Speeches by the Legal Counsel

- Statement by Ms. Patricia O’Brien at the 36th Round-table on Current Issues of International Humanitarian Law “Respecting IHL: Challenges and Responses”, organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross. Opera Theatre, Casino of the Municipality of Sanremo, Italy. 5 September 2013.


• Remarks by Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel. European Council of International Schools. Berlin, Germany. 5 April, 2013.


• Address by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel. EU Council Working Group on Public International Law - COJUR. Brussels, Belgium, 6 February 2013.

• Keynote Speech by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel. The Mauritius International Arbitration Conference. 10 December 2012, Balaclava, Mauritius.


• Introductory Remarks by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel. The Special Court for Sierra Leone Legacy Conference. 7 November 2012.

• Keynote Address by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel. ASIL 2012 Midyear Meeting. 20 October 2012, Athens, Georgia.

• Keynote Address by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel. ABA 2012 Fall Meeting. 19 October 2012, Miami Beach, Florida.

• Statement by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel. “Legal issues facing the United Nations - Reflections from four years as Legal Counsel.” Institute of International and European Affairs. 2 October 2012, Europe House, Dublin, Ireland.


• Statement by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel. “The UN’s Legal Approach to Dispute Resolution.” President’s Lunch, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. London, United Kingdom, 6 September 2012.


• Opening Remarks by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel. 55th Annual Meeting of the Russian Regional Branch of the International Law Association. 27 June 2012, Moscow, Russian Federation.


• Statement by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel. Panel I – Acting Early to Prevent Conflict. The Secretary-General’s High-level Retreat with Heads of Regional and other Organizations (AU, ASEAN,
CSTO, Commonwealth, ECCAS, ECOWAS, EU, IGAD, Francophonie, LAS, NATO, OSCE, OAS, OIC, SAARC, SADC). 9 June 2012, Greentree Estate, NY.


• Dinner remarks by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel. “Supporting Complementarity at the National Level: An Integrated Approach to the Rule of Law”. 7 December 2011, Greentree Estate, NY.


• Statement by Ms. Patricia O’Brien Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel. Pacem in Maribus XXXIII, Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of UNESCO/IOC. Beijing, China, 3 to 4 September, 2010.

• Statement by Ms. Patricia O’Brien Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel. Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL), Round Table on “Global Violence: Consequences and Responses”. San Remo, 9 September, 2010


• Keynote address: Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs - The Legal Counsel. Toward an International Rule of Law. Brandeis Institute for International Judges, Salzburg, 29 July 2010.


• Opening remarks by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel. Twentieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, United Nations Headquarters, New York (Conference Room 1, NLB. Monday, 14 June 2010, 10:00 a.m.).

• Opening remarks by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel at the World Oceans Day, 8 June 2010. Roundtable Panel Discussion on the theme “The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 15 years after its entry into force” (United Nations Headquarters, New York; Conference Room 1, NLB 3-5:30 p.m.)

• ICC Review Conference. Statement by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel, for the Stocktaking Panel on “Cooperation”, 3 June 2010, Kampala, Uganda

• Statement by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs - The Legal Counsel at the Informal meeting of the General Assembly on Piracy, 14 May 2010, United Nations Headquarters, New York.

• Opening remarks by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel at the "Seminar on the International Criminal Court

- "Legal Challenges Facing the United Nations: An Appraisal from the Legal Counsel’s Perspective", Sean Lester Lecture of the Irish Society of International Law by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, 11 March 2010, Dublin, Ireland

- "The United Nations and the European Union: Partners in Multilateralism", Statement by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel. 8 March 2010, 6pm, Jean Durieux Room, Charlemagne Building, Brussels, Belgium


- Dialogue with Member States organized by the Rule of Law Unit, Keynote address by the Legal Counsel - “The Rule of Law at the International Level”, 15 June 2009, 15:00-18:00, Conference Room 7, UN Headquarters, New York.


- International Law Commission, Statement by Ms. Patricia O’Brien, the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel. 13 May 2009.

- The 26th Annual Seminar for Diplomats on International Humanitarian Law 4 March 2009, NYU-School of Law, Arthur D. Vanderbilt Hall, 40 Washington Square South.

• The Launch of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. 1 March 2009, United Nations Headquarters, New York.


• Informal Meeting of Legal Advisers of Ministries of Foreign Affairs. 27 October 2008, United Nations Headquarters, New York.
