



ILA Egyptian Branch – Annual Conference 2026: Contemporary Challenges in International Law: Regional Perspectives and Emerging Prospects

Location: German University in Cairo

Date: 12 November 2026: Training Day; 14–15 November 2026: Conference

Students' Training Day – Principles of Public and Private International Law (12 November 2026) (online)

09:30 – 11:00: Session 1: Principles of Public International Law: Use of Force / IHL

11:00 – 11:15: Break

11:15 – 12:45: Session 2: Principles of Public International Law: Natural Resources

12:45 – 14:00: Break

14:00 – 15:30: Session 3: Principles of Private International Law: Treaty-based Disputes

15:30 – 15:45: Break

15:45 – 17:15: Session 4: Principles of Private International Law: Contract-based Disputes

Day I – Use of Force, Conflict and Natural Resources (14 November 2026)

08:30 – 09:00: Registration and Coffee

09:00 – 09:30: Opening Remarks

Welcome note by Yasser Higazy, President, GUC; Jasmine Moussa, President, ILA Egyptian Branch;

Keynote: Egypt and the International Legal Order, Badr Abdelatty, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Egyptian Expatriates of the Arab Republic of Egypt (TBC)

Video message by Georges Abi Saab (TBC)

09:30 – 11:00: Panel I: Use of Force and Conflict Management in North Africa and West Asia: *Jus ad Bellum*, Mediation and Regional Security

This panel examines contemporary challenges to the UN Charter framework governing the use of force in North Africa and West Asia and the mechanisms through which regional conflicts are contained and managed. It addresses contested questions of self-defence, including action against non-State actors, anticipatory and collective self-defence, consent and cross-border operations, as well as the consequences of Security Council paralysis and the role of the United Nations, including in relation to the question of Palestine. The panel then turns from the legality of force to ceasefire arrangements, mediation and de-escalation, highlighting the interaction between legal rules and diplomatic practice. Egypt's State practice and role as a regional mediator provide a recurring regional perspective.



Speakers: Nora Salem (Moderator) Linos Sicilianos; Mohamed Helal; Jasmine Moussa; Ardi Imseis

Paper Presentation: Salwa Elekyabi (Strait of Hormuz)

11:00 – 11:15: Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:45: Panel II: Protracted Conflicts in North Africa and West Asia: *Jus in Bello* and Contemporary Challenges in International Humanitarian Law

This panel examines the application of international humanitarian law to protracted and evolving armed conflicts, moving from conflict classification and the temporal scope of non-international armed conflicts to the operational protection of civilians. It addresses humanitarian access, maritime operations and the legal status of humanitarian flotillas, child-specific harm, and the obligations of third States in relation to humanitarian relief. Particular attention is given to the interaction between legal doctrine and operational realities, including questions raised by recent international adjudicatory developments such as the ICJ's 2025 UNRWA Advisory Opinion. Egypt's engagement in regional humanitarian responses and multilateral frameworks provides an important regional point of reference.

Speakers: Rana Moustafa (Moderator); Omar Mekky

Paper Presentations: Natalia Hapek (conflict classification and NIACs); Dana Abu Qamar (ICJ's 2025 UNRWA Advisory Opinion); Alia El-Abiary (child protection in armed conflict)

12:45 – 14:00: Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30: Panel III: Resource Nationalism and International Law: Recent Developments in North Africa and West Asia

This panel examines the renewed salience of resource nationalism in international law, with a particular focus on North Africa and West Asia and a comparative perspective beyond the region. It considers how claims of permanent sovereignty over natural resources interact with duties of cooperation, sustainable development, environmental protection and evolving climate-related obligations, especially in relation to shared watercourses. The panel brings together African and Global South perspectives, recent developments in international environmental law, and comparative case studies of transboundary river governance, including the Nile/GERD and Central Asian river systems. Egypt's experience in Nile Basin governance and climate diplomacy serves as a recurring regional reference point.

Speakers: Rana El Kahwagy (Moderator); Laurence Boisson de Chazournes; Makane Mbengue; Nilüfer Oral

Paper Presentations: Omar Sayed (GERD as regional case study); Salokhiddin Madatov (comparative transboundary water governance)

15:30 – 16:00: Coffee Break



16:00 – 17:00: Lounge Conversation with Mohamed S. Abdel Wahab – Professor of International Arbitration, Private International Law and English Contract Law, Cairo University, and Founding Partner & Head of International Arbitration, Construction and Energy Groups (TBC). Moderated armchair discussion with interactive Q&A, streamed by Rana Moustafa

Day II – Foreign Investments, Commercial and Maritime Contracts, and Global Crises
(15 November 2026)

08:45 – 09:15: Registration and Coffee

09:15 – 10:45: Panel IV: Foreign Investments and the New World Disorder

As the global landscape fractures under the weight of sweeping geopolitical and economic disruption, the traditional boundaries of international investment law and the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) system are being fiercely challenged. This panel explores the complex interplay between investment treaties and competing international legal frameworks, traces the real-time evolution of core substantive protections amidst crises, and rigorously tests the thresholds of State defences and international responsibility.

Speakers: Alia Al-Gazzar (Moderator); Dalia Hussein; Mahmoud El-Kharashy

Paper Presentations: Marco Argentini (territorial dimension of international investments in times of armed conflicts); Sergio Alonso (transplanting WTO's national security test into investor-State arbitration)

10:45 – 11:00: Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30: Panel V: Broken Contracts: Supply Chain, Commercial and Maritime Disputes in a Fractured Landscape

This panel explores the profound challenges to contractual stability in today's volatile geopolitical climate. It will first examine how tribunals navigate complex questions of jurisdiction and arbitrability, as well as injunctions in crisis-related disputes. It will further scrutinize the boundaries of the doctrines of *force majeure* and hardship, *Imprévision*, and repudiation in commercial dealings. The inquiry then extends to the maritime arena to evaluate the survival of safe port warranties, war risks, and the frustration of charterparties when vessels are forced to deviate from vital chokepoints.

Speakers: Mohamed S. Abdel Wahab (Moderator); Mohamed Sameh Amr

Paper Presentations: Hossam Fawzy (disruption of the Suez–Red Sea corridor (2023–26)); Salvatore Davide (public policy exception in sanctions-related arbitration); Hina Iliyas (India–Egypt maritime trade in an era of war and sanctions)



12:30 – 13:45: Lunch Break

13:45 – 15:00: Panel VI: Engaging with International Law in a Changing Regional and Global Context - Reflections and Way Forward

This panel raises a broader question: how do State and non-State actors in the region engage with international law amid current regional and global crises? International law is frequently criticised for its selectivity and historical biases, while at the same time being invoked and relied upon by many of the actors that contest it. The panel examines these different forms of engagement and the tension between critique and reliance on international law. Bringing together perspectives from constitutional law, political science, human rights and private international law, it considers how this dynamic plays out before courts, in State practice and in cross-border relations.

Speakers: Ibrahim Salama; Nesrin Badawy; Hedayat Heikal; Tarek Badawy (TBC); Bahaa Ezzelarab

15:15 – 15:30 Closing Remarks and Conference Close

Jasmine Moussa, President, ILA Egyptian Branch

15:45 – 16:45 Career Forum: Careers in International Law – Pathways and Realities

Speakers: Alia Al-Gazzar (private practice); Rana ElKahwagy (academia); Mohamed Elwy (diplomatic service); Cynthia Gabra (UNICEF).