

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

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Summary of the “Virtual special meeting to promote the study of private international law in the Americas,” held on June 3, 2021, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Chaired by Ambassador Josué Fiallo, Permanent Representative of Dominican Republic and Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), the “Virtual special meeting to promote the study of private international law in the Americas” was called to order at 2:33 p.m.

The statutory quorum was established with the presence of representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The audio recording of the meeting may be obtained at the following link:
http://scm.oas.org/audios/2021/DCMM/CP_CAJP_3566-06-03-2021.mp3

This special meeting was convened via an agenda approved at the CAJP's regular meeting on March 18, 2021, its latest version distributed as document [CP/CAJP-3566/21 rev. 3](#).

1. Opening remarks by the Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, Ambassador Josué Fiallo, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the OAS

First of all, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Jeannette Tramhel, Dr. José Antonio Moreno Rodríguez, Dr. Paula María All and Dr. María Blanca Noodt and to thank them for agreeing to join us today and to share their knowledge and experience with us.

Let me remind those present about the mandate given in the resolution from the fiftieth regular session of the OAS General Assembly, that is, resolution AG/RES. 2959 (L-O/20), “International Law,” section i, “Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law,” operative paragraph 3, which reads:

“To request the Permanent Council to hold a special meeting on a date to be determined in due course in Washington, D.C., to promote the study of private international law in the Americas with the possible participation of organizations dedicated to that subject, to be invited by consensus among the member states.”

Let us first hear from our guest experts/panelists, and then from the member states.

2. Presentations by guest speakers

The following are the guest panelists' presentations received to date:

- Presentation by Dr. Jeannette Tramhel on behalf of the Department of International Law, OAS General Secretariat
 - Biography: [Spanish/English](#)
 - Presentation: [Spanish/English](#)

- Presentation by Dr. José Antonio Moreno Rodríguez, Vice Chair of the Inter-American Juridical Committee
 - [Biography](#)

- Presentation by Dr. Paula María All, President of the American Association of Private International Law (ASADIP)
 - [Biography](#)

- Presentation by professor Dr. María Blanca Noodt, Professor of private international law, University of Buenos Aires
 - [Biography](#)
 - [Presentation](#)

3. Presentations by member state delegations

The following are the member state presentations received to date:

- a. [Argentina](#)
- b. [Chile](#)
- c. [Mexico](#)
- d. [Paraguay](#)

The delegations of Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru also took the floor.

The Committee decided to take note of the presentations given by the guest panelists/experts, as well as the comments made by member states.

4. Conclusions

The CAJP Chair said he was very pleased with this special meeting, held to promote the study of private international law in the Americas, and thanked the Department of International Law for organizing it. He thanked the panelists for their highly interesting presentations, namely: Dr. Jeannette Tramhel, Principal Legal Officer with the Department of International Law; Dr. José Moreno, Vice Chair of the Inter-American Juridical Committee; Dr. Maria Paula All, President of the American Association of Private International Law (ASADIP); and Dr. Maria Blanca Noodt, a private international law expert proposed by the Mission of Argentina to the OAS.

As well, the Chair thanked all the delegations that spoke and made valuable contributions during this meeting. He suggested the CAJP hold another special meeting next year to discuss strategies

to continue the progressive development of private international law in the region. As demonstrated at this meeting, this is an undertaking of utmost importance, whereby the OAS has historically contributed in fact to the development of private international law at the global level.

The Chair pointed as well to the work carried out by the Department of International Law in disseminating private international law in the region in collaboration with organizations and associations engaged in this field, notably the American Association of Private International Law (ASADIP), which he once again thanked for taking part in this meeting, committing ASADIP to ongoing close collaboration with said Department to promote the inter-American conventions and other soft law instruments covering the latest developments in private international law within the Organization – developments that have been cited at this meeting. Suggesting that note be taken of the interesting project on creating a database of jurisprudence on private international law, he added that such a tool would be very useful for all experts working in this issue in the Americas, proposing further that the Department of International Law report periodically on the results of this project.

He noted ASADIP's annual meeting scheduled to be held next November, as a virtual meeting. In wishing them a successful meeting, the Chair expressed the hope that they would soon be able to host an in-person annual meeting here in Washington, D.C., so interested CAJP delegates could take advantage of the opportunity and participate in it.

The Chair said he found it to be an interesting initiative put forward by the Department of International Law to periodically organize joint meetings with units specializing in private international law, under the legal departments of member states' foreign affairs ministries, to explore the need for and possibility of promoting new developments in this arena. In that regard, he requested the member states to support this initiative and to continue designating the points of contact with which the Department of International Law could coordinate.

Along the same lines, he requested the states party to the various inter-American conventions on legal and judicial cooperation in the area of private international law to designate the pertinent central authorities or to update the information on central authorities already designated, so as to facilitate and promote that cooperation, and in response to a written request from the Department of International Law, as reported today. He indicated that this is one of many ways in which the states could support the initiatives by this Department to continue promoting the ongoing development of private international law in the region and strengthening inter-American cooperation.

In closing, the Chair cited the excellent example provided by Dr. Maria Blanca Noodt at this meeting regarding the work of the Advisory Committee on Private International Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, the purpose of which is to contribute specialized knowledge to the crafting of Argentina's national position on this issue in various international forums. He expressed the view that this was a good practice that other countries might wish to consider taking into account to strengthen the work of their foreign ministries in the area of private international law.

With no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.