



Mexico City, 7 October 2019

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the coordinators of the Informal Meeting of Legal Advisers, I have the honor to invite you to the 30th edition of this Meeting, which will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 28 and 29 October 2019, in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

In this regard, I wish to share with you the topics that the coordinators have agreed to address in this year's Meeting:

- **The prohibition of the use of force under international law, non-State actors and self-defense.**

Insofar as the dynamics and the very nature of armed conflicts continue to evolve, it is necessary to discuss the new challenges as well as the limits of international law regarding the use of force, in particular to the inherent right of self-defense, and the role of the Security Council whenever a State has resorted to force against a non-State actor.

- **The use of veto in cases involving war crimes and crimes against humanity.**

Under the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council is the organ with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. Nonetheless, the functioning of such a fundamental organ is not exempt of political interests that may impair its effectiveness. The veto power, reserved to the Permanent Members of the Council, may be the clearest example of this. Aside from political considerations, it is important to discuss how Legal Advisers tackle the legal challenges posed by these types of situations.

- **Seventieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.**

This year marks a milestone anniversary for the Geneva Conventions and for IHL. Despite the universal acceptance of the Four Conventions, the international community has witnessed reiterated violations of their provisions by both State and non-State actors. In this scenario, discussions on the implementation, relevance and shortcomings of the Conventions remain as topical as seventy years ago. The greatest challenge, however, lays not in the normative content of the Conventions but in their implementation, and the mechanisms needed to ensure their full compliance.





A detailed agenda including timeslots and panelists will follow shortly. However, I wish to underscore that the coordinator's intention is to have an informal, free and frank exchange of views on timely issues that are of interest and relevance to our work as Legal Advisers of Ministries of Foreign Affairs. The format of the agenda and the panels are being structured accordingly in order to foster a real interactive dialogue amongst ourselves.

I look forward to our dialogue in New York.

Warm regards,

Alejandro Celorio Alcántara

Legal Adviser of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs

