Chapter XIII
Other decisions and conclusions of the Commission

A. Requests by the Commission for the Secretariat to prepare studies on two topics in the Commission’s agenda

301. At its 3303rd meeting, on 24 May 2016, the Commission decided to request from the Secretariat a memorandum on ways and means for making the evidence of customary international law more readily available, which would survey the present state of the evidence of customary international law and make suggestions for its improvement.

302. At its 3347th meeting, held on 12 August 2016, the Commission decided to request from the Secretariat a memorandum analysing State practice in respect of treaties (bilateral and multilateral), deposited or registered in the last 20 years with the Secretary-General, which provide for provisional application, including treaty actions related thereto.

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

303. At its 3300th meeting, on 18 May 2016, the Commission established a Planning Group for the current session.

304. The Planning Group held four meetings. It had before it Section H, entitled “Other decisions and conclusions of the Commission”, of the Topical Summary of the discussion held in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly during its seventieth session; document A/71/6 (Prog. 6) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019: Programme 6, Legal affairs; General Assembly resolution 70/236 of 23 December 2015 on the Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-seventh session; and General Assembly resolution 70/118 of 14 December 2015 on the rule of law at the national and international levels.

305. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 June 2016, the Planning Group took note of the proposed Strategic Framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6), covering subprogramme 3 (Progressive development and codification of international law) of programme 6 (Legal affairs).

1. Working Group on the Long-term Programme of Work

306. At its 1st meeting, on 3 June 2016, the Planning Group decided to reconstitute for the present session the Working Group on the Long-term Programme of Work, under the chairmanship of Mr. Donald M. McRae. The Working Group submitted its report on the work of the quinquennium to the Planning Group, at its 4th meeting, on 29 July 2016.

307. The Commission noted that it had already recommended during the present quinquennium the inclusion in its long-term programme of work of the topics (a) Crimes against humanity; and (b) Jus cogens. These two topics were already on the current programme of work of the Commission, included, respectively, at the sixty-fifth (2013) and sixty-sixth (2014) sessions of the Commission.


At the present session, the Commission, on the recommendation of the Working Group, decided to recommend the inclusion of the following topics in the long-term programme of work of the Commission:

(a) The settlement of international disputes to which international organizations are parties; and

(b) Succession of States in respect of State responsibility.

In the selection of the topics, the Commission was guided by its recommendation at its fiftieth session (1998) regarding the criteria for the selection of the topics, namely: (a) the topic should reflect the needs of 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; and (c) the topic should be concrete and feasible for progressive development and codification. The Commission further 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. The Commission considered that these two topics constitute useful contributions to the progressive development of international law and its codification. The syllabuses of the two topics selected appear as annexes A and B to the present report.

The Commission recalls that five other topics remain inscribed in the long-term programme of work from previous quinquennia, namely: (a) Ownership and protection of wrecks beyond the limits of national maritime jurisdiction; (b) Jurisdictional immunity of international organizations; (c) Protection of personal data in trans-border flow of information; (d) Extraterritorial jurisdiction; and (e) The fair and equitable treatment standard in international investment law.

The Commission noted that the Working Group on the Long-term programme of work considered its methods of work, at the beginning of the current quinquennium, taking into account its long-standing practice in the selection of topics. The Commission noted that the Working Group on the Long-term Programme of Work had found that the established three-phase process, consisting of (a) identification of possible topics; (b) preparation of a short paper on a given topic; and (c) preparation of a more detailed syllabus, was a good basis for its work. This process allowed for a broad exchange of views on a given topic and, at the same time, provided a good means of ensuring a topic’s feasibility. Moreover, while aware that the decision to place new topics on the Long-term Programme of Work had usually been taken at the end of the quinquennium, the Working Group considered it appropriate to make such decisions during the course of the present quinquennium.

