

The International Law Commission convened its seventy-third annual session to discuss various issues, including the prevention of crimes against humanity and the protection of the atmosphere. (Geneva, July 2021) © UN Photo



KEY PROGRAMMES

- Legal services for the United Nations as a whole
- Legal services for United Nations organs and funds 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

\$220M

\$112M regular assessed, \$4M peacekeeping assessed (2020/2021), \$87M other assessed and \$17M voluntary contributions



SELECT MANDATES

- Charter of the United Nations
- Progressive development and codification of international law: International Law Commission, General Assembly resolutions 94 (1) and 75/135
- Teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, General Assembly resolutions 2099 (XX) and 75/134
- Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework, General Assembly resolutions 97(1), 73/210 and 75/144
- Progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade: United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, General Assembly resolutions 2205 (XXI) and 75/133
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, General Assembly resolutions 52/26, 75/89 and 75/239
- Promotion and furtherance of international justice: General Assembly resolutions 57/228B and 71/248; Security Council resolutions 1315 (2000) 1966 (2010), 1757 (2007) and 2379 (2017); and Human Rights Council resolution 39/2



Promotion of Justice and International Law



SELECT ENTITIES

- Office of Legal Affairs
- International Court of Justice
- International accountability mechanisms



A delegate casts his vote in the election of members of the International Law Commission during the thirty-second plenary meeting of the General Assembly. (New York; November 2021) © UN Photo/Loey Felipe



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CONTEXT

In an increasingly interconnected world, international law is the foundation for countries' interaction and cooperation to achieve common goals. Since its inception, the United Nations has been at the centre of international law-making, providing unique contributions to its development, codification and implementation.



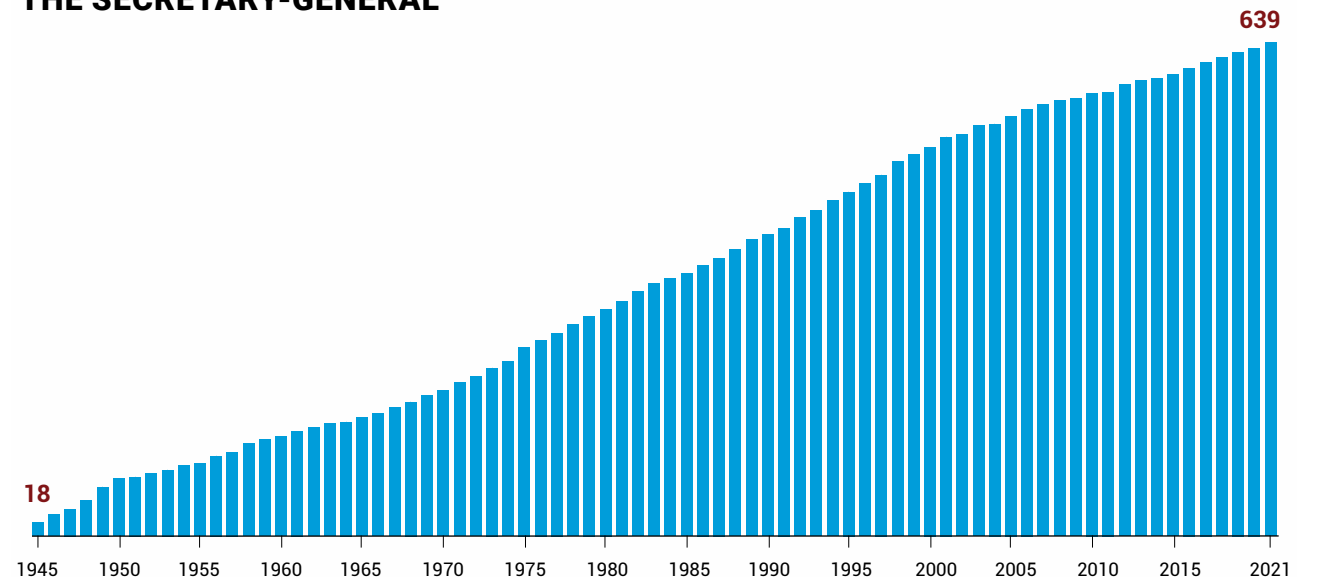
“International law is, at the very least, the basic common language that States use when they talk to each other.”

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

KEY OBJECTIVES

The United Nations promotes justice and international law through various actions and mandates, such as those related to oceans and law of the sea, international trade, treaties and international agreements, peace operations, international tribunals and sanctions. In addition, the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, settles legal disputes submitted by States and provides advisory opinions on legal questions.

RISING NUMBER OF MULTILATERAL TREATIES DEPOSITED WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



KEY OUTCOMES

To promote the implementation and development of international law on pressing global issues, we supported the work of the General Assembly on its decision to establish a working group for negotiations on a treaty on the protection of persons in the event of disasters. The General Assembly also encouraged all States to observe and promote in good faith the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes.

The amended General Assembly regulations giving effect to Article 102 of the Charter have applied since February 2022, modernizing the regime for treaty registration and publication, aligning it with the latest developments in information technology and strengthening multilingualism.

We continued our work on the legal framework for the United Nations resident coordinator system globally, dealing with a significant and growing portfolio of legal support provided to resident coordinators and their offices, including matters related to privileges and immunities, contribution agreements and partnership arrangements.

