

Chapter XIII

Other decisions and conclusions of the Commission

A. General principles of law

363. At its 3433rd meeting, on 19 July 2018, the Commission decided to include the topic “General principles of law” in its programme of work and to appoint Mr. Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez as Special Rapporteur.

B. Requests by the Commission for the Secretariat to prepare and update studies on topics in the Commission’s agenda

364. At its 3441st meeting, on 2 August 2018, the Commission requested that the memorandum by the Secretariat on ways and means for making the evidence of customary international law more readily available (A/CN.4/710) be reissued to reflect the text of the draft conclusions and commentaries on identification of customary international law adopted on second reading.

365. At its 3451st meeting, on 9 August 2018, the Commission decided to request from the Secretariat a memorandum providing information on treaties which may be of relevance to its future work on the topic “Succession of States in respect of State responsibility”.

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

366. At its 3390th meeting, on 30 April 2018, the Commission established a Planning Group for the present session.

367. The Planning Group held three meetings on 1 May and 30 and 31 July 2018. It had before it section G, 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 seventy-second session (A/CN.4/713); General Assembly resolution 72/116 of 7 December 2017 on the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-ninth session; and General Assembly resolution 72/119 of 7 December 2017 on the rule of law at the national and international levels.

1. Working Group on the long-term programme of work

368. At its 1st meeting, on 1 May 2018, the Planning Group decided to reconvene the Working Group on the long-term programme of work, with Mr. Mahmoud D. Hmoud as Chair. The Chair of the Working Group presented an oral report on the work of the Working Group at the current session to the Planning Group, at its 2nd meeting, on 30 July 2018. The Planning Group took note of the oral report.

369. 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) Universal criminal jurisdiction; and
- (b) Sea-level rise in relation to international law.

370. 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 at a sufficiently advanced 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 work on the two topics would 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.

2. Working Group on methods of work of the Commission

371. At its 1st meeting, on 1 May 2018, the Planning Group decided to re-establish the Working Group on methods of work of the Commission, with Mr. Hussein A. Hassouna as Chair. The Chair of the Working Group presented an oral report on the work of the Working Group at the current session to the Planning Group, at its 2nd meeting, on 30 July 2018. The Planning Group took note of the oral report.

3. Consideration of General Assembly resolution 72/119 of 7 December 2017 on the rule of law at the national and international levels

372. The General Assembly, in resolution 72/119 of 7 December 2017 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 report¹²⁵⁷ remain relevant and reiterates the comments made at its previous sessions.¹²⁵⁸

373. 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.

374. 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.

375. 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.¹²⁵⁹

376. 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)",¹²⁶⁰ 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.¹²⁶¹ 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.

¹²⁵⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/63/10)*.

¹²⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/64/10), para. 231; *ibid.*, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/65/10), paras. 390–393; *ibid.*, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/66/10), paras. 392–398; *ibid.*, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/67/10), paras. 274–279; *ibid.*, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/68/10), paras. 171–179; *ibid.*, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/69/10), paras. 273–280; *ibid.*, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/70/10), paras. 288–295; *ibid.*, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/71/10), paras. 314–322; *ibid.*, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/72/10), paras. 269–278.

¹²⁵⁹ General Assembly resolution 67/1 of 30 November 2012 on the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, para. 41.

¹²⁶⁰ 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.

¹²⁶¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 21 October 2015, para. 35.

377. Recalling that the General Assembly has stressed the importance of promoting the sharing of national best practices on the rule of law,¹²⁶² the Commission wishes to recall that much of its work consists of 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. The Commission underlines the value of State responses to its requests in this regard.

