Introduction

During my tenure as Minister of Foreign Affairs I saw the need for a rich community of major international think tanks in The Hague that could inform the work of the government entities and international organizations located in the city. This demand for policy research and innovative thinking has only increased over the past ten years. In addition, it is important for The Hague to host first-rate internationally renowned think tanks that contribute to knowledge and critical debates on peace and justice issues. The Hague Institute for Global Justice was established precisely to provide an answer to this demand.

As an international city of peace and justice, hosting a wealth of international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and multinational companies, The Hague provides rich and fertile ground for developing innovative approaches to global challenges. By developing and fostering dialogue, interaction, and cooperation, The Hague Institute has a key role to play, in the city and internationally. The Institute is developing innovative, evidence-based, and policy-relevant projects with many international partners. Internationally renowned experts, both scholars and practitioners, find their way to The Hague to attend sessions at its beautiful premises at Sophialaan. It is with great satisfaction that we welcome Dr. Abiodun Williams as the first president of The Hague Institute.

“The Hague provides rich and fertile ground for developing innovative approaches to global challenges”

Our city considers it an honor to offer a home to The Hague Institute for Global Justice. I am confident that the Institute will make a lasting contribution to global peace and justice.

Jozias van Aartsen
Mayor of The Hague
The Hague Institute for Global Justice

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I am honored to serve as Chair of the Advisory Council of The Hague Institute for Global Justice. The Institute is young but its mission is timeless because the search for global justice has many dimensions and no end point. It commences from a platform of law and moral understanding and quickens or slows depending on the energy, will, and priorities of the world community and the leaders within that community. The Hague Institute is designed to spur progress in this pursuit. It is based on the thesis that local justice is influenced by global standards and that local injustice, if unaddressed, can quickly undermine world norms. The Institute is practical in its outlook, seeking to use its resources to address specific and clearly defined needs. Its approach is interdisciplinary, recognizing that solutions — if they are to last — must be comprehensive. The Institute is also dedicated to the full involvement of local stakeholders, because true justice is not an abstract concept but rather something that makes a tangible and positive difference in people’s lives.

During my career both in and outside of government service, I have paid much attention to the various tools that are available to policymakers when addressing complex problems. Sometimes, the appropriate instruments are obvious, well-established, and effective. More often, however, a certain degree of improvisation is required. Almost every crisis or issue has unique aspects, and time and technology have a way of rendering past precedents obsolete.

"True justice is not an abstract concept but rather something that makes a tangible and positive difference in people’s lives"

The result is a constant need for innovation, education, and the pooling of experiences to close institutional gaps and develop fresh ideas. This is certainly the case in the quest for global justice and here The Hague Institute has the potential to play a vital trailblazing role. To that end, it has begun with extraordinary skill and will surely – if given the support it deserves – lead us all in the direction of a more humane and equitable world.

Dr. Madeleine K. Albright
Chair of the Advisory Council
Dr. Abiodun Williams assumed the presidency of The Hague Institute for Global Justice on January 1 of this year. He is the first President of the Institute and has had a long international career holding senior positions in academia, the United Nations, and most recently the United States Institute of Peace where he led USIP’s work in major conflict zones such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, Iraq, Tunisia and Egypt. Intersections met him for a talk about his move from Washington, DC to The Hague and his plans for The Hague Institute.

What are your first impressions in this new position?

It is a privilege and a rare opportunity to lead and build a new institute dedicated to promoting global peace and justice. I am impressed by the engagement of the Institute’s Board and Advisory Council, as well as the strong support of the Municipality of The Hague and the Dutch government. I am also impressed by the competence of the Institute’s team and their dedication to our mission. I have no doubt that The Hague Institute has enormous potential for further growth and greater effect.

Which major challenges do you see for peace and global justice, now and in the near future?