The Commission also noted that it had identified the need to conduct a systematic review of the work of the Commission and a survey of possible future topics for consideration. To this end, in 2014, it had requested the Secretariat to review the illustrative

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1464 Yearbook ... 1998, vol. II (Part Two), para. 553. See also Yearbook ... 1997, vol. II (Part Two), para. 238.
1467 Ibid., Annex C.
1468 Ibid., Annex D.
1470 See para. 307 above.
general scheme of topics prepared by the Commission in 1996, in the light of subsequent developments and to prepare a list of potential topics for the Commission, accompanied by brief explanatory notes, by the end of the present quinquennium. In response to that request, the Secretariat had prepared two memorandums, the first in 2015 which reviewed the list of topics established in 1996 in the light of subsequent developments (A/CN.4/679), and the second for the present session concerning “Possible topics for consideration taking into account the review of the list of topics established in 1996 in the light of subsequent developments” (A/CN.4/679/Add.1), which contains six working papers setting out brief explanatory notes on potential topics for the Working Group’s consideration.

313. The Commission welcomed the two memorandums prepared by the Secretariat, and took note of the six potential topics as proposed by the Secretariat, namely (a) “General principles of law”; (b) “International agreements concluded with or between subjects of international law other than States or international organizations”; (c) “Recognition of States”; (d) “Land boundary delimitation and demarcation”; (e) “Compensation under international law”; and (f) “Principles of evidence in international law”. The Commission recommended that the six potential topics be further considered by the Working Group on the Long-term Programme of Work at the sixty-ninth session of the Commission (2017).

2. Consideration of General Assembly resolution 70/118 of 14 December 2015 on the rule of law at the national and international levels

314. The General Assembly, in resolution 70/118 of 14 December 2015 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 report (A/63/10) remain relevant and reiterates the comments made at its previous sessions.1471

315. The Commission recalls that the rule of law is of the essence of its work. The Commission’s purpose, as set out in article 1 of its Statute, is to promote the progressive development of international law and its codification.

316. 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.

317. 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.1472

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1472 General Assembly resolution 67/1 of 30 November 2012 (“Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels”), para. 41.
318. 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),”\textsuperscript{1473} without emphasizing one at the expense of the other. In this context the Commission is cognizant that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the need for an effective rule of law and good governance at all levels.\textsuperscript{1474} 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.

319. Recalling that the General Assembly has stressed the importance of promoting the sharing of national best practices on the rule of law,\textsuperscript{1475} the Commission wishes to recall that much of its work consists in collecting and analysing national practices related to the rule of law with a view to assessing their possible contribution to the progressive development and codification of international law.

320. Bearing in mind the role of multilateral treaty processes in advancing the rule of law,\textsuperscript{1476} the Commission recalls that the work of the Commission on different topics has led to several multilateral treaty processes and to the adoption of a number of multilateral treaties.\textsuperscript{1477}

321. In the course of the present session the Commission has continued to make its contribution to the rule of law, including by working on the topics “Protection of persons in the event of disasters” (adopted on second reading at the present session), “Immunity of state officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction”, “Subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to the interpretation of treaties” (adopted on first reading at the present session), “Provisional application of treaties”, “Identification of customary international law” (adopted on first reading at the current session), “Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts”, “Protection of the atmosphere”, “Crimes against humanity” and “Jus cogens”.

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

3. Consideration of paragraphs 9 to 12 of resolution 70/236 of 23 December 2015 on the Report of the International Law Commission on the work of the sixty-seventh session

323. The Commission took note of paragraphs 9 to 12 of resolution 70/236 of 23 December 2015. By the terms of paragraph 10 and 11 of the resolution, the Assembly noted that the Commission had affirmed its wish that consideration be given to the possibility of holding one half session in the next quinquennium in New York and had indicated that, taking into account the estimated costs and relevant administrative, organizational and other factors, such a possibility could be anticipated during the first segment of a session in either the first year (2017) or the second year (2018) of the next quinquennium. The Assembly took note of the recommendation made by the Commission in paragraph 298 of its 2015 report that preparatory work and estimates proceed on the assumption that the first segment of its seventieth session (2018) would be convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York, as well as of the request of the Commission that the Secretariat proceed to make the

\textsuperscript{1473} 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, 11 June 2013, para. 70.

