

ILC@70 – PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

**New York segment: United Nations Headquarters, Monday 21 May 2018
Trusteeship Council Chamber**

70 Years of the International Law Commission: Drawing a Balance for the Future

11:00 - 70 Years of the International Law Commission: A Solemn Meeting

13:00 *Commemorative speeches*

Lunch reception

The International Law Commission: A conversation with the Sixth Committee

15:00 - Introductory remarks by the Chairperson of the Sixth Committee of the General
15:15 Assembly and the Chairperson of the International Law Commission

15:20 - Panel 1: The Commission and the Committee: Structural challenges

16:35 *What are the future challenges to the progressive development of international law and its codification; Should the Commission concentrate more on general international law or on particular areas of international law? Does the distinction between progressive development and codification need to be revisited? To whom does the Commission speak? Only to States, or also to courts and other actors?*

Break (10 minutes)

16:45 - Panel 2: The Commission and the Sixth Committee: Reflections on the
18:00 **interaction in the past and the future**

In what ways have the Sixth Committee and the Commission interacted, formally and informally, to advance the progressive development of international law and its codification? How have the bodies influenced each other, and what have been the joint achievements and the difficulties? What practical measures could be taken to enhance the relationship between the Sixth Committee and the Commission? How should the Commission design its outcomes, and how should the Sixth Committee deal with them? And what should the Commission look like in ten years?

18:00 - Reception to open the exhibition “70 Years of the International Law Commission:
19:00 **Drawing a Balance for the Future” (General Assembly Visitors Lobby)**

Evening reception

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**Geneva segment: Palais des Nations, Thursday and Friday 5 and 6 July 2018
Council Chamber**

70 Years of the International Law Commission: Drawing a Balance for the Future

Thursday 5 July

10:00 - 70 Years of the International Law Commission: A Solemn Meeting

11:00 *Commemorative speeches*

Coffee break (30 minutes)

11:30 - Introductory remarks by the Chairperson of the Commission at its sixty-ninth session
11:40

11:45 - Panel 1: The Commission and its impact

13:00 *What happens to the final products of the ILC? What has been the impact of the Commission's work on State practice, including court decisions, and legal scholarship? To what extent does the form of the work of the Commission affect its impact?*

Lunch reception

15:00 - Panel 2: The working methods of the Commission:

16:15 *Should the Commission adapt its working methods to the outcomes of its work? How has the communication with other bodies and persons changed and how could it be improved? The role of Special Rapporteurs; the role of the Drafting Committee; the role of commentaries; the role of the Codification Division.*

Coffee break (30 minutes)

16:45 - Panel 3: The Function of the Commission: How much identifying existing law, how much proposing new law?
18:00

The need for an 'international law commission' – then (and now?); Is it true that the distinction between progressive development and codification is usually difficult to maintain? Or are there topics where this distinction should be emphasized in the work of the Commission? Should the Commission emphasize the consolidation of existing law, or should it emphasize the development of new law?

Evening reception

Friday 6 July

10:00 - **Panel 4: The changing landscape of international law**

11:15 *The Commission and the development of international law: an assessment after 70 years; what topics should the Commission take up next? Should the methods of the Commission to select its topics be reconsidered? What role can States play in the identification of topics?*

Coffee break (30 minutes)

11:45 - **Panel 5: The authority and the membership of the Commission in the future**

13:00 *How is the Commission and the outcome of its work perceived by governments, courts and other international law-making bodies and processes? Does the relationship with the Sixth Committee need to be improved? Are the different legal traditions, regional origins, and professions of its members influencing the work of the Commission? How to attain gender parity, and perhaps other forms of diversity, such as generational diversity? And what are the possibilities and the pitfalls for the Commission in the decade to come?*