The first challenge is preventing genocide and mass atrocities. According to the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle, adopted at the United Nations World Summit in 2005, every nation has a responsibility to protect its citizens from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. However, this principle is more honored in the breach than in the observance. We need to understand how R2P can be better adopted and implemented. The second related challenge is to prevent violent conflict. Although we know that armed conflict is not inevitable and prevention is possible, it is still difficult to get policymakers to muster the political will to take preventive action in advance of crises and conflicts. The final challenge is promoting the rule of law in fragile and post-conflict states, an inherently complex task. Without the rule of law, insecurity, corruption, impunity and criminality undermine stability and democracy.

“We will focus on three thematic priorities: conflict prevention, rule of law and global governance”

How will The Hague Institute develop in the coming years?

The Hague Institute is positioning itself to become a renowned thematic priority for the Institute in a way that

does not compromise its potential for innovation, growth, or flexibility. We will focus on three thematic priorities — conflict prevention, rule of law and global governance — and work on the Middle East and North Africa, the Great Lakes Region of Africa, and Northeast Asia. The Institute will use a combination of internal and external experts to conduct policy relevant research, implement practical projects, and convene a range of topical workshops, conferences and seminars that bring together practitioners and scholars. I also envisage the development of training for international affairs professionals. However, it is important to strike the right balance between resources and ambitions.

What are typical examples of the Institute’s work?

The Institute has a broad range of short- and long-term projects that deal with a spectrum of peace and justice issues.

“The Institute has a broad range of short- and long-term projects that deal with a spectrum of peace and justice issues”

The Hague Institute is also working with partners to establish a Water Diplomacy Consortium that aspires to become a knowledge hub for water diplomacy, governance and law, and to contribute to preventing and resolving water-related disputes. We will work with our partners, who have complementary areas of expertise, to cover the broad range of water diplomacy issues. This will include work on strengthening legal frameworks for water-related conflict prevention and improving water governance. Track-II facilitation, training and knowledge development. The third project is the Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law, which brings together a network of organizations to exchange knowledge and identify areas for research.

Career Highlights

Dr. Abiodun Williams
• Senior Vice President of the Center for Conflict Management at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) in Washington, DC, 2011 - 2013
• Vice President of USIP’s Center for Conflict Analysis and Prevention, 2008 - 2011
• Associate Dean of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University in Washington, DC, 2007 - 2008
• Director of Strategic Planning for United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Kofi Annan, 2001 - 2007
• Senior Political and Humanitarian positions in peacekeeping operations in the Balkans and Haiti, 1994 - 2001

Awards:
• Several Awards, including the Dr. Jean Mayer Global Citizenship Award from Tufts University and the Constantine E. Maguire Medal from Georgetown University.
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Who will primarily benefit from The Hague Institute’s work?

The Institute’s research, analysis and programming will be of use to the Dutch government, multilateral institutions and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). As the Institute develops its training activities, Dutch and foreign practitioners working in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as students, will benefit from training in the techniques of conflict prevention, establishing rule of law and transitional justice. The Institute will also contribute to public understanding of the nature of international conflicts and global justice issues through its public programs, outreach and communication activities.

What role does cooperation with partners have in your strategic plan?

It is essential for The Hague Institute to work with a wide range of partners, including governments, international and regional organizations, think tanks, universities and NGOs. The Institute is already working with a number of different domestic and international partners and I expect our partnerships to grow. However, partnering with other organizations needs to be done carefully because it is not an end in itself, but a means to an end.

In your view, having worked across the globe, what makes The Hague special as a city for professionals and policymakers in global justice?

The Hague has a unique historical quality because it has been a symbol of peace and justice for over a century. It is regarded worldwide as a special city for those striving to promote global justice because it hosts an unrivalled number of international courts and tribunals. This judicial capital of the world is home to the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations and the only main organ of the organization not located in New York. The Hague also hosts major institutions active in peace and security, such as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which promotes and verifies compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Municipality of The Hague and the Dutch government are also very supportive of institutions and individuals working on peace, security, and justice.

Sash Jayawardane
Sri Lanka
MA, Utrecht University
BA, Yale University

“The Hague Institute’s interdisciplinary approach to research and policy-making allows me to hone a broad range of academic and professional skills required to pursue a career in global justice.”

Mathew Ryan Caldwell
United States
MSFS Program, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University
BA, Boston College

“I targeted The Hague Institute for Global Justice because of its programmatic attention to conflict management and its strategic location in The Hague.”