378. Bearing in mind the role of multilateral treaty processes in advancing the rule of law,¹²⁶³ 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.¹²⁶⁴

379. 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, “Subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to the interpretation of treaties” (adopted on second reading at the current session), “Identification of customary international law” (adopted on second reading at the current session), “Provisional application of treaties” (adopted on first reading at the current session), “Protection of the atmosphere” (adopted on first reading at the current session), “Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction”, “Peremptory norms of general international law (*jus cogens*)”, “Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts” and “Succession of States in respect of State responsibility”. A further topic on the current work programme of the Commission is “Crimes against humanity” (adopted on first reading at the previous session). The Commission also decided to include a new topic, “General principles of law” in its programme of work.

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

4. Consideration of paragraphs 13 and 14 of resolution 72/116 of 7 December 2017 on the report of the International Law Commission on the work of the sixty-ninth session

381. The Commission, recalling its decision to convene part of its session, coinciding with the commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the Commission, at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 30 April to 1 June 2018, takes note with appreciation of the necessary administrative and organizational arrangements provided by the Secretariat. The arrangements, among other things, facilitated interaction between members of the Commission and representatives of Governments, especially in the Sixth Committee, and others.

5. Honoraria

382. 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 have been expressed in the previous reports of the Commission.¹²⁶⁵ The Commission emphasizes that resolution 56/272 especially affects Special Rapporteurs, as it compromises support for their research work.

¹²⁶² General Assembly resolution 72/119 of 7 December 2017, paras. 2 and 24.

¹²⁶³ *Ibid.*, para. 9.

¹²⁶⁴ See more specifically *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/70/10)*, para. 294.

¹²⁶⁵ See *ibid.*, *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/57/10)*, paras. 525–531; *ibid.*, *Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/58/10)*, para. 447; *ibid.*, *Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/59/10)*, para. 369; *ibid.*, *Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/60/10)*, para. 501; *ibid.*, *Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/61/10)*, para. 269; *ibid.*, *Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/62/10)*, para. 379; *ibid.*, *Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/63/10)*, para. 358; *ibid.*, *Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/64/10)*, para. 240; *ibid.*, *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/65/10)*, para. 396; *ibid.*, *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/66/10)*, para. 399; *ibid.*, *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/67/10)*, para. 280; *ibid.*, *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/68/10)*, para. 181; *ibid.*, *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/69/10)*, para. 281; and *ibid.*, *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/70/10)*, para. 299; *ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/71/10)*, para. 333; *ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/72/10)*, para. 282.

6. Documentation and publications

383. The Commission underscored once more the unique nature of its functioning in the progressive development of international law and its codification, in that it attaches particular relevance to State practice and the decisions of national and international courts in its treatment of questions of international law. The Commission reiterated the importance of providing and making available all evidence of State practice and other sources of international law relevant to the performance of the function of the Commission. The reports of its Special Rapporteurs require an adequate presentation of precedents and other relevant data, including treaties, judicial decisions and doctrine, and a thorough analysis of the questions under consideration. The Commission stresses that it and its Special Rapporteurs are fully conscious of the need to achieve economies whenever possible in the overall volume of documentation and will continue to bear such considerations in mind. While the Commission is aware of the advantages of being as concise as possible, it reiterates its strong belief that an *a priori* limitation cannot be placed on the length of the documentation and research projects relating to the work of the Commission. It follows that Special Rapporteurs cannot be asked to reduce the length of their report following submission to the Secretariat, irrespective of any estimates of their length made in advance of submission by the Secretariat. Word limits are not applicable to Commission documentation, as has been consistently reiterated by the General Assembly.¹²⁶⁶ The Commission stresses also the importance of the timely preparation of reports by Special Rapporteurs and their submission to the Secretariat for processing and submission to the Commission sufficiently in advance so that the reports are issued in all official languages ideally four weeks before the start of the relevant part of the session of the Commission. In this respect, the Commission reiterated its request that: (a) Special Rapporteurs submit their reports within the time limits specified by the Secretariat; and (b) the Secretariat continue to ensure that official documents of the Commission are published in due time in the six official languages of the United Nations.

