



Welcome to IADL,  
International Association of Democratic Lawyers

# U.N. ACTIVITIES BULLETIN

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS

In Consultative Status With ECOSOC; Represented at UNESCO, and UNICEF

[www.iadllaw.org](http://www.iadllaw.org)

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### CURRENT EVENTS

#### 16<sup>th</sup> Session of Human Rights Council

The 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council began in Geneva on February 28<sup>th</sup> and is ongoing until March 25<sup>th</sup>. For more information Please see <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/16session/>.

#### CSW 56

The fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place in New York from February 27 – March 9, 2012. This year's priority theme was "The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges." In attendance were IADL student interns Emily Freeborn and Jessica Rofé. Their reports will be included in the next U.N. bulletin.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Rio +20 Conference

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on June 4 – 6, 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Conference will focus on two themes: (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

To stay in touch with the Rio+20 preparatory process, interested persons can join (like) the Rio+20 Facebook page Rio+20 at

### More Upcoming Events

For more upcoming events, please consult the U.N. event calendars at the end of the Bulletin.

### ICTR NEWS

#### IADL Adopts Resolution Opposing Transfer of *Munyagishari* case to Rwanda

On February 13, 2012 the IADL Bureau adopted a resolution opposing the ICTR's decision to allow the *Munyagishari* case to be transferred to Rwanda. Alternate representative Beth Lyons met with the Legal Assistant on the *Munyagishari* team in Arusha in January 2012 to discuss the issue. Beth drafted the resolution, along with an Open Letter to ICTR President Khalida Rachid Khan. These documents were sent to President Khan and copied to U.N. Secretary-General Ban-ki Moon; ICTR Chief Prosecutor Hassan Bubacar Jallow; Me. Philippe Moriceau, Lead Counsel for Bernard Munyagishari; Mrs. Gabriela Knaul, UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers; Human Rights Watch; Amnesty International; and International Association of Criminal Defence Attorneys.

#### Update on *Uwinkindi* Transfer

In December 2011, the Appeals Chamber, reversing earlier appellate and trial decisions, upheld the transfer of the *Uwinkindi* case to Rwanda. However, on 27 February 2012, it was reported that

the transfer was stayed, pending the establishment of a monitoring mechanism. The African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights had been designated as the monitoring agency, but apparently there were difficulties in reaching agreement with the ICTR. In March 2011, the IADL filed an *amicus curiae* brief opposing transfer of the *Uwinkindi* case. The brief is available on the web-site.

In February 2012, the ICTR decided to transfer a second case to Rwanda: the case of Fulgence Kayishema, an indicted fugitive. In late 2011, the ICTR conducted "*in absentia*" evidentiary hearings in the *Kayishema* case. The ICTR appointed duty counsel to represent the defendant, but counsel could not be instructed by his client. The use of "*in absentia*" proceedings, which violates the professional obligations of counsel and fair trial rights of defendants, is also included in the rules of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

### **Goldstone and ICTR Prosecutor Support Transfer of Cases to Rwanda**

On November 29, 2011 Beth attended the event "Impact of the Yugoslav and Rwanda Tribunals: Lessons for the International Criminal Court" at New York University in New York City, where former ICTR/ICTY Chief Prosecutor Richard Goldstone and current Chief Prosecutor Hassan Jallow voiced their support for the transfer of cases from the ICTR to Rwanda. Goldstone pointed to the repeal of the death sentence as "movement" in Rwanda and Jallow cited Rwanda's accommodation and co-operation with the ICTR on extradition of suspects and transfer of cases. Jallow also described the Genocide Story Project, based on the "adjudicated facts" of the judges.

An NYU student asked both Prosecutors why the RPF has never been prosecuted for crimes committed in 1994. Goldstone characterized these as "revenge attacks" which did not rise to the level of genocide or war crimes, and noted that their prosecution would have effectively closed the Tribunal. He added that the criticism of the RPF

was unfair. Jallow agreed with Goldstone, and added no comment.

In attendance were also President of the International Center for Transitional Justice, David Tolbert; Professor of International Law, Diane Orentlicher; and Moderator, Professor Jennifer Trahan, New York University. Orentlicher emphasized the need for "sensible selection" of cases and common standards in sentencing. Tolbert discussed his previous experiences at the ICTY. .

## **REPORT ON U.N. ACTIVITIES IN NEW YORK**

### **September 2011 GA Debate on Palestinian Statehood**

On September 21 and 23, 2011 IADL intern Christopher Roberts attended the High-Level meetings of the General Assembly. The major issue of debate this year was Palestine's membership bid. For a full report on Chris' observations, including other issues covered at the High Level meeting, please refer to the annex.

### **Durban +10: UN calls to stem the tide of racism and intolerance**

On September 22, 2011 U.S. law professor Sherrie Russell-Brown attended the high-level General Assembly plenary meeting to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which refers to the outcome document and plan of the 2001 U.N. World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

At the plenary, world leaders adopted by consensus a political declaration proclaiming their "strong determination to make the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and the protection of the victims thereof, a high priority for [their] countries." For more information, see <http://www.un.org/en/ga/durbanmeeting2011/>.

## **Attorneys discuss Victim Representation at the ICC**

On October 21, 2011 Beth Lyons and Claire Gilchrist attended “Lawyering Beyond Borders: The Practice of International Criminal Law at the ICC and other International Tribunals,” at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. The speakers were Attorneys Raymond M. Brown and Wanda M. Akin. Both attorneys have practiced at the Special Court for Sierra Leone and represent victims at the International Criminal Court. The presentation explained the structure of the ICC . In contrast to other international tribunals, at the ICC victims can apply to be recognized by the Court and accorded rights as parties in the proceedings through a legal representative.

