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Prof. Fred Soons (1948) studied law at Utrecht University, The Netherlands, followed by postgraduate studies in international law at the University of Washington (Seattle, USA) and Cambridge University (UK). He obtained a PhD-degree at Utrecht University in 1982 with a thesis on the international legal regime of marine scientific research.

After having served from 1976 in various legal and policy positions as a civil servant at the Netherlands Ministry of Transport, Water Management and Public Works he became professor of public international law and director of the Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea (NILOS) at Utrecht University in 1987.

He is, *inter alia*, a former president of the Netherlands Society of International Law, Director of Studies of the International Law Association (ILA), member and chairman of the Jury for the Hague Prize for International Law, and member and chairman of the Standing Advisory Committee on Public International Law of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Currently he serves as chairman of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Netherlands Defense Academy, member of the Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/ABE-LOS), and Co-Director of the Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy.

As counsel and arbitrator he has been involved in international litigation at the International Court of Justice and arbitral tribunals.