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Foreword to the 60th Anniversary Volume

This year marks the 60th anniversary of *International Legal Materials*. Beginning as an “experimental compilation of current official documents,” *ILM* has grown into a leading source of information on international legal developments for academics, practitioners, and government officials worldwide.

Plans for the publication were heralded in the Society’s newsletter ahead of the first issue, which described *ILM* as “designed to meet the needs for up-to-date information of scholars, practicing lawyers, legal advisers to government agencies and corporations, government officials, and others concerned with the legal aspects of public and private international dealings.” Content was sourced by volunteer experts in the Washington area, and the first issue, in mimeographed form, was published in August 1962.

That first issue was met with such an enthusiastic response that the Society’s Executive Council decided to make the publication permanent, with six issues per year. A subscription fee was set, and *ILM* was incorporated into the Society’s Regulations in November 1965. Executive Director H.C.L. (Chris) Merillat served as the initial Editor, and the first Editorial Advisory Committee (the EAC) consisted of Stanley D. Metzger, Arthur S. Miller, and Walter S. Surrey.

Since those early days, various changes have been introduced to the content, format, and editorial practices of *ILM*. Beginning in the 1980s, Corresponding Editors were invited to provide advice to the EAC and to help expand the geographic and subject matter coverage of the publication. In 1987, content summaries were published alongside the documents included in *ILM*, and these evolved into the introductory notes that are published today.

Recent decades have seen an explosion in the breadth and scope of the international legal materials produced around the world, and the materials included in *ILM* reflect that increasing diversity. Although many international materials are now widely available online, *ILM* continues to fill a critical need by saving busy scholars and practitioners the time required to sift through the vast array of available documents and publishing only those that the EAC deems most significant.

We would like to thank all the members and staff of the Society who have contributed to the success of *International Legal Materials* over the course of its first six decades. It is our hope that *ILM* will continue to meet the evolving needs of the international legal community in the years to come.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to Diane A. Desierto, Patricia Vella de Fremeaux and Felicity G. Attard, Kalika Mehta, Tamás Molnár, and Ndanga Kamau who contributed notes for this issue, and to all the authors whose scholarship has enriched these pages.

Sincerely,
Mark David Agrast
Chair
Editorial Advisory Committee
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Justine Stefanelli
Attorney-Editor
International Legal Materials
Washington, D.C.
January 2022

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International Legal Materials (ILM) is a publication of the American Society of International Law that reproduces texts of documents reflecting the broad scope and evolution of international law. The range of covered subjects has expanded from traditional topics such as international organizations, jurisdiction, and international trade to include developments in fields such as intellectual property, environmental law, nuclear non-proliferation, human rights, and international criminal law.

ILM serves as both a bi-monthly information service and a widely recognized archive of international law documents for a diverse, global community of legal scholars, government officials, private practitioners, and institutions with a common interest in international law. To meet the varied demands of such a readership, documents are selected from world-wide sources on the basis of their present and future legal significance.

ILM is prepared for publication in Washington, D.C., with the guidance of an Editorial Advisory Committee and the assistance of a team of Corresponding Editors around the world. In order to reproduce texts of selected documents under tight production schedules, the best available source is used, whether electronic or printed.

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ASIL’s 3,500 members come from more than one hundred nations with nearly 40 percent residing outside the United States. Its members include scholars, jurists, practitioners, government officials, leaders in international and nongovernmental organizations, students, and others interested in international law. Through its many publications, conferences, briefings, and educational events, ASIL seeks to serve the needs of its diverse membership and to advance understanding of international law among policymakers and the public.

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