

EDUARDO VALENCIA-OSPINA (Colombia)

Member (2006-2022), First Vice-Chair (2017-2018) and Chair (2018-2019) of the International Law Commission (ILC). ILC Special Rapporteur on the topic "Protection of persons in the event of disasters" (2007-2016). Deputy-Registrar (1984-1986) and Registrar (1987-2000) of the International Court of Justice, with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations; President, Latin American Society of International Law (LASIL/SLADI) (2014-2016)

Place of birth Cali, Colombia.

Languages Fluent in Spanish (mother tongue), English and French (spoken, read and written)

Academic Qualifications

"Bachiller", "Colegio de Santa Librada", Cali, 1956

Doctor of Juridical Sciences, Pontifical Javeriana University, Bogotá, 1962

Doctor of Economic Sciences, Pontifical Javeriana University, 1962

Certificate, specialized course on Labor Law and Economics, Pontifical Javeriana University, 1961

Certificate, "Workshop on American Law for Colombian lawyers", SMU, Dallas, 1961

Certificate, "Foreign Students Program", Yale University, New Haven, 1962

Master of Laws (1963) and Special Graduate Studies (1963-1964) Harvard University (Law School), Cambridge, Specialization International Law

A. Professional Experience

I Post- Career as United Nations Official (2000-present)

Member of the ILC:

2006-elected by the ILC to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Bernardo Sepúlveda (Mexico)

2007-2011; 2012-2016; 2017-2022 elected by the General Assembly

2007 elected Special Rapporteur of the ILC on "Protection of Persons in the event of Disasters":

2008-Preliminary report (A/CN.4/598); 2009-Second report (A/CN.4/615 and Corr.1);

2010-Third report (A/CN.4/629); 2011-Fourth report (A/CN.4/643 and Corr.1);

2012-Fifth report (A/CN.4/652); 2013-Sixth report (A/CN.4/662); 2014-Seventh report (A/CN.4/668); 2016 Eighth report (A/CN.697)

Consultant in international law, including international judicial and arbitral proceedings, to:
the governments of Colombia and several other States (2000-present)
the Law Firm Eversheds/Frere Cholmeley (London,Paris) (2000-2010)

Counsel for Colombia in several cases before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) (2001-present)

State appointed ICSID Arbitrator (from 2016)

Founder and Editor in Chief of the Journal “The Law and Practice of International Courts and Tribunals” and of the Series “International Litigation in Practice”, both published by Martinus Nijhoff /Brill (Leiden, Boston) (2002-2017)

II Prior to United Nations Career

Legal Assistant to the First Solicitor General, Colombian Council of State (1961-1962)
“Associate”, Law Firm “Ropes and Grey”, Boston (1963)

III Career as United Nations Official (1964-2000):

1. International Court of Justice (ICJ) (1984-2000)

Registrar, elected on 19 February 1987, re-elected on 17 February 1994, for 7-year terms, with the rank of UN Assistant Secretary-General

Deputy-Registrar, elected on 11 April 1984 for a 7 year term

During his tenure, 53 contentious cases and advisory opinions have been before the ICJ

2. United Nations Secretariat (Office of Legal Affairs), New York (1964-1984)

Appointed, Assistant Legal Officer, September 1964

Resigned, Senior Legal Officer, March 1984

Legal assistance to United Nations codification organs and conferences

Member of the secretariat of the following organs and conferences:

International Law Commission (since 1966: eighteen consecutive sessions), Deputy Secretary of the ILC since 1981; Secretary of the Drafting Committee since 1976

Sixth Committee of the General Assembly (since 1966; eighteen consecutive sessions), Assistant Secretary; Secretary of the Drafting Committees or Working Groups set up in connection with the following international instruments:

Draft Convention on Special Missions (1968, 1969)

Draft Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Diplomatic Agents and other Internationally Protected Persons (1973)

Draft Declaration on the Right of Asylum (1965-1967)

UN Conference on the Law of Treaties (Vienna, 1969), Special Assistant to the Expert Consultant (Sir H. Waldock); Assistant-Secretary of the Committee of the Whole

UN Conference on Representation of States in their Relations with International Organizations (Vienna, 1975), Assistant-Secretary of the Drafting Committee

UN Conferences on Territorial Asylum (Geneva, 1977) and Succession of States in respect of Treaties (Vienna, 1977-1978), Secretary of the Drafting Committee