\textsuperscript{1474} General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 21 October 2015, para. 35.

\textsuperscript{1475} General Assembly resolution 70/118 of 18 December 2015, paras. 13 and 19.

\textsuperscript{1476} General Assembly resolution 70/118 of 18 December 2015, para. 8.

necessary arrangements for that purpose so as to facilitate the taking of the appropriate decision by the Commission at its sixty-eighth session, in 2016.

324. Upon being afforded further information by the Secretariat that, taking into account the estimated costs and relevant administrative, organizational and other factors, it would be feasible to hold one half session in the first year (2017) or the second year (2018) of the next quinquennium in New York, the Commission considered that holding such a half session during its seventieth session in 2018 would be the most convenient.

325. It was noted that 2017 would be the first year of the quinquennium for the membership of the Commission to be elected during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly. A session at its seat at the United Nations Office at Geneva would be optimal for new members as they transition into the work of the Commission. In addition, it was recognized that the Commission would be commemorating its seventieth anniversary session in 2018, and having part of its session in New York could serve the endeavours of further enhancing the dialogue between the Commission and the Sixth Committee.

326. Accordingly, the Commission recommends that it holds the first part of its seventieth session in New York, and requests the Secretariat to proceed with the necessary administrative and organizational arrangements to facilitate the holding of such a session in New York. Particular attention was drawn to the need to ensure access to library facilities at Headquarters, and electronic access to the resources and research assistance of the Library of the United Nations Office at Geneva. The need to ensure access and sufficient space for assistants to members of the Commission to attend meetings of the Commission was also emphasized.

4. **Seventieth anniversary session of the International Law Commission**

327. The Commission recommends that a seventieth anniversary event be held during its seventieth session in 2018. The anniversary event could be held in two parts, the first during the first part of its seventieth session in New York, and the second during the second part of its seventieth session in Geneva.

328. The Commission recommends that during the first part of its seventieth session that is recommended to be held in New York:

   (a) a solemn half day meeting of the Commission be held at which would be invited high-level dignitaries;

   (b) an informal half day meeting be held with delegates to the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly to exchange views on the work of the Commission, the relationship between the Commission and the Sixth Committee, and the role of both bodies in the promotion of the progressive development and codification of international law.

329. The Commission recommends that during the second part of its seventieth session in Geneva, a one and a half day conference be held with legal advisers of States and international organizations, academics and other distinguished international lawyers, dedicated to the work of the Commission.

330. The Commission also recommends that a report of these meetings shall be presented and discussed in an appropriate form at the annual meeting of the Legal Advisers in New York.

331. The Commission further recommends that the anniversary event leads to a publication.

332. The Commission requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission and the Chairperson of the Planning Group, to commence making arrangements for the holding of the commemorative event.
5. Honoraria

333. 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. The Commission emphasizes that resolution 56/272 especially affects Special Rapporteurs, as it compromises support for their research work.

6. Documentation and publications

334. The Commission reiterated its recognition of the particular relevance and significant value to the work of the Commission of the legal publications prepared by the Secretariat. It once more recalled that the Codification Division had previously been able to expedite significantly the issuance of its publications through its highly successful desktop publishing initiative which had greatly enhanced the timeliness and relevance of those publications to the Commission’s work for more than a decade. The Commission expressed its strong concern at the curtailment and discontinuation of that initiative due to lack of resources, and its deep regret that consequently no new legal publications were distributed at its current session.

335. The Commission expressed its strong view that the resumption of this initiative was essential to ensure the timely issuance of these legal publications, in particular The Work of the International Law Commission, the early availability of which in the various official languages was a vital tool in the Commission’s work, and accordingly the Commission called for the resumption of the desktop publishing initiative. The Commission again 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.