Amy M.L. Tan
United States / The Netherlands
MALD Program, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University
BA, Brown University

“This summer, The Hague Institute welcomed the first cohort of interns in a new, highly selective program, which will develop the skills of graduate students in an interdisciplinary approach to global justice. In a short time, our interns have already proved an invaluable asset to the organization and their hard work and fresh ideas are much appreciated by colleagues. The Institute welcomes applications from current or recent graduate students for the Summer 2014 period. Applications are due by 31 March, 2014.

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Launched in 2013

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Climate Change and Conflict

Climate change affects the lives and well-being of a growing number of people. It limits access to natural resources and reduces their quality. It may undermine human security, trigger migration flows, and increase the risk of political instability and conflict.

As part of the Conflict Prevention Program, The Hague Institute conceptualized a project on climate-induced foreign agro-investment in Ethiopia and Uganda. It examines how the current multi-level regulatory framework can be operationalized and improved to make foreign agro-investment more responsible and sustainable in these two countries. In-depth case study analyses and integrated stakeholder dialogues on climate-induced sociopolitical tensions can produce an implementation strategy to empower local communities to better exercise their legal rights and become shared beneficiaries of such investments.

The project consortium includes Tilburg University in the Netherlands, Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, North-West University in South Africa, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment in Uganda and the Movement for Ecological Learning and Community Action in Ethiopia.
Conflict Prevention

Water Diplomacy Consortium

The management and fair distribution of water is rising in importance on the international agenda. Building on the world-renowned Dutch expertise in the areas of water technology, governance, conflict resolution and legal systems, The Hague Institute for Global Justice is joining forces with the Netherlands Institute for International Relations “Clingendael”, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and UPEACE The Hague to form the Water Diplomacy Consortium (WDC). The Hague Institute for Global Justice  Current Work  |  1514  |  Current Work

Collectively, the WDC partners combine capacities in diplomacy and conflict resolution, international (water) law, water systems, water governance and water management, thus enabling the Consortium to serve as global hub for water diplomacy.

Water diplomacy is defined broadly to include all measures that can be undertaken to prevent or peacefully resolve conflicts related to water availability, allocation or use between and within states.

The WDC aspires to offer a wide range of services to governments and public entities at all levels, intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and other stakeholders that need assistance in this area.

The Water Diplomacy Consortium aspires to become a knowledge hub for preventing and resolving water-related disputes

Rule of Law

The Hague Approach

In fragile states, justice can be a scarce commodity, yet establishing the rule of law is a prerequisite for transforming democracy or rebuilding institutions such as law enforcement, the prosecution, prisons and the judiciary. The project focuses on re-building sustainable institutions for the rule of law in conflict-affected states to identify practical guidelines for the international community and local stakeholders. This begins with an analysis of access to justice in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya. Field research in Libya, combined with existing knowledge, will be used to systemize the knowledge base. Local experts, researchers, as well as populations in conflict-affected countries, are slated to contribute to the analysis, which will ascertain how the international community and local stakeholders in conflict-affected countries can help ensure adequate access to justice and build sustainable institutions for the rule of law. The Hague Institute is partnering in this study with the Van Vollenhoven Institute of Leiden University. The findings will be presented at the centenary celebrations of the Peace Palace at the end of August 2013.

Rule of Law

Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law

The Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law, run by The Hague Institute and Clingendael, aims to explore and promote exchanges of knowledge to help strengthen international engagement on security and the rule of law in developing countries, with a special focus on fragile and conflict-affected situations. Part of the new agenda of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Platform is set up to bring together scientists, policy makers, civil society organizations and companies from the global North and South.

The platform also aims to tackle the fragmentation of research funds

The Platform also aims to tackle the fragmentation of research funds, inform policy and its implementation, and stimulate the exchange of practical knowledge and experience among practitioners in this field. Any organization that is active in security and the rule of law is invited to join. Since November 2012 more than 60 organizations have participated in thematic or country-specific working groups.

