
**European Society of International Law
Interest Group on International Courts and Tribunals
Annual Report 2024-2025**

23 September 2025

1. *Coordinating Committee*

In the last year, the following individuals served as members of the Coordinating Committee:

- Michael Becker
- Veronica Botticelli (elected to a four-year term as of 19 December 2024)
- James Devaney (elected to a four-year term as of 19 December 2024)
- Yusra Suedi
- Sarah (Sally) Thin (elected to a four-year term as of 19 December 2024)

In addition, Cecily Rose and Stephan Wittich completed their terms on the Committee as of 18 December 2024.

2. *Events*

Webinar: Taking Stock: A Roundtable Discussion on the Public Hearing in the ICJ Climate Change Advisory Proceedings'

On 16 December 2024, the IG organized a webinar that provided instant analysis following the close of the oral proceedings at the ICJ in the *Legal Consequences of Climate Change* case. Featuring scholar-practitioners who advised entities that participated in the case, the event was moderated by Michael Becker and Yusra Suedi, with assistance from Cecily Rose. The webinar programme is attached.

ESIL Annual Meeting (Berlin), Pre-conference Workshop: Reconstructing the Advisory Function of International Courts and Tribunals?

On 11 September 2025, the IG held a preconference workshop at the ESIL Annual Meeting in Berlin. The workshop comprised three separate panels involving eight different papers. Committee members chaired each panel and offered introductory and closing remarks. The workshop was well-attended and provoked lively discussion. The programme is attached. Note that due to unforeseen circumstances, Michael Becker moderated Panel 1 and G Mahith Vidyasagar did not end up participating in the workshop.

3. *Future plans*

The Committee plans to meet on 8 October 2025 to discuss potential events and initiatives for 2025-26, including whether to pursue any follow-up projects relating to the Berlin workshop.



Taking Stock: A Roundtable Discussion on the Public Hearing in the ICJ Climate Change Advisory Proceedings

Webinar

16 December 2024, 11:00-12:00 CET

This roundtable discussion will bring together experts who closely followed the two-week hearing held by the International Court of Justice in the [*Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change*](#) advisory proceedings. What have we learned from these two weeks of pleadings from dozens of states and international organizations? What legal arguments were given the most prominence? What issues received inadequate attention? The discussion will provide opportunities to reflect on whether participants in the hearing managed to strike an effective balance between describing the gravity and scope of the problem and advocating for specific legal responses. Ultimately, did these historic proceedings help to identify any type of emerging consensus on questions of climate justice, and what can we now expect from the Court?

Please register for the event at <https://shorturl.at/dROq8>.

Moderators:

- Yusra Suedi, Lecturer in International Law, University of Manchester; Co-convenor, ESIL Interest Group on International Courts and Tribunals
- Michael A. Becker, Assistant Professor of International Human Rights Law, Trinity College Dublin; Co-convenor, ESIL Interest Group on International Courts and Tribunals

Speakers:

- Caroline Foster, Professor of International Law, University of Auckland
- Danilo B. Garrido, Legal Counsel, Greenpeace International; DPhil Candidate in Law, University of Oxford
- Corina Heri, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Zurich



Reconstructing the Advisory Function of International Courts and Tribunals?

Pre-conference workshop
ESIL IG on International Court and Tribunals

11 September 2025, 9 am – 12 pm

Each panel will involve 10-minute presentations of each paper followed by discussion.

09:00-09:05 Opening

Michael Becker (Trinity College Dublin)

09:05-09:55 Panel 1: Narratives and Storytelling

Moderator: *Yusra Suedi (University of Manchester)*

Johanna Ritter (Radboud University Nijmegen): The International Court of Justice as storyteller: The potential of the world court's advisory opinions as mental compass in times of global challenges

Letizia Lo Giacco (Leiden University): Coping with Historical Injustices: The Remedial Role of Advisory Proceedings in the International Community

G Mahith Vidyasagar (SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai): Advisory Jurisdiction as Epistemic Resistance: Reconstructing the Judicial Role in a Post-Hegemonic Legal Order

10:00-10:50 Panel 2: Procedural Issues and the Advisory Function

Moderator: *James Devaney (University of Glasgow)*

Alice Bertram (Leuphana University Lüneburg): Potential and Pitfalls of the Advisory Function under the BBNJ Agreement

Jianping Guo (Xi'an Jiaotong University) and Brian McGarry (Leiden University): Bespoke Approaches to Scientific Expertise in International Advisory Proceedings: Is Harmony inevitable?

Miłosz Gapsa (University of Łódź): Re-Examining Provisional Measures in Advisory Proceedings

11:00-11:50 Panel 3: Output and Aftermath

Moderator: *Sarah Thin (Radboud University Nijmegen)*

Andrea Maria Pelliconi (University of Southampton): Between Legal Principles and Geopolitical Realities: Reflecting on the Legacy of the ICJ's Western Sahara Opinion

Robert Stendel (Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law) and Alexander Wentker (University of Potsdam and Humboldt-University Berlin): Eroding the Consent Principle? Findings in Advisory Opinions as 'Givens' in Contentious Cases

Dobrosława C. Budzianowska (University of Wrocław): Between Dialogue and Dissent: The Reception of Advisory Opinions by Domestic and Regional Courts

11:50-12:00 Closing

Veronica Botticelli (Università degli Studi di Milano)