



Permanent Mission of Norway
to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of Finland
to the United Nations



PERMANENT MISSION
OF ICELAND TO THE UN



LUNDS
UNIVERSITET



Seminar on Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflict

18.10. 2018

Conference Room 8

United Nations Headquarters - New York

RSVP by Monday, 15 October at [seminar registration](#)

Jointly organized by the Mission of Finland, the Law Interest Group of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association, UN Environment, Lund University, and the Environmental Law Institute

And sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden

Background

Responding to the proposal of the UN Environment Programme, the International Law Commission began the work on the topic of the "Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict" in 2013. The words "in relation to" indicate that the temporal scope of the topic is not limited to during armed conflict, but covers the whole conflict cycle: before, during, and after an armed conflict. The Commission has so far provisionally adopted 18 draft principles, which address questions of environmental protection in all three phases. This year, three new draft principles relative to situations of occupation were provisionally adopted by the Drafting Committee. The Commission intends to bring the work on the topic to conclusion in first reading in 2019.

Purpose of the seminar

Jointly organized by the Mission of Finland, the Law Interest Group of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association, UN Environment, Lund University, and the Environmental Law Institute, the seminar will discuss questions that are of relevance to the topic, including the next report, which would be the last one before the first reading. The Commission has agreed that the report on the topic would address:

- certain questions related to the protection of the environment in non-international armed conflicts, including how the international rules and practices concerning natural resources may enhance the protection of the environment during and after such armed conflicts;
- certain questions related to the responsibility and liability for environmental harm in relation to armed conflicts; and
- issues related to the consolidation of a complete set of draft principles will have to be considered.

This one-day seminar will be held at the UN Headquarters in New York in conference room 8 from 10 am to 18 pm. It is open to experts and UN (Sixth Committee) delegates. Space is limited, so advance registration is recommended.

PROGRAM

10.00-10.15: Words of Welcome

10.15-10.30: Framing the Discussion

Marja Lehto, International Law Commission Special Rapporteur on Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflict: *The Work of the ILC So Far*

10.30-11.45: Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflicts in Context

Moderator: Britta Sjöstedt, Lund University and Environmental Peacebuilding Association

Amanda Kron, UN Environment and Environmental Peacebuilding Association: *Assessment of the Field and Recent Developments in the UN Environment Assembly*

Doug Weir, The Conflict and Environment Observatory: *The Role of Civil Society*

Helen Obregón Gieseken, International Committee of the Red Cross: *The ICRC Guidelines*

Ken Conca, American University School of International Service: *Challenges in Environmental Peacebuilding*

Discussion

11.45-13.00: Environmental Issues in Occupation

Moderator: Anne Dienelt, University of Hamburg

Dustin Lewis, Harvard Law School: *International Humanitarian Law and Occupation*

Michael Bothe, University of Frankfurt-am-Main: *The Occupying Power's Duty of Good Governance in Relation to the Protection of the Environment and the Management of Natural Resources*

Susan Power, Al-Haq: *Natural Resources in Occupied Palestinian Territories*

Karen Hulme, University of Essex: *Human Rights in Occupation*

Discussion

LUNCH BREAK

15.00-16.15: Exploitation of Natural Resources in Non-international Armed Conflict

Moderator: Amanda Kron, UN Environment and Environmental Peacebuilding Association

Daniëlla Dam de-Jong, Leiden University and Environmental Peacebuilding Association: *The Legal Framework of the UN Security Council's Commodity Sanctions*

Phoebe Okowa, Queen Mary School of Law, University of London: *Voluntary Standard Setting and Regulatory Regimes*

Jonas Ebbesson, Stockholm University: *Accountability for Corporations*

Discussion

16.15-17.30: Legal Consequences of Environmental Destruction in Relation to Armed Conflicts

Moderator: Carl Bruch, Environmental Law Institute and Environmental Peacebuilding Association

Sean D. Murphy, George Washington University Law School and International Law Commission: *Experiences from Eritrea Ethiopia Claims Commission*

Cymie Payne, Rutgers School of Law: *Liability and Compensation – Lessons from the UNCC*

Dinah Shelton, George Washington University Law School: *Is the Military Liable to Clean up Environmental Damage?*

Sophie Ravier, Office of the Under-Secretary General/Environment Section, Department of Field Support/UN Peacekeeping (TBC): *United Nations Secretariat: Practice from UN Peacekeeping Missions*

Discussion

17.15-17.55: Summary

Carl Bruch, Environmental Law Institute and Environmental Peacebuilding Association

Discussion

17.55: Closing

Marja Lehto, International Law Commission Special Rapporteur on Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflict