

The Peace Palace, seat of the International Court of Justice (The Hague, Netherlands)



Promotion of International Justice and Law



KEY PROGRAMMES

- Legal services for 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

\$190M

\$71M regular assessed, \$3M peacekeeping assessed (2018/19), \$98M other assessed and \$18M voluntary contributions



SELECT MANDATES

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



SELECT ENTITIES

- Office of Legal Affairs
- International Court of Justice
- Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar
- International, 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



Reading of the Advisory Opinion of the Court on Legal Consequences of the Separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 at the International Court of Justice (the Hague, Netherlands, 25 February 2019)



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CONTEXT

In the Charter of the United Nations, the world committed “to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained”. This pledge continues to serve as the foundation for Member State interactions in achieving their common goals and is integral to all aspects of our work.

KEY OUTCOMES

Progress was made on a 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. The next session, in 2021, will consider a revised draft text of an agreement.

I took further measures to establish the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law with respect to Myanmar since 2011. The Mechanism issued its first report to the Human Rights Council in 2019 and has since taken steps to become fully operational.



“For the last 75 years, the United Nations has been placed at the centre of international law-making.”

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

In March 2019, the Appeals Chamber of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals sentenced Radovan Karadžić to life imprisonment for genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war committed in the former Yugoslavia. In Paris, French authorities arrested Félicien Kabuga, who had been sought by the Mechanism for genocide and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Rwanda in 1994.



Participants at the Singapore Convention Signing Ceremony 7 August 2019

SINGAPORE CONVENTION ON MEDIATION

In August 2019, a signing ceremony was held for the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (Singapore Convention on Mediation), which will facilitate international trade and commerce by enabling disputing parties to easily enforce and invoke

settlement agreements across borders. Expected to enter into force in 2020, the Convention was signed by 46 countries on the day it opened for signature, the highest number of State signatories for any United Nations trade-related convention upon its opening.

In June 2020, the International Criminal Court detained Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, who had been sought for crimes against humanity and war crimes allegedly committed in Darfur between 2003 and 2004. The United Nations, in particular the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, assisted the Central African authorities and the Court in ensuring a successful arrest and transfer of Mr. Abd-Al-Rahman to the Court.

The International Court of Justice continued to consider many high-profile cases in 2019 and the first half of 2020. In January 2020, the Court unanimously decided to order four provisional measures binding on Myanmar in the case concerning *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar)*.



Security Council meeting on the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals which is mandated to perform a number of essential functions previously carried out by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (New York, 28 February 2020)