

THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

The International Law Commission (ILC) is a United Nations body devoted to the progressive development of international law and its codification. The ILC was established by the UN General Assembly in 1947, and meets in Geneva for up to three months each summer (May-July). It is composed of 34 experts representing the world's principal legal systems, each elected for a term of five years by the UN General Assembly to serve in their personal capacity rather than as representatives of governments. The Secretary of the ILC is Vaclav Mikulka of the Czech Republic. The U.S. member is Michael J. Matheson.

Most of the Commission's work consists of drafting articles or other documents on various aspects of international law (generally at the recommendation of the UN General Assembly and Security Council). The Commission's work product is highly regarded and often applied in helping to formulate international conventions or other important international, standard-setting, legal instruments.

The ILC's work has provided the foundations for such treaties as the 1973 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents; the 1975 Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character; the 1978 Vienna Convention on Succession of States in Respect of Treaties; and the 1986 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations. ILC draft articles also served as the basis for the Convention on the Law of Non-Navigable Uses of International Watercourses.

The ILC's on-going work includes formulating international legal provisions in the areas of diplomatic protection; reservations to treaties; unilateral acts of states; international liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts non-prohibited by international law (transboundary damage from hazardous activities); responsibility of international organizations; shared natural resources; and fragmentation of international law.

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A large, light blue, stylized logo of the International Law Commission (ILC) is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the page. The letters 'I', 'L', and 'C' are rendered in a bold, sans-serif font, with the 'I' and 'L' being significantly taller than the 'C'. The logo is partially overlaid by the text of the Geneva address.