

Chapter XIV

OTHER DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

A. Programme, procedures and working methods of the Commission and its documentation

263. At its 3199th meeting, on 6 May 2014, the Commission established a Planning Group for the current session.⁸⁵³

264. The Planning Group held three meetings. It had before it: Section I of the topical summary of the discussion held in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly during its sixty-eighth session (A/CN.4/666) entitled “Other decisions and conclusions of the Commission”; General Assembly resolution 68/112 of 16 December 2013 on the report of the Commission on the work of its sixty-fifth session; and General Assembly resolution 68/116 of 16 December 2013 on the rule of law at the national and international levels, as well as the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016–2017, covering Programme 6: Legal affairs.⁸⁵⁴

265. The Commission took note of the proposed Strategic Framework for the period 2016–2017, covering Programme 6: Legal affairs, subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law.

1. INCLUSION OF A NEW TOPIC ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

266. At its 3227th meeting, on 18 July 2014, the Commission decided to include the topic “Crimes against humanity” in its programme of work and to appoint Mr. Sean D. Murphy as Special Rapporteur.

2. WORKING GROUP ON THE LONG-TERM PROGRAMME OF WORK

267. At its first meeting, on 7 May 2014, the Planning Group decided to reconstitute for the current session the Working Group on the long-term programme of work. In the absence of its Chairperson Mr. Donald M. McRae, the Working Group was chaired by Mr. Mahmoud D. Hmoud and Mr. Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez. Mr. Vázquez-Bermúdez submitted an oral report to the Planning Group, at its 3rd meeting, on 28 July 2014.

⁸⁵³ The Planning Group was composed of: Mr. S. Murase; Mr. L. Cafilisch; Mr. P. Comissário Afonso; Mr. A. El-Murtadi Suleiman Gouider; Ms. C. Escobar Hernández; Mr. M. Forteau; Mr. H. A. Hassouna; Mr. M. D. Hmoud; Ms. M. G. Jacobsson; Mr. M. Kamto; Mr. K. Kittichaisaree; Mr. A. Laraba; Mr. D. M. McRae; Mr. S. D. Murphy; Mr. B. H. Niehaus; Mr. G. Nolte; Mr. K.-G. Park; Mr. E. Petrič; Mr. G. V. Saboia; Mr. N. Singh; Mr. P. Šturma; Mr. E. Valencia-Ospina; Mr. M. Vázquez-Bermúdez; Mr. N. Wisnumurti; Sir Michael Wood; and Mr. D. D. Tladi (*ex officio*).

⁸⁵⁴ A/69/6 (Prog. 6).

268. The Working Group recommended the inclusion in the long-term programme of work of the Commission of the topic, “*Jus cogens*”, on the basis of the proposal prepared by Mr. Dire D. Tladi.

269. The Working Group was guided by the recommendation of the Commission at its fiftieth session (1998), regarding the criteria for the selection of the topics:

(a) The topic should reflect the needs of the States in respect of the progressive development and codification of international law;

(b) The topic should be sufficiently advanced in stage in terms of State practice to permit progressive development and codification;

(c) The topic is concrete and feasible for progressive development.

The Commission also agreed that it should not restrict itself to traditional topics, but could also consider those that reflect new developments in international law and pressing concerns of the international community as a whole.⁸⁵⁵

270. The Commission endorsed the recommendation for the inclusion of the topic in the long-term programme of work. The syllabus of the topic included by the Commission in its long-term programme of work at the present session is annexed to the present report.

271. The Working Group on the long-term programme of work also considered its methods of work. It identified the need to conduct a systematic review of the work of the Commission and a survey of possible future topics for its consideration. It recalled in particular that since undertaking a systematic review of its work and developing an illustrative general scheme of topics in 1996,⁸⁵⁶ no similar exercise had been carried out in the ensuing years. Accordingly, the Working Group agreed to review and update the list of possible topics, using the 1996 list as a starting point for that purpose. To this end, the Working Group decided to recommend that the Commission request the Secretariat to review the 1996 list in the light of subsequent developments and prepare a list of potential topics for the Commission, accompanied by brief explanatory notes (“survey”), by the end of the present quinquennium. The Working Group also decided to recommend that extensive syllabuses on the list of topics prepared by the Secretariat be developed

⁸⁵⁵ *Yearbook ... 1998*, vol. II (Part Two), p. 110, para. 553.

⁸⁵⁶ *Yearbook ... 1996*, vol. II (Part Two), annex II.

only once the Working Group establishes a final list of topics, possibly in 2016. In the meanwhile, the Working Group would continue to consider any topics that members may propose.

272. The Commission endorsed the recommendation and consequently requests the Secretariat to review the 1996 list in the light of subsequent developments and prepare a list of potential topics (“survey”), accompanied by brief explanatory notes, by the end of the present quinquennium.

3. CONSIDERATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 68/116 OF 16 DECEMBER 2013 ON THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

273. The General Assembly, in resolution 68/116 of 16 December 2013 on the rule of law at the national and international levels, *inter alia*, reiterated its invitation to the Commission to comment, in its report to the General Assembly, on its current role in promoting the rule of law. Since its sixtieth session (2008), the Commission has commented annually on its role in promoting the rule of law. The Commission notes that the comments contained in paragraphs 341 to 346 of its 2008 report⁸⁵⁷ remain relevant and reiterates the comments in paragraph 231 of its 2009 report,⁸⁵⁸ paragraphs 389 to 393 of its 2010 report,⁸⁵⁹ paragraphs 392 to 398 of its 2011 report,⁸⁶⁰ paragraphs 274 to 279 of its 2012 report⁸⁶¹ and paragraphs 171 to 180 of its 2013 report (A/68/10).⁸⁶²

274. The Commission recalls that the rule of law constitutes the essence of the Commission. The Commission’s object, as set out in article 1 of its statute, is the promotion of the progressive development of international law and its codification.

275. Having in mind the principle of the rule of law in all its work, the Commission is fully conscious of the importance of the implementation of international law at the national level, and aims at promoting respect for the rule of law at the international level.

276. In fulfilling its mandate concerning the progressive development of international law and its codification, the Commission will continue to take into account, where appropriate, the rule of law as a principle of governance and the human rights that are fundamental to the rule of law as reflected in the preamble and in Article 13 of the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels.⁸⁶³

277. In its current work, the Commission, is aware of “the interrelationship between the rule of law and the three pillars of the United Nations (peace and security,

development, and human rights)”,⁸⁶⁴ without emphasizing one at the expense of the other. In fulfilling its mandate concerning the progressive development and codification of international law, the Commission is conscious of current challenges for the rule of law.

278. In the course of the present session, the Commission has continued to make its contribution to the rule of law, including by the adoption of its final draft articles on the “Expulsion of aliens”; the adoption, on first reading, of a set of draft articles on the “Protection of persons in the event of disasters”; and the adoption of the final report on the topic “The obligation to extradite or prosecute (*aut dedere aut judicare*)”.

279. The Commission has also continued its work on other topics which concern the rule of law, such as “The immunity of state officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction”, “Subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to the interpretation of treaties”, “The protection of the atmosphere”, “The protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts”, “Identification of customary international law”, “Provisional application of treaties”, “The most-favoured-nation clause”, and has appointed a Special Rapporteur for the topic “Crimes against humanity”.

280. The Commission reiterates its commitment to the rule of law in all of its activities.

4. HONORARIA

281. The Commission reiterates its views concerning the question of honoraria, resulting from the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 56/272 of 27 March 2002, which has been expressed in the previous reports of the Commission.⁸⁶⁵ The Commission emphasizes that the above resolution especially affects Special Rapporteurs, as it compromises support for their research work.

5. DOCUMENTATION AND PUBLICATIONS

282. The Commission reiterated its recognition of the particular relevance and significant value to its work of the legal publications prepared by the Secretariat.⁸⁶⁶ It noted with appreciation that the Codification Division was able significantly to expedite the issuance of its publications through its highly successful desktop publishing initiative, which greatly enhanced the timeliness and relevance

⁸⁶⁴ Report of the Secretary-General on measuring the effectiveness of the support provided by the United Nations system for the promotion of the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations (S/2013/341), para. 70.

