

Confronting the Crisis of Global Governance

On June 16th, The Hague was the venue for the launch of a major report on the future of the United Nations, and of global institutions more broadly.

BY DR. ABI WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT THE HAGUE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

Convened by The Hague Institute for Global Justice – and by its partner, The Stimson Center, in Washington, D.C. – the Commission on Global Security, Justice & Governance presented its report before an audience of some 300 senior diplomats, scholars and Dutch government officials at the Academy Hall of the Peace Palace.

The launch featured the co-chairs of the Commission, former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Nigerian Foreign Minister and UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Ibrahim Gambari, as well as the Mayor of The Hague, Jozias van Aartsen, who also served as a Commissioner. There could be no more fitting venue than the Peace Palace for the launch, for it serves as a global symbol of international law, as well as the seat of its practice.

Commenting on the findings of the report, Secretary Albright, who serves as Chair of the Advisory Council of The Hague Institute for Global Justice, argued that the world requires “more capable tools of global governance, with different kinds of public, private, and mixed institutions designed for twenty-first-century challenges.”

This assessment was shared by Professor Gambari, who noted that “much more is needed from the United Nations and, indeed, other global institutions dealing with, for example, security sector reform and the rule of law to economic and social recovery and the promotion of human rights.”

To address these challenges, the report provides targeted reforms that transcend



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national borders, and reach out to diverse stakeholders, including business groups, mayors, civil society, and local communities and cities, a point which was emphasized at the launch by Mayor van Aartsen.

The launch of the report in The Hague follows more than a year of research and international consultations, with a diverse 14-member Commission at its heart. Having consulted experts at the Munich Security Conference, the Lima Climate Change Conference and the Global Conference on Cybersecurity, also held in The Hague, the Commissioners were well-placed to deliver far-reaching recommendations to address global challenges posted by conflict-affected states, climate change and the hyper-connected global economy.

The report, entitled ‘Confronting the Crisis of Global Governance’, reflects the global perspective of commission members that have served in leading government and non-governmental positions in Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lebanon, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Tanzania, the United States and at the United Nations. The report and recommendations serve as a roadmap in the run-up to the UN’s 75th anniversary commemoration in 2020.

Following the launch in the Peace Palace, The Hague Institute was pleased to be able to rely on the support of the Dutch government for a launch of the report in the United Nations itself. There, Dutch Ambassador to the United Nations, Karel van Oosterom, presided over a session in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, attended by Secretary Albright,



Mayor of The Hague Jozias Van Aartsen.



Mr. Boudewijn van Eenennaam and Mr. Steven van Hoogstraten, former Director of the Peace Palace.



as well as Jan Eliasson, Deputy-Secretary General of the United Nations. This builds on the cooperation provided earlier by Dutch Ambassador to the United States, Rudolf Bekink, who hosted a high-level dialogue for the Commission



Mrs. Madeleine Albright and Dr. Abi Williams, President The Hague Institute for Global Justice.



H.E. Ms. Vjosa Dobruna, Ambassador of Kosovo, Mrs. Bibi van Zuylen van Nyevelt, Mistress of the Robes and H.E. Ms. Teresa Paraskevi Angelatou, Ambassador of Greece.

last November at his residence in Washington.

In continuing its advocacy for the recommendations included in the report, The Hague Institute will draw on its many connections with the diplomatic

community in The Hague and in Washington. It hopes to foster an ongoing dialogue on global governance reform, and encourage interested readers to download the report by visiting: www.globalsecurityjusticegovernance.org