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Rule of Law
From Fact-Finding to Evidence

Accountability for international crimes is crucial to creating sustainable peace in societies making the difficult transition from war, and in cases of allegations of human rights violations and other criminal acts, there is a need for strong evidence in the quest for the truth. Fact-finding missions often precede criminal investigations, yet the relation between them can be unclear, particularly in sharing information and evidence. How can criminal investigators and prosecutors interact more effectively with each other and with other investigators without compromising their respective mandates?

How can criminal investigators and prosecutors interact more effectively?

The Hague Institute, together with the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies of Leiden University, is examining the legal, theoretical and practical aspects and implications of multiple investigations of international crimes from the perspective of the organs of international criminal justice and other fact-finding agencies. This project aims to develop tools — such as databases, matrices, manuals, common training and communities of practice — to harmonize investigations.

Global Governance
Transnational Governance and Global Justice

International organizations have not been able to respond effectively and legitimately to what have been called global problems without a passport. New transnational governance structures have emerged from shifting power configurations and the rise of nonstate actors, but they lack democratic legitimacy and their effectiveness can often be questioned. Can the complex network of formal and informal governance arrangements — including public-private partnerships and market-oriented regulations — be recalibrated to address global problems more successfully?

In search of innovative and actionable solutions, The Hague Institute and Clingendael have commissioned both conceptual and empirical research on transnational governance and democratic legitimacy. Democracy beyond the nation state is assumed to be an important way station toward global justice, yet there is no clear concept of what such democracy might entail. What are the main criteria for assessing the democratic legitimacy of transnational responses to global problems and what do we learn when such criteria are applied to in-depth case studies on transnational governance? Five research papers will offer a comprehensive overview of the academic debate and new empirical insights on governance beyond the state in relation to climate change, global health, weapons of mass destruction proliferation and the role of the G20. This sets the stage for national policymakers, NGOs, international organizations and the broader public to appraise the opportunities and challenges for democratic transnational governance.

Trainings

In response to increasing demand for knowledge-based training programs and courses, The Hague Institute is setting up high-level programs in different areas of expertise to strengthen justice systems.

Peacebuilding and Local Governance

After violent conflict, local governments face significant challenges. Stability and development depend on improving and maintaining citizens’ security, integrating internally displaced persons or ex-combatants into the local community, and overcoming existing divisions within society. Local authorities often need to regain citizens’ trust by offering services and economic opportunities. These issues are addressed in Peacebuilding and Local Governance, a course developed in cooperation with The Hague Academy for Local Governance. Covering cases from Afghanistan, Burundi, South Sudan and the Balkans, theories and concepts are applied to local contexts, with special attention paid to the role of gender in post-conflict environments.

Program for Judges on Derivatives

The globalization of financial markets has greatly affected the work of judges. A national court’s decision on complex financial transaction agreements may have systemic consequences, but many judges do not — nor can they be expected to — fully understand the effects of financial transactions.

The necessary expertise to adjudicate in complex financial transactions disputes

As part of the P.R.I.M.E. Finance program, The Hague Institute offers a legal-financial training program for judges. Participants become familiar with the jurisprudence, theory and case history behind derivatives and financial dispute resolution and the implications for their jurisdictions. They also develop the necessary expertise to adjudicate in complex financial transactions disputes, thereby contributing to the rule of law, financial stability and legal certainty.
Peace Palace Centenary

A Tradition of More Than 100 Years

Next August and September the Peace Palace, an internationally recognized icon of peace and justice, will celebrate its first centenary. The Hague Institute for Global Justice has been building on the long tradition of The Hague as a center of international law, reflected in the Institute’s contributions to the centenary celebration program as well as its own conference.

The First Hague Conference in 1899 marked the beginning of the city’s long association with international peace and justice. The second conference followed in 1907. The Permanent Court of Arbitration, residing in the Peace Palace, was established in 1899 as one of the acts of the first conference, making it the oldest institution for international dispute resolution. The Peace Palace is also home to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), one of the principal organs of the United Nations.

