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For members only

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Editorial



The Baglihar Dam Controversy offers new perspectives on attitudes about the water resources development of the Indus system of rivers governed by the Indus Water Treaty 1960 signed by the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan. Over the years the Treaty has assumed a reputation internationally as a successful instance of conflict resolution. At present only one major dispute remains unresolved over what is known as Tullbul Navigation Project in the Indus Water System. In fact, the Treaty spells out procedure for conflict-resolution. The first step under the Treaty is to try to resolve the *Question* through the Permanent Indus Commission. If the *Question* is not resolved, it becomes *difference* which is determined by the *Neutral Expert*, and if the *Neutral Expert* rules that the difference should be treated as a dispute then a *Court of Arbitration* would be established.

The Baglihar Dam, also known as Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project, has installed capacity of 900 MW. It is a run-of-the-river power project on the Chenab River conceived in 1962, approved in 1996 and construction began in 1999 and is expected to cost of US \$1 billion. After construction began in 1999, Pakistan contested and claimed that some design parameters of the Baglihar project violated the Indus Water Treaty of 1960. During 1999-2004 India and Pakistan held several rounds of talks on the project but could not reach agreement. In April 2005, the World Bank determined Pakistani claim as a *Difference* and in May 2005 appointed Professor Raymond Lafitte, as Swiss Civil Engineer, a *Neutral Expert (NE)* to adjudicate the difference.

Lafitte gave his final verdict on 12 February 2007, in which he partially upheld some objections of Pakistan declaring that pondage capacity be reduced by 13.5%, height of the dam structure be reduced by 1.5 meter and power intake tunnels be raised by 3 meters, thereby limiting some flow control capabilities of earlier design.

While interpreting Part 5 of Annexure D that deals with New Run-of-River Plants, NE was of the opinion that interpretation of the Treaty must be guided by the principle of integration and the principle of effectiveness. NE said that it must be interpreted so as to allow for the fulfilling of the objects and purposes of the Treaty in "a spirit of goodwill and friendship" and in "a co-operative spirit", taking into account the best and latest practices in the field of construction and operation of hydro-electric plants. NE has relied on the rules of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties which reflect customary international law with regard to ordinary methods of treaty interpretation and explicitly stated that the Treaty aimed for predictability and legal certainty in its drafting and also give a clear indication of the rights and obligations of both Pakistan and India. These rights and obligations should be read in the light of new technical norms and standards as provided for by the Treaty. Moreover, NE highlighted the importance of the Preamble of the Treaty which sets out the objects and purposes of the treaty to attain the most complete and satisfactory utilization of the waters of the Indus system rivers, to fix and delimit the rights and obligations of each party in relation to the other concerning the use of these water, and to provide for the settlement of questions arising from the application or the interpretation of the Treaty. Thus, the Preamble can not be read in isolation. It becomes complementary in the light of the principle of integration and effectiveness and no hierarchy can be deduced from the wording of the Preamble.

In sum, the rule of effectiveness illustrated by the *Cayuga Indian Claims Case* (A. J. 1926) and later elaborated by *Advisory Opinion on Reparation for Injuries* (ICJ Reports, 1949) and *Gabcikovo-Nagymaros Case* (ICJ Reports 1997), has been reiterated and reaffirmed by the Baglihar Dam determination. This determination also removed the doubts and concerns of some about the possible abrogation of the Treaty.

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Ram Niwas Mirdha

Conference on the International Criminal Court: Responses of States in South Asia

ISIL, Bar Association of India, International Bar Association, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Criminal Justice Society of India jointly organised a Conference on the International Criminal Court: Responses of States in South Asia on 12 and 13 January 2007 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. This initiative was supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Shri Lalit Bhasin, General Secretary, Bar Association of India, gave introductory remarks and welcomed the participants. On this occasion, Shri F. S. Narman, President, Bar Association of India gave inaugural address and highlighted the impact of the establishment of International Criminal Court on the Indian criminal jurisprudence. The participants also benefited from keynote address of Shri R. K. P. Shankaradas, President of International Bar Association, Mr. Vincent Nicod, Head of Regional Delegation, ICRC, highlighted the contributions of the ICRC in the progressive development of international criminal jurisprudence and Dr. Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, ISIL, also spoke on the occasion. Three sessions were conducted and were chaired by following eminent scholars: Shri P. P. Rao, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Mr. Larry Mayday, ICRC Regional Legal Advisor for South Asia, Ms. Lorna McGregor, Programme Lawyer, International Bar Association respectively. There were presentations on the theme from many international law lawyers including Dr. David Malone, Canadian High Commissioner to India, Justice Warid B. Lokar, Judge Delhi High Court, Prof. V. M. Prasad, Former Principal, Amalok

