



# The Indian Society of International Law NEWSLETTER

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## EDITORIAL

Conference of Parties to UN Climate Change Conference (COP 30) was held on 10 to 21 November 2025 in Belem, Brazil. COP 30 emphasized on accelerating implementation of the Paris Agreement marking its 10th Anniversary, climate finance for developing countries, forest protection, adaptation to climate impacts, multilateral cooperation and the transition to clean energy. A comprehensive set of 29 negotiated decisions were adopted, focused on moving from discussion to implementation through stronger finance, just transition measures, adaptation tracking, gender inclusion, and enhanced cooperation to accelerate delivery of the Paris agreement goals. COP 30 concluded with the Global Mutirão Agreement, which prioritises cooperation and implementation rather than new mandatory targets. The deal is viewed as a compromise between developed and developing countries, focusing on deliverability over ambition. Brazil launched the Global Mutirão Platform, a digital initiative to drive collective climate action and narrow the gap between commitments and implementation, with a focus on accelerating progress in energy, finance, and trade. It adopted a new Just Transition Mechanism also called the Belém Action Mechanism (BAM), to support capacity-building and cooperation for workers and economies shifting away from fossil fuels, but it does not include new or guaranteed finance. Further, Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) was officially launched during a high-level event with leaders of more than thirty countries – both tropical forest nations and sponsor countries – and the UN Secretary-General to mark this milestone in global environmental finance. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Implementation Alliance was launched to speed up national adaptation planning. Countries also agreed to triple adaptation finance by 2030 compared to 2025 levels, but the lack of clarity on who will provide these funds remains a key concern. Parties also finalised the Baku Adaptation Plan and agreed on 59 voluntary indicators to track progress under the Global Goal on Adaptation.

In addition, the Belem Health Action Plan was announced aiming to strengthen global health systems to better respond to climate impacts; Belem Declaration on Hunger, Poverty, and People-Centred Climate Action Signed by 43 countries and the EU was adopted putting vulnerable communities at the core of climate policy. It calls for continued mitigation efforts but prioritises adaptation through social protection, crop insurance, and measures that strengthen community resilience; Belem Gender Action Plan (GAP) aiming to strengthen gender-responsive climate action and ensure meaningful participation of women, especially those from vulnerable communities, in climate governance.

India welcomed several significant decisions adopted at the conference, in the “High-level Statement” at the Closing Plenary of the COP 30. The statement conveyed India’s gratitude to the COP President for his leadership, which it said was rooted in inclusion, balance, and the “Brazilian spirit of Mutirão,” and guided CoP30 with integrity. India called for COP30 to be remembered as a ‘COP of Implementation’ and a ‘COP of Delivery on Promises’. A key element of India’s address was the emphasis on the long-standing obligations of developed countries to provide climate finance. The statement expressed appreciation for the Presidency’s efforts in supporting India in beginning the journey towards a long-overdue focus on Article 9.1. India expressed satisfaction with the major outcomes of CoP30, foremost among them the establishment of the Just Transition Mechanism and also hailed Brazil’s initiative to establish Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF), recognizing it as a significant step towards collective and sustained global action for the preservation of tropical forests, and joined the Facility as an Observer. Highlighting India’s low-carbon development path between 2005 and 2020, India reduced the emission intensity of GDP by 36% and this trend continues. Non-fossil power now accounts for over 50% of our installed capacity, enabling the country to reach the revised NDC target five years ahead of schedule, it noted. India demonstrated readiness to collaborate with other nations to implement solutions and transition to sustainability in ways that are ambitious, inclusive, fair and equitable, based on the principles of CBDR-RC and national circumstances. The statement called it a significant milestone and expressed hope that it would help operationalize equity and climate justice at both global and national levels. Reaffirming its commitment to multilateralism and towards preserving and safeguarding the architecture of the Paris Agreement, India called on all Nations to ensure that the next decade of climate action is defined not only by targets but by implementation, resilience, and shared responsibility based on mutual trust and fairness.