336. The Commission reiterated its 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 once more noted with satisfaction that the measures introduced at its sixty-fifth session (2013) to streamline the processing of its summary records had resulted in their more expeditious transmission to members of the Commission for timely correction and prompt release. The Commission called on the Secretariat to continue its efforts to sustain the measures in question, in order to ensure the expeditious transmission of the provisional records to members of the Commission. The Commission also welcomed the fact that these 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.


337. The Commission expressed its gratitude to all Services involved in the processing of documents, both in Geneva and in New York, for their efforts in seeking to ensure timely and efficient processing of the Commission’s documents, often under narrow time constraints. In particular, the Commission noted with satisfaction that a number of experimental measures to streamline the editing of the Commission’s documents were introduced following exchanges between the secretariat of the Commission and the Editing Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva. The new arrangements contributed to the improvement of the document considered by the Commission and facilitated its work.

338. The Commission expressed concern, however, that the issuance in all official languages of some reports of Special Rapporteurs had been delayed, thereby disrupting its programme of work. It noted that timely and efficient processing was essential for the smooth conduct of the Commission’s work.

339. The Commission reaffirms its commitment to multilingualism and recalls the paramount importance to be given in its work to the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations, which has been emphasized in General Assembly resolution 69/324 of 11 September 2015. This commitment is reflected, inter alia, in the established practice of the Commission to debate in plenary the reports of the Special Rapporteurs after they have been published in all official languages. In this regard, the Commission wishes to emphasize that the measures of a very exceptional character which have been resorted to during the present session with regard to the debate on the topic “Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction” (see Chap. XI) will not constitute, in any respect, a precedent.

340. In this respect, the Commission (a) requests the Secretariat to continue to ensure that official documents of the Commission are published in due time in the six official languages of the United Nations; and (b) requests Special Rapporteurs to submit their reports within the time limits specified by the Secretariat.

341. The Commission expressed its warm appreciation to the United Nations Office at Geneva Library, which continued to assist members of the Commission very efficiently and competently.

7. *Yearbook of the International Law Commission*

342. The Commission reiterated that the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission* was critical to the understanding of the Commission’s work in 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 70/236, expressed its appreciation to governments that had made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund on the backlog relating to the *Yearbook*, and encouraged further contributions to the Trust Fund.

343. The Commission recommends that the General Assembly, as in its resolution 70/236, express its satisfaction with the remarkable progress achieved in the last few years in catching up with the backlog of the *Yearbook* in all six languages, and welcome the efforts made by the Division of Conference Management, especially the 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; and encourage the Division of Conference Management to continue providing all necessary support to the Editing Section in advancing work on the *Yearbook*.

8. **Assistance of the Codification Division**

344. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the valuable assistance of the Codification Division of the Secretariat in its substantive servicing of the Commission and,
the ongoing assistance provided to Special Rapporteurs and the preparation of in-depth research studies pertaining to aspects of topics presently under consideration, as requested by the Commission. In particular, the Commission expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for its preparation of memorandums on the Role of decisions of national courts in the case law of international courts and tribunals of a universal character for the purpose of the determination of customary international law (A/CN.4/691), and on Information on existing treaty-based monitoring mechanisms which may be of relevance to the future work of the International Law Commission (A/CN.4/698), and also in preparing six working papers on potential future topics for the Commission’s long-term programme of work (A/CN.4/679/Add.1).

9. **Websites**

345. The Commission expressed its deep appreciation to the Secretariat for the website on the work of the Commission, and called on it to continue updating and managing the website. The Commission reiterated that the website and other websites maintained by the Codification Division 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.

10. **United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law**

346. The Commission once more noted with appreciation the extraordinary value of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law in promoting a better knowledge of international law and the work of the United Nations in this field, including the International Law Commission.

**C. Date and place of the sixty-ninth session of the Commission**

347. The Commission decided that the sixty-ninth session of the Commission be held in Geneva from 1 May to 2 June and 3 July to 4 August 2017.