Chand Law College, Maharashtra, Dr. Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, ISIL, Dr. Red Rastan, Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Court, Shri A. S. Chandok, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association, Shri K. T. S. Tuls, President of Criminal Justice Society of India, Ms. Saurya Uma, ICC India, Wg. Cdr. (Retired) U. C. Jha, Ms. Jasmeet Egan, Lecturer, Punjab University, Shri Sidharth Luthra, Advocate, and Mr. Rajat Rana, Advocate. The Conference witnessed lively interventions by delegates during all sessions. Prof. Roy Lee, Professor of Law, Columbia Law School gave a valedictory address.

Felicitation Programme for Shri Narinder Singh, Joint Secretary, Legal and Treaties Division, MEA, Government of India

ISIL organised a programme on 31 January 2007 at ISIL premises to felicitate Shri Narinder Singh, Joint Secretary, Legal and Treaties Division, MEA, who has been recently elected a member of the International Law Commission (ILC) for five years till 2011. Shri Singh briefly mentioned his role and responsibility in the ILC and expressed his gratitude to ISIL where he began his career. He was honoured and a shawl was presented by Prof. Rahmatullah Khan on his election to ILC which constituted 34 members. Prof. R. P. Anand, Executive President, ISIL, presided over the function to the loud applause from the gathering including His Excellency, Mr. Kamal, Secretary-General, AAJOD, Dr. R. K. Dixit, Former Joint Secretary, MEA, Dr. Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, ISIL, gave a vote of thanks.

Release of Book "A Comprehensive Guide of Laws of Human Rights in Commonwealth Countries" Compiled and Edited by Shri Bimal N. Patel, Staff Member of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, The Hague, The Netherlands

ISIL, organised a function on 2 February 2007 for the release of book titled "A Comprehensive Guide of Laws of Human Rights in Commonwealth Countries" compiled and edited by Shri Bimal N. Patel, Staff Member of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, The Hague, The Netherlands. The book was released by Justice Dr. Shivraj V. Patil, Acting Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission of India who also gave the inaugural address. The function began with the welcome address of Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, President, ISIL, followed by addresses by Shri Bimal N. Patel and Shri O. P. Wadhwa, Wadhwa Publication and concluded with the vote of thanks from Shri A. K. Ganguli, Senior Lawyer, and Member of EC of ISIL.

IPR National Moot Court Competition

ISIL and Raison Law College, Nagpur, jointly organised a National Moot Court Competition on Intellectual Property Rights at Raison Law College, Nagpur. Hon'ble Justice S. Radhakrishnan, Bombay High Court inaugurated the Competition and appreciated the efforts of the ISIL to conduct the activities in cities other than Delhi. Dr. Manoj Kumar Sinha also spoke on the occasion.

A Public Lecture on Feminism, Terrorism and International Law by Prof. Hilary Charlesworth, Director of the Centre for International Governance and Justice

ISIL and Centre for Feminist Legal Theory jointly organised a public lecture on "Feminism, Terrorism and International Law" on 12th February 2007 at ISIL premises. Prof. Rahmatullah Khan introduced the chief guest Prof. Hilary Charlesworth, Director of the Centre



for International Governance and Justice, Australian National Law University and invited her to deliver the lecture. Prof. Charlesworth critically analysed the role of women in the decision making in the international governance and illustrated the role of Ms. Condoleza Rice as a second benchmark in the formation of the decision on Intervention of US in Iraq. The Lecture witnessed lively exchange of views with the audience on her presentation. Prof. Rahmatullah Khan, Secretary General, ISIL, gave vote of thanks.

