





Adviser in the Permanent Mission of Sweden here in New York. We thank you for the committed work in the organization for this meeting.

This year, a special thank you goes to Ambassador Hammarskjöld for dedicating a part of this meeting to the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the International Law Commission.

And indeed, how fitting is to continue the celebration of the Commission's anniversary during International Law Week, which started in the context of the presence of legal advisers from capital to express their views on the work of the Commission. This tradition is now the most visible symbol of the power of international law to bring the international community together.

The commemoration today complements the one held in Geneva during the first part of the Commission's session, organized with the support of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.

For seventy-five years, the Commission has played a pivotal role in the progressive development of international law and its codification. The Commission has many foundational achievements to celebrate, for example in the areas of the law of treaties, diplomatic and consular relations, the law of the sea, international





environmental law, international criminal law and the law of State responsibility. The fruits of its labour are well known to any student of international law.

Since the first session of the Commission, held not far from here in Lake Success in 1949, OLA and particularly the Codification Division, has been proud to serve as the secretariat of the Commission and provide substantive support, including through extensive research on topics under consideration by the Commission, and has also served as the steward of its practices and institutional memory. Let me state that OLA undertakes to support the Commission, in the years to come with the same commitment and enthusiasm.

Dear colleagues,

In keeping with our tradition, I would like to make a few observations on topics that recently have attracted the attention of the legal community during this year, and that were reflected in the activities of the Office of Legal Affairs.

With respect to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the International Court of Justice, on 19 July 2024, gave its advisory opinion on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, pursuant to a request by the General Assembly.









For OLA, it remains a priority that the relevant privileges and immunities of the UN are respected in any jurisdiction, and that Member States abide by the obligations under international law including by giving effect to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and other applicable agreements.

With respect to international criminal accountability, in the past year, we have seen two entities close—first, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon which closed on 31 December 2023 and then the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da’esh/ISL (UNITAD) on 17 September 2024.

OLA played an important role in the establishment of both bodies—negotiating the Agreement and Statute for the Special Tribunal and engaging in complex negotiations with the Government of Iraq on UNITAD’s Terms of Reference.

In both cases, the closure of the entities involved OLA’s advice on the management and preservation of archives of the institutions, which was a complex