## **At New York International Law Conference, discussion of current trends in private international law**

On October 21, 2011 IADL intern Emily Freeborn attended the Private Law In Action seminar as part of International Law Weekend at Fordham Law School presented by the American Branch of the International Law Association and the International Law Student Association. The seminar discussed developing trends in standards for International Arbitration Tribunals, the increased focus on model laws as opposed to international treaties or conventions, differences in jurisdiction law between Europe and the US, and recent cases that have impacted private international law. For the full report, please refer to the annex of the Bulletin.

## **Panel discusses responsibility of International Organizations under ILC Draft Articles**

On October 26, 2011 IADL intern Christopher Roberts attended “The Responsibility of International Organizations and the International Law Commission” at New York University law school, a discussion between Professor Jose Alvarez, NYU Law Professor of International Law, and Georg Nolte, member of the International Law Commission, concerning the ILC’s draft articles on the responsibility of international organizations.

The discussants observed several recent cases in which the responsibility of international organizations has been debated in a human rights context. Professor Nolte noted that the ILC’s draft articles envision a less expansive responsibility than expressed in those cases, in which only instances of real effective control would invoke responsibility. Professor Alvarez was skeptical, pointing out (i) that international organizations come in many different shapes and sizes; (ii) that it is not clear what obligations they are under generally, so considering their responsibility may be premature; (iii) since international organizations are just conglomerates of states, doesn’t it make more sense to retain state responsibility; and (iv) even if the ILC’s articles in this area are understood as an expressive intervention, isn’t there a danger in that some states may seize on this rhetoric to halt their compliance with international organizations (as when the US has failed to pay its UN dues, on the basis that it objected to certain UN activities).

## **U.S. NGO Speaks Out on Voter Suppression in the United States**

In celebration of Human Rights Day on December 10, 2011, alternate representative Claire Gilchrist attended a mobilization and rally at the U.N.’s Dag Hammarskjold Plaza to “Defend the Right Vote!”, a campaign against voter suppression in the United States. The action was initiated by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and labor union 1199SEIU, and endorsed by more than 200 community, labor and faith groups in the United States.

The NAACP sent a delegation to this month’s Human Rights Council in Geneva to make an oral presentation on the proliferation of new state-level laws that the NAACP believes are designed to keep Democratic Party voters from casting ballots. The delegation will offer their newly released report entitled “Defending Democracy: Confronting Modern Barriers to Voting Rights in America.” For more information, please visit <http://www.thisismyvote.org/news/entry/naACP-to-press-u.n.-panel-in-geneva-on-voting-rights>

## **10th ASP: Delegates Impose Cuts to Recommended Budget for ICC**

On December 15, 2011 IADL intern Emily Freeborn attended the 5th plenary meeting of the 10th Session of The Assembly of States Parties at the United Nations in New York on December 15, 2011. The 5th plenary meeting concentrated primarily on the budget for the International Criminal Court (ICC). The delegations discussed the need to provide the ICC with adequate funding in light of the recent increase in the court's caseload. However, due to the global economic downturn many delegations were resistant to increasing the budget and instead supported more efficient use of the budget allocated. In the end, a compromise budget was adopted that imposed cuts on the Committee on Budget and Finance's recommendations.

Delegations from several countries, including Canada and Belgium, showed an interest in a greater reduction of the budget to prevent further growth in spending. Other delegations, such as Argentina and Gambia, expressed concern that cutting funding would not increase efficiency but hamper the effectiveness and progress of the court. The general consensus was to provide the ICC with all funding necessary for the court to accomplish its goals. However, exactly what constitutes a necessary expenditure is somewhat unclear. Consequently, many delegations expressed a desire to reform the budgetary process in the near future to determine the essential funding to ensure reasonable execution of the courts functions. For more information see the Coalition for the International Criminal Court's report on the 10<sup>th</sup> ASP at [http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org/documents/ASP10\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org/documents/ASP10_report_final.pdf)

## **President Clinton's Ambassador-at-Large for war crimes issues speaks at U.S. Law School**

On January 30, 2012 IADL intern Christopher Roberts attended Chasing Impunity: A Breakfast Symposium with David Scheffer, former Ambassador-at-Large for war crimes issues under U.S. President Bill Clinton, hosted by the Center for

Human Rights and Global Justice (CHRGJ) at New York School of Law, and moderated by Paul Van Zyl, adjunct professor of law and director of CHRGJ's Transitional Justice Programs.

## **International Peoples' Tribunal Convened to Prosecute NATO War Crimes Against Africans**

The International People's Tribunal on War Crimes and Violations of International Law was held on January 14, 2012 at Columbia University's School of Law in New York City. The tribunal was sponsored by the December 12th Movement International Secretariat. Permanent Representative Lennox Hinds served as a presiding judge. Alternate representative Claire Gilchrist was in attendance.

The people's case brought before the presiding judges charged political and military leaders in the U.S., Holland, Spain, Sweden, Italy, Britain, Germany, France, Belgium, Portugal and NATO allies with war crimes and human rights abuses against Libya, Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Zimbabwe and Haiti. A delegation is planned to deliver the outcome of the Tribunal to the ICC.

## **U.S. Law School Human Rights and Genocide Clinic Discusses Project to Standardize R2P**

On 13 February 2012, Beth Lyons attended "From Rhetoric to Reality: Protecting Populations from Mass Atrocity" at Cardozo Law School in New York City. The event discussed Cardozo's Human Rights and Genocide Clinic's project to develop common standards to implement the principle of responsibility to protect, adopted in 2005 by UN Member States. Speakers included the Clinic's Director, Professor Sheri Rosenberg, and Sam Permutt, a third year law student and former Fellow in the Clinic. Both speakers stressed that R2P was not a legal norm, and that the project's aim was to prevent crimes of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

The project was not addressing issues of use of force or "humanitarian" intervention. Much of the

discussion focused on state sovereignty, and included students, professors and other UN NGO representatives. IADL pointed out the excellent statement (A/63/677) by the First Secretary, Anet Pino Rivero, Representative of Cuba, on 23 July 2009 on "Implementing the Responsibility to Protect."