**Prof. Dr Manoj Kumar Sinha**  
President, ISIL

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# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

## **International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on Israel's Obligation in OPT**

On October 22, 2025, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered an advisory opinion, following a request from the UN General Assembly concerning Israel's obligations with respect to the activities of the United Nations, other international organizations, and third States in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly the Gaza Strip.

The Court unanimously found that it has jurisdiction under Article 96 of the UN Charter and Article 65 of the Statute of the Court. It rejected arguments that the opinion would prejudice the South Africa v. Israel case. The Court distinguished the two proceedings and emphasized that questions concerning alleged violations of the Genocide Convention are distinct from the identification of Israel's obligations as an occupying power and as a UN member state, as requested by the General Assembly. The Court stated that Israel remains an occupying power in Gaza due to its effective control, as per the Hague Regulations, Geneva Conventions, and Additional Protocol I. It concluded that Israel must fulfill its obligations under international humanitarian law, including ensuring that civilian population has access to essential supplies such as food, water, shelter, fuel, and medical care; facilitating and not impeding relief operations conducted by the UN, UNRWA, other international organizations, and third states; respecting and protecting all relief and medical personnel and facilities; respecting the prohibition on forcible transfer and deportation; allowing the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit

detained protected persons; and respecting the prohibition on the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare.

The Court further found that Israel has obligations under international human rights law to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of Palestinian people, including through the activities of the UN and other international actors in and concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Court also held that Israel must cooperate in good faith with the United Nations, providing every assistance to its actions in accordance with the UN Charter, including those of UNRWA. Lastly, the Court concluded that Israel must respect the privileges and immunities accorded to the United Nations under Article 105 of the UN Charter and the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, including the inviolability of UN premises and assets and the immunities of UN officials and experts on mission. The Court's advisory opinions are not legally binding, but constitute authoritative interpretations of international law. They are intended to guide the requesting organ—in this case, the General Assembly—and to clarify the applicable legal obligations.

## **ASEAN Adopts Declaration on the Right to Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment**

On October 26, 2025, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted the ASEAN Declaration on the Right to a Safe, Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment. The Declaration took place in a context of increasing regional environmental degradation and climate vulnerability in Southeast Asia. It also goes along

with growing international recognition, under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 'UN General Assembly's 2022 resolution on the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, that environmental protection constitutes a fundamental human right requiring state cooperation and accountability. The Declaration affirmed that everyone within the ASEAN member states has the right to live in a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. It sets out both substantive environmental rights such as access to clean air and water and procedural rights such as public participation in environmental decision-making. Although the Declaration got no legal effect, it represents the region's first comprehensive human-rights-based regional instrument on environmental protection.

The Declaration supports key dimensions of the 2030 Agenda in several ways. First, the 2030 Agenda emphasises that sustainable development must balance the economic, social and environmental pillars and that “all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.” By recognising environmental rights and procedural safeguards as seen above, the Declaration advances the human-rights dimension of the Agenda and supports the principle of “leaving no one behind.” Third, the Declaration operationalises the link between environmental protection and people's rights, mirroring the 2030 Agenda's objectives—such as SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). In the ASEAN context the Declaration provides a

framework for member states to harmonise national policies and embed environmental-rights norms in legislation and practice.

## **UN Security Council Resolution Extending MINURSO Mandate**

On October 31, 2025, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2797, extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until October 31, 2026. The resolution was adopted by 11 votes in favour, with abstentions from China, the Russian Federation, and Pakistan. The resolution, drafted by the United States, reiterates full support for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, Staffan de Mistura, to advance negotiations among the parties (Morocco, the Frente POLISARIO, Algeria, and Mauritania) toward a “just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution.”