International treaties attracted new States parties, including the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York

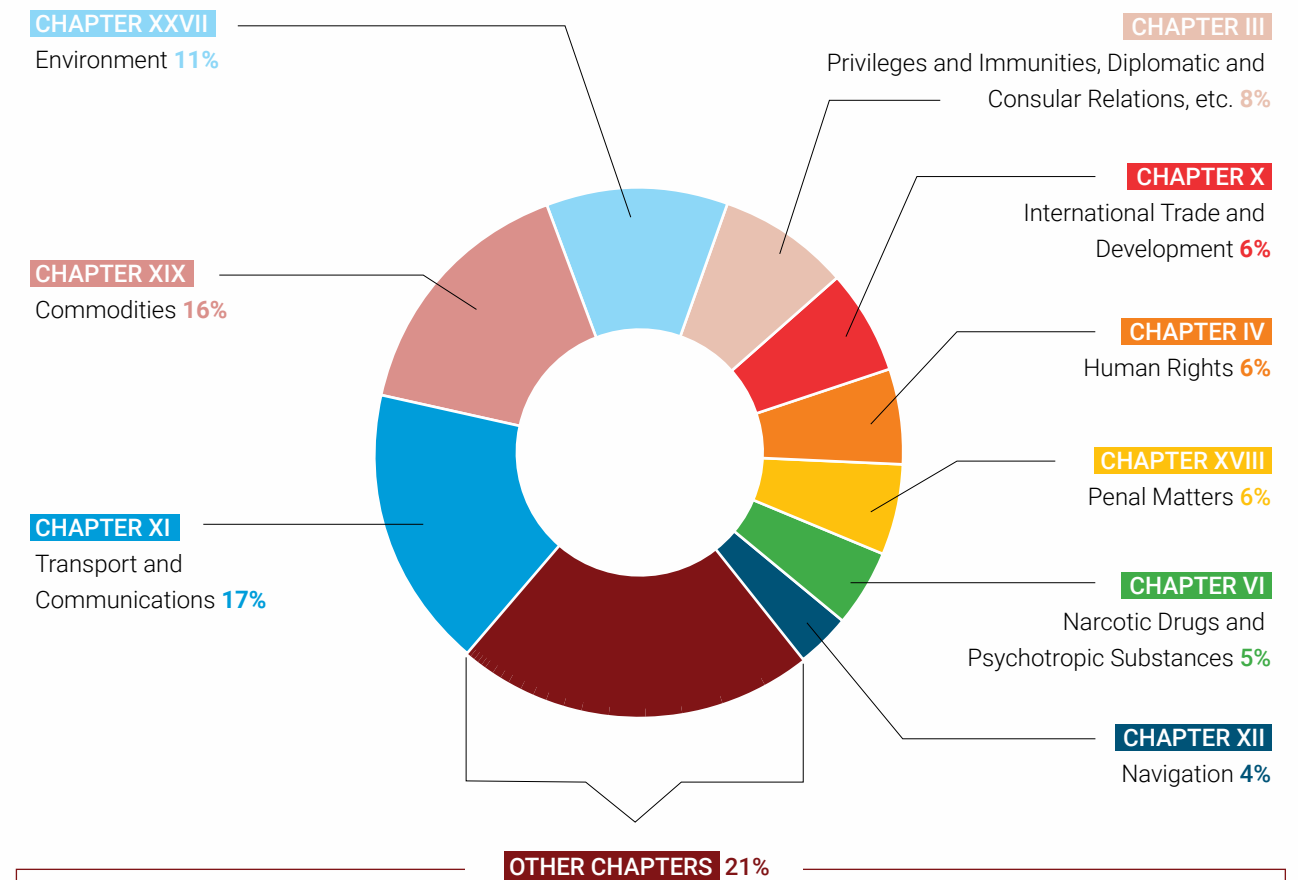
Convention), now with 170 parties, and the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (Singapore Convention on Mediation), now with 55 signatories and 10 parties. The United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods also attracted new parties.

The International Court of Justice continued to consider many high-profile cases, including the two proceedings between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the case of *Ukraine v. Russian Federation*. The Court indicated provisional measures in all three proceedings.

Other United Nations or United Nations-assisted tribunals continued their work. In December 2021, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia terminated two cases. With only one case remaining, it is expected to complete its work in 2022. In March 2022, the Appeals Chamber of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon reversed the acquittal by the Trial Chamber of Hassan Habib Merhi and Hussein Hassan Oneissi and convicted them in relation to the 2005 attack in Beirut that killed the former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri and 25 others. With that decision, the Tribunal has convicted three people in relation to the attack.

DEPOSITED TREATIES ADDRESS MATTERS OF GLOBAL INTEREST

Multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General, proportion by Chapter (as of May 2022)



- CHAPTER IX: Health
- CHAPTER XXVI: Disarmament
- CHAPTER VII: Traffic in Persons
- CHAPTER XIV: Educational and Cultural Matters
- CHAPTER XXI: Law of the Sea
- CHAPTER XXV: Telecommunications
- CHAPTER VIII: Obscene Publications
- CHAPTER V: Refugees and Stateless Persons
- CHAPTER XIII: Economic Statistics
- CHAPTER XXII: Commercial Arbitration and Mediation
- CHAPTER XV: Declaration of Death of Missing Persons
- CHAPTER XVI: Status of Women
- CHAPTER XXIII: Law of Treaties
- CHAPTER XXIV: Outer Space
- CHAPTER XXVIII: Fiscal Matters
- CHAPTER II: Pacific Settlement of International Disputes
- CHAPTER XVII: Freedom of Information
- CHAPTER XX: Maintenance Obligations
- CHAPTER XXIX: Miscellaneous



The International Court of Justice holds a hearing in the Great Hall of Justice. (The Hague, Netherlands; March 2022)
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