## **REPORT ON U.N. ACTIVITIES IN VIENNA**

### **NGO Committee on the Status of Women Update**

Permanent Representative in Vienna Evelyn Dürmayer continues to represent the IADL in the Committee on the Status of Women. She was recently elected as one of two vice-presidents to the new board.

The Committee held two meetings in the last period. The first issue was the participation of members at CSW 56. We prepared a statement on rural women and their empowerment, which will be sent in due time. The second issue was the election of the new board.

### **Alliance on Crime Prevention Update**

A small group (including Evelyn) is working to realize a side event during the next session of the U.N. Commission on Crime Prevention and Crime Justice concerning migrant women and children in prison ( Vienna, April 23-27, 2012). This session was also the main topic of the last encounter of the NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

### **Former Austrian Ambassador to Tunisia Speaks on the Arab Spring**

Alternate representative Lilian Hofmeister and Evelyn had the pleasure in their legal saloon to listen to the former Austrian Ambassador to Tunisia, Gabriele Matzner- Holzer on the theme of

"The Arab Spring-quo vadis?" followed by a lively discussion including the participation of the Polisario representative in Austria, Nadjat Hamdi. The flyer is attached in the Annex.

## **REPORT ON U.N. ACTIVITIES IN GENEVA**

### **IADL issues statement on Right to Peace**

On February 13, 2012 Secretary-General Osamu Niikura submitted a written statement on behalf of IADL and JALISA on the Right to Peace also to the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC Advisory Committee. The statement was prepared by JALISA. It is attached in the annex.

JALISA also organized a parallel event to the 8<sup>th</sup> Session held on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the day before the opening of the session, supported by Permanent Representative Micól Savia.

### **IADL Supports Initiative to Protect the Rights of Rural Workers**

On February 21, 2012 bureau member Roberto Luis Zamora gave an oral statement on behalf of the IADL to the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee held in Geneva on February 20-24. The statement was in connection with the Committee's Final Study on the advancement of the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, prepared by Micól and Roberto. In the statement, the IADL supported the conclusion of the Committee to adopt a new international instrument to protect the rights of people living in rural areas. Many countries oppose the project because they don't want to recognize right to land and right to seeds. To see the oral statement, please refer to the Annex.

## UPCOMING UN EVENTS & CONFERENCES

**March – September 2012**

### March 2012

- Commission on Narcotic Drugs, fifty-fifth session	Vienna	12 - 16 March
- Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, twenty-ninth session**	New York	19 March - 27 April
- Committee for Development Policy, fourteenth session	New York	12 - 16 March
- Committee for the United Nations Population Award, second regular meeting	New York	16 March
- Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, forty-fourth meeting	Nairobi	21 March
- Committee on Enforced Disappearances, second session	Geneva	26 - 30 March
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, pre-sessional working group, fifty-third session	Geneva	5 - 9 March
- Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Legal Subcommittee, fifty-first session	Vienna	19 - 30 March
- ECA, Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, thirty-first meeting	Addis Ababa	22 - 24 March
- ECA, Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, forty-fifth session of the Commission	Addis Ababa	26 - 27 March
- General Assembly, Fifth Committee, resumed session (4 weeks)	New York	5 - 30 March
- Human Rights Committee, one hundred and fourth session	New York	12 - 30 March
- Human Rights Committee, pre-sessional Working Group on Communications, one hundred and fourth session	New York	5 - 9 March
- Human Rights Council, Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, ninety-sixth session	Geneva	12 - 16 March
- Human Rights Council, Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, fifteenth session	Geneva	12 - 16 March
- IAEA, Board of Governors	Vienna	5 - 9 March
- ILO, Governing Body and its committees, three hundred and thirteenth session	Geneva	15 - 30 March
- International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, twenty-fifth session	Geneva	20 - 22 March
- Meeting of the Economic and Social Council on international cooperation in tax matters, including the institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters	New York	15 March
- Preparatory Committee for the United Nations conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects	New York	19 - 23 March
- Special high-level meetings of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and UNCTAD	New York	12 - 13 March
- Third Informal Intersessional Meeting in preparation for the United Nations Conference on	New York	26 - 27

Sustainable Development		March
- UNCTAD, Trade and Development Board, twenty-fifth special session	Geneva	19 - 23 March
- UNEP, Committee of Permanent Representatives, one hundred and eighteenth meeting	Nairobi	14 March
<b>April 2012</b>		
- Ad Hoc Committee of the Human Rights Council on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards in the Field of Racism, fifth session	Geneva	10 - 20 April
- Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, twenty-first session	Vienna	23 - 27 April
- Commission on Population and Development, forty-fifth session	New York	23 - 27 April
- Committee for Programme and Coordination, organizational session	New York	26 April
- Committee of Experts on Public Administration, eleventh session	New York	16 - 20 April
- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, forty-eighth session	Geneva	30 April - 18 May
- Committee on Information, thirty-fourth session	New York	23 April - 4 May
- Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, sixteenth session	Geneva	16 - 27 April
- Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, seventh session	Geneva	16 - 20 April
- Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Working Group on Firearms	Vienna	16 - 19 April
- Disarmament Commission	New York	2 - 20 April
- Economic and Social Council, resumed organizational session	New York	26 - 27 April
- Group of experts of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II and Meeting of experts of the States Parties to Protocol V to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects	Geneva	23 - 24 April
- Group of governmental experts of the States parties to Protocol V to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects	Geneva	25 - 27 April
- Group of governmental experts of the States parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects	Geneva	2 - 4 April
- Human Rights Council, working group of experts on people of African descent, eleventh session	Geneva	30 April - 4 May
- Human Rights Council, Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, sixty-third session	Geneva	30 April - 4 May
- Human Rights Council, Working Group on Communications, tenth session	Geneva	23 - 27 April
- ICAO, Committee, one hundred and ninety-sixth session	Montreal	30 April - 18 May
- IFAD, Executive Board, one hundred and fifth session	Rome	3 - 4 April
- Open-ended intergovernmental working group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies, second session	Geneva	30 April - 4 May
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Executive Council, sixty-eighth session	The Hague	29 April

- Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, first session	Vienna	30 April - 11 May
- UNCITRAL, Working Group I (Procurement), twenty-first session	New York	16 - 20 April

- UNCITRAL, Working Group V (Insolvency Law), forty-first session	New York	30 April - 4 May
- UNCTAD, thirteenth session	Doha	21 - 26 April
- United Nations international meeting on the question of Palestine	Geneva	2 - 4 April
- United Nations Staff Pension Committee	New York	25 April
- Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, Board of Trustees, thirty-sixth session	Geneva	23 - 27 April
- Committee on Conferences, organizational session	New York	April
- United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, first regular session	Place to be determined	April/May

## May 2012

- Ad Hoc Open-Ended Informal Working Group on Marine Biodiversity	New York	7 - 11 May
- Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	New York	15 May - 30 June
- Commission on Science and Technology for Development, fifteenth session	Geneva	21 - 25 May
- Committee against Torture, forty-eighth session	Geneva	7 May - 1 June
- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, pre-sessional working group, forty-ninth session	Geneva	21 - 25 May
- Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, resumed session	New York	21 - 30 May
- Committee on the Rights of the Child, sixtieth session	Geneva	29 May - 15 June
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Working Group A, forty-first session	Vienna	23 - 25 May
- Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Working Group on Smuggling of Migrants, first session	Vienna	30 May - 1 June
- Conference on Disarmament, second part	Geneva	14 May - 29 June
- ESCAP, sixty-eighth session	Bangkok	17 - 23 May
- ESCWA, twenty-seventh Ministerial session	Beirut	7 - 10 May
- General meeting of the organization and agencies of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation and its subsidiary organs	Geneva	1 - 3 May
- High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, organization session	New York	3 May
- High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, seventeenth session	New York	22 - 25 May
- Human Rights Council, open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development, thirteenth session	Geneva	7 - 11 May
- Human Rights Council, Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, second session	Geneva	7 - 11 May
- Human Rights Council, Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, thirteenth session	Geneva	21 May - 4 June
- IAEA, Board of Governors, Programme and Budget Committee	Vienna	7 - 11 May
- ILO, General Conference, one hundredth and first session	Geneva	30 May - 15

		June
- ILO, Governing Body and its committees, three hundred and fourteenth session	Geneva	28 May
- Independent Audit Advisory Committee, eighteenth session	New York	14 - 16 May
- International Narcotics Control Board, one hundred and fourth session	Vienna	7 - 18 May
- Investments Committee	New York	7 May
- Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, thirteenth meeting	New York	29 May - 1 June
- Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, eleventh session	New York	7 - 18 May
- Security Council, Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission established pursuant to Security Council resolution 692 (1991), seventy-third session	Geneva	1 - 3 May
- States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, election of a member for the Human Rights Committee, thirty-first meeting	New York	1 May
- UN-Women, Executive Board, annual session	New York	29 May - 1 June
- UNCITRAL, Working Group III (Online Dispute Resolution), twenty-fifth session	New York	21 - 25 May
- UNCITRAL, Working Group VI (Security Interests), twenty-first session	New York	14 - 18 May
- UNEP, Committee of Permanent Representatives, one hundred and nineteenth meeting	Nairobi	29 May
- UNFCCC, meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention	Bonn, Germany	14 - 25 May
- United Nations International Meeting in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process	Paris	29 - 31 May
- United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, fifty-ninth session	Vienna	21 - 25 May
- WHO, Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly	Geneva	21 - 26 May
- General Assembly, Fifth Committee, resumed session (4 weeks)	New York	May
- High-level event during the eleventh session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People in order to raise awareness on the importance of pursuing its objectives	New York	May
- Regional seminar to review the situation in Non-Self-Governing Territories under the Third Decade on the Eradication of Colonialism (3 days)	Pacific Region	May
- WHO, Executive Board, one hundred and thirty-first session	Geneva	May

## June 2012

- Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Expert Group Meeting on Protection against Trafficking in Cultural Property, second session	Vienna	27 - 29 June
- Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, twenty-second session	Accra	25 - 29 June
- Committee against Torture, Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, seventeenth session	Geneva	18 - 22 June
- Committee for Programme and Coordination, fifty-second session	New York	4 - 29 June
- Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, forty-fifth meeting	Nairobi	27 June
- Committee on Contributions, seventy-second session	New York	4 - 29 June
- Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, resumed session	New York	8 June

• Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, fifty-fifth session	Vienna	6 - 15 June
• Committee on the Rights of the Child, pre-sessional working group, sixty-first session	Geneva	18 - 22 June
• Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Preparatory Commission, thirty-eighth session	Vienna	14 - 15 June
• Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Implementation Review Group of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, third session	Vienna	18 - 22 June
• Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, annual session	Geneva	25 - 29 June
• FAO, Council, one hundred and forty-fourth session	Rome	11 - 15 June
• Human Rights Council, twentieth session	Geneva	18 June - 6 July
• Human Rights Council, Working Group on Situations, tenth session	Geneva	18 - 22 June
• IAEA, Board of Governors	Vienna	4 - 8 June
• ICAO, Council, one hundred and ninety-sixth session	Montreal	11 - 29 June
• ILO, Governing Body and its committees, three hundred and fifteenth session	Geneva	15 June
• IMO, Council, one hundred and eighth session	London	11 - 14 June
• Meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies, twenty-fourth session	Geneva	25 - 29 June
• Meetings of the special rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts and Chairs of the working groups of the Human Rights Council, nineteenth session	Geneva	11 - 15 June
• Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and People (up to 20 meetings)	New York	11 - 28 June
• States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, seventeenth meeting	New York	26 June
• States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, twenty-second meeting	New York	4 - 11 June
• Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, forty-first session	Geneva	25 June - 4 July
• Third meeting of the open-ended Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	13 - 15 June
• UNCITRAL, forty-fifth session	New York	25 June - 13 July
• UNCTAD, Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, sixty-first session (programme budget)	Geneva	25 - 29 June
• UNICEF, Executive Board, annual session	New York	5 - 8 June
• UNIDO, Programme and Budget Committee, twenty-eighth session	Vienna	25 - 26 June
• United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	20 - 22 June
• United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, Committee of Actuaries	New York	13 - 15 June
• UNWTO, Executive Council, ninety-third session	Madrid	10 - 12 June
• WFP, Executive Board, annual session	Rome	4 - 8 June
• WMO, Executive Council, sixty-fourth session	Geneva	25 June - 4 July
• Open-ended working group for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, organizational session (1 day)	New York	June/July
<b>July 2012</b>		
• Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, fifty-eighth session	Geneva	4 - 6 July

- Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, thirtieth session	New York	30 July - 10 August
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, fifty-second session	New York	9 - 27 July
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, pre-sessional working group	New York	30 July - 3 August
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention, twenty-third session	New York	3 - 6 July
- Conference on Disarmament, third part	Geneva	30 July - 14 September
- Economic and Social Council, substantive session	New York	2 - 27 July
- General meeting on cooperation between the representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations	Vienna	10 - 12 July
- Group of Governmental Experts on Outer Space Transparency and Confidence-building Measures, first session	New York	23 - 27 July
- Group of Governmental Experts to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction	Geneva	16 - 20 July
- Human Rights Committee, one hundred and fifth session	Geneva	9 - 27 July
- Human Rights Committee, pre-sessional Working Group on Communications, one hundred and fifth session	Geneva	2 - 6 July
- Human Rights Council, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, fifth session	Geneva	9 - 13 July
- Human Rights Council, Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, ninety-seventh session	Geneva	9 - 13 July
- Human Rights Council, Working Group on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, sixteenth session	New York	30 July - 3 August
- ICSC, seventy-fifth session	New York	9 - 20 July
- Independent Audit Advisory Committee, nineteenth session	New York	16 - 18 July
- International Law Commission, sixty-fourth session, second part	Geneva	2 July - 3 August
- International Law Seminar	Geneva	2 - 20 July
- International Seabed Authority, Assembly, eighteenth session	Kingston	16 - 27 July
- Investments Committee	New York	3 July
- ITU, Council	Geneva	4 - 13 July
- Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, twenty-third session	Geneva	4 - 6 July
- Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names	New York	31 July - 9 August
- UNCTAD, Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy, twelfth session	Geneva	9 - 11 July
- United Nations Board of Auditors, sixty-sixth regular session	New York	24 - 26 July
- United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty	New York	2 - 27 July
- United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, twenty-seventh session	New York	30 July
- United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, fifty-ninth session	Paris	3 - 11 July
- United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, Standing Committee (1 meeting)	New York	July

- Working Group on Discrimination Against Women in Law and in Practice, Fourth session	New York	23 - 27 July
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Executive Council, sixty-ninth session	The Hague	July

## August 2012

- Committee of Permanent Representatives to UN-Habitat, extraordinary meeting	Nairobi	22 August
- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, eighty-first session	Geneva	6 - 31 August
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Working Group B, thirty-ninth session	Vienna	13 - 31 August
- Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery, fourth meeting	Vienna	30 - 31 August
- Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, second meeting	Vienna	27 - 29 August
- ECLAC, thirty-fourth session	San Salvador	27 - 31 August
- Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, first session	New York	6 - 10 August
- Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, ninth session	Geneva	6 - 10 August
- Human Rights Council, Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, sixty-fourth session	Geneva	27 - 31 August
- Human Rights Council, Working Group on Communications, eleventh session	Geneva	27 - 31 August
- United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management	New York	13 - 15 August
- United Nations conference to review progress made in the implementation of the programme of action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects	New York	27 August - 7 September
- United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, twenty-seventh session	New York	10 August

## September 2012

- Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	New York	4 September - 14 December
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention, twenty-fourth session	Geneva	26 - 28 September
- Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, seventeenth session	Geneva	10 - 14 September
- Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, eighth session	Geneva	17 - 28 September
- Committee on the Rights of the Child, sixty-first session	Geneva	17 September - 5 October
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Working Group A, forty-second session	Vienna	26 - 28 September
- Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, fifth session	New York	12 - 14 September
- Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, second regular session	New York	4 - 10 September
- General Assembly, sixty-seventh session	New York	18 September - December
- High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels	New York	24 September
- Human Rights Council, twenty-first session	Geneva	10 - 28 September
- IAEA, Board of Governors	Vienna	10 - 14 September