384. The Commission reiterated its firm view that the summary records of the Commission, constituting crucial *travaux préparatoires* in the progressive development and codification of international law, cannot 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 the more expeditious transmission to members of the Commission of the English and French versions for timely correction and prompt release. The Commission called on the Secretariat to resume the practice of preparing summary records in English and French, and 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 official languages, without compromising their integrity.

385. 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. It emphasized that timely and efficient processing of documentation was essential for the smooth conduct of the Commission's work.

386. The Commission reaffirmed 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 had been emphasized in General Assembly resolution 69/324 of 11 September 2015.

¹²⁶⁶ For considerations relating to page limits on the reports of Special Rapporteurs, see, for example, *Yearbook ... 1977*, vol. II (Part Two), p. 132, and *Yearbook ... 1982*, vol. II (Part Two), pp. 123–124. See also General Assembly resolution 32/151 of 9 December 1977, para. 10, and General Assembly resolution 37/111 of 16 December 1982, para. 5, as well as subsequent resolutions on the annual reports of the Commission to the General Assembly.

387. The Commission expressed its warm appreciation to the United Nations Headquarters Library for the facilities and assistance provided during the Commission's segment in New York, in particular for organizing a lecture series involving members of the Commission.

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

389. The Commission expressed its deep condolences on the passing of Ms. Irina Gerassimova, whose assistance, dedication and professionalism, as a legal librarian at the United Nations Office at Geneva Library for many years, was greatly appreciated.

7. *Yearbook of the International Law Commission*

390. 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 72/116, 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.

391. The Commission recommends that the General Assembly, as in its resolution 72/116, express its satisfaction with the remarkable progress achieved in the past 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

392. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the invaluable 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 a memorandum on ways and means for making the evidence of customary international law more readily available (A/CN.4/710).

9. Websites

393. The Commission expressed its deep appreciation to the Secretariat for the website on the work of the Commission, and welcomed its continuous updating and improvement.¹²⁶⁷ The Commission reiterated that the website and other websites maintained by the Codification Division¹²⁶⁸ 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 links to the advance edited versions of the summary records of the Commission and the audio recording of the plenary meetings of the Commission.

10. United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law

394. The Commission once more noted with appreciation the extraordinary value of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law¹²⁶⁹ in promoting a better knowledge

¹²⁶⁷ <http://legal.un.org/ilc>.

¹²⁶⁸ In general, available from: <http://legal.un.org/cod/>.

¹²⁶⁹ www.un.org/law/avl/.

of international law and the work of the United Nations in the field, including the work of the Commission.

D. Date and place of the seventy-first session of the Commission

395. The Commission decided that its seventy-first session would be held in Geneva from 29 April to 7 June and from 8 July to 9 August 2019.

E. Cooperation with other bodies

396. The Inter-American Juridical Committee was represented at the present session of the Commission by its President, Mr. Hernán Salinas Burgos, who addressed the Commission at the 3420th meeting, on 4 July 2018.¹²⁷⁰ He gave an overview of the activities of the Committee on various legal issues, focusing in particular on activities in 2017. An exchange of views followed.

397. The Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law of the Council of Europe was represented at the present session of the Commission by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Päivi Kaukoranta, and the Head of the Public International Law Division and Treaty Office of the Directorate of Legal Advice and Public International Law and Secretary of the Committee, Ms. Marta Requena, both of whom addressed the Commission at its 3433rd meeting, on 19 July 2018.¹²⁷¹ They focused on the current activities of the Committee in the field of public international law, as well of the Council of Europe. An exchange of views followed.

398. In response to an initiative by the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL), and in accordance with article 26, paragraph 1, of its statute, the Commission recommended that a meeting be held during the second part of its seventy-first session with AUCIL in the context of activities to commemorate the tenth anniversary of AUCIL. The Commission requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Commission and members of the Enlarged Bureau, to explore possibilities for the holding of such a meeting.