UN Conference on Succession of States in respect of State Property, Archives and Debts (Vienna, 1983), Secretary of the Committee of the Whole and the Drafting Committee

Special Committees on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States (1966-1970) and on the Question of Defining Aggression (1967-1972), Assistant Secretary

Ad Hoc Committees on International Terrorism (1973, 1977) and on the UN Charter (1975), Assistant Secretary

3. Miscellaneous UN activities

“Special assistant” to the Presidents of the UN General Assembly at its 28th (1973), 33rd (1978) and 38th (1983) sessions

UN Representative, 22nd International Conference of the Red Cross, Teheran (1973)

Representative, UN Office of Legal Affairs, Experts Round-Tables on Refugee Law, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo (1978) and Florence (1979)

Member of the UN Publications Board

Member of the delegations of the ICJ to the 39th (1984) to 54th (1999) UN General Assembly sessions

ICJ Observer, 1985 (Arusha), 1989 (Beijing) and 1992 (Islamabad) Meetings of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee

ICJ Observer, 8th UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Havana, 1990)

ICJ Observer, UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992)

Delegate, Tenth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Vienna, 2000)

Participant in the IFRC and OCHA Experts Meeting on the Model Act on International Disaster Assistance (Geneva)

Participant in the Experts Round-Tables on Temporary Protection, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (San Remo)

Participant in the GAIHL Round-Table on International Disaster Response Law (Geneva)

Member of the Advisory Group for the Hyogo Framework of Action 2 (UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai)

4. Research and studies on subjects of international law: UN documentation and publications

Participated in the preparation of:

The practice of the UN, the specialized agencies and IAEA concerning their status, privileges and immunities (A/CN.4/L.118 and Adds. 1 and 2; 1967 ILC Yearbook)

Relations between States and International organizations (A/CN.4/241 and Adds. 1-6; 1971 ILC Yearbook)

Review of the ILC’s programme and methods of work (A/7209/Rev.1, Annex; 1968 ILC Yearbook)

Review of the ILC’s Programme of Work, (A/CN.4/230; 1970 ILC Yearbook)

Survey of International Law (A/CN.4/245/Rev.1; 1971 ILC Yearbook)

Succession of States to multilateral treaties (A/CN.4/200 and Add.1 and 2; A/CN.4/210; A/CN.4/225; 1968, 1969 and 1970 ILC Yearbooks)

Succession of States to bilateral treaties (A/CN.4/229; A/CN.4/243 and Add.1; 1970 and 1971 ILC Yearbooks)

Review of the multilateral treaty-making process (A/35/312/Add.2; A/CN.4/325; 1979 ILC Yearbook)
Review of the role of the ICJ (A/8382, 1971)
International terrorism (A/C.6/418 and Add.1, 1972)
Survey on existing rules of international law concerning the prohibition or restriction of use of specific weapons (A/9215, Vols. I and II , 1973)
Diplomatic Asylum (A/10139, Part II, 1975)
Volume 14 of the UN Legislative Series “Materials on Succession of States”; (ST/LEG/SER.B/14)
Volume 17 of the UN Legislative Series “Materials on Succession of States in Respect of matters other than Treaties”; (ST/LEG/SER.B17)
Volume XIV of the Reports of International Arbitral Awards (U.N. publication 65.V.4.)
Volume XV of the Reports of International Arbitral Awards (U.N. publication 66.V.3)
Volume XVI of the Reports of International Arbitral Awards U.N. publication E/F.69/V.1)
The Work of the ILC (3rd edition, 1980; U.N. publication E.80.V.11)
Research project on circumstances precluding wrongfulness other than “force majeure” and “fortuitous event” (i.e., necessity, self-defense, consent, legitimate application of sanction)
Research project on the most-favored nation clause
Research project on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier

B. Non-Un activities

Member of the Consultative Committee of the “Nansen Initiative” on internationally displaced persons (Geneva)
Member of the Advisory Committee of the Platform on Disaster Displacement
Delegate of the Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (Paris),
19th Diplomatic Conference of The Hague Conference on Private International Law (2001)
Presiding judge (Washington, D.C.) and judge (UN, New York) in the World final rounds and Presiding judge in the Dutch and Colombian final rounds (The Hague, Bogotá) of the “Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition”
Judge in the Telders Moot Court Competition (Leiden)
Honorary member of the Board of Editors of the Leiden Journal of International Law
Member of the Board of Editors of the Colombian Yearbook of International Law
Member of the Advisory Board of the Yearbook of International Disaster Law
Member of the Editorial Advisory Council for the projected Latin-American Yearbook of Public International Law (Geneva)
Member of the Nominating Committee for The Hague Prize in International Law
Member of the Board of Directors of the Manfred Lachs Foundation (Netherlands)
Member of the Steering Committee of the Project on International Courts and Tribunals PICT (New York and London Universities)
Member of the Advisory Committee on the project “Process and Legitimacy in the nomination, election and appointment of international judges: (University College, London)
Participant as chairman and/or featured speaker in numerous international conferences, colloquia, round-tables, symposia and workshops, on diverse subjects of international law and relations

C. Other Legal Writings

- “Algunas Consideraciones Jurídicas y Económicas Suscitadas por el Tema de la Actuación Estatal”, (Bogotá, “La Meta” Edit., 1962)
- “Legal Problems in Commodities Trade: the International Coffee Agreement” (Cambridge, Mass., 1963)
- “Le droit et son interprète” in “Guy Ladreit de Lacharrière et la politique juridique extérieure de la France” (Paris, “Masson” Edit., 1989)
- “The ICJ and International Environmental Law” (Asian Yearbook of International Law, Vol. 2, 1994)
- “The Use of Chambers of the ICJ” in “Essays in honour of Sir Robert Jennings” (Cambridge University Press, 1995)
- “The role of the ICJ in fifty years of the UN” (The Hague Yearbook of International Law, Vol.8,1995)
- “Conceptual and Practical Aspects of the Codification and Progressive Development of International Law: New Developments and Priorities” in International Law as Language of International Relations” (U.N. publication T.96.V.4)
- “International Law and the Information Era” in “Problems of Contemporary International Law: Conflicts and Convergences” (The Hague, T.M.C.Asser Institute, 1996)
- “Financing, Administering and Making Known the Work of the Court” in “Increasing the Effectiveness of the ICJ” published under the auspices of UNITAR (“Kluwer” Edit., 1997)
- “Nueva Aproximación al Uti Possidetis Juris” (Quaestiones juridicae,13 Bogotá, 1997)
- “The role of the ICJ in the Pact of Bogotá” in “Essays in honour of José María Ruda” (“Kluwer” Edit., 1999)
- “The role of the ICJ in disputes relating to the Law of International Watercourses” in Proceedings of the First Regional Latin-American Conference of the International Law Association (Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1999)
- “Evidence before the ICJ” (International Law Forum du Droit International, Vol. I, 1999)
- “[My] Bookshelf” (International Law Forum du Droit International, Vol. IV, 2000)
- “Non-governmental Organizations and the ICJ” in “Civil Society, International Courts and Compliance Bodies” (T.C.M. Asser Press, 2005)
- “International Boundary Delimitation and the Law of Treaties” in Boundary Negotiation and Dispute Resolution” (IBRU, Cd-Rom, Durham, 2005)
- “Agents before International Courts and Tribunals” in “Max-Planck Encyclopedia of International Law” (Oxford University Press, 2006)
- “The Pact of Bogotá” in “Max-Planck Encyclopedia of International Law” (Oxford University Press 2007, updated 2019)
- Contributor to the following 4 books published at the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020:
- “ ILO 100. Law for Social Justice” (ILO publication, Geneva)
 - “ Reflexiones sobre Temas de la CDI en Homenaje a su 70 Aniversario”, Argentinian Council for International Relations (CARI publication, Buenos Aires)
 - “Seventy Years of the ILC. Drawing a Balance for the Future” (UN publication, Brill, Leiden/Boston)
 - “Yearbook of International Disaster Law”, vol.1 (Brill, Leiden/Boston)
- Forewords to several books on diverse subjects such as Procedure before the ICJ; International Environmental Law; and International Disaster Law

D. Lectures given

1. Courses

Twentieth and thirty-second external programmes of The Hague Academy of International Law (Bogotá, 1998 and Manila, 2001)
Twenty-third Course in International Law organized by the Inter-America Juridical Committee (Rio de Janeiro, 1996)
Wolfson Lectureship at the Dean Rusk International Law Center (University of Georgia)
PICT Training Programme, Law School of the University of Pretoria
PICT Training Programme, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Teheran
International Boundaries Research Unit of Durham University, Workshops Paris (2003) and Durham (2005)
UN/UNITAR Seminar in conjunction with the The Hague Academy of International Law Programme (The Hague)
Graduate Study Programme at the UN Office at Geneva
International Law Seminar in conjunction with the annual sessions of the ILC (Geneva)
Seminar for Delegates, UNITAR (New York)
Seminars for visiting student groups, UN Office of Public Information (New York)
International Disaster Law Course (International Humanitarian Law Institute, San Remo)

2. Universities (Law Faculties) and other academic institutions

Javeriana, Colegio del Rosario, Los Andes and La Sabana (Bogotá, Colombia); Leiden, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht, Asser Institute and Institute for Social Studies (The Hague) (The Netherlands); Boston, California (Davis), Georgia (Athens), Harvard (Cambridge), Yale (New Haven); New York, City College of the City University of New York, Vanderbilt (Nashville) (U.S.A.); Oxford, Glasgow, Durham, London (UCL, Kings and Queen Mary Colleges; SOAS), London School of Economics and British Institute of International Law (U.K.); Geneva, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (Switzerland); Buenos Aires, El Salvador, Torcuato Di Tella and Argentinian Council for International Relations –CARI– (Argentina); Vienna (Austria); Sao Paulo and Institute of Public Law and Political Science and Getulio Vargas Foundation (Rio de Janeiro) (Brazil); Inter-American Institute on Human Rights and University for Peace (San José, Costa Rica); Diplomatic Academy (Quito, Ecuador); Diplomatic Institute (Cairo, Egypt); Center of International and European Economic Law (Thessaloniki, Greece); Isfahan (Iran); Milan, Bologna, Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna (Pisa) and International Humanitarian Law Institute (San Remo), (Italy), Atheneum (Manila, Philippines); Cardinal Wyszyński and School of Economics (Warsaw) and Nicolas Copernicus, (Torun) (Poland); Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Budapest)

3. Associations and other institutions

State Supreme Court (Cali); Association of Attenders and Alumni of The Hague Academy of International Law and Hispanic Society (The Netherlands); Association of the Bar of the City of New York and American Association of Maritime Law (U.S.A.); Cuban Association for the UN (Havana); Egyptian Society of International Law (Cairo);

Romanian Society for International Relations (Bucharest); World Association of Former UN Fellows and Interns (Geneva); Greek, Hungarian, Brazilian and Mexican Chapters of the International Law Association (Athens , Budapest, Sao Paulo and Mexico City); IFRC Consultative Meeting on Law and Disasters (Toluca, Mexico); Homage to Rafael Altamira, on behalf of the ICJ (Alicante Municipality)

E. Membership of learned societies

International Law Association

Chairman of the Study Group on Responsibility of International Organizations (2005-2012)

Member of the Committee on Accountability of International Organizations

Member of the Study Group on the Independence of the International Judiciary

American Society of International Law

Latin American Society of International Law

F. Honours

Gold medal “General Santander” awarded to the best student at “Colegio de Santa Librada” (1956)

First place at the Law School of the Pontifical Javeriana University (1961)

ICETEX scholarship for five years at the Law School of the Pontifical Javeriana University

“Fulbright” grant, 1962

Fellowship, Harvard University, 1962-1963

Fellowship, Organization of American States, 1963-1964

Commander of the “Order of the Confederated Cities”, State Government of Cali (1995)

Gold Medal “José Félix Restrepo”, highest award by the Pontifical Javeriana University (1997)

Commander of the “Order Javeriana”, Pontifical Javeriana University Alumni (1997)

“Commentaries on World Court’s Decisions, 1987-1996” book dedicated to him,

Kluwer Law International (1998)

First Honorary Member of the T.M.C.Asser Institute, The Hague (2001)

“Visiting Scholar”, Center for International Studies, NYU Law School (2001)

Grand Cross of the Order of San Carlos conferred by the President and Foreign Minister

of the Republic of Colombia (2001)

Honorary Member of the Colombian Academy of International Law (2009)

President of the Latin-American Society of International Law (LASIL/SLADI) (2014-2016)

March 2021