Release of Handbook of International Humanitarian Law in South Asia Edited by Prof. V. S. Mani, Director, Gujarat National Law University, Gujarat

ISIL and International Committee of the Red Cross jointly organised a function at ISIL premises on 13 February 2007 for the release of book titled "Handbook on International Humanitarian Law in South Asia" edited by Prof. V. S. Mani, Director, Gujarat National Law University, Gujarat. The book was released by Justice Madan B. Lokur, Judge, High Court of Delhi and inaugural address was delivered by Prof. M. C. Sharma, Vice-Chairman, UGC. The function was also addressed by the Vincent Nicod, Head of the Regional Delegation, ICRC, Prof. V. S. Mani, and a representative of Oxford University Press. Prof. Rahmatullah Khan gave a vote of thanks.



A Special Lecture by Dr. S. R. S. Bedi, Head of Archives Division, ICJ

ISIL organised a Special Lecture on *International Rule of Law and the Force Monopoly of International Community: Problems and Prospects* on Wednesday, 14 March, 2007, at its premises. Dr. Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, ISIL, welcomed and introduced the chief guest, Dr. S. R. S. Bedi, Head of Archives Divisions, ICJ, the Hague. Dr. Bedi critically analysed the ambit and role of Security Council in maintaining

international order and explored the problems and prospects of present international rules. Dr. Bedi concluded that the force monopoly of few members of the international community in the implementation of UN Charter resulted in devaluation of the norms developed over the years. The Seminar witnessed lively exchange of views with the audience on his presentation. Prof. Rahmatullah Khan, Secretary General, ISIL, fully endorsed the views of Dr. Bedi and shared his experience and highlighted the appropriate use of word 'direction' rather than 'force of monopoly'. Prof. Khan gave vote of thanks.

Colloquium on Copyrights, Related Rights and Industrial Designs

ISIL and EU-Trade and Investment Development Programme, Intellectual Property Rights (TIDP-IPR) jointly organised a Colloquium on *Copyrights, Related Rights and Industrial Designs* at Le Meridien Hotel, New Delhi on 31 March 2007. Prof. S. K. Verma, Team Leader, TIDP-IPR introduced the Chief Guest Justice Madan B. Lokur, Judge High Court of Delhi who gave the inaugural address and highlighted many contemporary and controversial aspects of IPR including Traditional Knowledge, Performance Rights, and Broadcasting Rights etc. In his keynote address, Justice R. K. Abichandani, President, Custom, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal mapped the development of law of copyrights in international arena and its significant contributions in the national arena. Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, President, ISIL, also





spoke on the occasion and appreciated Prof. S. K. Verma for organising this conference jointly with the ISIL and her extensive effort through TIPD-IPR project to disseminate knowledge of IPR and conducting several training programmes for government officials, academicians as well as judges. Shri C. K. Chaturvedi, Vice-President, ISIL, gave vote of thanks. Three technical sessions were held and chaired by Shri Ragbir Singh, Chairman, Copyrights Board, Shri Rohit Kansal, Deputy Secretary and Registrar of Copyrights and Shri T. C. James, Deputy Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. Presentations were made by the following eminent scholars, Mr. Amarjit Singh, Mr. Rodney Ryder, Ms. Pratibha Singh, Shri S. K. Ghai, Ms. Seema Dubey, Prof. N. S. Gopalakrishnan, Dr. R. C. Tripathi, Shri Bhavin Kothari, Shri Ashok Soni, Shri B. P. Singh and Shri Subhod Kumar. The Colloquium witnessed lively interventions by delegates in all the sessions.

Law Students' Visit to ISIL

A delegation of more than 40 students from G. S. Raoosi Law College, Nagpur visited ISIL on 13 February 2007. Dr. Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, ISIL, welcomed the students and described the activities of ISIL to the visitors and also discussed the importance of international law and career prospect in this area. On the same day, another delegation of more than 40 students from Dr. Ambedkar Law College, Chennai also visited ISIL.