On August 28, 2013, on the opening day of the centenary celebrations, a high-level conference will take place in the Peace Palace, attended by ministers of foreign affairs of many UN member states. The conference will focus on peaceful settlement of disputes and the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ. At this conference The Hague Institute will present the findings of this year’s flagship study, The Hague Approach.

On August 29, The Hague Institute will convene a high-level conference where the discussion will build on research findings on The Hague Approach and address other issues related to conflicted-affected societies. As peacebuilding and conflict prevention are closely interrelated, the Institute is also involved in The Art of Peace Making: Lessons Learned from Peace Treaties, a conference on September 19 and 20 that highlights both the Peace Palace’s centenary and the tercentenary of the Peace of Utrecht (1713). The second day will be devoted to contemporary peace agreements. The President of The Hague Institute, Dr. Abi Williams, will speak on the Dayton Agreement of 1995.

In 2013, The Hague Institute will present three initiatives to contribute to the debate and development of insights and visions in the field of global justice.

a. Distinguished Speakers Series
The Hague Institute will invite internationally renowned experts to deliver lectures for those working in international relations and global justice as well as the general public.

b. The Hague Roundtables
The Hague Roundtables will provide key policymakers, scholars, and expert practitioners from NGOs and businesses the opportunity to discuss pressing global issues in an informal and confidential atmosphere. The roundtables offer a meeting place for stakeholders to enter into genuine debate, working toward building collaborative solutions to the challenges they face. Roundtable series reports distilled from the discussions will include policy recommendations.

c. Over the Horizon Series
The Over the Horizon series consists of regular meetings in which renowned experts, journalists, and authors reflect on topical issues, providing a thorough analysis and debate on questions moving beyond the crises of the day to address global problems waiting to erupt. The meetings are open to Hague-based international experts, policymakers, and stakeholders interested in a thorough analysis of international affairs.

Convening Power

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Home to Experts

The Hague Institute for Global Justice is home to a select group of experts from around the world, who are involved in the Institute’s research programs and contribute to the debate on a wide range of aspects of global justice. Three of these experts are Marco Lankhorst, Manuella Appiah and Thorsten Wetzling.

Rule of Law Expert
Marco Lankhorst

“There is often a significant gap between the results of academic research on rule of law in contexts of fragility and the operational insights required for successful policies and programs. In the Rule of Law program, we aim to bridge this gap.”

Marco Lankhorst is a senior researcher at The Hague Institute. He holds a doctorate degree in law and economics from the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Amsterdam and an LLM in Dutch law from the same university. Marco has lived and worked in various African countries, including Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Namibia, where he was active as a scholar, consultant, and development practitioner. Marco continues to focus his research on Africa at The Hague Institute. Thematically, his work centers on bottom-up rule of law promotion (access to justice and legal empowerment), company-community conflicts, and the governance of access to and disputes over natural resources. Marco specializes in developing both a macro (policy maker) and a micro (beneficiary) perspective on the problems on which he works, and in finding solutions that are practical and meaningful at both levels. He combines this with extensive experience in designing and implementing pilot projects aimed at testing and refining innovative rule of law interventions.
Global Governance Expert
Manuella Appiah

“I have always regarded fairness, equality, and justice as the building blocks of a peaceful coexistence. I do believe that the will to effect change, hard work and the right kind of support can help an individual promote the attainment of justice for the least endowed.”

Manuella Appiah, LLM, born in Ghana, is an observer of and commentator on political and economic developments on the African continent. She has a particular interest in the influences of great African minds on international political economy. Her field of expertise is in international human rights law, European competition law, and international trade law, with a specialization in intellectual property rights (IPR). She studied international and European public law at Tilburg University. Manuella works as a researcher at The Hague Institute.

She is involved in the Intellectual Property Management for Global Justice project, which aims to contribute to establishing a global intellectual property infrastructure that will serve the research, development and innovation interests of the poorest and encourage least developed countries to become self-sufficient, especially regarding food security and health. Being involved in this project offers Manuella the opportunity to share valuable insights into different aspects of socially responsible intellectual property management in both developed and in developing countries.

Global Governance Expert
Thorsten Wetzling

“The track record of global governance is unsatisfactory and its governing system is inadequate for the twenty-first century. Too many global problems remain unresolved today. Resolving them requires innovative solutions.”

