



Promotion of **JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW**

Official signed and sealed copy of a judgment of the International Court of Justice.



KEY PROGRAMMES

- Legal services to the United Nations as a whole
- Legal services for United Nations organs and programmes
- Extraordinary international accountability mechanisms
- Custody, registration and publication of treaties
- Development and codification of international law
- Law of the sea and ocean affairs
- International trade



INDICATIVE RESOURCES

\$174M

\$68M regular assessed, \$4M peacekeeping assessed (2017-2018), \$98M other assessed and \$4M voluntary contributions



SELECT MANDATES

- Charter of the United Nations
- Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework, GA resolutions 23 (I) and 73/210
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982), GA resolutions 73/124 and 73/125
- International matters, GA resolutions 57/228 B and 71/248, HRC resolution 39/2, SC resolutions 1315 (2000) and 1966 (2010)



SELECT ENTITIES

- Office of Legal Affairs
- International Court of Justice
- Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar
- Independent, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic
- Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
- Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone
- International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals



Michele Hall / Howard Hall Productions, 2016 UN World Oceans Day Photo Competition

Cover of the technical abstract of the first global integrated marine assessment, *The Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction*.



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The first substantive session of the intergovernmental conference to draft an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction was held in 2018. The deliberations, which were assisted by a president's aid to negotiations that was prepared to facilitate focused and text-based negotiations, provided a good basis for the future work of the conference.

At the request of the Security Council, the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (UNITAD) – one of the first international accountability mechanisms of its kind – was established. The United Nations legal team helped to prepare its terms of reference, which were approved by the Council in February 2018. UNITAD will support domestic efforts to hold ISIL accountable by collecting, preserving and storing evidence of acts that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide committed by ISIL in Iraq.

Following the decision of the Human Rights Council in 2018 to establish an independent mechanism to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law committed by Myanmar and the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 73/264, in which it called for the mechanism's expeditious entry into operation, United Nations legal teams helped to establish and operationalize the mechanism, including by preparing the terms of reference, which were distributed to the Assembly in January 2019.

The International Court of Justice considered many high-profile cases in 2018, including one request from the General Assembly for an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965. On 25 February 2019, the Court issued its advisory opinion, in which it concluded, *inter alia*, that the process of decolonization of Mauritius had not been lawfully completed when that country acceded to independence in 1968, following the separation of the Chagos Archipelago.

In November, the Trial Chamber of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia issued its judgment in case 002/02, convicting former senior Khmer Rouge leaders Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan of genocide, crimes against humanity and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions. The judgment demonstrates that perpetrators of the most heinous crimes can be held accountable, even decades after the fact.



"In a rapidly evolving international environment, we strive daily to deliver better on our traditional mandates."

Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and Legal Counsel of the United Nations

UN Photo / Rick Bajornas