⁸⁶⁵ See *Yearbook ... 2002*, vol. II (Part Two), pp. 102–103, paras. 525–531; *Yearbook ... 2003*, vol. II (Part Two), p. 101, para. 447; *Yearbook ... 2004*, vol. II (Part Two), pp. 120–121, para. 369; *Yearbook ... 2005*, vol. II (Part Two), p. 92, para. 501; *Yearbook ... 2006*, vol. II (Part Two), p. 187, para. 269; *Yearbook ... 2007*, vol. II (Part Two), p. 100, para. 379; *Yearbook ... 2008*, vol. II (Part Two), p. 148, para. 358; *Yearbook ... 2009*, vol. II (Part Two), p. 151, para. 240; *Yearbook ... 2010*, vol. II (Part Two), p. 203, para. 396; *Yearbook ... 2011*, vol. II (Part Two), p. 178, para. 399; *Yearbook ... 2012*, vol. II (Part Two), p. 87, para. 280; and *Yearbook ... 2013*, vol. II (Part Two), p. 79, para. 181.

⁸⁶⁶ See *Yearbook ... 2007*, vol. II (Part Two), pp. 101–102, paras. 387–395.

⁸⁵⁷ *Yearbook ... 2008*, vol. II (Part Two), pp. 146–147.

⁸⁵⁸ *Yearbook ... 2009*, vol. II (Part Two), pp. 150.

⁸⁵⁹ *Yearbook ... 2010*, vol. II (Part Two), pp. 202–203.

⁸⁶⁰ *Yearbook ... 2011*, vol. II (Part Two), p. 178.

⁸⁶¹ *Yearbook ... 2012*, vol. II (Part Two), p. 87.

⁸⁶² *Yearbook ... 2013*, vol. II (Part Two), p. 79.

⁸⁶³ General Assembly resolution 67/1 of 24 September 2012, para. 41.

of these publications to the Commission's work for more than a decade. The Commission noted with regret the curtailment and possible discontinuation of this initiative due to a lack of resources and that consequently no new legal publications were distributed at its current session. The Commission was of the view that the continuation of this initiative was essential to ensure the timely issuance of these legal publications, in particular *The Work of the International Law Commission*. The Commission reiterated the particular relevance and significant value of the legal publications prepared by the Codification Division to its work, and reiterated its request that the Codification Division continue to provide it with those publications.

283. The Commission reiterated its expression of satisfaction that the summary records of the Commission, constituting crucial *travaux préparatoires* in the progressive development and codification of international law, would not be subject to arbitrary length restrictions. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the experimental measures to streamline the processing of the Commission's summary records introduced at the previous session had resulted in the more expeditious transmission of the provisional records to members of the Commission for timely correction, and prompt release of the final texts. The Commission also welcomed the fact that the new working methods had led to the more rational use of resources and called on the Secretariat to continue its efforts to facilitate the preparation of the definitive records in all languages, without compromising their integrity.

284. The Commission expressed its gratitude to all services involved in the processing of documents, both in Geneva and in New York, for their timely and efficient processing of the Commission's documents, often under narrow time constraints, which contributed to the smooth conduct of the Commission's work.

285. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the United Nations Office at Geneva Library, which assisted members of the Commission very efficiently and competently.

6. TRUST FUND ON THE BACKLOG RELATING TO THE YEARBOOK OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

286. The Commission reiterated that the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission* was critical to the understanding of the Commission's work on the progressive development of international law and its codification, as well as in the strengthening of the rule of law in international relations. The Commission took note that the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/92 of 14 December 2012, expressed its appreciation to governments that had made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund on the backlog relating to the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission*, and encouraged further contributions to the Trust Fund.

7. ASSISTANCE OF THE CODIFICATION DIVISION

287. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the valuable assistance of the Codification Division of the Secretariat in its substantive servicing of the Commission and its involvement in research projects on the work of the Commission.

8. YEARBOOK OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

288. The Commission recommends that the General Assembly *express its satisfaction* with the remarkable progress achieved in the last few years in catching up with the backlog of the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission* in all six languages, and welcome the efforts made by the Division of Conference Management, especially its Editing Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva, in effectively implementing relevant resolutions of the General Assembly calling for the reduction of the backlog; *encourage* the Division of Conference Management to provide continuous necessary support to the Editing Section in advancing the production of the *Yearbook*; and *request* that updates on the progress in this respect be provided to the Commission on a regular basis.

