

# AIMS & SCOPE

## Editor's Note

by Giuliana Ziccardi Capaldo\*

*The Global Community Yearbook of International Law and Jurisprudence* was first published in 2001. Since then, the *Yearbook* has established itself as the authoritative resource on the most-significant transformations in the world constitutive process in a way that allows readers to monitor the development of the international legal order towards a legal system for a global community from several perspectives. It promotes discussion on current global legal issues, providing researchers with access to a uniquely rich resource for the study of international jurisprudence.

As the *Yearbook* is celebrating its 15 year anniversary, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the most recent developments and the course of the journal.

I am delighted to announce that the journal has been accepted for inclusion in Scopus.

This positive development will enable *Global Community YILJ* to continue to strengthen its reputation as a leading journal in its field and I would like to thank members of the Editorial and Advisory boards, authors and reviewers for their valued contributions.

There have been changes with the 2015 edition to improve the *Yearbook* going forward. First, I am pleased to announce that since this edition several other distinguished scholars have agreed to join the boards (such as Armin von Bogdandy Goethe University, Frankfurt, Max-Planck-Institute, Heidelberg; Geert-Jan Alexander Knoops University of Amsterdam; Anja Matwijkiw Indiana University Northwest; Nicholas Onuf, Florida International University; Ernst-Ulrich Petersmann European University Institute, Florence; Humberto Antonio Sierra Porto External University of Colombia, Inter-American Court of Human Rights, San José; Ramesh Thakur Australian National University; Guiguo Wang, Tulane University, New Orleans; Thomas G. Weiss City University of New York) and we entered exciting new projects for the next editions.

Another change is that the *Yearbook* has been redesigned and is now one volume. While improving the user experience of the print these changes will also improve the e-book and Oxford Scholarship Online (OSO) version of the *Yearbook*. This is an important step for the

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Yearbook and I would like to thank the OUP team for their patience throughout this process, particularly the current editor, Dennis Gargano, involved in the volume over the years, who has been taking care of the production of the *Yearbook* with great skill and dedication.

The *Yearbook* continues to address “the structuring process of a global community in which a coherent legal system for a universal human society is being built.”<sup>1</sup>

No changes have been made to the theoretical sections of the *Yearbook* (Articles, Notes and Comments, In Focus) that contain analysis by leading scholars and judges from all over the world on current and future developments in international law and global policies, as well as new insights on the contribution of judicial pronouncements to the building of the new world legal order.

In addition, no changes have been made to the section entitled “Recent Lines of Internationalist Thought,” included in the *Yearbook* since 2006. The purpose is to give an overview and a critical appraisal of the current international law literature, providing readers with an opportunity to view issues from different perspectives, to examine different methodologies, and to explore ideas drawn from different cultures. This approach is intended to cast light on the challenges facing a contemporary world society.

Beginning with the 2009 issue, the *Yearbook* has undergone a restructuring to update the section entitled “Decisions of International Courts and Tribunals.” Since then, we have set up a new format in regard to the “legal maxims” that now distil the most important elements of the judicial decisions, leaving aside the facts of the case as far as possible. This section, divided into eleven sub-sections (devoted to many of the highest judicial bodies), continues to report annually on the most significant international case law in the form of “legal maxims,” systematically collected. The elaboration of legal maxims, extracted from the courts’ decisions, and their systematic classification is the peculiarity and uniqueness of the *Yearbook*. The remarkable development of the international courts and tribunals has made it increasingly difficult to follow closely the wealth of case law now emanating from those jurisdictions, without the help of an intermediary. The originality and utility of the *Yearbook* lies precisely in its role of “intermediation” between the case law and international scholars, practitioners, and students.

A short, targeted index for each of those sub-sections has been included, making any research in the volumes efficient and fruitful. However, as in the past, an Introductory Note on each judicial body provides a synopsis of their activity over the course of the year.

Furthermore, beginning with the 2010 issue, the *Yearbook* includes a new section (i.e., “Forum—Jurisprudential Cross-Fertilization: An Annual Overview”), aiming to compare and analyse the interconnections between the decisions of international courts and tribunals. The *Yearbook* is the first academic journal to present an annual overview of the process of cross-fertilization between courts. A comprehensive and complete survey by eminent international law scholars exploring, evaluating and documenting this process has the potential to promote a favourable environment for the courts to advance the judicial cooperation with a view to the possible harmonization of legal principles governing the global community.

15th December 2015

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<sup>1</sup> Editorial, 1 GLOBAL COMMUNITY YILJ xix (2001).