The resolution places particular emphasis on Morocco's 2007 Autonomy Proposal. The Security Council fully supports the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy and specifies that negotiations must proceed “on the basis of the autonomy plan proposed by Morocco,” presented to the Secretary-General on April 11, 2007, as “the basis of a just, lasting and mutually acceptable settlement.” Through this language, the Council identifies the Moroccan plan not merely as one option among others, but as a structuring framework for the negotiations to come. As in the previous year, Algeria did not participate in the vote, arguing that the resolution departs from established UN decolonization doctrine. Russia also echoed these criticisms. The United States, by contrast, praised a

“historic” text aligned with Morocco's autonomy plan, while France reaffirmed its support for Moroccan sovereignty. The United Kingdom framed the resolution as the start of a needed political process, and several members stressed that any settlement must uphold Sahrawi self-determination. While formally limited to extending MINURSO's mandate, the resolution highlights the deep political rifts surrounding the Western Sahara question. It underscores a growing divergence among Security Council members regarding the balance between territorial integrity, autonomy frameworks, and the legal imperative of self-determination.

## **United Nations Adopts Doha Political Declaration**

At the Second World Summit for Social Development from 4-6 November 2025, The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Doha Political Declaration. The Summit sought to build a more just, inclusive, equitable and sustainable world by assessing global progress since the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action.

The General Assembly emphasized that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement of peace and security among nations. It acknowledged that, since the convening of the World Summit for Social Development 30 years ago, progress remains slow and uneven. Millions live in extreme poverty or are at risk of falling into extreme poverty, informal employment remains pervasive, income inequalities have increased and the digital divide within and among countries persist. To address these challenges, the General Assembly committed to creating an enabling economic,

political, social, cultural and legal environment to achieve social development. It further commits to taking effective measures to address root causes of poverty and ensuring sustainable and equitable financing for social protection systems. The General Assembly decided to proceed to a five year follow up on the Doha Political Declaration and the Copenhagen Declaration starting in 2031. It requested the Secretary General to prepare a report assessing progress and identifying gaps in social development. It also invited UN regional commissions to convene preparatory meetings at the regional level in advance of the follow up.

## **UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) Issues Early Warning Decision Concerning the Chagos Archipelago**

On December 2, 2025, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) adopted a decision under its Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedure concerning the Chagos Archipelago and the rights of the Chagossian people. CERD recalled the forced eviction and displacement of the Chagossian population from the Chagos Archipelago in the 1960s for the establishment of a military base on Diego Garcia. The decision addresses the bilateral agreement signed on May 22, 2025 between the United Kingdom and Mauritius that has not yet entered into force. The Committee expressed concern that the agreement would allow the long-term leasing of Diego Garcia to the United Kingdom while preventing the return of Chagossians to the island. It also raised concerns about the reported lack of consultation with the Chagossian community and

# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

the absence of guarantees of full reparation for past harms. CERD called on both states to suspend ratification of the agreement and urged them to engage directly with the Chagossian people, ensure their free, prior, and informed consent, and respect their rights to self-determination, return, cultural life, and effective remedies.

## **Convention on Environmental Crime Opens for Signature**

The Council of Europe on 3 December 2025, opened the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Environment Through Criminal Law for signature. The Convention is a regional treaty to criminalize a broad range of environmental harms. The Convention will enter into force after receiving ten ratifications, including at least eight by Council of Europe members. The Convention implements commitments made in the 2023 Reykjavík Declaration to strengthen the Council of Europe's work on the human rights aspects of the environment. It also responds to growing concern over the transnational nature of environmental crimes and the accelerating degradation of ecosystems, including climate change, biodiversity loss, depletion of natural resources, and habitat destruction. It establishes minimum criminal law standards for environmental protection, introduces extensive cooperation mechanisms, and creates a monitoring body to oversee its implementation. Article 1 defines the purpose of the Convention as to (1) prevent and combat environmental crime; (2) promote and enhance national and international cooperation; and (3) establish minimum rules for

domestic legislation. It applies to the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and sanctioning of criminal offences established under its provisions.