9. WEBSITES

289. The Commission renewed its expression of appreciation for the results of the activity of the Secretariat in its continuous updating and management of its website on the International Law Commission.⁸⁶⁷ The Commission reiterated that the website and other websites maintained by the Codification Division⁸⁶⁸ constitute an invaluable resource for the Commission and for researchers of the work of the Commission in the wider community, thereby contributing to the overall strengthening of the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law. The Commission welcomed the fact that the website on the work of the Commission included information on the current status of the topics on the agenda of the Commission, as well as advance edited versions of the summary records of the Commission. The Commission also expressed its gratitude to the Secretariat for the successful completion of the digitization and posting on the website of the entire collection of the Commission's documents in Spanish, together with the addition of a full-text search capability.

10. UNITED NATIONS AUDIOVISUAL LIBRARY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

290. The Commission noted with appreciation the extraordinary value of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law⁸⁶⁹ in promoting a better knowledge of international law and the work of the United Nations in this field, including the International Law Commission.⁸⁷⁰ The Commission expressed its

⁸⁶⁷ Available from <http://legal.un.org/ilc/>.

⁸⁶⁸ Generally accessible through <http://legal.un.org/ola/>.

⁸⁶⁹ Available from <http://legal.un.org/avl/>.

⁸⁷⁰ See, for example, in the Historic Archives: Statute of the International Law Commission, Introductory note by Sir Michael Wood; Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, Introductory note by Eileen Denza; Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963, Introductory note by Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo; Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969, Introductory note by Karl Zemanek; Vienna Convention on succession of States in respect of treaties, 1978, Introductory note by Anthony Aust; Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, 1997, Introductory note by Stephen McCaffrey; Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts, 2001, Introductory note by James Crawford; Articles on Diplomatic Protection, 2006, Introductory note by John Dugard; and Articles on the Responsibility of International Organizations, 2011, Introductory note by Giorgio Gaja. See also, for example, in the Lecture Series: State immunity on the occasion of the

deep concern about the current financial situation which threatened the continuation and further development of this unique educational resource which benefitted all Member States and urged the General Assembly to address this situation.

B. Date and place of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission

291. The Commission recommended that the sixty-seventh session of the Commission be held in Geneva from 4 May to 5 June and 6 July to 7 August 2015.

292. The Commission considered the possibility to hold a part of its future sessions in New York and will revert to this issue at its forthcoming sessions.

C. Cooperation with other bodies

293. At the 3228th meeting, on 22 July 2014, Judge Peter Tomka, President of the International Court of Justice, addressed the Commission and briefed it on the recent judicial activities of the Court.⁸⁷¹ An exchange of views followed.

294. The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) was represented at the present session of the Commission by its Secretary-General, Mr. Rahmat Mohamad, who addressed the Commission at the 3218th meeting, on 8 July 2014.⁸⁷² He briefed the Commission on the current activities of AALCO and provided an overview of the deliberations of AALCO on four topics on the programme of work of the Commission, namely “Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction”, “Protection of persons in the event of disasters”, “Identification of customary international law” and “Protection of the Atmosphere”. An exchange of views followed.

295. The Inter-American Juridical Committee was represented at the present session of the Commission by Vice-President of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, Mr. Fabián Novak, who addressed the Commission at the 3223rd meeting, on 15 July 2014.⁸⁷³ He gave an overview of the activities of the Committee in 2013 on various legal issues affecting the Americas. An exchange of views followed.

296. The Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI) of the Council of Europe were represented at the present session of the Commission by the Chairperson of CAHDI, Ms. Liesbeth Lijnzaad, and the Head of the Public International Law Division and Treaty

United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunity of States and their Property, Gerhard Hafner; The work of the International Law Commission on the “most-favoured-nation” clause, Donald M. McRae; Protection of the atmosphere and codification and progressive development of international law, Shinya Murase; Responsibility in international law—an introduction, Alain Pellet; International liability for transboundary harm arising from hazardous activities: principles on allocation of loss, Pemmaraju Sreenivasa Rao; and Codification of the law on transboundary aquifers (groundwaters) by the United Nations, Chusei Yamada.

⁸⁷¹ This statement is recorded in the summary record of that meeting.

⁸⁷² *Idem.*

⁸⁷³ *Idem.*

Office of the Council of Europe and Secretary to CAHDI, Ms. Marta Requena, both of whom addressed the Commission at the 3224th meeting, on 16 July 2014.⁸⁷⁴ They focused on the current work of CAHDI in the field of public international law, as well of the Council of Europe. An exchange of views followed.

