

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY OONAGH FITZGERALD

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Thanks very much, Lucinda. Good morning, everybody. It's my pleasure to welcome you to this special session on "International Law and the Trump Administration," with a focus on national and international security.

The Centre for International Governance Innovation is a nonpartisan, independent think tank focused on global governance and law, politics, security, and economics. We're based in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, and we have fellows all around the world. What we focus on is writing and preparing policy-relevant research on critical issues of international law, mainly focusing on international economic law, environmental law, intellectual property law, and indigenous law.

Now, Canadians have two expressions about America that I'm sure you've heard before and that will be very familiar to Canadians. When America sneezes, Canada and the rest of the world catches a cold, and the other one was by Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who is an earlier prime minister of Canada. He said, "Living next to you, America, is in some ways like sleeping with an elephant. No matter how friendly and even-tempered is the beast, if I can call it that, one is affected by every twitch"—I would add a tweet—"and grunt." So that's why we're interested in sponsoring this event. I think that we watch what happens in the United States with great interest.

How U.S. presidents and, indeed, all national leaders treat international law is a vital aspect of our collective peace, security, and prosperity. Their relationship to international law either lends legitimacy to it or takes it away, and nowhere is this more important than in the very contested area of national security and international security. So I hope you enjoy this panel. Thank you.

LUCINDA LOW

Thank you very much, Oonagh. There is a similar saying in Mexico about colds and sneezes, so maybe they got it from the Canadians.

Let me now turn the panel over to Benjamin Wittes, who will be our moderator, and he will introduce the remainder of the panelists and the topic. Thank you, Benjamin.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY BENJAMIN WITTES*

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Thank you.

So I would be remiss if I didn't begin this panel by just pausing for a moment over the name of it, which is "International Law and the Trump Administration," and if that doesn't bring a smile to your lips in some form, I think we may as well pack up and go home.

So I'm actually going to be very, very brief with the introductions because I want to use as much time for a conversation here as we can and to involve you guys in it. So what we're going to do, the order of operations here, is that we're going to go left to right here, give very brief opening remarks, and then we will start a conversation up here. And as you guys have questions, there are mics on the side. I can't see you very well because of the brightness of the lights. So if you're up there and I'm not calling on you, make florid movements with your hands or something.

So with us today are Shireen Hunter of the Georgetown School of Foreign Service; John Bellinger, who was a State Department legal advisor in the Bush administration, now of Arnold & Porter; and

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