Dr. Thorsten Wetzling, born in Germany, is a senior researcher at The Hague Institute and an expert in the fields of security governance, democracy and the rule of law. He has published extensively on the institutions, norms and administration of European and North American intelligence governance and the practice and reform of oversight and accountability mechanisms. He has worked as a Transatlantic Post-Doctoral Fellow for International Relations and Security (TAPIR) at the French Institute for International Relations, the RAND Corporation and the Center for Transatlantic Relations at Johns Hopkins University. Before coming to The Hague, Thorsten served as advisor to the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) working primarily on projects related to civil-military affairs and security sector governance in Tunisia and Morocco. Thorsten holds a doctorate degree (magna cum laude) in political science from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.
The crucial role of natural resources as a source of conflict is one of the priorities of the conflict prevention program of The Hague Institute for Global Justice. Strife over natural resources has its roots in worldwide population growth. As demands for food and energy increase and water resources decrease rapidly, the chances of internal and cross-border strife rise.

The need for energy has risen as the middle class in emerging economies and the overall global urban population both grow. People use more energy as they move into modernized households, and water resources are needed to generate that energy. At the same time, water is indispensable to sustaining the world’s population. The tension between these factors leads to growing competition for water resources, increased social, political and economic tensions, and potentially violent conflict. Can business find new synergies by working together across sectoral boundaries to address this stress nexus between energy, food and water? And, can governments find new models of cooperation on the basis of shared interest and common challenges?

Shifts in global power add to the challenges. Today, traditional powers must cooperate with emerging economies and account for different values, views, and interests. Economic interdependence reinforces the basic need for countries to cooperate and resolve underlying conflicts that could prevent security and progress.

These challenges can only be dealt with by moving global governance structures toward a more representative system. In addition, cooperation is needed to prevent or mitigate the consequences of competition over resources. The Global Governance Program of The Hague Institute aims to address the above issues in an interdisciplinary and innovative fashion.

I believe The Hague Institute will become an important player in convening global powers and actors to develop solutions to these and other problems affecting global justice, making use of the newest developments in the technological sector and involving both the private and the public sectors. The Institute can be vital in guiding governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and business in developing the necessary reforms.

Dick Benschop
Chair of the Supervisory Board
Calendar

Upcoming Events

This year The Hague Institute will feature several events and training programs on peacebuilding, transitional justice and water diplomacy.

For a complete list of upcoming events, please visit our website: TheHagueInstitute.org

August

Launch Event
The Hague Approach
On August 28, during the centennial conference of the Peace Palace, The Hague Institute will present the key findings of The Hague Approach.

Conference
Achieving Sustainable Peacebuilding: Retrospect and Prospect
On August 29, the Institute will convene a high-level conference where the discussion will build on research findings on The Hague Approach and address other issues related to conflict-affected societies.

September

Event
Water and Peace Diplomacy: From Conflicts to Cooperation
With other partners, the Water Diplomacy Consortium (of which The Hague Institute is a member) will convene an event on water and peace diplomacy to be held in Stockholm, Sweden.

Book Launch
The Brilliant Art of Peace: Lectures from the Kofi Annan Series
This book, edited by Dr. Abi Williams, President of The Hague Institute, will be launched in Washington, DC, followed by a special event in The Hague.

October

Hague Roundtable Series
Illicit Financial Flows and the Widening Poverty Gap
This roundtable will translate research on illicit financial flows into evidence-based policy with relevance for the private sector. It will focus on cross-border movement of money that is illegally earned, transferred or utilized, a trend which often has negative consequences for development.

November

Hague Roundtable Series
International Migration and Global Justice
Addressing the intersection of international migration and global justice, this roundtable will investigate the underlying causes of contemporary irregular migration and the link between migration and development. Relevant frameworks of international law will be considered, as well as the politics of international migration, both in receiving and sending states.

December

Hague Roundtable Series
The 2013 Hague Roundtable Series will also include sessions on Food Security, the role of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation in Global Governance and the Responsibility to Protect.