IAEA, Board of Governors	Vienna	24 September
IAEA, General Conference, fifty-sixth session	Vienna	17 - 21 September
ICAO, Committee, one hundred and ninety-seventh session	Montreal	17 September - 5 October
IFAD, Executive Board, one hundred and sixth session	Rome	20 - 21 September
States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, third meeting	Oslo	11 - 14 September
States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, thirty-second meeting	New York	6 September
UN-Women, Executive Board, second regular session***	New York	17 - 19 September
UNCTAD, Trade and Development Board, fifty-ninth session	Geneva	17 - 28 September
UNCTAD, Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, sixty-second session (Technical Cooperation)	Geneva	3 - 5 September
UNEP, Committee of Permanent Representatives, one hundred and twentieth meeting	Nairobi	5 September
UNESCO, Executive Board, 190th session	Paris	11 - 28 September
UNICEF, Executive Board, second regular session	New York	11 - 14 September
UNRWA, Advisory Commission (1 day)	Amman	September
Committee on Conferences, substantive session (5 days)	New York	September
UNESCO, General Conference	Paris	September/October

## **ANNEXES**

### **Full Report: September 2011 GA High-Level Meeting**

On September 21 and 23 IADL intern Christopher Roberts attended the high-level meetings at the General Assembly. The major issue at the debate this year was Palestine's membership bid.

U.S. President Barack Obama began his speech by emphasizing that peace must be underlined by dignity. He emphasized the United States' ongoing draw down in Iraq and Afghanistan. He praised the events of the Arab spring, and in the Ivory Coast, while condemning Syria and Iran, and calling for more progress in Bahrain and Yemen. He called for a negotiated path forward for Israel and Palestine.

On the afternoon of the 21st, President Zuma of South Africa recalled South African efforts for a peaceful solution to the crisis in Libya, and regretted that they hadn't been given a chance; but he also suggested the AU will work with the Transitional Council moving forward. He urged the Libyan authorities to ensure the protection of the millions of migrant workers in the country. Mr. Zuma also asserted his full backing for Palestine's statehood bid. He called for self-determination in Western Sahara, and for the embargo of Cuba to be lifted. He also called for a permanent African seat on the Security Council. He called for more attention to climate change, the famine in Somalia, and reaching the Millennium Development Goals. He also stressed the need to keep working towards the goals of the Durban Declaration.

On the morning of the 23rd, the President of South Sudan called on the international community to assist South Sudan's development. He emphasized South Sudan's respect for the territorial integrity of the Republic of Sudan, while urging Sudan to settle the conflict along its Southern border peacefully.

Mahmoud Abbas referred to the stalled nature of the peace agreements, coupled with the continued building of settlements in the West Bank and the ongoing attacks against and blockade of Gaza. He stated that the Palestinians do not seek to illegitimize Israel, rather to illegitimize the continued settlement, occupation and apartheid. He expressed the ongoing willingness of the Palestinians to negotiate should the terms of reference for the negotiations (i.e. a cessation of settlements) be respected. He expressed the goal of the Palestinian people as an independent state on all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with Resolution 194, as stipulated in the Arab Peace Initiative. He emphasized Palestinian efforts to build strong internal governance and respect for democracy, equality and the rule of law. He informed those present of his submission of Palestine's membership bid.

Benjamin Netanyahu emphasized that Israel extends the hand of peace, and condemned the UN for casting Israel as the villain, and empowering dictators like Gadhafi. He condemned the Palestinians for refusing to negotiate, and called on them to do so without preconditions. He condemned militant Islam. He offered Israel's departure from Gaza as an example of Israel's aspiration for peace. He called on the Palestinians to recognize a Jewish state.

The Israeli and Palestinian presentations at the General Assembly were made in very different registers, to very different audiences. President Abbas spoke in Arabic, and in both style and explicit reference recalled the speeches of Arafat, employing a charged rhetorical style and calling for bold action to end the suffering of the Palestinian people. While the core and result of his speech was to present to those assembled Palestine's presentation of its UN membership bid, which was enthusiastically received by those present, the majority of his speech was concerned with explaining why Palestine felt it necessary to take this measure. In this context he referred to the failed efforts at peace over decades and Israel's continued construction of illegal settlements, and emphasized that the Palestinian goal was not to pursue a unilateral course, but rather to attempt to insert a fundamental element of justice into the underlying situation.

Prime Minister Netanyahu on the contrary spoke in English, in an extremely effective rhetorical style that relied heavily on Old Testament references and cadence. He explained powerfully the Israeli point of view, and Israel's security concerns. While emphasizing repeatedly Israel's desire for peace, he did not address any of the underlying concerns of the Palestinians relating to the peace process, instead calling for their engagement in the process regardless of the ongoing settlements. He also reissued Israel's more recent demand, that the Palestinians not only recognize Israel, but recognize Israel as the Jewish state.

While the statehood bid remains ongoing, and its effects cannot be fully judged at least time, at least one effect of the whole process has been to further distance the United States, which took the side of Israel on this issue without clear explanation, from its asserted position as neutral arbiter.

## **Full Report: At New York International Law Conference, discussion of current trends in private international law**

On October 21, 2011 IADL intern Emily Freeborn attended the Private Law In Action seminar as part of International Law Weekend at Fordham Law School presented by the American Branch of the International Law Association and the International Law Student Association. The seminar discussed developing trends in standards for International Arbitration Tribunals, the increased focus on model laws as opposed to international treaties or conventions, differences in jurisdiction law between Europe and the US, and recent cases that have impacted private international law. For the full report, please refer to the annex of the Bulletin.

The panel explored the increased focus on model laws instead of treaties to improve harmonization of international law standards. Model laws have been shown to cover more topics in greater scope than treaties, make consensus easier to reach and help promote uniform application. The recent developments in jurisdictional law were also discussed; which showed an increased focus on justice in Europe to protect to the plaintiff in contrast to the United States' increased focus on due process to protect the defendant.

The panel also discussed the Federal Arbitration Act's four specific grounds to vacate an arbitration agreement and whether manifest disregard of the law is viewed as a fifth ground for vacating an award. Circuits have split with regard to additional grounds to vacate. The Supreme Court addressed the possibility of additional grounds to vacate in *Hallstreet Associates LLC. v. Mattell INC.* but has supported only the 4 specific grounds for vacation so far. The panel also discussed whether 28 U.S.C. § 1782, which provides assistance to international tribunals, should be applicable to international arbitration tribunal.



# ARABISCHER FRÜHLING QUO VADIS?



## JURISTISCHER SALON

### Im Gespräch:

**HR Dr. Lilian Hofmeister**  
Richterin  
Verein Frauenrechtsschutz

**Dr. Gabriele Matzner**  
ex-Botschafterin in Tunis

**ORT: CAFÉ KORB, ARTLOUNGE**  
1010 Wien, Brandstätte 9

**ZEIT: 8. NOVEMBER 2011, 18h30**

Wir freuen und auf Ihr Kommen und Ihren Diskussionsbeitrag!

IVDJ Internationale Vereinigung demokratischer Juristinnen und Juristen  
Verein Frauenrechtsschutz  
AWJA Austrian Women Judges Association

**Human Rights Council Advisory Committee:**  
**FORM for Submitting an NGO written statement**

NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC (General, Special or Roster status) may submit written statements to the Advisory Committee.

The written statement is formatted and issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting NGO.

In order for your statement to be published before the session, the deadline for submission is exactly two weeks prior to the start of a session. See the deadline on the web site. All submissions are final.

Please fill out **this** FORM and CHECKLIST to submit your statement and send it to the address indicated below. Your information goes after each arrow.

1. Please indicate the contact information for representative submitting written statement (i.e. name, mobile, email) here: ➡

NGO Name: **International Association of Democratic Lawyers**  
Name of main contact person: **Osamu Niikura (Secretary General)**  
Phone number: **+81-3-3225-2010**  
E-mail: [oniikura@als.aoyama.ac.jp](mailto:oniikura@als.aoyama.ac.jp)

2. Indicate the agenda item of statement here: ➡ **8th session of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, Item 2 (right of peoples to peace).**

3.a) If this is an individual statement, indicate here your organization's name as in the ECOSOC NGO database and indicate its consultative status in brackets (i.e. General, Special, or Roster).

**International Association of Democratic Lawyers (Special)**

3.b) If this is a joint statement, list here the co-sponsoring ECOSOC NGO as they appear in the ECOSOC database and status (in brackets): Group all General NGOs first, group the Special second and group the Roster third. ➡

4. Indicate here any non-ECOSOC NGO(s) supporting this statement (they will appear as a footnote to the statement title): ➡

**Japan Lawyers International Solidarity Association**  
#Ito Building 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Yotsuya 1-2, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0004, Japan  
(Contact: Secretary General – Jun Sasamoto: [leh00076@nifty.ne.jp](mailto:leh00076@nifty.ne.jp))

5. Indicate the TITLE for this statement (in original language) here: ➡

**Opinion for the Draft Declaration on the Right to Peace**

**Please make sure that:**

This statement is in MS WORD document format (Font Times New Roman 10; no bold; no underline; no italics).

Check word count: (Go to Tools, Word count, # of words) Indicate the length of text (including footnotes/endnotes) here: ➡

-NGOs in general consultative status are allowed 2,000 words

-NGOs in special consultative status and on the roster are allowed 1,500 words

Please use the Spell/grammar check on your text. (Go to Tools, Spelling & Grammar)

- Different language versions of one statement should be sent in the same email, but using a separate form for each.
- Email this document to: [hrcngo@ohchr.org](mailto:hrcngo@ohchr.org)

PLEASE PASTE THE FINAL TEXT BELOW: 

We, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers respectfully submit to the Advisory Committee a written statement, which takes account of voices raised by one of our affiliates that expresses deep attachments and commitment to the Right to Peace. While we are mindful of the aspirations and views of the Advisory Committee in its endeavor to elaborate a Draft Declaration on the Right to Peace (A/HRC/AC/8/2 of 9 December 2011), we request that the following three points would be incorporated into the draft in order to concentrate our efforts to attain higher achievements.

#### 1. Right to Live in Peace

The second Draft reads in Article 2 Paragraph 2 that “All individuals have the right to live in peace so that they can develop fully all their capacities, physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual, without being the target of any kind of violence.” Along with this passive aspect of the right, a positive aspect of the same right should be clearly defined in the draft.

It is noteworthy that we have already a good example in this regard: The Constitution of Japan stipulates in the preamble that “We recognize that all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want.” In 2008 Nagoya High Court ruled in a definite judgment that the right to live in peace covers a wide range of meanings from “the right not to be involved in wars,” which has a passive and defensive nature, to “the right not to take part in war,” rather of active and positive nature, which prohibits the Japanese Government from engaging in wars abroad. Having confirmed a State practice as it is, we can safely say that “the right not to take part in war” is not only compatible with the preamble of the Draft Declaration on the Right to Peace, but also with the terms and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which turns out that the right is something more effective to let the world in peace. As Article 5 Paragraph 2 of the Draft sets out that “States have the obligation to prevent members of any military or other security institution from taking part in wars of aggression or other armed operations, whether international or internal, which violate the Charter of the United Nations, the principles and norms of international human rights law or international humanitarian law,” the right of conscientious objectors such as defined above can be extended so as to admit the same title to men and women on the street or ordinary citizens in general. In this regard, the “right not to take part in war” can be safely said as an integral part of the right to peace.

