Special commemorative event

The Relevance of ICJ Advisory Opinions:
Nuclear Weapons, Climate Change and other Global Issues

July 8 -9, 2026. The Hague, Netherlands

Commemorating the 80th anniversary year of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the 30th anniversary of the historic *ICJ Advisory Opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons.*

The ICJ Advisory Opinion on nuclear weapons

On July 8, 1996, the ICJ delivered an historic *Advisory Opinion (AO) on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, in which it affirmed that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is generally contrary to international law, and that there is a universal and unconditional obligation to pursue, and bring to a conclusion, negotiations on nuclear disarmament in all its aspects.

Amongst other things, this ground-breaking *ICJ Advisory Opinion* has most probably;

- helped consolidate a norm of non-use of nuclear weapons, possibly preventing their use;
- contributed to the development of law protecting future generations;
- provided legal and political impetus for disarmament negotiations;
- provided inspiration for subsequent advisory opinions on critical global issues, including the recent *ICJ Advisory Opinion on the Obligations of States with Respect to Climate Change*.

Conference details and registration through the QR code, or at www.PNND.org

About the event

At the event, we will discuss:

- the continuing relevance of the 1996 ICJ Advisory Opinion;
- how to ensure its full implementation;
- lessons for implementation of the ICJ AO on climate change;
- the importance of building universal acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ (the LAW not War campaign);
- the potential for ICJ Advisory Opinions on other global issues, including a proposed initiative on the legal limits to the use of the veto in the UN Security Council.

Program summary

Wednesday July 8

Opening Session: The Roles of the ICJ and its Advisory Opinions
Panel 1. Reflections on the ICJ AO on nuclear weapons
Panel 2. The ICJ Advisory Opinion on climate change

Thursday July 9

Special Session: The Lex Mundi Nova webinar series on the ICJ Advisory Opinion on nuclear weapons
Panel 3. Nuclear weapons and human rights law
Panel 4. LAW not War: Nuclear weapons and common security
Panel 5: The ICJ and the legal limits to the veto

Please see next page for the full program and list of speakers. In each session and panel there will be opportunity for questions and comments from participants.

Cosponsoring organizations

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July 8-9, 2026

Asser Institute - Centre for European and International Law

R.J. Schimmelpennincklaan 20-22, The Hague, Netherlands

Program

Wednesday July 8

11:00 **Opening Session:** *The Roles of the ICJ and its Advisory Opinions: Introduction to the ICJ Advisory Opinion on nuclear weapons*

Moderator:

- **Dr. Deepshikha Kumari Vijh** (USA)
  Executive Director, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy.
  Director, UN office for IALANA (tbc)

Speakers:

- **Philippe Couvreur** (Belgium)
  ICJ Ad hoc judge. ICJ Registrar from 2000 to 2019.
  Ad hoc judge at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.
- **Phon van den Biesen** (Netherlands)
  Co-President, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms.
  Co-Agent of the Marshall Islands in the ICJ case against Nuclear Weapon States.

12:15 Lunch

13:30 **Panel 1.** *Further reflections on the ICJ Advisory Opinion on nuclear weapons*

Moderator:

- **Alyn Ware** (New Zealand/Czech Republic)
  International Representative, Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace.
  UN Advocacy Leader, World Court Project on Nuclear Weapons and International Law
  Global Coordinator, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament

Speakers:

- **Prof. Nico Schrijver** (Netherlands),
  Emeritus Professor of Public International Law at Leiden Law School.
  Interim President Netherlands National Human Rights Institute
- **Amela Skiljan** (Germany)
  Deputy Chair, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms Germany.
  Council Member, International Peace Bureau;
- **John Burroughs** (USA)
  Senior Analyst, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy (online)
- **Charles Moxley** (USA)
  Adjunct Professor of Law, Fordham Law School.
  Fellow, College of Commercial Arbitrators (online)

15:00: Coffee break

15:30 **Panel 2**. *The ICJ Advisory Opinion on climate change*

Moderator:

- **Neshan Gunasekera** (Sri Lanka/Germany)
  CEO, World Future Council.
  Deputy Chair, Ethics Specialist Group, International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Speakers:

- **Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh** (Netherlands),
  Associate Professor of Sustainability Law, University of Amsterdam.
  Member of the Vanuatu legal team for the ICJ AO on Climate Change.
- **Prof. Cristiane Derani** (Brazil)
  Director of Programs, Academic Relations, Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty.
  Professor of Public International Law, Federal University of Santa Catarina.
  Group Chair, Ethics Specialist Group, International Union for the Conservation of Nature.
- **Julius Kruse** (Germany/Netherlands)
  Student, Leiden University. Volunteer, Strategic Support to the World Future Council

16:50 Concluding comments for Day 1 and announcements

- **Phon van den Biesen** (Netherlands)
  Co-President, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms.
  Co-Agent of the Marshall Islands in the ICJ case against nuclear weapon states.

19:00 Conference dinner with guest speaker

Thursday July 9

9:15 **Special Session:** *Lex Mundi Nova webinar series on the ICJ Advisory Opinion on nuclear weapons*

Moderator:

- **Jan Hoekema** (Netherlands)
  Chair, Pugwash Netherlands

Speaker:

- **Kathleen Lawand** (Switzerland)
  Senior consultant. International humanitarian law & policy, arms control & disarmament and multilateral diplomacy, Geneva Centre for Security Policy.
  Senior Adviser, Horizon 2045.

9:45 **Panel 3.** *Nuclear weapons and international human rights law*

Moderator:

- **Natia Ninoshvili** (Georgia/Czech Republic)
  PNND Program Officer, Core Team Member, Youth Fusion

Speakers:

- **Ayleen Roy** (Austria)
  Core Team Member, Youth Fusion;
- **Daniel Rietiker**
  IALANA Co-President.
  President, Association of Swiss Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms.

10:30 Coffee Break

10:45 **Panel 4.** *Legal Alternatives to War (LAW not War): Advancing the ICJ's universality and effectiveness to constrain nuclear weapons, implement the 1996 Advisory Opinion, and advance common security.*

Moderator:

- **Alyn Ware** (New Zealand/Czech Republic)
  Program Director, World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy.
  International Representative, Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace.
  Director, Basel Peace Office.

Speakers

- **Dr. Deepshikha Kumari Vijh** (USA)
  Executive Director, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy.
  Director, UN Office for IALANA (online or in-person tbc)
- **Dr. Arthur Eyffinger** (Netherlands)
  Former Head Librarian of the International Court of Justice (1988-2003
- **Dr Hedy Fry MP** (Canada).
  Member of the House of Commons.
  OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues.
  Head , Canada Parliament Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.
- **Neshan Gunasekera** (Sri Lanka/Germany)
  CEO, World Future Council. Co-founder, LAW not War. Co-convener, ImPact Coalition on Strengthening International Judicial Institutions

12:00 **Panel 5:** *The ICJ and the Legal Limits to the Veto*
Screening of the documentary The Veto

Speakers

- **Rebecca Shoot** (USA)
  Co-founder, LAW not War. Chair Washington Working Group on the ICC.
  Co-convenor, ImPact Coalition on Strengthening International Judicial Institutions. (tbc)
- **Prof. Jennifer Trahan** (USA)
  Clinical Professor, NYU's Center for Global Affairs. Author, Existing Legal Limits to Security Council Veto Power in the Face of Atrocity Crimes (online)

13:15 Final Plenary and closing comments

Post-event optional activity

15:30 - 17:00 Tour of Hague international peace sites and 3D Nuke Missile social media action

Depending on circumstances there might be slight modifications to this program. Please visit the event webpage for the up-to-date program.