Chapter IV listed a catalogue of offences. These include unlawful pollution (Article 12); placing on the market products that breach environmental requirements (Article 13); illegal activities involving regulated chemicals, radioactive material, mercury, ozone-depleting substances, and fluorinated greenhouse gases (Articles 14-18); unlawful collection, treatment, transport, recovery, disposal, or shipment of waste (Article 19); illegal operation or closure of dangerous installations (Articles 20-21); failure to recycle ships at authorized facilities and ship-source discharges (Articles 22-23); unlawful abstraction of water and trade in illegally harvested timber (Articles 24-25); unlawful mining (Article 26); illegal killing, taking, possession, or trade in protected wild fauna and flora (Articles 27-28); significant deterioration of protected habitats (Article 29); and introduction or spread of invasive alien species causing substantial harm (Article 30). Article 31 further introduces a "particularly serious offence" for cases in which intentional conduct causes destruction or irreversible, widespread, and substantial environmental damage, or long-lasting, widespread, and substantial environmental damage. States parties must take the necessary legislative measures to establish jurisdiction over offences committed in their territory, on vessels or aircraft flying their flag, or by their nationals (Article 33). The Convention also requires the

criminal, civil, or administrative liability of legal persons for offences committed for their benefit (Article 34) and mandates effective, proportionate, and dissuasive sanctions for natural persons (Article 35). Implementation of the Convention will be monitored by the Committee of the Parties (Article 48).

## **ICC Sentences Abd-Al-Rahman to 20 Years Imprisonment for Darfur Crimes**

On December 9, 2025, Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued a sentencing judgment in Prosecutor v. Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman ("Ali Kushayb"). The judgment followed Abd-Al-Rahman's conviction on October 6, 2025, on 27 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Darfur, Sudan, between August 2003 and April 2004. The Chamber imposed a sentence of 20 years of imprisonment. Pursuant to Article 78(2) of the Rome Statute, the period of Abd-Al-Rahman's detention since June 9, 2020, was ordered to be deducted from the total sentence. In determining the sentence, the Chamber considered factors including the gravity of the crimes, the personal circumstances of the convicted person, and his degree of participation and intent. It further assessed aggravating and mitigating factors, including the harm suffered by victims, the abuse of authority, and the multiplicity and vulnerability of victims.

The Prosecution sought a joint sentence of life imprisonment, while the Defense requested a finite and proportionate term of imprisonment or a fine. The Defense

submitted numerous mitigating factors, including Abd-Al-Rahman's age and health, family circumstances, lack of prior convictions, conduct in detention, voluntary surrender, and alleged peace-promoting activities. While the Chamber acknowledged Abd-Al-Rahman's advanced age—76 years—and his good conduct in detention, it accorded these factors limited weight and found that they did not substantially diminish Ali Kushayb's culpability.

## **European Court of Human Rights Judgment in *Tsaava and Others v. Georgia***

On December 11, 2025, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) delivered its judgment in *Tsaava and Others v. Georgia*, concerning the dispersal of a large-scale demonstration that took place outside the Georgian Parliament on June 20-21, 2019. The applicants, who included the demonstrators and journalists, alleged that law enforcement authorities used excessive force through the use of kinetic impact projectiles and that the subsequent investigations were ineffective. The case concerned Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment), Article 10 (freedom of expression), and Article 11 (freedom of assembly) of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court found a violation of Article 3, holding that the use of kinetic impact projectiles against demonstrators and journalists had not been shown to be strictly necessary or proportionate. It emphasized the potentially lethal nature of such weapons and held that minimum safeguards must be present in domestic law governing their use, including deployment only as a last resort in response to an

imminent threat, targeted use, adequate training, and advance warnings. It further found that the authorities had failed to conduct an effective investigation into the applicants' allegations, which amounted to a procedural violation of Article 3.

The Court also ruled that Article 10 was violated, as Georgia failed to show that the force used against journalists was necessary and proportionate. The Court highlighted the watchdog role of journalists in covering demonstrations and held that use of force against them requires particular compelling justification. Regarding Article 11, the Court accepted that protecting the effective functioning of the Parliament constituted a legitimate aim. However, the Court concluded that the manner in which the dispersal was carried out, most importantly the level of force employed, was not necessary in a democratic society, which resulted in a violation of Article 11. The Court invoked Article 46 and indicated both individual and general measures. It required Georgia to pursue an effective and prompt investigation into the applicants' allegations and to adopt general measures regulating the use of kinetic impact projectiles.

