

1 November 2016

Dear Colleagues,

We have the honour to contact you to convey a request by the Codification Division of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs in relation with the topic “Identification of customary international law”, currently on the agenda of the International Law Commission.

In August 2016, the International Law Commission adopted, on first reading, a complete set of sixteen draft conclusions on the topic “Identification of customary international law” ([A/71/10, Chapter V](#)). In connection with this topic, the Commission requested the United Nations Secretariat to prepare a memorandum on ways and means for making the evidence of customary international law more readily available, which will survey the present state of the evidence of customary international law and make suggestions for its improvement.

The Secretariat has since sent questionnaires to States, international organizations and other entities. The questionnaires aim to survey the publicly available sources of evidence relevant for the identification of customary international law. This includes, in particular, sources of information regarding the practice of States and international organizations.

The Secretariat is additionally seeking the cooperation of the international law societies, who may provide information on the source of evidence of customary international law within their remit.

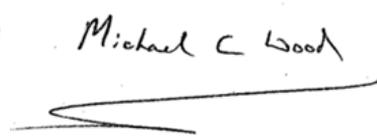
First, the Secretariat seeks information as to whether any similar surveys of practice relating to customary international law have already been conducted. Similar research efforts may have led to published studies in the past, and the Secretariat would be most grateful for information on the resources which are available to the public in that regard. Second, the Secretariat would be grateful for the direct contribution of international law societies to the survey by providing information on the available evidence of customary international law. The focus of each society should be information contained in publications or other materials available in their region and/or language.

A model bibliographic form (enclosed) has been prepared by the Secretariat for that purpose. In order to be taken into account in the production of the memorandum, any information should be submitted electronically to Mr. David Nanopoulos at nanopoulosd@un.org and Ms. Judith Maclang-Violago at maclang@un.org before **1 July 2017**. All contributions will be duly acknowledged in the memorandum prepared by the Secretariat for the seventieth session of the International Law Commission.

The Codification Division can be contacted at the email addresses above and is at the disposal of your Society for any further information or assistance which may be required.

We hope your Society will be able to participate to this survey that will constitute an important contribution to the work of the International Law Commission and to the dissemination of information on international law in general.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Alain Pellet
Sir Michael Wood