297. The African Union Commission on International Law was represented at the present session of the Commission by AUCIL Ambassador Cheikh Tidiane Thiam, member of AUCIL, accompanied by Mr. Adewale Iyanda, Legal Officer at the Office of the Legal Counsel of the African Union Commission. Mr. Thiam addressed the Commission at the 3230th meeting, on 24 July 2014.⁸⁷⁵ He gave an overview of the activities of AUCIL. An exchange of views followed.

D. Representation at the sixth-ninth session of the General Assembly

298. The Commission decided that it should be represented at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly by its Chairperson, Mr. Kirill Gevorgian.

299. At its 3243rd meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission requested Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina, Special Rapporteur on the topic “Protection of persons in the event of disasters”, to attend the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly under the terms of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 44/35 of 4 December 1989, subject to the availability of funds.

E. International Law Seminar

300. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/112, the fiftieth session of the International Law Seminar was held at the Palais des Nations from 7 to 25 July 2014, during the present session of the International Law Commission. The Seminar is intended for young jurists specializing in international law, including young professors or government officials pursuing an academic or diplomatic career in posts in the civil service of their country.

301. Twenty-four participants of different nationalities, from all regional groups took part in the session.⁸⁷⁶ The participants attended plenary meetings of the

⁸⁷⁴ *Idem.*

⁸⁷⁵ *Idem.*

⁸⁷⁶ The following persons participated in the fiftieth session of the Seminar: Mr. Sattar Azizi (Islamic Republic of Iran), Ms. Diana Cucos (Republic of Moldova), Mr. Tommaso Di Ruzza (Holy See), Mr. Christian Djefal (Germany), Ms. Marie Françoise Fernandez (France), Mr. Harouna Garba Hamani (Niger), Ms. Daniela Gauci (Malta), Ms. Lusine Hakobyan (Armenia), Ms. Ritta Raundjua Hengari (Namibia), Mr. Ata Hindi (State of Palestine), Mr. Michael Khethla Kabai (South Africa), Ms. Hermine Kembo Takam Gatsing (Cameroon), Mr. Piotr Kobielski (Poland), Mr. Senthil Kumar (India), Mr. Suzgo Lungu (Malawi), Mr. Pablo Andrés Moscoso De La Cuba (Peru), Mr. Luis Xavier Oña Garcés (Ecuador), Mr. Mohamed Hassam Negm (Egypt), Mr. Alberto Manuel Poletti Adorno (Paraguay), Ms. Lucia Raffin (Argentina), Ms. Silvana Schimanski (Brazil), Ms. Ryoko Shinohara (Japan), Mr. Benjamin Santorlino Kuron Tombe (South Sudan) and Mr. Fajar Yusuf (Indonesia). The Selection Committee, chaired by Ms. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Professor of International Law at the University of Geneva, met on 3 April 2014 and selected 25 candidates out of 143 applications. One selected candidate could not attend the Seminar.

Commission, specially arranged lectures, and participated in working groups on specific topics.

302. Mr. Kirill Gevorgian, Chairperson of the Commission, opened the Seminar. Mr. Markus Schmidt, Senior Legal Adviser to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), was responsible for the administration, organization and conduct of the Seminar. The University of Geneva ensured the scientific coordination of the Seminar. Mr. Vittorio Mainetti, an international law expert from the University of Geneva, acted as coordinator, assisted by Ms. Yusra Suedi, legal assistant, and Mr. Morgan Crump, intern in the Legal Liaison Office of UNOG.

303. The following lectures were given by members of the Commission: Mr. Ernest Petrič: “The work of the International Law Commission”; Ms. Marie Jacobsson: “Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict”; Mr. Sean D. Murphy: “Crimes against humanity”; Mr. Shinya Murase: “Protection of the atmosphere”; Mr. Mahmoud D. Hmoud: “Prevention of terrorism”; Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina: “Protection of persons in the event of disasters”; Mr. Dire Tladi: “*Jus cogens*”; and Mr. Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo: “Provisional application of treaties”.

304. A lecture was also given by Mr. Jordi Agustí-Panareda, Senior Legal Officer at the International Labour Organization (ILO), on “The proliferation of labour provisions in FTAs and their interplay with the ILO standards system”.