## **Convention Establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine**

On December 16, 2025, the European Union (EU) and thirty-four states signed the "Convention establishing an International Claims Commission for Ukraine." The Convention established the International Claims Commission as an independent administrative body within the institutional

framework of the Council of Europe. The Commission possesses international legal personality and is mandated to review, assess, and decide claims for compensation arising from damage caused by internationally wrongful acts committed by the Russian Federation in or against Ukraine, including acts of aggression, as well as violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

The Commission's temporal jurisdiction covers damage caused on or after February 24, 2022. The Convention expressly leaves open the possibility of a future amendment extending its scope back to February 20, 2014. The Commission's territorial scope includes Ukraine's internationally recognised territory, its airspace, internal waters, territorial sea, exclusive economic zone, and continental shelf, as well as damage to aircraft or vessels under Ukrainian jurisdiction. The Commission constitutes the second component of a broader international compensation mechanism. It builds on the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, established in 2023, which records claims and supporting evidence. The Convention also anticipates the possibility of establishment of a future compensation fund as a third component to facilitate payment of compensation awards. The Convention will enter into force after twenty-five signatories have ratified it and once those states collectively account for at least fifty percent of the Register of Damage's 2025 budget.

# ISIL EVENTS

**24<sup>th</sup> Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition on International Humanitarian Law jointly organized by The Indian Society of International Law (ISIL) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), New Delhi**



The Indian Society of International Law (ISIL) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), New Delhi jointly organized 24th Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition from 31 October-2 November 2025 at ISIL. The Competition was opened with the inaugural address by Hon'ble Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Supreme Court of India, Prof Dr Manoj Sinha, President, ISIL, Wg Cdr, Dr UC Jha, Secretary General, ISIL and Andrei Kozik, Regional Legal Adviser, ICRC. A total 69 Teams participated in the Moot Court competition. The competition was conducted in three stages, quarter-final, semi-final and final rounds. The participants were judged on the basis of written

memorials, appreciation of facts and law, advocacy skills, use of authorities and citations, general impressions and court manners. Eminent professors, legal officers, Army personal and international law scholars judged the teams in quarter-final, semi final rounds. Hon'ble Mr Justice Madan B Lokur, former Judge Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Mr Justice S Ravindra Bhat and Dr Luther Rangreji, Additional Secretary, L&T Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India were the final round judges. The team consisting of Srishti Sahi, Mansi Agarwal and Megha Singh University of Petroleum and Energy Sciences (UPES), Dehradun were emerged as the

winner and the team consisted of Shreya Goyal, Pragya Tiwari and Geetanshi Dang from Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies (TC) were runner up of the competition. The best mooter awards went to Srishti Sahi, School of Law, University of Petroleum and Energy Sciences, Dehradun and Vaibhav Khanna, Ideal Institute of Management and Technology (IIMT), School of Law. Shivansh Maurya, School of Law, Galgotias University and Soumya Agarwal, School of Law, IIMT, New Delhi received the best researcher awards. Pratishtha Singh, Muskan Verma and Shivansh Maurya from School of Law, Galgotias University won the Best Memorial Award.

## Discussion on International Law Relating to Criminology, Forensic Science, and Taxation



On 3 November, Russian delegates Professor Victor A. Machevkin, Professor & Head of the Indian Law Centre at Kutafin Law University, Moscow, Russia, Dr Yevgeny Suvorov;

Dr Nikolay Bodrov; Prof Dmitry Voronkov from Ural Federal University; Mr Mikhail Uspenskiy, Member of the Parliamentary Expert on Council on Cryptocurrency; Dr

Elena Antonyan; Dr Alexey Savitsky; Dr Anna Reut; Dr Olga Afansyeva; Dr Olga Adoevskaya visited ISIL. Prof V G Hegde, Executive President, ISIL welcomed the dignitaries.