#### 2. Foreign Military Bases

The “right to disarmament” as defined in Article 3 of the Draft can be extended so as to accept a wording proposed by Article 7 Paragraph 1 of the Santiago Declaration, which reads that “States shall adopt effective and coordinated measures in order to progressively phase out their armies and foreign military bases.”

Any foreign military bases with stationing armed forces are basically deemed to be maintained on the premise of continuing hostile relations between States; it is thus evident that they might become big obstacles in peace-keeping or in a peace process. Keeping military bases on foreign soil could fall undeniably within the word traced by Article 2 Paragraph 4 of the Charter of the United Nations, for it may be considered as threat of force. It is well-known that foreign military bases have played important roles in waging war, to say, in

Afghanistan and Iraq. Using military bases in a foreign country may be seen as overstepping the limit of self-defense, and can be seen as threatening vis-à-vis other nations or even leads up inevitably to an overheated arms race.

Around any premise of a foreign military base, neighboring population may suffer from unexpected harms caused by noises or clashes of military planes; they may be exposed to atrocities like murders or rapes committed by military personnel; they may be targeted by armed attacks in eventual hostilities; they may be by no means in a position to prevent any military operations against their will; they may be exploited as a foothold in waging war of aggression. It could go so far as to say that a receptive nation itself can't control at its discretion over any use of foreign military bases within its territory. These and other things could amount to overwhelming disadvantages for the neighboring population.

These heavy burdens as mentioned above are well illustrated by people in Okinawa, where 75% of US military facilities accepted by Japan are concentrated within less than 1% of the national surface. It should be noted that those above-mentioned harms and sufferings have already come out to the point that the vast majority of people in Okinawa want removal of the US military bases out of their communities.

In summing up, in terms with Article 3 Paragraph 3 of the Draft Declaration on the Right to Peace, which reads that "States are invited to consider the creation and promotion of peace zones and of nuclear weapon-free zones," we propose to add "including removal of foreign military bases."

### 3. Radioactive Contamination

Article 10 of the Draft Declaration on the Right to Peace establishes important aspect of this right in regard to environmental right. The relevant article reads that "Everyone has the right to a safe, clean and peaceful environment, including an atmosphere that is free from dangerous man-made interference, to sustainable development and to international action to mitigate and adapt to environmental destruction, especially climate change" (Article 10 Paragraph 1). Today we have experienced serious accidents of melt-down of a nuclear power plant in Fukushima, Japan. Such radioactive contamination as we are still facing now compels us to write down some clearer message in the Draft Declaration on the Right to Peace, because sufferings or even anxiety and sense of insecurity of this kind are not completely different from peace or human security. We need something like "right to healthy environment, free from radioactive contamination."

The explosion occurred in Fukushima on March 11, 2011 tells us that spreads of radioactive materials and radioactive accumulation of farm products or livestock may be detrimental to public health. Internal exposure through food or water as well as external exposure to radiation may affect seriously without any doubt survival of human beings as a whole. Even peaceful use of nuclear energy may endanger us to some extent. Its military use beyond civilian control or people's control might endanger us to a greater extent if nuclear submarines or other nuclear-powered naval vessels might cause nuclear leakages or even if nuclear weapons or depleted uranium arms might be used. In that sense, it is pertinent to clearly define "the right to a safe, clean and peaceful environment, free from radioactive contamination" in Article 10 of the Draft Declaration on the Right to Peace.

Again we appreciate in advance the pertinent considerations of the Advisory Committee and also of the Human Rights Council.



## **IADL Oral Statement on Rights of Rural Workers**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Today some 952 million people throughout the world suffer chronic hunger, 80 per cent of them live in rural areas. 50 per cent of the world's hungry are smallholder farmers, 20 per cent are landless families who survive as tenant farmers or poorly paid agricultural labourers. And 10 per cent of the world's hungry live from traditional fishing, hunting and herding activities in rural communities. 70 per cent of the world's hungry are women and a great majority of them work in agriculture.

It is widely acknowledged that hunger is not a natural disaster but, as stated by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Mr. Olivier De Shutter, hunger "it is primarily the result of political factors that condemn small farmers, the main victims of hunger, to poverty. These factors include insufficient access to land, water and credit; poor organisation of local markets; lack of infrastructure; and lack of bargaining power against an increasingly concentrated agro-industrial sector".

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) congratulates the work of United Nations Human Right Bodies and especially the UN Advisory Committee on establishing the groundwork of promotion and protection of rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas and warmly welcomes the Advisory Committee's Final Study presented today.

IADL, an association bringing together thousands of lawyers all around the world, strongly supports the Advisory Committee's conclusions and recommendation and express serious concern about the fact that some countries, especially rich countries, said that they "cannot support the view of the Advisory Committee on the need to elaborate a new international human right instrument regarding the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, because there is no legal foundation in international law to recognize the rights to land, seeds and means of production". (A/HRC/AC/7/CRP.1)

A new legal instrument on the rights of people working in rural areas is absolutely needed to improve the fight against hunger, because, as stated by the Advisory Committee in its Final Study "despite the existing human rights framework, peasants and other people working in rural areas are victims of multiple human rights violations that lead to their extreme vulnerability to hunger and poverty".

Distinguished colleagues,

IADL calls your attention on the urgent need to build solutions which contribute to long-term food security, putting an end to discrimination against peasants and other people living in rural areas and that's why we urge the Human Rights Council, and particularly its honourable Member States, to adopt and to put into practice the recommendations contained in the Final Study presented by the Advisory Committee.

Thank you very much.