

From Documenting Violations to Preparing for Prosecutions: How can the UN respond effectively to crimes under international law in situations of crisis?

Tuesday, 18 September 2018, 15:30 – 16:30
Room XXII, Palais des nations

Particularly when crimes under international law are perpetrated on a large scale in situations of crisis, there is an urgent need to preserve evidence for use in eventual criminal proceedings, whether at the International Criminal Court or other national or international tribunals.

Too frequently, obstacles prevent immediate direct recourse to international courts and prosecutors. One response has been the creation of mechanisms to collect and preserve the evidence in the meantime. Examples include the International Independent and Impartial Mechanism (IIIM) for Syria, and the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan. At the current session of the Human Rights Council, the Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar has called for establishment of an IIIM pending referral to the ICC or an ad hoc tribunal.

The panel at this side event, organized by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands, is aimed at discussing the various options for accountability, and how to take these and related initiatives forward.

Opening Remarks:

Ambassador Monique T.G. van Daalen, Permanent Mission of the Netherlands

Moderator:

Saman Zia-Zarifi, Secretary General, International Commission of Jurists

Panelists:

Catherine Marchi-Uhel, Head, International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) for Syria

Yasmin Sooka, Chairperson, Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan,

Sanji Monageng, former Judge/Vice-President of the ICC, ICJ Commissioner

Stephen Rapp, Chair, Commission for International Justice & Accountability (CIJA), Distinguished Fellow, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and former United States Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice,

Kingsley Abbott, ICJ Senior Legal Adviser (Global Accountability), formerly with the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.