## One-Day Seminar on Protection of Environment During War and Armed Conflict

On 6 November, the Centre for Advanced Studies in International Humanitarian Law and Military Law, ISIL observing the international day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, organized a one day *seminar on Protection of Environment During War and Armed Conflict*. The seminar focused on raising awareness and encouraging global efforts to protect the environment in times of conflict and also analysing how the existing international legal framework could be updated to protect the environment in times of armed conflict. The seminar was inaugurated with the welcome address by Dr U C Jha, Secretary General ISIL, followed by the Keynote address by Mr Andray Kozik, Regional Legal Advisor for South Asia, ICRC; address by Ms. Meher Dev, Legal Advisor, Regional



Delegation, ICRC and Formal Vote of Thanks by Dr Kanika Sharma, Assistant Professor, ISIL. Distinguished scholars from all over the country have presented their papers on the themes including war and environmental damage; Intersectionality between Law on Armed Conflict, Environmental Law

and Human Rights; Environmental Crimes and ICC; Ecocide; Use of nuclear weapons and Protection of Environment during Armed Conflict; Armed Forces and Environmental Damage; Duty to Prevent Environmental Harm and Reparation; Environmental Ethics of War; etc.

# ISIL EVENTS

## Special Lecture on Reflections on the Influence of the US Declaration of Independence on International Law



On 17 November 2025 ISIL organized a Special Lecture on “Reflections on the Influence of the US Declaration of Independence on International Law” by Judge Danielle J Forrest, US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

## Monthly Seminar Series on Private International Law (PIL): Emerging Issues and Developments



From October 2025 to December 2025, ISIL conducted a series of academic programmes under its Monthly Seminar Series on Private International Law. The seminars were organised in hybrid mode at the ISIL premises in New Delhi and formed part of ISIL's continuing institutional commitment to sustained engagement with emerging issues in cross-border legal

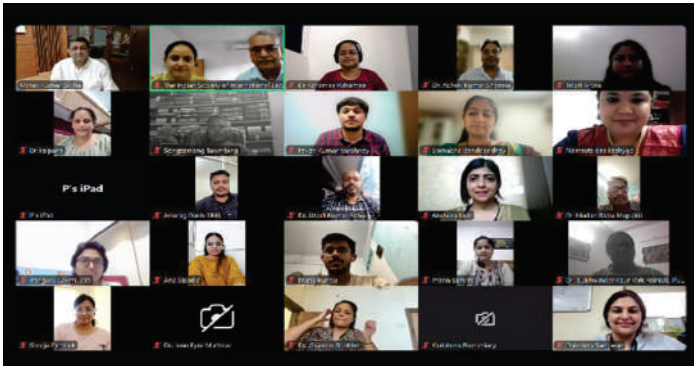
relations. The series commenced in October 2025 with an inaugural session on the theme *Legal Issues and Developments in Cross-Border Relations*. The session was delivered by Shri Narinder Singh on the service of summons and judicial documents across borders. The discussion focused on India's obligations under the Hague Service Convention, judicial interpretations, and procedural challenges in international litigation and arbitration, thereby setting a strong conceptual and practical foundation for the series.

The subsequent seminars held in November and December 2025 addressed significant developments



in Private International Law, including *International Child Custody, Abduction, and Relocation Disputes* by Ms. Laura Martinez Mora and Prof. Stellina Jolly. Lecture in the month of December was on *Investment Treaty Arbitration: The Private Side of Public International Law: Indian and Global Perspectives*. The keynote speakers for the discussions were Prof. Michael Weibel and Prof. James Nedumpara. These sessions examined recent decisions of Indian courts, comparative foreign jurisprudence, and the interaction between public international law obligations and private dispute resolution mechanisms.

## Special Lecture on EU Environmental Law and Policy



On 9 December 2025 ISIL organized a Special Lecture on *EU Environmental Law and Policy* (Online). The lecture was delivered by Prof. Christian Dadomo, Former Senior Lecturer in Law, University of the West of England.