399. On 18 July 2018, 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 made by Mr. Gilles Carbonnier, Vice-President, ICRC, Mr. Knut Dörmann, Chief Legal Officer and Head of the Legal Division, ICRC, and Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina, Chair of the Commission, presentations were made on the topics “Subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to the interpretation of treaties” by Mr. Georg Nolte, Special Rapporteur on the topic, and “Subsequent agreements and subsequent practice and the project to update the Commentaries on the Geneva Conventions” by Mr. Jean-Marie Henckaerts, Head of Commentaries Update Unit, Legal Division, ICRC. Further presentations were made on “Crimes against humanity” by Mr. Sean D. Murphy, Special Rapporteur on the topic, and “International humanitarian law and cyber warfare: ICRC work on the application and clarification of existing law, a prerequisite to assessing possible need for development”. Each set of presentations was followed by discussion moderated by Ms. Helen Durham, Director, International Law and Policy, ICRC. Concluding remarks were made by Ms. Durham.

F. Representation at the seventy-third session of the General Assembly

400. The Commission decided that it should be represented at the seventy-third session of the General Assembly by its Chair, Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina.

¹²⁷⁰ The statement is recorded in the summary record of that meeting.

¹²⁷¹ The statements are recorded in the summary record of that meeting.

G. International Law Seminar

401. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/116 of 7 December 2017, the fifty-fourth session of the International Law Seminar was held at the Palais des Nations from 2 to 20 July 2018, during the present session of the Commission. The Seminar is intended for young jurists specializing in international law, and young professors or government officials pursuing an academic or diplomatic career in posts in the civil service of their countries.

402. Twenty-five participants of different nationalities, from all regional groups, took part in the session.¹²⁷² The participants attended plenary meetings of the Commission and specially arranged lectures, and participated in working groups on specific topics.

403. Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina, Chair of the Commission, opened the Seminar. Mr. Markus Schmidt, Senior Legal Adviser to the United Nations Office at Geneva, was responsible for the administration, organization and conduct of the Seminar and served as its Director. 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. Federico Daniele, legal assistant.

404. The following lectures were given by members of the Commission: “The work of the International Law Commission” by Mr. Ernest Petrič; “The principle of universal jurisdiction” by Mr. Charles Chernor Jalloh; “The International Law Commission viewed from outside” by Ms. Patrícia Galvão Teles; “Protection of the atmosphere” by Mr. Shinya Murase; “Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict” by Ms. Marja Lehto; “Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction” by Ms. Concepción Escobar Hernández; “*Jus cogens*” by Mr. Dire D. Tladi; “Subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to interpretation of treaties” by Mr. Georg Nolte; “Crimes against humanity” by Mr. Sean D. Murphy; and “Provisional application of treaties” by Mr. Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo.

405. Participants attended the commemoration of the seventieth anniversary of the Commission — “70 years of the International Law Commission — Drawing a balance for the future”, held in Geneva on 5 and 6 July 2018.

406. Participants also attended a conference organized by the University of Geneva on the work of the Commission, focusing on the topics “Identification of customary international law” and “State succession in relation to State responsibility”, with the participation of Sir. Michael Wood and Mr. Pavel Šturma, Special Rapporteurs of the Commission on the respective topics. The following speakers spoke at the conference: Ms. Danae Azaria, Lecturer at University College London; Mr. Peter Haggemacher, Honorary Professor at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva; Mr. Marcelo Kohen, Professor of International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva; Mr. Robert Kolb, Professor of International Law at the University of Geneva; Mr. Nicolas Levrat, Professor at the University of Geneva; Mr. Marco Sassòli, Professor of International Law and Director of the Department of Public International Law and International Organizations at the University of Geneva; Ms. Mara Tignino, Senior Lecturer at the University of Geneva; and Ms. Alla Tymofeyeva, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Charles University, Prague.

