



CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW
National University of Singapore

Roundtable Discussion

The Application of International Law in Cyber

Thurs, 28 Nov 24 @ 4pm SGT (90 min)

9 am CET / 1.30pm IST / 8 pm FJT

Format : Webinar

Closed Door - By invitation only

Introduction

The United Nations (“UN”) Secretary-General has stated that: “[f]ew technologies have been as powerful as information and communications technologies (ICTs) in reshaping economies, societies and international relations. ... The benefits are enormous, but these do not come without risk. Making cyberspace stable and secure can be achieved only through international cooperation, and the foundation of this cooperation must be international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations”.

Whether and how international law applies in cyberspace are questions that have generated considerable interest and discussion for more than twenty years. States have been expressing concerns about the harmful use of ICTs in ways that are not consistent with the maintenance of international peace and security through resolutions of the UN General Assembly since 1998. There have been a number of UN initiatives, most notably the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security, which met from 2004 to 2021 and the ongoing UN Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies, which is open to all UN Member States.

Against this background, Mr. Huw Llewellyn, recently retired Director of the Codification Division of the UN Office of Legal Affairs, will discuss his working paper on the application of certain areas of public international law in cyberspace, in particular, those relating to

international peace and security as laid down in the UN Charter and the rules of international humanitarian law. The working paper focuses on the prohibition of the use of force and the right of self-defence in response to an armed attack (*jus ad bellum*), the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law (*jus in bello*), the prohibition of intervention in the internal affairs of other States, the principle of sovereignty of States, the law of international responsibility of States and the ‘due diligence’ principle.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Huw Llewellyn is a former lawyer and diplomat of the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office (1988 - 2007); was posted as the Legal Adviser at the UK Permanent Missions in Geneva to the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament (1994 - 1997); acted as the Agent of the UK government in cases before the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg (1998 - 2004); and was posted as the Legal Counsellor at the UK Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York (2004 - 2007).

He then joined the UN Secretariat as the Head of the international criminal tribunals team in the UN Office of the Legal Counsel (2007 - 2013); was appointed as the Deputy Director of the Codification Division of the UN Office of Legal Affairs (2013 - 2015); and as Director of the Codification Division of the UN Office of Legal Affairs (2015 - 2024). In the latter position, he was the Secretary of the International Law Commission, the Secretary of the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the UN General Assembly, the Secretary of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations, and the Secretary of the Advisory Committee of the UN Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. He retired from the UN at the end of September 2024.

He is a solicitor in England and Wales, holds a Bachelors degree in Law (LLB) from the University of Southampton, UK (1981), and a PhD in international law from the University of Leiden, the Netherlands (2019).