



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

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United Nations General Assembly and Security Council elect Ms Phoebe Okowa as a Member of the Court

THE HAGUE, 12 November 2025. The General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations today elected Ms Phoebe Okowa as a Member of the International Court of Justice, with immediate effect.

Of Kenyan nationality, Ms Phoebe Okowa succeeds Judge Abdulqawi A. Yusuf, who resigned as a Member of the Court with effect from 30 September 2025 (see press release No. [2025/30](#)). Pursuant to Article 15 of the [Statute of the Court](#), Ms Phoebe Okowa will hold office for the remainder of her predecessor's term, which was due to expire on 5 February 2027.

Ms Phoebe Okowa's biography is annexed to this press release.

Photographs taken of the election in the General Assembly and the Security Council will be available on the [United Nations website](#).

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Composition of the Court

The International Court of Justice comprises 15 judges, who are each elected to a nine-year term of office and may be re-elected. In order to ensure a measure of continuity in the composition of the Court, one third of the membership is renewed every three years. In accordance with Article 2 of the Statute of the Court, judges are elected "regardless of their nationality from among persons of high moral character, who possess the qualifications required in their respective countries for appointment to the highest judicial offices, or are jurisconsults of recognized competence in international law". Article 9 of the Statute further requires that "in the body as a whole the representation of the main forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems of the world should be assured". No two Members of the Court may be of the same nationality.

Following the election held today by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, the composition of the Court is as follows:

President	Iwasawa Yuji (Japan)
Vice-President	Julia Sebutinde (Uganda)
Judges	Peter Tomka (Slovakia)
	Ronny Abraham (France)
	Xue Hanqin (China)
	Dalveer Bhandari (India)
	Georg Nolte (Germany)
	Hilary Charlesworth (Australia)
	Leonardo Nemer Caldeira Brant (Brazil)
	Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo (Mexico)
	Sarah H. Cleveland (United States of America)
	Bogdan-Lucian Aurescu (Romania)
	Dire Tladi (South Africa)
	Mahmoud Daifallah Hmoud (Jordan)
	Phoebe Okowa (Kenya)

Submission of candidacies

All States parties to the Statute of the Court (currently 193) have the right to propose candidates. However, candidates are not nominated directly by governments but by the national groups in the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) or, in the case of States not participating in the PCA, by similarly constituted national groups. The PCA, which is based in The Hague, was established under the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907. Each State party to those Conventions has its own national group, that is to say, a group of up to four jurists who can be called upon to serve as members of an arbitral tribunal under the Conventions. When an election takes place to fill vacancies at the International Court of Justice, each national group can propose up to four candidates, not more than two of whom may be of its own nationality. The others may be from any other country. The names of candidates must be communicated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Election procedure

Members of the Court are elected by the General Assembly and by the Security Council through parallel procedures. Both organs vote at the same time but independently of one another. This system is intended to ensure, as far as possible, that the vote in one organ does not influence the vote in the other. In order to be elected, a candidate must obtain an absolute majority of votes both in the General Assembly and in the Security Council. Currently, 97 votes out of 193 constitute an absolute majority in the General Assembly. In the Security Council, where no right of veto applies for the purposes of the election and no distinction is made between the votes of the permanent and non-permanent members of the Council, eight votes out of fifteen constitute an absolute majority.

Note: The Court's press releases are prepared by its Registry for information purposes only and do not constitute official documents.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States; and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system.

Information Department:

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Okowa, Phoebe (Kenya)

Education

1994: University of Oxford, Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) in Public International Law

1990: University of Oxford, Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL)

1988: Kenya School of Law, Diploma in Legal Practice

1987: University of Nairobi, Bachelor of Laws (LLB – First Class Honours)

Academic Awards, Prizes and Honours

2024: University of Stockholm, Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa)

2022: Government of Kenya, Elder of the Order of the Burning Spear (EBS), for Distinguished Service in International Law

2022: Strathmore University, Kenya, CB Madan Laureate, for Contributions to the International rule of law

2005-2006: Arts and Humanities Research Council, Research Grant for a project on ‘International Law Questions Arising out of the Disintegration of the Democratic Republic of Congo’

1990: Wingate Research Grant, Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation, for Research on ‘State Responsibility for Transboundary Air Pollution’

1988-1993: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Scholarship

1988: Kaplan and Stratton Prize, Best University of Nairobi Final Year Student in the Moots Court and Fourth Term Programme Essay in the Faculty of Law

1987: Gandhi Memorial Prize, Best University of Nairobi Final Year Student in the Faculty of Law

Academic Career

2014-present: Queen Mary University of London, Professor of Public International Law

2024-2025: Princeton University, UCHV Fellow in Law and Normative Thinking

2016-2020: Queen Mary University of London, Member, Senate

2006-2014: Queen Mary University of London, Reader in Public International Law

2004-2006: Queen Mary University of London, Member, University Council

2002-2006: Queen Mary University of London, Senior Lecturer

1994-2001: University of Bristol, Lecturer in Law

1992-1993: University of Oxford, Tutorial Assistant at Jesus and Wadham Colleges

Professional Activities

Affiliations

2023-2027: United Nations International Law Commission, Member

2025-present Associate Member, Institut de Droit International

2024 (75th Session): United Nations International Law Commission, Chair of the Drafting Committee

2017-2022: Permanent Court of Arbitration, Member

Admission

1990-present: Advocate, High Court of Kenya, Member of the Kenyan Bar

Selected experience as Counsel

2024-present: Counsel for Namibia, International Court of Justice, *Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory*

2024-present: Co-counsel for the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), International Court of Justice, *Right to Strike under ILO Convention No. 87*

2023-present: Co-counsel and Advocate for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, East African Court of Justice, *Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Rwanda*

2023-2024: Co-counsel and Advocate for Kenya, International Court of Justice, *Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change*

2023-2024: Co-counsel for Namibia, International Court of Justice, *Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change*

2023-2024: Co-counsel for Sierra Leone, International Court of Justice, *Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change*

2023-2024: Co-counsel for The Gambia, International Court of Justice, *Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change*

2023-2024: Co-counsel for the Commission of Small Island States (COSIS), International Court of Justice, *Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change*

2024: Counsel and Advocate for Namibia, International Court of Justice, *Legal Consequences Arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory Including East Jerusalem*

2023: Co-counsel for Mozambique, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, *Request for an Advisory Opinion submitted by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law*

2023: Co-counsel for Sierra Leone, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, *Request for an Advisory Opinion submitted by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law*

2023: Co-counsel for the Commission of Small Island States (COSIS), International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, *Request for an Advisory Opinion on Climate Change and International Law*

2019-2021: Co-counsel for Kenya, International Court of Justice, *Maritime Delimitation in the Indian Ocean Merits (Somalia v. Kenya)*

2019-2020: Co-counsel and Advocate for Myanmar, International Court of Justice, *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Provisional Measures (The Gambia v. Myanmar)*

Selected experience as Legal Advisor

2025-Present: Member of the Expert Group on the Future Development of the Permanent Court of Arbitration

2025-Present: Member, UNESCO Expert Group for Study on the Legal Consequences for Violation of the Immunity of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection

2023-Present: Member, Legal Advisory Committee, Commission of Small Island States and International Law (COSIS)

2023: Training for Eritrean lawyers and diplomats on the basis of obligations under international law, UN Department of Peacebuilding and Political Affairs, Asmara, Eritrea

2022-Present: Member, ICCA Panel of Experts to draft a Conciliation Annex to the Paris Agreement

2020: Amicus Brief on domestic implementation of conflicting obligations under international treaties, Ontario Court of Appeal

2019: Advised a government on legal consequences of denunciation and withdrawal from the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

2018: Legal Opinion for the Solicitor General of Kenya, International Court of Justice intervention in the *Advisory Opinion on the Legal Consequences of the Separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius (1965)*

2015: Advisor to an NGO on domestic implementation of international obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

2002: Legal Consultant, Birdlife International/Nature Kenya, on revision of the 1968 African Convention on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

2000: Delegate, Nature Kenya, Conferences of Parties, CITES and Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP)

1990-1993: Consultant, African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), research on the relationship between private property rights and environmental protection

Visiting Professorships and Lectureships

2025: Lecturer, Tokyo International Law Seminar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo

2024: Lecturer, United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago

2024: Visiting Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva

2023: Lecturer, United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Asia-Pacific, Bangkok

2023: Global Visiting Professor, Katholieke University, Leuven

2020 and 2023: Lecturer, United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Africa, Addis Ababa

2018: Visiting Lecturer, Law and Development Programme, University of Antwerp

2012-2013: Adjunct Professor, PACE University School of Law

2011 and 2015: Global Visiting Professor, New York University School of Law

2009-2010: Adjunct Professor, Catholic University of Lille

2009: Lecturer Summer Programme, Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights, University of Helsinki

2007: Visiting Fellow, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge

2006: Visiting Professor, University of Stockholm

1995: Visiting Fellow, St John's College, University of Oxford

Selected Publications

Books

Phoebe Okowa and Jonas Ebbesson (eds.), *Environmental Law and Justice in Context* (Cambridge University Press, 2009, ISBN 978-0-521-87968-2)

Reviewed in: *British Yearbook of International Law*, Vol. 80, Issue 1 (2009) pp. 422-431; *Journal of Environmental Law*, Vol. 22, Issue 1 (2010) pp. 167-169

Phoebe Okowa, *State Responsibility for Transboundary Air Pollution in International Law* (Oxford University Press, 2000, ISBN 0-19-826097-0)

Reviewed in: *European Journal of International Law*, Vol. 13, Issue 2 (2002) pp. 556-559; *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, Vol. 50, Issue 2 (2001) pp. 472-473; *Journal of Environmental Law*, Vol. 14, Issue 2 (2002) pp. 264-266; *The Cambridge Law Journal*, Vol. 60, Issue 3 (2001) pp. 629-630; *Leiden Journal of International Law*, Vol. 14, Issue 2 (2001) pp. 477-480.

Book Chapters

Phoebe Okowa, 'Act of State and Diplomatic Protection in the Modern Constitution: Two Case Studies', in S. Choudhry, M. Hailbronner and M. Kumm, *Global Canons in an Age of Uncertainty: Debating Foundational Texts of Constitutional Democracy and Human Rights* (Oxford University Press) 2024

Phoebe Okowa and Sean O'Reilly, 'Implementing Principle 21 of the Stockholm Declaration: Regional Efforts to Regulate Transboundary Air', in J. Ebbesson and D. Langlet, *Stockholm+50: International Environmental Law* (Cambridge University Press), in press 2025

Phoebe Okowa, 'Neutrality or Equivocation. The Response of African States to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine', in Mark Klamberg et al. (eds.), *Reconstructing Power and Hegemony in International Law, Essays in Honour of Pål Wrange* (Brill) Forthcoming 2025

Phoebe Okowa and Olivia Flasch, 'Reflections on Ecocide as a Fifth Crime Under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court', in Carsten Stahn and Rafael Braga da Silva (eds.), *The International Criminal Court in Its Third Decade: Reflecting on Law and Practices* (Brill/Martinus Nijhoff, 2024) pp. 473-492

Phoebe Okowa, 'Transboundary Air Pollution', in Jacqueline Peel and Lavanya Rajamani (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of International Environmental Law* (Oxford University Press, 2021) pp. 475-491

Phoebe Okowa, 'Principle 18: Notification and Assistance in Case of Emergency', in Jorge E. Viñuales (ed.), *The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development: A Commentary* (Oxford University Press, 2015) pp. 471-492

Phoebe Okowa 'The International Court and the Legacy of the *Barcelona Traction Case*', in Charles C. Jalloh and Olufemi Elias (eds.), *Shielding Humanity: Essays in International Law in Honour of Judge Abdul G. Koroma* (Brill, 2015) pp. 104-132

Phoebe Okowa, 'The Security Council, the African Union and the International Criminal Court: Anatomy of a Problematic Relationship', in Jonas Ebbesson et al. (eds.), *International Law and Changing Perceptions of Security: Liber Amicorum Said Mahmoudi* (Brill Nijhoff, 2014) pp. 225-243

Phoebe Okowa and Malcolm Evans, 'Approaches to Responsibility in International Courts', in Malcolm D. Evans and Panos Koutrakos (eds.), *The International*

Responsibility of the European Union: European and International Perspectives (Hart Publishing, 2013) pp. 101-137

Phoebe Okowa, 'Responsibility for Environmental Damage', in Malgosia Fitzmaurice et al. (eds.), *Research Handbook on International Environmental Law* (Edward Elgar, 2010) pp. 303-319

Phoebe Okowa, 'Interpreting Constitutive Instruments of International Criminal Tribunals: Reflections on the Special Court for Sierra Leone', in Malgosia Fitzmaurice et al. (eds.), *Treaty Interpretation and the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties: 30 Years On* (Martinus Nijhoff, 2010) pp. 333-355

Phoebe Okowa, 'Issues of Admissibility and the Law on International Responsibility', in Malcolm D. Evans (ed.), *International Law* (6th edn) (Oxford University Press, 2024) pp. 468-498

Phoebe Okowa, 'The Legal Framework for the Protection of the Environment Against Transboundary Air Pollution: A Reflection on Customary and Treaty Law', in Harry Post (ed.), *The Protection of Ambient Air in International and European Law* (Eleven International Publishing, 2009) pp. 53-72

Phoebe Okowa, 'Environmental Justice in Situations of Armed Conflict', in Phoebe Okowa and Jonas Ebbesson (eds.), *Environmental Law and Justice in Context* (Cambridge University Press, 2009) pp. 231-252

Phoebe Okowa, 'The Legal Framework for the Protection of Natural Resources in Situations of Armed Conflict', in Willem J.M. van Genugten et al. (eds.), *Criminal Jurisdiction 100 Years after the 1907 Hague Peace Conference: 2007 Hague Joint Conference on Contemporary Issues of International Law* (T.M.C. Asser Press, 2009) pp. 243-260

Phoebe Okowa, 'The Legacy of Trail Smelter in the Field of Transboundary Air Pollution', in Rebecca M. Bratspies and Russell A. Miller (eds.), *Transboundary Harm in International Law: Lessons from the Trail Smelter Arbitration* (Cambridge University Press, 2006) pp. 195-208

Phoebe Okowa, 'United States Unilateralism in a Multilateral Legal Order', in Mary Buckley and Robert Singh (eds.), *The Bush Doctrine and the War on Terrorism: Global Responses, Global Consequences* (Routledge, 2006) pp. 200-206

Phoebe Okowa, 'Defences in the Jurisprudence of International Tribunals', in Guy Goodwin-Gill and Stefan Talmon (eds.), *The Reality of International Law: Essays in Honour of Ian Brownlie* (Oxford University Press, 1999) pp. 389-412

Phoebe Okowa, 'Environmental Dispute Settlement: Some Reflections on Recent Developments', in Malcolm D. Evans (ed.), *Remedies in International Law: The Institutional Dilemma* (Hart Publishing, 1998) pp. 157-172

Phoebe Okowa, 'Legal Consequences of EC Participation in International Environmental Agreements', in Malcolm D. Evans (ed.), *Aspects of Statehood and Institutionalism in Contemporary Europe* (Dartmouth, 1997) pp. 301-329

Phoebe Okowa and Albert M. Mwangi, 'Land Tenure and Forest Resource Management', in Calestous Juma and J. B. Ojwang (eds.), *In Land We Trust: Environment, Private Property and Constitutional Change* (Zed Books, 1996) pp. 175-197.

Journal Articles, Shorter Comments and Reviews

Phoebe Okowa and Sean O'Reilly, 'Arguing for Systemic Integration of the UN Climate Regime at the ICJ', *International Institute for Sustainable Development* (2025)

- Phoebe Okowa, ‘[The Pitfalls of Unilateral Legislation in International Law: Lessons From Conflict Minerals Legislation](#)’, *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, Vol. 69, Issue 3 (2020) pp. 685-717
- Phoebe Okowa, ‘[Blood Oil: A Plea for Progressive Reform or a Philosopher’s Utopia?](#)’, review on Leif Weinar’s *Blood Oil: Tyrants, Violence, and the Rules that Run the World* (OUP, 2015), Jamesstewart.com (2019)
- Phoebe Okowa, ‘[Sovereignty Contests and the Protection of Natural Resources in Conflict Zones](#)’, *Current Legal Problems*, Vol. 66, Issue 1 (2013) pp. 33-73
- Phoebe Okowa, ‘[The International Court of Justice and the Georgia/Russia Dispute](#)’, *Human Rights Law Review*, Vol. 11, Issue 4 (2011) pp. 739-757
- Phoebe Okowa, ‘[State and Individual Responsibility in Internal Conflicts: Contours of an Evolving Relationship](#)’, *Finnish Yearbook of International Law*, Vol. 20 (2009) pp. 143-188
- Phoebe Okowa, ‘[Case Concerning Ahmadou Sadio Diallo \(Republic of Guinea v. Democratic Republic of the Congo\)](#)’, *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, Vol. 57, Issue 1 (2008) pp. 219-224
- Phoebe Okowa, ‘[Natural Resources in Situations of Armed Conflict: Is there a Coherent Framework for Protection?](#)’, *International Community Law Review*, Vol. 9, Issue 3 (2007) pp. 237-262
- Phoebe Okowa, ‘[Congo’s War: The Legal Dimension of a Protracted Conflict](#)’, *British Yearbook of International Law*, Vol. 77, Issue 1 (2006) pp. 203-255
- Phoebe Okowa, ‘[Case Concerning Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo \(Democratic Republic of the Congo v Uganda\)](#)’, *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, Vol. 55, Issue 3 (2006) pp. 742-753
- Phoebe Okowa, ‘[Necessity, Proportionality and the Use of Force by States](#), by Judith Gardam’, *Modern Law Review*, Vol. 69, Issue 4 (2006) pp. 675-677
- Phoebe Okowa, ‘[The Responsibility of States for International Crimes](#) By Nina H. VB Jorgensen’, *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, Vol. 50, Issue 4 (2001) pp. 992-993
- Phoebe Okowa and Malcolm D. Evans, ‘[Case Concerning the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros Project \(Hungary / Slovakia\)](#)’, *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, Vol. 47, Issue 3 (1998) pp. 688-697
- Phoebe Okowa, ‘[Procedural Obligations in International Environmental Agreements](#)’, *British Yearbook of International Law*, Vol. 67, Issue 1 (1996) pp. 275-336
- Phoebe Okowa, ‘[The European Community and International Environmental Agreements](#)’, *Yearbook of European Law*, Vol. 15, Issue 1 (1995) pp. 169-192
- J.B. Ojwang and Phoebe Okowa, ‘[The One-Party State and Due Process of Law: The Kenya Case in Comparative Perspective](#)’, *African Journal of International and Comparative Law*, Vol. 1 (1989) pp. 177-205.

Selected Keynote or Named Lectures

‘Reading Climate Change Treaties: The International Court and Historic Responsibility for Greenhouse Gas Emissions’, Kirby Lecture at the Centre for International and Public Law, Australian National University, Canberra, July 2025

Plenary Panelist, ‘Women in International Law’, London Conference on International Law, October 2024

‘International Courts and the Politics of Climate Litigation’, Inaugural Lecture to Mark the Conferment of Doctor of Laws (*Honoris Causa*), University of Stockholm, September 2024

‘Africa’s Participation in the International Law Commission’, Inaugural Lecture at the Foreign Service Academy, Nairobi, June 2023

‘The New Proposed International Crime of Ecocide’, Keynote Address at the Annual Cross-Border Criminal Law Conference, Kingsley Napley Solicitors London, January 2023

‘Legitimacy in the Work of the International Law Commission’, C.B. Madan Memorial Lecture delivered at the C.B. Madan Prize Award Ceremony, Strathmore University, Nairobi, 24 February 2023

‘Recognition and Representation of Governments in the United Nations: Principle or Pragmatism?’, Josephine Onoh Memorial Lecture at the University of Hull, December 2022

‘Protection of Natural Resources in Armed Conflict’, UN Audiovisual Library of International Law, 2019-present

Plenary Speaker, ‘Globalization and the Ecological Challenge’ Society of Legal Scholars Annual Conference, Bristol, September 2012

Selected Conference Papers and Participation

‘The Use of Science in the Climate Change Advisory Opinions’ Webinar on Science Hub for Climate Litigation, Union of Concerned Scientists, 10th October 2024

‘Immunity of State Officials in the Work of the International Law Commission’, Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, 62nd Annual Session, Bangkok, September 2024

‘Credentials, Representation and the United Nations: The Case for a Principled Approach’, lecture at the University of St. Andrews, January 2024

Panelist, ‘A new Era for International Dispute Resolution: Breaking the Stronghold of Arbitration’, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, April 2024

Speaker at the International Law Association 150th Anniversary Conference on ‘Due Diligence’, Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, 19 June 2023

‘Prospects of Adding New Crimes in the ICC’s Jurisdiction’ Paper Presented at a Conference on the International Criminal Court at 20: Reflections on the Past, Present, and the Future, Hague June 2022

‘Making sense of Myanmar’s Constitutional Journey and Myanmar’s Representation in International Law’, briefing presented at an event hosted by International IDEA and Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, 15 November 2022

Member of the Organizing Committee, Annual Conference of the European Society of International Law on ‘Changes in International Lawmaking: Actors, Processes, Impact’, Stockholm, 9-11 September 2021

Panelist at International Law Conference on ‘Aiding and Assisting – the Parameters of State Responsibility’, ILA British Branch, London, October 2019

‘Iraq’s Natural Resources’, paper delivered at the Society of Legal Scholars Annual Seminar, School of Oriental and African Studies on ‘The Legal Legacies of the 2003 Iraq War’, 26 March 2018

‘Codification and Progressive Development of International Law in a Historical Perspective - the International Law Commission and its Antecedents’, Lecture delivered at a Conference on the Role and Contributions of the International Law Commission to the Development of International Law in the Past/next 70 Years: Codification or Progressive Development, Florida International University, Miami, October 2018

‘The Pitfalls of Unilateral Legislation as a Regulatory Mechanism in Conflict Zones’, paper presented at a seminar organized by Marja Lehto, Special Rapporteur on Protection of the Environment in Armed Conflict, United Nations, Sixth Committee, October 2018

Panelist at seminar on International Law Commission and the Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflict, United Nations Headquarters in New York, 18 October 2018

Member of the Organizing Committee, Conference of the International Society of Public Law on ‘Courts, Power and Public Law’, University of Copenhagen, 5-7 July 2017

‘The International Court and the Political Consequences of its Decisions: Reflections on Cases involving Use of Force’, paper presented at Erasmus Rotterdam-Queen Mary workshop on Varieties of Consequential Reasoning and the Rule of Law: Theory and Institutional Contexts, 26 November 2016

‘Unilateral or Collective Responses to International Wrongs: the Case of Natural Resources in Conflict Zones’, paper presented at the ILA, seminar series (British branch), University College London, 2 March 2016

Organizer and Convener, Public Policy Lecture Series on the Function of Law in the Global Community, Centre for Law and Society in a Global Context, Queen Mary University of London, 2015-2018

Convened a panel on ‘Transformative Constitutions: The Place of International Law in the New Commonwealth Constitutions’ Inaugural Conference of the International Society of Public Law, Florence, June 2014

Participant, Workshop on ‘Natural Resource Grabbing: Erosion or Legitimate Exercise of State Sovereignty’, University of Cagliari, Sardinia, October 2013

‘Transformative Constitutions: International law in Kenya’s 2010 Constitution’, presented paper at the Third Annual Symposium on Constitutional Agendas, Reichman University Radzyner School of Law, Herzliya, June 2013

Participant, Second International Workshop on Contemporary Challenges to the Law of Armed Conflict, Reichman University, Radzyner Law School, Herzliya, June 2013

‘The Accountability of Non-State Groups and the Exploitation of Natural Resources in Internal Conflicts’, presented at the Asser Institute, The Hague, November 2011

‘Natural Resources in Armed Conflicts: The Role of Multinational Corporations’, paper presented at Conference on Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflict, Lund University, 16-17 February 2012

‘Libyan Intervention and International Law’, paper presented at a seminar organised by the African Law Association, New York University School of Law, November 2011

‘Liberating Libya? The Legality and Consequences of Military Intervention under International Law’, seminar held at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, 25 March 2011

‘Medical Agencies and the Implementation of Humanitarian Law in Conflict Zones’, paper presented at the Peace Research Institute Oslo, November 2010

‘Accountability of Rebel Groups in the Congo Conflict’, paper presented to the International Law Association (ILA), Belfast, May 2009

‘The Role of Medical Humanitarian Workers in Reporting Human Rights Abuses in the Democratic Republic of Congo’, paper presented at a conference on ‘Medicine under Pressure - The Law and Ethics of Medicine in Conflict Situations’, Queen Mary University of London, 29 April 2009

‘Permanent Sovereignty Over Natural Resources’, paper delivered at the University of East London, June 2007

‘International Law Responses to Environmental Destruction in Conflict Zones’, paper delivered at ‘Hundred Years of International Criminal Jurisdiction’, a joint conference organized by the Hague Academy and the American Society of International Law, The Hague, June 2007

‘Governmental Sovereignty and Natural Resource Disputes’, International Law Association (ILA), Regional Conference, Nottingham, 2006

‘Great Lakes Peace Process, Protocol on Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources’, paper presented at the Conference on the Great Lakes Peace Process, Humanitarian Law Project, London School of Economics, 2005.

Scientific Activities

Forthcoming: Phoebe Okowa and Britta Sjöstedt, *Protection of Natural Resources in Situations of Armed Conflict* (Handbook, under contract with Routledge 2025)

The proposed handbook is primarily concerned with the extent to which the enforceable content of public international law provides a workable framework for both the exploitation and protection of natural resources in situations of armed conflict. At a secondary level, it is also concerned with the role of voluntary codes and industry initiated standards and the place of these in an international system still primarily directed at state conduct. A third tier of concern looks at the implementation of international standards in national systems, specifically, the extent to which exploitation of natural resources is reflected in constitutional design.

Forthcoming: Special Course on ‘Historic Responsibility in International Law’, Hague Academy of International Law, Summer 2026

This research project is being undertaken at the invitation of the Curatorium of The Hague Academy of International Law and will initially be delivered in the form of five lectures on colonial wrongs at the Hague Academy Summer Course in International Law in 2026. The project also seeks to interrogate the limits of law as a medium for determining responsibility. It examines whether laws that were fundamentally characterized by relations of domination and inequality can be a realistic framework for responding to claims of structural injustice.

Selected Membership of Academic Boards, Journals, and Scholarly Organisations

2024-present: Oxford Monographs in International Law, Joint Editor (with Roger O’Keefe)

2023-present: Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, Member, Advisory Committee on International Dispute Resolution

2022-present: Max Planck Yearbook of United Nations Law (UNYB), Member, Editorial Advisory Board

2021-present: British Institute of International and Comparative Law, Member, Advisory Board

2015-present: African Association for International Law, Member, Advisory Board

2006-present: Stockholm Centre for International Law and Justice, Member, International Advisory Board

2000-present: African Society of International Law, Member

1995-present: British Branch of the International Law Association, Member

1993-present: Society of Legal Scholars, Member

2013-2022: International Society of Public Law (ICON-S), Member, Executive Committee

2005-2020: Oxford University Press, Foundations of Public International Law, Joint Editor (with Professor Malcolm Evans)

2005-2018: International Community Law Review (Brill), Member, Board of Editors

2002-2018: Queen Mary Studies in International Law (Brill Nijhoff), Joint Editor (with Professor Malgosia Fitzmaurice)

1997-2006: ILA Committee on Transnational Enforcement of Environmental Law, Member
