



ILS LAW COLLEGE, PUNE

International (Online) Seminar on Forging New Paths Between International Law and Relations, 2024

10 May 2024

About ILS Law College

The year 2023-2024 marks a golden period for the Indian Law Society and ILS Law College, where the Society completes 101 years, and the college completes its centenary year. The College has been a forerunner in providing inclusive and innovative legal education. Generations of illustrious alumni have carried ahead its reputation in all walks of life. Guided by the philosophy that, 'Everything is centred in law,' ILS has nurtured its own culture by effectively combining the theory and practice of law.

About the Centre for International Law

The Centre for International Law was set up in 2014 to increase awareness about international law. The Centre aims to instil a passion for the subject by initiating discussions and conducting activities involving the various aspects and developments of international law. The Centre is student-driven and is instrumental in organising debates, presentations, seminars, and publishing a fortnightly newsletter.

About the Conference and the Theme

International relations are the bedrock upon which the framework of international law is built, providing the norms, principles, and rules that govern the routine behaviour of States. The dynamics of international relations, characterized by power disparities, geopolitical rivalries, and shifting alliances, profoundly shape the development, interpretation, and enforcement of international law. In an era marked by unprecedented challenges, where the intersection between international law and relations has moved far beyond academic discourse, political interactions between States take the spotlight. With overwhelming participation in international bodies, States can neither operate in a vacuum nor ignore one another on the global stage.

From the role of regional blocs in shaping diplomatic initiatives to the challenges of reforming multilateral institutions, our discussions will delve into the complex interplay between law, politics, and diplomacy in the

international arena. It is now time to shift our focus to international relations to better understand the world as it is and mould it for the future.

Objectives:

1. To critically examine the existing world order through the lens of changing political dynamics and geopolitics; and
2. To shed light on the functioning and efficacy of international bodies in the law-making process.

Sessions

Session 1: African Multilateralism: Mapping the 'Afro' in Global Affairs

With African participation on the global stage increasing, its diplomatic initiatives now hold more significance than ever. It is pertinent to explore various dimensions of African diplomacy and multilateralism, focusing on how these nations contribute to shaping global agendas and advancing their developmental interests within the international community.

The session aims to:

- Assess the effectiveness of African regional blocs, such as the African Union, in coordinating diplomatic efforts and amplifying the continent's voice on the global stage;
- Discuss the role of African diplomacy in addressing transnational threats and global challenges like climate change, migration, and peacekeeping efforts; and
- Evaluate the impact of external actors and partnerships on Africa's diplomatic engagements such as the role of emerging powers, traditional donors, and non-state actors in shaping African priorities and agendas.

Session 2: The Scourge of War: Stalemate at the United Nations Security Council

Compounding frustrations about better representation in membership, each of the P5 countries retains a veto permitting it to unilaterally block resolutions inimical to its national interests. The result is frequent paralysis, exacerbated by deepening geopolitical rivalries. In the decades since the formation of the United Nations, the UNSC has often been criticized for 'failure' and 'stunted' actions, especially in the context of Syria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the NATO-led intervention in Libya, the US invasion of Iraq, the Russia-Ukraine War, and most recently, the Israel-Palestine conflict. Every instance reignites long-smouldering global demands to overhaul the world's premier body for international peace and security.

The session aims to:

- Evaluate whether any enlargement of the UNSC permanent and non-permanent membership would improve its functioning;

- Assess the competing demands of the three major groups - G4 Coalition, Uniting for Consensus Coalition (UFC), and the African Union (UN) - towards UNSC reforms; and
- Analyze the impact of the views of the individual P5 States on the movement towards UNSC reforms while protecting their veto power.

Session 3: The Geopolitics of Data and the Digital Economy: Implications for International Business and Policymakers

The digital economy, fueled by data, has transformed global power dynamics, reshaping international business landscapes and challenging traditional notions of sovereignty and control. This session delves into the intricate interplay between data, technology, and geopolitics, examining their profound implications for businesses, governments, and policymakers worldwide.

The session aims to:

- Analyse the evolving concept of structural power in the context of the digital economy, encompassing production, security, knowledge, and finance pillars;
- Assess the implications of borderless data flows and the challenges they pose to traditional notions of sovereignty and regulatory control; and
- Investigate how nations and corporations leverage control over data and digital infrastructure to enhance their productive capabilities and geopolitical influence.

Session 4: The 'Ideal' European Union: How Dublin III and the Common European Asylum System Seek to Solve the Migration Crisis

Given the large influx of migrants and refugees into Europe, the European Union (EU) implemented various measures to address the crisis, including increased border controls, agreements with transit countries to stem migration flows, and the establishment of relocation and resettlement schemes to distribute refugees more evenly across member states. The Dublin Conventions stipulate that the first EU country of refugee arrival is responsible for the processing of the asylum application on its territory to avoid so-called asylum shopping. By tying the responsibility of examining the refugee status to the initial entry, EU border States are overburdened. As a result, the issue remains divisive and complex within European politics.

The session aims to:

- Analyze whether the existing issues are adequately addressed by introducing the Dublin III Regulation;
- Understand the root cause for issues of jurisdiction and responsibility in the context of the migration crisis; and
- Assess the disproportionate burden placed on border States, leading to worsening conditions within refugee camps and facilities.

Registration Details

Every person interested in participating in the seminar must register below by paying the registration fees.

Registration Fees (including 18% GST):

Participant	Online Attendance
ILS Students	Rs. 118
Non- ILS students /Academicians/Professionals	Rs. 354
Foreign Participants (excluding bank transaction charges)	USD 10

Please note that the deadline to pay the registration fees is **11:59 PM IST [GMT + 5:30], 7 May 2024.**

Contact Details

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