Thirty Sixth Annual Conference of the Indian Society of International Law

The ISIL organized its 36th Annual Conference on 24-25 April 2007 at V. K. Krishna Menon Bhawan (ISIL), New Delhi. More than 200 delegates including law faculty members, researchers, students and lawyers from different parts of the country and representatives from several embassies and ministries participated in the Conference. Prof. R. P. Anand, Executive President, ISIL, while welcoming the distinguished guests and the delegates, mentioned about the significance of the Annual Conference of ISIL and the need for participating in such a conference. Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, President, ISIL, in his inaugural address, emphasized that over the past decades, debate concerning the advantages and disadvantages of globalisation and technologies has continued a pace. The debate clearly witnessed the demands of the third world countries to democratize the international institutions that meet the needs of the developing and less developed countries. He put strong emphasis to operationalise the norms developed for the benefit of third world countries. Finally, he took this opportunity to release a Compendium of Annual Conference contributed by eminent international law scholars. Prof. Rahmatullah Khan, Secretary General, ISIL, gave vote of thanks.

Three sessions were organized to discuss the two themes. The first and second session was on the 'Contemporary Challenges to International Law' and chaired by Dr. R. K. Dixit, Treasurer,

ISIL and Prof. R. P. Anand, Executive President, ISIL respectively. Eminent panelists namely Prof. R. P. Anand, Executive President, ISIL, Shri Rajeev Ranjan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Dr. Luther M. Rangrej, Legal Officer, L&T Division, MEA, Government of India, Major General Nilendra Kumar, Judge Advocate General, Dr. V. G. Hegde, JNU, Shri V. Seshiah Shastri, NLS, Jodhpur, Prof. B. C. Nirmal, BHU, Ms. M. V. Jyothi Reddy, JNU presented papers.

The third session was held on the theme 'Environmental Law: International and National Perspectives' and chaired by Prof. Rahmatullah Khan, Secretary General, ISIL. Shri Sanjay Parikh, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Shri P. H. Parekh, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Prof. D. S. Sengar, IIM, Lucknow, Dr. Anwar Sadat, Research Fellow, ISIL, Shri Mayank Mishra, NLS, Bhopal spoke on various aspects of the theme namely, *Role of Judiciary in Development of Environmental Jurisprudence, The Clean Development Mechanism: Issues, Concerns and Prospects, India's Toxic Landfills*. Finally, the Annual Conference ended with the General Body Meeting.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Special Lecture by Geoffrey Care, Refugee Policy in Europe, 11 April 2007

Special Lecture By Professor Rene Lefebvre, Legal Counsel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands, on "Trends in International Law on Liability for Environmental Damage", 9 May 2007

Two day Training Workshops for Indian Forest Service Officers, 15-16 May 2007

Two day Conference on Human Rights and Good Governance, jointly organising by Indian Society of International Law and All India Law Teacher's Conference, 19-20 May 2007

Meeting on Additional Protocols, ISIL-ICRC, 8-9 June 2007

ISIL Summer Course on International Law at ISIL, 18-29 June 2007

Training Programme for Officer Trainee of Indian Economic Service, 25-29 June 2007.

V. K. Krishna Menon Memorial Lecture by Chief Justice Vjender Jain, Punjab and Haryana High Court, 29 June 2007

Third Additional Protocol Enters into Force

On 14 January 2007, the Third Additional Protocol to the 1949 Geneva Conventions entered into force, six months after the requisite States had ratified it. This completes the process of establishing an additional emblem 'red crystal' for use by governments and the international Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The coming into force of the Protocol - and with it the additional emblem of the red crystal - is considered a concrete sign of the predominance of humanitarian principles over any other considerations governing the mission of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC) Movement.

International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances Opens for Signature

Sixty states have signed a global treaty, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances that outlaws enforced disappearances and allows victims/families the right to know the truth about what happened. It was approved by the United Nations General Assembly last year and was officially opened for signature on 8 February 2007. The Convention outlaws secret detention and requires States to hold all detainees in officially recognized places of detention, maintain up-to-date official registers and detailed records of all detainees, authorize detainees to communicate with their families and legal counsel and give competent authorities access to detainees - obligations that are all critical to preventing enforced disappearances.

The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances contains an absolute prohibition of the practice and calls on all States Parties to ensure that it is made an offence under their domestic laws. Significantly, it deems any widespread or systematic practice of enforced disappearances to be a crime against humanity.

UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression

UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression 2005 came into force on 18 March 2007, after the

thirtieth instrument of ratification was deposited. To date, 52 States have ratified the Convention. India has ratified this convention on 15 December 2006. In fact, this initiative consolidates the gains of Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, 2001. It sets aims and principles to guide the actions of member states, elaborates the rights and obligations of the States Parties, provided for the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, a complementary approach with other existing international instruments, envisaged a series of follow-up mechanisms and provides non-binding mechanism for settlement of disputes. By and large, it has been claimed that a balance between the sovereign rights of states and their obligations has been achieved.

Appellate Body Issues Report in US - Zeroing (Japan)

The Appellate Body, on 9 January 2007, issued its report regarding the complaint of Japan against the United States in the dispute "United States - Measures Relating to Zeroing and Sunset Reviews" (WT/DS322/AB/R).

WTO Issues Compliance Panel Report on Gambling Dispute

The WTO, on 30 March 2007, issued the report of the compliance panel in the case brought by Antigua and Barbuda regarding "United States - Measures affecting the cross-border supply of gambling and betting services" (DS288).

Vietnam Joins WTO

Vietnam joined the WTO on 11 January 2007, taking the organization's membership to 151.

WTO Publishes First Edition of "WTO Dispute Settlement: One-Page Case Summaries"

The WTO published, on 18 January 2007, the first edition of "WTO Dispute Settlement: One-Page Case Summaries" Prepared by the Legal Affairs Division, the publication summarizes in a single page the core facts and findings of the panel and, where applicable, Appellate Body reports for each of the 103 cases that have been adopted by the Dispute Settlement Body during the period 1995 - 1 September 2006.

The High-Level Mission

On 13 December 2006, at its fourth special session, the Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted by consensus decision S-4/101 on the situation of human rights in Darfur, in which it decided to dispatch a High-Level Mission (HLM) with the mandate "to assess the human rights situation in Darfur and the needs of the Sudan in this regard... and to report to the council at its fourth session to be held from 12 March to 5 April 2007". The HLM concluded that the situation of human rights in Darfur remained grave. The situation is characterized by gross and systematic violations of human rights and grave breaches of international humanitarian law. The needs identified by the HLM include immediate and effective protection of civilians, renewed progress toward peace, expanded humanitarian space, increased accountability for perpetrators, action to address root causes, meaningful compensation and redress for victims, and concerted efforts to implement the many existing recommendations of authoritative international human rights bodies. The HLM further concluded that the Government of Sudan had manifestly failed to protect the population of Darfur from large scale international crimes, and has itself orchestrated and participated in these crimes. As such, the solemn obligation of the international community to exercise its responsibility to protect people has become evident and urgent. The HLM also made appropriate recommendations to the HRC, the Government of Sudan, the armed rebel movements in Darfur and to the international community.

Elections to Fill Vacancies in Human Rights Council

The election of fourteen members of the Human Rights Council will be held in mid-May, 2007. Till date, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Qatar (from Asian States), Belarus, Slovenia (from Eastern European States), Bolivia, Nicaragua (Latin American and Caribbean States), Denmark, Italy, Netherlands (from Western European and Other States) have decided to present their candidatures for re-election to the Human Rights Council for a three-year term. Following countries will retire on 19 June 2007: Algeria, Morocco, South Africa, Tunisia (African States), Bahrain, India, Indonesia, Philippines (Asian States), Czech Republic, Poland (Eastern European States), Argentina, Ecuador (Latin American and Caribbean States), Finland, the Netherlands (Western European and Other States).

India Submitted States Parties Report to Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Committee on ICESCR

The Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination considered the fifteenth to nineteenth periodic reports of India (CERD/C/IND/19) submitted in one document at its 1795th and 1799th meetings (CERD/C/SR. 1796 and 1797), held on 23 and 26 February 2007. Some of the NGOs (Asian Legal Resource Centre, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice and Human Rights Watch, Dimension of Discrimination in India, Matoshi Ramabai Centre for Dignity and Rights of Dalit Women, Minority Rights Group, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, Survival, Tamil Nadu Women's Forum, The Resist Initiative International, Tsunami Report, United NGO's Mission Manipur, Forest People Programme) also submitted information to the Committee. At its 1809th meeting (CERD/C/SR. 1809), held on 6 March 2007, it adopted concluding observations. The Committee welcomed the report submitted by India and appreciated the comprehensive provisions and other legislation of the State Party to combat discrimination, including discrimination based on race and caste. However, the Committee took note of the State Party's position that discrimination based on caste fall outside the scope of Article 1 of the Convention and reaffirmed its position expressed in General Recommendation No. 29 that discrimination based on the ground of caste is fully covered by Article 1 of the Convention. The Committee noted with concern that the State party does not recognize its tribal peoples as distinct groups entitled to special protection under the Convention (Article 1(1) and 2) and refers the State party to its General Recommendation No. 23. The Committee urged India to repeal the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, and made many recommendations including accession to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol and enactment of a comprehensive legal framework governing the treatment of refugees, and also recommended to effectively implement the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Bonded Labour (System) Abolition Act, 1976, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, and the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993.

In fact, India also submitted its combined second, third, fourth and fifth periodic report to the Committee on International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on 1 March

2007 (E/C.12/IND/5). The Committee is expected to consider this report on 21-25 May 2007 and to give concluding observations.

Indian-Bhutan Friendship Treaty Enters into Force

The India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty, which was signed in New Delhi on 8th February 2007, has come into force following the exchange of Instruments of Ratification between the two governments in Thimphu on 2 March 2007.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted on 13 December 2006 during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly by resolution A/RES/61/106. In accordance with article 42, the Convention and its Optional Protocol opened for signature by all States and by regional integration organizations at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 30 March 2007. As of now, a total of 85 member states including Jordan (Jordan only ratified) have signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The convention outlawed discrimination against persons with disabilities in all areas of life, including employment, education, health services, transportation and access to justice. It requires that public spaces and buildings be accessible to persons with disabilities, and calls for improvements to information and communications infrastructure. It will also strengthen social, economic and political rights of people with disabilities and reinforce their quality of life by enhancing equality and mutual respect at the local community level, he added. Till date, 45 countries have signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which will give individuals recourse to an expert committee on the rights of persons with disabilities when all national options have been exhausted.

New HCCH Statute Entered into Force on 1 January 2007

On 1 January 2007, a revised version of the Statute of the Hague Conference entered into force. The original Statute, adopted during the Seventh Session of the Hague Conference on Private International Law on 31 October 1951 (in French only), entered into force on 15 July 1955. Amendments were adopted during the Twentieth Session on 30 June 2005, and approved on 30 September 2006. The main purpose of the amendments is to make it possible for certain Regional Economic Integration Organisations to

become a Member of the Hague Conference (Article 3). In addition, the amendments include revisions of the text so that it conforms with existing practices that have developed since the Statute initially came into force more than 50 years ago. Also, on 1 January 2007, new Rules of Procedure entered into force, in accordance with the decision of the Twentieth Session.

The Fourth Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change Report (2007)

The IPCC Report 2007 warned that by the end of this century sea levels are expected to rise by between 28 cm and 48 cm. The report said that rising temperatures would lead to more frequent and powerful storms. The picture of gravity painted by the IPCC report is likely to serve as renewed ground of support while fixing mitigation of greenhouse gases during the second commitment period. The First IPCC Assessment Report was completed in 1990. The Report played an important role in establishing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a UN Framework Convention on Climate Change by the UN General Assembly. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted in 1992 and entered into force in 1994. It provides the overall policy framework for addressing the climate change issue. The IPCC has continued to provide scientific, technical and socio-economic advice to the world community, and in particular to the Parties to the UNFCCC through its periodic assessment reports and special reports. Its Second Assessment Report, Climate Change 1995, provided key input to the negotiations, which led to the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC in 1997.

Seventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) held its seventh session at U N Headquarters in New York on 18 April 2007 to discuss the non-legally binding instrument (NLBI) for the period 2008-2015. Participants from both developed and developing countries highlighted the various factors causing deforestation. Luis Macchiavello of International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) called for inter-agency cooperation to address complex Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) issues in tropical forests including logging, certification and indigenous rights. The importance of the UNFF meeting lies in maturing of the idea of having a comprehensive legally binding instrument on forests.

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