¹²⁷² The following persons participated in the Seminar: Ms. Manjida Ahamed (Bangladesh), Ms. Noor Alsada (Qatar), Mr. Ezéchiél Amani Cirimwami (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Ms. Meseret Fassil Assefa (Ethiopia), Ms. Jing Geng (United States of America), Mr. Arnaud Irakoze (Burundi), Mr. Berdak Kalmuratov (Uzbekistan), Mr. Fadi Khalil (Egypt), Mr. Ales Klyunya (Russian Federation), Mr. Oumar Kourouma (Guinea), Mr. Ralph Loren Eisendecker (Chile), Mr. Patrick Luna (Brazil), Mr. Michael Moffatt (Canada), Mr. Yusuke Nakayama (Japan), Ms. Keseme Odudu (Nigeria), Mr. Andrés Ordoñez-Buitrago (Colombia), Ms. Anastasija Popeska (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Ms. Harsha Rajwanshi (India), Mr. Mustafa Can Sati (Turkey), Ms. Antara Singh (Nepal), Mr. Gianfranco Smith (Panama), Ms. Alba Surana González (Andorra), Ms. Hilda Tizeba (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. Tianze Zhang (China) and Ms. Eva Zijlstra (Netherlands). The Selection Committee, chaired by Mr. Makane Moïse Mbengue, Professor of International Law at the University of Geneva, met on 24 April 2018 and selected 25 candidates from 302 applications.

407. Participants visited the International Labour Organization (ILO), guided by Mr. Remo Becci, Director of the ILO Archives, and attended two presentations given by Mr. Dražen Petrović, Registrar of the ILO Administrative Tribunal, on “International administrative justice”, and Mr. Georges Politakis, ILO Legal Adviser, on ILO standard-setting. They also visited the World Trade Organization (WTO), and attended a presentation on “The WTO dispute settlement system” by Mr. Juan Pablo Moya Hoyos, from the WTO Legal Affairs Division, and by Mr. Shashank Kumar, from the WTO Appellate Body Secretariat.

408. Two working groups, on identifying new topics for the Commission and clarification of the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction, were organized and participants were assigned to one of them. Two members of the Commission, Ms. Patrícia Galvão Teles and Mr. Charles Chernor Jalloh, 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.

409. The Chair of the Commission, the Director of the International Law Seminar and Mr. Michael Moffatt, on behalf of participants attending the Seminar, addressed the Commission during the closing ceremony of the Seminar. Each participant was presented with a diploma.

410. The Commission noted with particular appreciation that since 2016 the Governments of Argentina, Austria, 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. Though the financial crisis of recent years had seriously affected the finances of the Seminar, the Fund was still able to grant a sufficient number of fellowships to deserving candidates, especially those from developing countries, in order to achieve an adequate geographical distribution among participants. In 2018, 12 fellowships were granted.

411. Since its inception in 1965, 1,233 participants, representing 175 nationalities, have taken part in the Seminar. Some 748 participants have received a fellowship.

412. The Commission stresses the importance it attaches to the Seminar, which enables young lawyers, especially those 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 2019 with as broad participation as possible.

413. The Commission notes that the International Law Seminar Alumni Network was formally launched, at the initiative of former participants, and held its first general assembly at the United Nations Office at Geneva, on 17 July 2018.¹²⁷³ The Honorary Board of Directors of the Network comprises five members of the Commission, Ms. Patrícia Galvão Teles, Mr. Claudio Grossman Guiloff, Mr. Mahmoud D. Hmoud, Mr. Shinya Murase and Mr. Pavel Šturma, as well as Mr. Marcelo Kohen, Professor of International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. The Executive Committee has five members consisting of Ms. Verity Robson, President; Ms. Mary-Elisabeth Chong, Vice-President for Seminars and Conferences; Ms. Valeria Reyes Menéndez, Vice-President for Internal Relations; Mr. Moritz Rudolf, Vice-President for Outreach and Publicity; and Mr. Vittorio Mainetti, Secretary-General. The signing of the statute by members of the Honorary Board of Directors and the Executive Committee took place at the end of the assembly.

¹²⁷³ <https://ilsalumni.org/>.