## Human Rights Day



On 10 December 2025, the ISIL commemorating Human Rights Day, organised a panel discussion on *the theme Human Rights: Ensuring Everyday Essentials*. Sh Sanjay Parikh, Senior Advocate and EC Member, ISIL, Sh Om Prakash Vyas, Chairperson Child and Women Committee and Prof Y.S.R Murthy, Former Vice Chancellor, RV University and Assam Royal Global University, Guwahati and EC Member, ISIL were invited as distinguished panellists. Sh Sanjay Parikh highlighted that the United Nations campaign 2025 emphasizes that human rights are positive, essential and attainable. Human rights are lived realities. They are the essentials we all share. He pointed out Bhopal Gas Tragedy Case mentioning that adequate compensation is not provided and digitization of medical records has not been done. Sh Om Prakash

Vyas focused on the importance of fundamental duties that without realizing duties human rights cannot be implemented. He mentioned Western and Indian Model of human rights. He emphasized on various aspect of human rights violations, genocide, situations in Bangladesh, accountability of Bureaucrats, corruption, human rights of defenders, child vulnerability, drug menace etc. Prof YSR Murthy highlighted on significance of human rights and contemporary challenges including discrimination and inequality citing a example of caste discrimination in case of Dalit, tribals and religious minorities; freedom of expression, censorship; protecting the space; livelihood, health, migrant workers, labour migration during COVID, Environmental degradation, climate vulnerability, custodial abuse etc.

## Panel Discussion on 75 Years of Statute of UNHCR



On 12 December 2025, ISIL in collaboration with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) organized Panel discussion on *75 Years of Statute of UNHCR: Challenges and Opportunities* to remark 75 years of adoption of the Statute of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Ms Areti Syanni, Chief of Mission for UNHCR in India and Maldives; Prof Dr Manoj Kumar Sinha, President, ISIL; Dr Shikhar Ranjan, Director, Asian African Consultative Organisation; Prof YSR Murthy, Former Vice Chancellor RV University, Bangalore and RGU Guwahati; Prof Banerji Chakka, Dean VIT-AP School VIT AP-University and Prof (Dr) TVGNS Sudhakar, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences were the eminent speakers. The discussion began with the felicitation of Ms Areti by Prof. Sinha.

Prof. Sinha in his inaugural speech emphasized on the issues of refugees globally and also highlighted the India's experience of hosting and protecting refugees since aegis in absence of refugee legislation. Ms Areti highlighted the importance of General Assembly Resolution 428(8) adopted on 14th December 1950 by consensus that led to the creation of the Statute of Office of UNHCR. She referred to the mandate of UNHCR with primary functions to provide international cooperation, humanitarian assistance and durable solutions for the people of concern to UNHCR. Emphasizing the role of Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation in adopting Bangkok Principles, Dr Shikhar Ranjan pointed out that though the Bangkok Principles that were adopted in 1966 and last revised in 2001 in its 40th Session is not legally binding but it still serves as the guidelines filling gaps in global refugee law in Asian African contexts especially South Asian Countries that are not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention. Prof Y.S.R Murthy analysed the role of National Human Rights Commission in protecting refugees in India. He stressed upon the national legislation on protection of refugees citing the landmark cases of Chakma and Hajong refugees wherein rights of refugees were protected under Art. 21 of the Constitution of India. Prof Banerji Chakka focused on the role of global academic network on refugees in revitalizing refugee protection. He further emphasized the necessity of legal mechanism and legislation on the protection of refugees in India. Prof. Sudhakar pointed out the lack of progressive development in the protection of refugees in India. He mentioned that an increased level of armed conflicts is resulting in an increase of responsibility among states to extend protection to refugees thus calling for burden sharing. The discussion concluded with few questions on new challenges before UNCHR related to climate refugees and durable solutions like burden sharing, self-reliance, third country settlement and voluntary repatriation. At the end Dr UC Jha, Secretary General, ISIL proposed a formal vote of thanks.

## Writing Workshop on Asian Cities & International Law



On 13 December 2025, ISIL in collaboration with Dharamshastra National Law University, Jabalpur organized Writing Workshop on *Asian Cities & International Law*. The workshop was conducted in hybrid mode. The organising committee consisting of Dr Anna Bashir Assistant Prof. (Sr); Dr Swati Singh Parmar and Dr Kanika Sharma designed the workshop with five panels covering the topics Cities' epistemic location; Sovereignty in the Cities discourse; Cities in the decolonial thought; Cities and the Climate Change Law and Cities as the subject/source of International Law. Distinguished panellists and discussants namely Dr Srinivas Burra; Dr Vijay K Tiwari, Dr Iram Khan; Prof. Banerji Chakka, Dr Rashmi Raman; Prof TVGNS Sudhakar; Dr Anna Bashir; Prof. Sujith Koonan; Prof. Rohini Sen; Prof. Sreejith SG; Dr Loveleen Bhullar (Online); Dr. Stellina Jolly; Prof. Liu Nengye (Online); Rahul Mohanty; Prof Anupam Jha; Prof Parthiban Babu (Online); Daniel H Stein participated in the workshop. Dr Rohini Sen, Associate Professor, JGLS, OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat; Rahul Mohanty, Assistant Professor, JGLS, OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat; Thushanthiga Kumarasoorier, Senior Lecturer, University of Colombo; Govinda Pandey, PhD Scholar, CNLU Patna; Dr Bhanu Pratap, Assistant Professor, University of Lucknow; Ankit Malhotra, Advocate, Supreme Court of India; Tejas Rao, PhD Scholar, University of Cambridge; Vijay K Tiwari & Atul Alexander, Assistant Professors, WBNUJS, Kolkata;

Aman Kumar, PhD Scholar, ANU, Canberra; Shraddha Dubey, Assistant Professor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad; Pratyusha Ivaturi, Rapporteur for the OUP International Law Reporter; Chhaya Bharadwaj Associate Professor, JGLS, O P Jindal Global University; Karishma Ramchiary Teaching Assistant, SGT University, Gurugram; Alisha Syali PhD Scholar, Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam; Thakshila Udayanganie, Senior Lecturer, University of Colombo; Fahim Abrar Abid, Erasmus Mundus Scholar, University of Glasgow; Aditya Roy, Assistant Professor, CNLU Patna and Dr. Smriti Singh, Assistant Professor, University of Delhi presented their papers.

## Special Lecture on Crimmigration and the EU Return Directive



On 23 December 2025 the Indian Society of International Law organised a special lecture on *Crimmigration and the EU Return Directive* delivered by Dr Aniel Pahladsingh, Member of the Human Rights Committee (NL) and Deputy Judge at the District Court Rotterdam where he settles disputes within administrative law and he serves as a Deputy Judge at the District Court of Amsterdam, where he settles disputes within extradition cases. Dr Aniel focused on the minimum standards and procedures laid down in the Return Directive concerning the return of third-country nationals illegally residing in a member state. While applying the Return Directive Member States are obligated to respect the fundamental

rights of the illegal third country national. He further analysed the legislative developments of the Return Directive regarding the balance between the effective measures in order to fulfil expulsion of the illegal third country national and the protection of their fundamental rights. He mentioned the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum a set of new rules managing migration and establishing a common asylum system at EU level, designed to manage and normalise migration for the long term. The new migration and asylum rules revolve around four policy pillars: secure external borders, fast and efficient procedures, an effective system of solidarity and responsibility, and embedding migration in international partnerships. The asylum procedure regulation, part of the Migration and Asylum Pact, provides for the creation of an EU list of safe countries of origin.

## Special Lecture on In Search of an Anti-disciplinary International Law



On 29 December, a special lecture was organized on *In Search of an Anti-disciplinary International Law*. It was delivered by Ms. Raghavi Vishwanath, Teaching Fellow and Post Doctoral Candidate at SOAS, University of London.

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**15<sup>th</sup> Winter Course on Debating International Environmental Law in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: 05-09 January 2026**

**Monthly Seminar on Private International Law on Jurisdiction and Party Autonomy in Cross-Border Disputes: Choice of Court and Choice of Seat. (Hybrid Mode): 28 January 2026**

**2 Days Workshop on Military Law in India and How to Join Armed Forces as Judge Advocate: 13-14 February 2026**

**Monthly Seminar on Private International Law at ISIL (Hybrid Mode)  
Theme of the Session: Conclusion of Cross-Border Contracts and Party Autonomy in International Contract Law: 25 February 2026**