**D. Cooperation with other bodies**

348. At the 3317th meeting, on 8 July 2016, Judge Abraham, President of the International Court of Justice, addressed the Commission and briefed it on the recent judicial activities of the Court. An exchange of views followed.

349. The Inter-American Juridical Committee was represented at the present session of the Commission by a member of the Inter-American-Juridical Committee, Mr. Gélin Imáné Collot, who addressed the Commission at the 3305th meeting, on 26 May 2016. He gave an overview of the activities of the Committee on various legal issues concerning

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1483 This statement is recorded in the summary record of that meeting.
which the Committee was engaged, focusing in particular on the period 2015-2016. An exchange of views followed.

350. The Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law (CAHDI) of the Council of Europe was represented at the present session of the Commission by the Chair of the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law, Mr. Paul Rietjens, and the Head of Public International Law Division and Treaty Office of the Directorate of Legal Advice and Public International Law, Ms. Marta Requena, both of whom addressed the Commission at the 3316th meeting, on 7 July 2016.\textsuperscript{1485} They focused on the current activities of CAHDI in the field of public international law, as well of the Council of Europe. An exchange of views followed.

351. On 20 July 2016, an informal exchange of views was held between members of the Commission and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on topics of mutual interest. Following statements were made by the Director of International Law and Policy, ICRC and the Chairperson of the Commission, presentations were made on the topics “Crimes against Humanity” and “Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts”. Further presentations were made on “Outcomes of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement”, and “Interaction between IHL and the legal framework addressing counter-terrorism”. These presentations were followed by discussion.\textsuperscript{1486}

E. **Representation at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly**

352. The Commission decided that it should be represented at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly by its Chairperson, Mr. Pedro Comissário Afonso.

F. **International Law Seminar**

353. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/236 of 23 December 2015, the fifty-second session of the International Law Seminar was held at the Palais des Nations from 4 to 22 July 2016, during the present session of the Commission. The Seminar is intended for young jurists specializing in international law, young professors or government officials pursuing an academic or diplomatic career in posts in the civil service of their countries.

354. Twenty-two participants of different nationalities, from all regional groups, took part in the session.\textsuperscript{1487} The participants attended plenary meetings of the Commission, specially arranged lectures, and participated in working groups on specific topics.

\textsuperscript{1485} **Ibid.**

\textsuperscript{1486} Statements were made by Ms. Helen Durham, Director of International Law and Policy, ICRC, Mr. P. Comissário Afonso, Chairperson of the Commission. The presentations on “Crimes against Humanity” were by Mr. Sean D. Murphy, and on “Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts” by Ms. Marie G. Jacobsson. The further presentations on “Outcomes of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement”, were by Mr. Knut Doerrmann, Chief Legal Officer and Head of the ICRC Legal Division and on “Interaction between international humanitarian law and the legal framework addressing counter-terrorism", by Mr. Tristan Ferraro, Legal Adviser, ICRC.

\textsuperscript{1487} The following persons participated in the Seminar: Mr. Humberto Cantú Rivera (Mexico), Ms. Hua Deng (China), Mr. Martina Filippiová (Czech Republic), Ms. Fong Mian Yi Seraphina (Singapore), Mr. Simon E. Gomez Guaimara (Venezuela), Ms. Sarah Hayes (France), Mr. Etienne Henry (Switzerland), Mr. Alonso Emilio Ilueca (Panama), Ms. Fatma Fathy Khalifa (Egypt), Ms. Ayechan Lynn (Myanmar), Mr. Onésime Alain Ndi Bitan (Cameroon), Ms. Nguyen Thi Tuong Van (Vietnam),
355. Mr. Pedro Comissário Afonso, 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 and served as Director of the International Law Seminar. The University of Geneva ensured the scientific coordination of the Seminar. Mr. Vittorio Mainetti, international law expert from the University of Geneva, acted as coordinator, assisted by Mr. Lorris Beverelli, Ms. Yusra Suedi, Legal assistants, and Ms. Alexandra Borgeaud, intern in the Legal Liaison Office of UNOG.


357. A lecture was given by Mr. Ove Bring, Emeritus Professor, Stockholm University and Swedish Defence University and former Principal Legal Adviser on International Law to the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, on “Legal aspects of cultural heritage disputes: the Parthenon syndrome in international relations”.

358. A round table was organized on “Protection of persons in the event of disasters” with the following speakers: Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina, Special Rapporteur on the Protection of persons in the event of disasters; Mr. Giulio Bartolini, Professor, University of “Roma Tre”; Ms. Tessa Kelly, Senior Disaster Law Officer, International Federation of Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies; Mr. Arnold Pronto, Principal Legal Officer, Codification Division, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations; and Mr. Marco Toscanori-Rivalta, Chief, Office of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction at United Nations.

359. Seminar participants also attended a workshop organized by the University of Geneva, on the topic: “Sharing of benefits and natural resources in international law”. The following speakers made statements: Ms. Danae Azaria, Lecturer, University College of London; Ms. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Professor, University of Geneva; Mr. Lucius Caflisch, member of the International Law Commission); Mr. Komlan Sangbana, Researcher, University of Geneva; Ms. Raya Stephan, Consultant, Expert in Water Law; and Ms. Mara Tignino, Senior Lecturer, University of Geneva. They also attended the annual Lalive Lecture at the invitation of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. The lecture on “Choosing between Arbitration and a Permanent Court — Lessons from Inter-State Cases” was given by Sir Michael Wood. The Seminar participants also visited the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum, as well as the ICT Discovery of the International Telecommunication Union. They also visited the World Trade Organization and attended a presentation on “WTO Dispute settlement and

Ms. Irekpitan Okukpon (Nigeria), Ms. Edilen B. Pita Rodríguez (Cuba), Mr. Eric-Aimé Semien (Côte d’Ivoire), Mr. Evgeny Skachkov (Russia), Ms. Oratile Slave (Botswana), Mr. Hidetaka Takeuchi (Japan), Ms. Sosena Tesfamichael Tefera (Ethiopia), Mr. Manasawee Tonyoopaiboon (Thailand), Ms. Maruša Veber (Slovenia), Mr. Giovanni Vega-Barbosa (Colombia). The Selection Committee, chaired by Mr. Makane Moïse Mbengue, Professor of International Law at the University of Geneva, met on 12 April 2016 and selected 23 candidates out of 92 applications. One selected candidate could not attend the Seminar.
public International law” by Mr. Juan Pablo Moya Hoyos and Mr. Geraldo Vidigal, Legal Affairs Division, WTO.

360. Two Seminar working groups on “Identifying new topics for the International Law Commission” and “Consequences of Jus cogens in treaty law beyond invalidity” were organized and Seminar participants were assigned to one of the two groups. Two members of the Commission, Mr. Mathias Forteau and Mr. Dire Tladi, supervised and provided 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.

361. 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 reception.

362. The Chairperson of the Commission, the Director of the International Law Seminar, and Mr. Humberto Cantú Rivera, on behalf of the Seminar participants, addressed the Commission during the closing ceremony of the Seminar. Each participant was presented with a diploma.

363. The Commission noted with particular appreciation that since 2014 the Governments of Argentina, Austria, Brazil, China, Finland, India, Ireland, Mexico, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom had made voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Law Seminar. The Circolo di diritto internazionale (CIDIR), a private association for the promotion of international law based in Rome (Italy), also contributed to the Seminar. Though the financial crisis of the last years seriously affected the finances of the Seminar, the situation of the Fund still allowed the granting of a sufficient number of fellowships to deserving candidates, especially from developing countries, in order to achieve adequate geographical distribution of participants. This year, 11 fellowships (8 for travel and living expenses, 2 for living expenses only and 1 for travel expenses only) were granted.

364. Since the inception of the Seminar in 1965, 1,185 participants, representing 171 nationalities, have taken part in the Seminar. Seven hundred twenty-four have received a fellowship.

365. 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 2017 with as broad participation as possible.