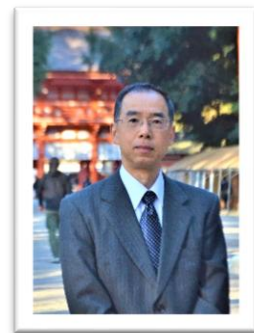
Judge Horinouchi

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 (2025)

- 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 100 people attended the seminar in 2025. The participants included 53 government officials from Asia and Africa, namely Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Djibouti, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyz, Laos, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Secretariat of 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 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・73 分 (英語)・2 週間前	1:46:40
2		"International Litigation (2)", Mr. Paul REICHLER (International Lawyer, 11KBW) 外務省 / MOFA・43 分 (英語)・2 週間前	1:16:38
3		"The role of the ILC in the codification and the progressive development of International Law" 外務省 / MOFA・59 分 (英語)・2 週間前	1:38:18
4		"State, State Official, Diplomatic Immunities (1)", Prof. Philippa WEBB (University of Oxford) 外務省 / MOFA・57 分 (英語)・2 週間前	1:43:39
5		"State, State Official, Diplomatic Immunities (2)", Prof. Philippa WEBB (University of Oxford) 外務省 / MOFA・48 分 (英語)・2 週間前	1:35:19
6		"Law of the Sea", Dr. Nilufer ORAL (Director, Centre for International Law at NUS) 外務省 / MOFA・64 分 (英語)・2 週間前	1:40:38
7		"The Impact of Climate Change on International Law", Dr. Nilufer ORAL 外務省 / MOFA・75 分 (英語)・2 週間前	1:24:11
8		"International Law Applicable to the Cyberspace", Prof. Mohamed HELAL (The Ohio State University) 外務省 / MOFA・34 分 (英語)・2 週間前	1:41:32
9		"Investor-State Dispute Settlement (1)", Ms. Catherine AMIRFAR (Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton) 外務省 / MOFA・28 分 (英語)・2 週間前	1:42:18
10		"Investor-State Dispute Settlement (2)", Ms. Catherine AMIRFAR (Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton) 外務省 / MOFA・103 分 (英語)・2 週間前	1:35:56
11		"Business and Human Rights", Mr. Viren MASCARENHAS (Founding Partner, Mascarenhas Law) 外務省 / MOFA・70 分 (英語)・2 週間前	1:46:43
12		Panel Discussion "AI and International Law - Navigating the Uncharted Waters" 外務省 / MOFA・138 分 (英語)・2 週間前	1:46:14

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



- "International Litigation", Mr. Paul REICHLER, International Lawyer, 11KBW
- "The role of the International Law Commission in the codification and the progressive development of International Law", Prof. Phoebe OKOWA, Queen Mary University of London, ILC member
- "State, State Official, Diplomatic Immunities", Prof. Philippa WEBB, University of Oxford
- "Law of the Sea, The Impact of Climate Change on International Law", Dr. Nilufer ORAL, Director, Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore, ILC member
- "International Law Applicable to the Cyberspace", Prof. Mohamed HELAL, the Ohio State University
- "International Criminal Law and the International Criminal Court", Mr. YAMAUCHI Yoshimitsu, Director, United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
- "Investor-State Dispute Settlement", Ms. Catherine AMIRFAR, Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton
- "International Law and the Use of Force", Prof. KUROSAKI Masahiro, National Defense Academy of Japan

- “Business and Human Rights”, Mr. Viren MASCARENHAS, Founding Partner, Mascarenhas Law
- Panel Discussion “AI and International Law - Navigating the Uncharted Waters”
<Panelists>Ms. Amirfar, Prof. Helal, Prof. Okowa, Prof. Webb, Prof. SATOH Ken, Director, Center for Juris-Informatics, Research Organization of Information and Systems
<Moderator>Ambassador MIKANAGI Tomohiro, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN

RELEVANT PARTS OF “FRIENDLY RELATIONS DECLARATION”

“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:

“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.

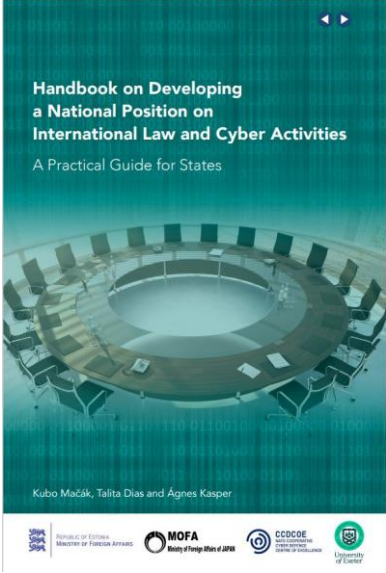
Every State has the duty to fulfil in good faith its obligations under international agreements valid under the generally recognized principles and rules of international law. (...)"

STUDIES SPONSORED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN



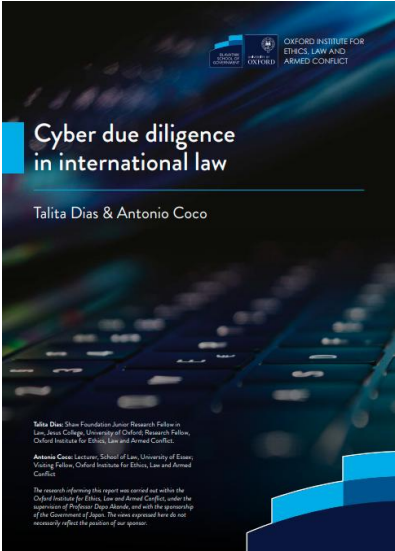
Prior Consent by States to the Jurisdiction of International Courts and Tribunals in Inter-State Disputes

ZACHARY VERMEER AND DAPO AKANDE
November 2019



Handbook on Developing a National Position on International Law and Cyber Activities A Practical Guide for States

Kubo Mačák, Talita Dias and Ágnes Kasper

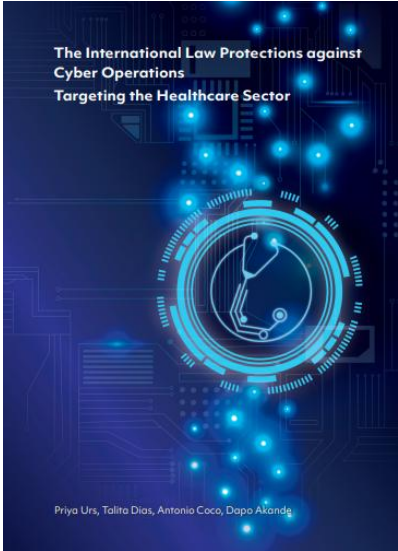


Cyber due diligence in international law

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 referred to in this report was carried out within the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict, under the supervision of Professor David Asch, and with the sponsorship of the Government of Japan. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the position of our sponsor.



The International Law Protections against Cyber Operations Targeting the Healthcare Sector

Priya Urs, Talita Dias, Antonio Coco, Dapo Akande





外務省

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan