

Home Page


INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

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Yearbook of the International Law Commission

Following a request by the Commission, the General Assembly, in resolution [987 \(IX\)](#) of 3 December 1955, requested the Secretary-General to arrange for the printing of:

- the principal documents (namely, studies, reports, principal draft resolutions and amendments presented to the Commission) relating to the first seven sessions, in their original languages, and the summary records of these sessions, initially in English; and
- the principal documents and summary records relating to the subsequent sessions, in English, French and Spanish.

As a result, an annual publication entitled Yearbook of the International Law Commission has been printed in two volumes in respect of each session (except the first session for which there is only one volume). The Yearbook has also been published in Russian since 1969, in Arabic since 1982 and in Chinese since 1989.

Volume I of the Yearbook contains the summary records of the meetings of the Commission and volume II reproduces the principal documents, including the Commission's report to the General Assembly. Volume II is published in two parts, part two reproducing, since 1976, the annual report of the Commission to the General Assembly.

Select a session from the dropdown menu on the left to access the respective Yearbook of the International Law Commission. Note that the Yearbook is typically published several years after the session it covers, and only those volumes which have been published are available on this site. Recent volumes of the Yearbook are available for purchase in hardcopy from [United Nations Publications](#).

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Logo**URL**

<http://legal.un.org/ilc/publications/yearbooks/>

Subject

Law - Yearbooks

Accessibility

Free

Language

Multilingual (English, French and Spanish, in Russian since 1969, in Arabic since 1982 and in Chinese since 1989).

Publisher

United Nations Publication

Brief History

Subsequent to a request by the International Law Commission, the General Assembly of UN, in resolution 987 (X) of 3 December 1955, proposed the Secretary-General to arrange for the printing of, the principal documents (namely, studies, reports, principal draft resolutions and amendments presented to the Commission) relating to the first seven sessions, in their original languages and the summary records of these sessions, initially in English; and the principal documents and summary records relating to the subsequent sessions, in English, French and Spanish. As a result, an annual publication entitled Yearbook of the International Law Commission has been printed in two volumes in respect of each session (except the first session for which there is only one volume). The yearbook has also been published in Russian since 1969, in Arabic since 1982 and in Chinese since 1989.

Scope and Coverage

The yearbook is contained with the summary records of the meetings of the Commission, narration of the special rapporteurs and other documents considered during the session and report of the commission to the General Assembly. It is printed in two volumes in respect of each session.

Volume I of the yearbook contains the summary records of the meetings of the Commission and volume II reproduces the principal documents, including the Commission's report to the General Assembly. Volume II is published in two parts, part two containing the annual report of the Commission to the General Assembly is being reproduced, since 1976. The yearbook has also been published in Russian since 1969, in Arabic since 1982 and in Chinese since 1989.

Kind of Information

From the homepage of the International Law Commission one may reach the Yearbook page through its "Research" link found at the left of the page. A dropdown menu of the Yearbook is found consisted of chronologically ordered sessions of the Commission.

The yearbook is typically published several years after the session it covers and only those volumes which have been published are available on this site. Recent volumes of the

yearbook are available for purchase in hardcopy from United Nations Publications.

The yearbooks are found in pdf files by clicking on any of the span of years with the number of the sessions (e.g. - 2000 – 2009: 52nd - 61st sessions) found at the left of the page. Each yearbook is ordered under the headings Year, Volume I, Volume II (Part I) and Volume II (Part II). After clicking on any of the pdf file one can choose the language of the text shown at the top right side of the page.

Inside volume I, meeting summaries of the commission are arranged with serial number (e.g. - 2095th meeting, 2096th meeting and so on). A list of the members of the Commission, agendas of one prominent meeting, cases cited in the present volume (its titles and nature of decision), abbreviation used in the text, multilateral convention cited in the concerned text (their themes and source in UN Treaty series). There is a checklist of the documents of the session on which the volume is made. The list has document number, title of the document and observations and reference.

The main body of the work consisting of the meetings, are recorded with the date and time of the meeting, name of its Chairman, the dignitaries present at the meeting, opening of the session with the Chairman's speech, election of officers who will preside over the meeting, adoption of agenda, abstracts of the discussions etc. All the above areas are arranged serially.

The part I of the volume II of the yearbook is comprised of the reports of special rapporteurs and other documents considered during the session and are ordered as per their relevance.

The part I of volume II has more than one content. The first content lists all the main headings of the yearbook. Some of the topics found here are, Filling of casual vacancies, State responsibility etc.

The part titled "State responsibility" comes with its agenda item number, document number, reference to previous issues of yearbooks etc. The body of text under the title " State responsibility" is found with an introductory part and paragraphed text with serial number concerning the comments and observations of the Governments for interntionally wrongful acts.

Part II of the volume II is the Commission's report of the

session, presented to the General Assembly of the UN. Some of the examples of the chapters found here are given below: Organization of the session, Summary of the work of the Commission at the fifty first session etc. “The summary of the work” contains serially arranged paragraphed text that reports the developments happened at the sessions regarding various issues. References of previous yearbooks are included in footnotes.

Special Features

- ❖ The yearbooks are available in 4 to 5 languages.
- ❖ The yearbook home page has links to Annual reports, Summaries of the work, Text, Instruments and Final reports, Documentation, Other publications and Full text search.

