

‘The Clarification and Development of Rules of International Law Applicable to Cyberspace’

4 September 2024, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law (Poljanski nasip 2, Ljubljana)

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia, the Oxford Process on International law Protections in Cyberspace, and the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, together with the Government Information Security Office of Slovenia and Microsoft, will convene a workshop titled ‘The Clarification and Development of Rules of International Law Applicable to Cyberspace’ on 4 September 2024 at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana.

In its July 2023 Report, the United Nations Open-Ended Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) reaffirmed that international law ‘is applicable and essential to maintaining peace, security and stability and promoting an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment.’ The Group called upon States to hold focused discussions on how international law applies to the use of ICTs and invited them to continue to voluntarily share their national views on the matter.

If international law is to effectively counter cyber threats and harms, its rules must be clear and predictable. The need to clarify international law in its application to cyberspace is today well understood among States, international organisations, academia and the private sector. Discussions on the application of international law generally, and on the elements of specific treaty and customary rules have opened space for the specification, and even development of understandings of the law. These dynamics make it critical for States and other stakeholders to engage with the methodology of international law identification and evolution, and the implications of positions asserted in the cyberspace discussions for the application of international law more generally.

The workshop will focus on the process of clarifying and developing the rules of international law applicable to cyberspace. It will open a much-needed space for discussing the methods of interpreting treaties and identifying customary law, the legal significance of national positions on the application of international law to cyberspace, the many ways in which States disagree on the applicability and content of international law, and the impact of cyber discussions on the application of international law beyond cyberspace.

Panellists at the workshop are selected from the wider stakeholder community – representatives of States, international organisations, academia and the private sector.



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Provisional Programme

9.00	Opening speeches and welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Marko Rakovec, director-general of Directorate for international law and protection of interests, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Republic of Slovenia • Prof Dr Dapo Akande, Chichele Professor of Public International Law, Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford and Co-Director of the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (ELAC) • Prof Dr Vasilka Sancin, Head of Department of International Law, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law • Dr Uroš Svete, Director of the Government Information Security Office of Slovenia • Ms Kaja Ciglic, Senior Director of Digital Diplomacy, Microsoft
9.30	Session 1: The process of clarifying and developing international law in its application to cyberspace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Dr Duncan B. Hollis, Laura H. Carnell Professor of Law, Temple University Beasley School of Law (moderator) • Ms Kaja Ciglic, Senior Director of Digital Diplomacy, Microsoft • Mr Samit D'Cunha, Legal adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross • Prof Dr Kubo Mačák, Professor of International Law, University of Exeter • Prof Dr Vasilka Sancin, Head of Department of International Law, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law • Ms Liis Vihul, Founder and CEO at Cyber Law International
11.00	Coffee break
11.30	Session 2: How States disagree on the content and application of international law to cyberspace, and how these disagreements impact the application of international law beyond cyberspace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Dr Dapo Akande, Chichele Professor of Public International Law, Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford and Co-Director of ELAC (moderator) • Dr Mohamed Helal, Legal Adviser, Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations and Associate Professor of Law, Ohio State University • Dr Maša Kovič Dine, Department for International Law, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law • Ms Tsvetelina van Benthem, Postdoctoral researcher and lecturer in international law, University of Oxford



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Dr Marguerite Walter, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, US Department of State
13.00	Lunch (<i>buffet in front of the conference room</i>)
14.00-15.00	<p>Session 3 (closed): Developing national positions on the application of international law to cyberspace: a perspective from State legal advisers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Dr Duncan B. Hollis, Laura H. Carnell Professor of Law, Temple University Beasley School of Law (moderator) • Mr Paul Berman, Legal Director, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom • Ambassador Dr Conrad Bühler, Legal Adviser, Directorate General I – Central Affairs, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of republic of Austria • Dr Maral Kashgar, Office of the Minister of Defence, Federal Ministry of Defence, Germany • Ms Liisa Sulavee, International Law Division, Legal Department, Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
16.00	Optional two-hour walking tour of Ljubljana
19.00	<p>Evening reception organised by Microsoft</p> <p><i>As Aperitivo Restaurant</i></p> <p><i>Čopova ulica 5a, 1000 Ljubljana</i></p>



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