305. Seminar participants attended four external sessions. A workshop on “Identification of customary international law” was organized at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), in the presence of Sir Michael Wood, Special Rapporteur on the topic, and chaired by Mr. Andrea Bianchi (IHEID). A special session on “Immunity and International Crimes” was held at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, featuring Ms. Concepción Escobar Hernández, Special Rapporteur on Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction and chaired by Ms. Paola Gaeta (University of Geneva), with the participation of other members of the Commission. Seminar participants also attended a conference organized by the University of Geneva in collaboration with the journal *The Law and Practice of International Courts and Tribunals*, on the topic “The ILC and international courts and tribunals: a fruitful dialogue?”. The Conference was addressed by the following speakers: Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina (member of the Commission and Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal*); Mr. Shinya Murase (member of the Commission); Mr. Attila Tanzi (University of Bologna, Italy); Mr. Pierre Bodeau-Livinec (University of Paris 8–Vincennes Saint-Denis, France); Mr. Mathias Forteau (member of the Commission); Mr. Dire Tladi (member of the Commission); Mr. Robert Kolb (University of Geneva); Sir Michael Wood (member of the Commission); Mr. Makane Mbengue (University of Geneva); and Ms. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (University of Geneva). Finally, a session was organized at the World Health Organization (WHO) focusing on International Health Law. Presentations were given by Mr. Gian Luca

Burci, Legal Counsel of the WHO, Mr. Steven A. Solomon, Principal Legal Officer, and Mr. Jakob Quirin, Associate Legal Officer.

306. Two Seminar working groups on “Protection of the atmosphere” and “Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction” were organized. Each Seminar participant was assigned to one of them. Two members of the Commission, Ms. Concepción Escobar Hernández and Mr. Shinya Murase, supervised and provided expert guidance to the working groups. Each group prepared a report and presented its findings during the last working session of the Seminar. The reports were compiled and distributed to all participants as well as to the members of the Commission.

307. The Republic and Canton of Geneva offered its traditional hospitality at the Geneva Town Hall, where the Seminar participants visited the Alabama room and attended a cocktail reception.

308. Mr. Kirill Gevorgian, Chairperson of the Commission, Mr. Markus Schmidt, Director of the International Law Seminar, and Mr. Michael Khetlha Kabai, on behalf of the Seminar participants, addressed the Commission during the closing ceremony of the Seminar. Each participant was presented with a certificate of attendance.

309. The Commission noted with particular appreciation that since 2011 the Governments of Argentina, Austria, China, Czech Republic, Finland, India, Ireland, Mexico, Sweden, Switzerland, and of the United Kingdom had made voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Law Seminar. Though the recent financial crisis affected contributions, the situation of the Fund still allowed granting a sufficient number of fellowships to deserving candidates especially from developing countries in order to achieve adequate geographical distribution of participants. This year, 14 fellowships (6 for travel and living expenses, 7 for living expenses only and 1 for travel expenses only) were granted.

310. Since 1965, the year of the Seminar's inception, 1,139 participants, representing 171 nationalities, have taken part in the Seminar and 699 participants have received fellowships.

311. The Commission stresses the importance it attaches to the Seminar, which enables young lawyers, especially from developing countries, to familiarize themselves with the work of the Commission and the activities of the many international organizations based in Geneva. The Commission recommends that the General Assembly should again appeal to States to make voluntary contributions in order to secure the organization of the Seminar in 2015 with as broad participation as possible.

F. Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the International Law Seminar

312. The Commission held a meeting to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the International Law Seminar on 22 July 2014. The meeting coincided with the visit to the Commission of Judge Peter Tomka, President of the International Court of Justice. The theme of the Session

was “International law as a profession”. The Chairperson of the Commission, the President of the International Court of Justice,⁸⁷⁷ members of the Commission who were once participants in the Seminar,⁸⁷⁸ a member of the Commission who was associated with the Seminar at

⁸⁷⁷ Participant in 1982.

⁸⁷⁸ Mr. E. J. A. Candioti (1970), Mr. S. Murase (1975), Mr. N. Singh (1980), Mr. C. M. Peter (1984) and Mr. P. Šturma (1989).

its inception,⁸⁷⁹ the Director of the Seminar⁸⁸⁰ and representatives of participants to the 2013 and 2014⁸⁸¹ sessions of the Seminar made statements.

⁸⁷⁹ Mr. E. Valencia-Ospina.

⁸⁸⁰ Mr. Markus Schmidt, Senior Legal Adviser of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

⁸⁸¹ Ms. Carolina Abreu (2013) and Mr. Christian Djefal (2014).