Arrangement Pattern

The yearbook is chronologically arranged and is found with their respective span of sessions. Each yearbook is divided into three volumes. Volume I contains the summary records of the meetings of the Commission. The said volume contains, the meeting summaries of the Commission and are arranged serially (e.g. - 2095th meeting, 2096th meeting and so on).

Volume II is published in two parts. **Part I of Volume II** place special reports and are arranged as per the editor’s choice.

More than one content page is found in this volume. The first content lists all the main topics of the text and the other one shows the subtopics of the topic contained in the first content.

e.g.-(Main content page)

CONTENTS

Abbreviations

Note concerning quotations

State responsibility (agenda item 2)

Document A/CN.4/425 and Add I. Second report on State responsibility, by Mr. Gaetano Arangio-Ruiz, Special Rapporteur

Jurisdictional immunities of States and their property (agenda item 3)

Document A/CN.4/422 and Add.1. Second report on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property, by Mr. Motoo Ogiso, Special Rapporteur

Status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier (agenda item 4)

Document A/CN.4/420. Comments and observations received from Governments .

Draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind (agenda item 5)

The second content lists the subtopics of a topic ("State Responsibility") found in main Content

STATE RESPONSIBILITY

(Agenda item 2)

DOCUMENT A/CN.4/425

And Add.1*

Second report on State responsibility,
By Mr. Gaetano Arangio-Ruiz, Special Rapporteur
[Original: English, French] [9 and 22 June 1989]

CONTENTS

Abbreviations

Paragraphs

INTRODUCTION

Chapter I.

MORAL INJURY TO THE STATE AND THE DISTINCTION
BETWEEN SATISFACTION AND COMPENSATION

A. Introduction

4B. "Moral damage" to the persons of a State's nationals or agents

C. "Moral damage" to the State as a distinct kind of injury in international law

The third content similarly depicts the subtopics of another topic found at the main content page

**DRAFT CODE OF CRIMES AGAINST THE PEACE AND SECURITY
OF MANKIND**

[Agenda item 5]

DOCUMENT A/CN.4/419 and Add.1*

CONTENTS

Paragraphs

INTRODUCTION

Section

I. WAR CRIMES

A. Draft article

The main body of content is paragraphed text identifiable with a serial number associated with the paragraph. Example given below:

VII. Privileges and immunities accorded to international organizations

A. Immunity from legal process: basis

24. It is undeniable that, in order to guarantee the autonomy, independence and functional effectiveness of international organizations and protect them against abuse of any kind, and because national courts are not always the most appropriate forum for dealing with lawsuits to which international organizations may be parties, some degree of immunity from legal process in respect of the operational base of each organization must be granted.

25. The arguments put forward in support of the immunity of States from legal process, which are similar by and large, to those cited in the case of international organizations, might suggest that the rules applicable to States can also be applied to international organizations.

Part II of Volume II is the annual report of the Commission presented to the General Assembly. It is structured with the aim of providing a thorough representation of the main areas of the Commission, Summaries of the work in the concerned session, Specific issues, Responsibilities of International Organizations etc.

Entries under the said headings are arranged serially with

headings and subheadings. Example given below:

**Report of the International Law Commission on the work
of its forty-first session (2 May-21 July 1989)**

CONTENTS

Abbreviations
Note concerning quotations

Chapter

Paragraphs

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

- A. Membership
 - B. Officers
 - C. Drafting Committee
 - D. Secretariat
 - E. Agenda
 - F. General description of the work of the Commission at its forty-first session
- II.**

**STATUS OF THE DIPLOMATIC COURIER AND THE
DIPLOMATIC BAG NOT ACCOMPANIED BY DIPLOMATIC
COURIER**

- A. Introduction
 - 1. Historical review of the work of the Commission
 - 2. Consideration of the topic at the present session

The body of the content of the part II of volume II is arranged topically. Topics are elaborated through serial numbered paragraphs. A specimen of the arrangement is given below:

**INTERNATIONAL LIABILITY FOR INJURIOUS
CONSEQUENCES ARISING OUT OF ACTS NOT PROHIBITED
BY INTERNATIONAL LAW**

A. Introduction

16. At its thirtieth session, in 1978, the Commission included the topic "International liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law" in its programme of work and appointed Robert Q. Quentin-Baxter Special Rapporteur for the topic.

17. From its thirty-second session (1980) to its thirtysixth session (1984), the Commission considered the five reports submitted by the Special Rapporteur.⁹ The reports sought to develop a conceptual basis for the topic and included a schematic outline and five draft articles. The

schematic outline was contained in the Special Rapporteur's third report, submitted to the Commission at its thirty-fourth session, in 1982.¹⁰ The five draft articles were contained in the Special Rapporteur's fifth report, submitted to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session, in 1984,¹¹ and were considered by the Commission, but no decision was taken to refer them to the Drafting Committee.

Remarks

To gain a comprehensive understanding of the activities of the International Law Commission, this yearbook is invaluable.

Comparable Tools

- Japanese Yearbook of International Law
(<http://www.ilajapan.org/jyil/>)
- Yearbook of European Law
(<http://yel.oxfordjournals.org/>)

Date of Access

June 1, 2016