

**"A World in Crisis - Security, Justice and Governance:
At 70 years, Is the UN 'Fit for Purpose'?"
ACUNS Delhi Liaison Office &
International Jurist Organization (IJO)
Meeting on Sept. 17th, 2015 at New Delhi**



As part of his 5-days visit to India, Prof. Alistair D. Edgar, Executive Director of ACUNS, was invited by the IJO and the ACUNS Delhi Liaison Office to open the 25-persons group discussion in New Delhi on September 17, 2015. He focused on the present global crisis of security, migration and justice as well as the UN peacekeeping/peacebuilding/ peace

operations review, the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and the current scepticism of many African and Asian states towards the International Criminal Court (ICC) and 'international justice'.

This IJO meeting took place shortly before the UN Special Summit in New York (September 25-27), where Member States were expected to agree formally on the new Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030). Participants were anticipating the outcome of both the Summit and the Climate Conference COP21, in Paris in November-December 2015.

Prof. Edgar joined the active discussions with the participants, who included diplomats, legal professionals and academics. In the context of the recent move towards text-based discussions of Council reform, he highlighted arguments that the inaction of the Security Council on Syria due to disagreement amongst the five permanent members, points towards the need for reform of Security Council. The discussion addressed suggestions including the abolition or restricted use of the veto powers of the five permanent members, as well as prospects for Council enlargement – a topic of especial interest to Indian colleagues. The Security Council is not the only body of the United Nations, as it has done much work on political, economic, and social subjects, concerning nations and people by their other bodies. Rebutting the too often heard allegations of waste of money and a high budget, Edgar compared the UN core budget against the annual core budgets of the New York City police and fire departments, and the UN peacekeeping budget against total annual global military expenditures and the annual defence budget of Singapore.





Special guest speaker, H.E. Mr Samuel Panyin Yalley, High Commissioner of the Republic of Ghana, stated that North American and European countries should not sell arms to the Middle East and Africa. Selling armaments contravenes efforts to establish peace as they can be used against innocent people. The High Commissioner of Ghana also spoke

about the discriminatory use of the ICC, which has focused on the prosecution of African leaders but notably has failed to take on cases of Western leaders' criminal actions.

The necessity of the United Nations and the importance of preventive action by the UN in cases of crisis in any region were addressed by Prof. Aditya Narayan Mishra from Delhi University and Dr. Francis Julian, Sr. Advocate. They also spoke about economic inequality and disparity of incomes in developed and developing countries.

Mr. Subhash Chandra Birla, member of the IJO Board and ACUNS Delhi Liaison Officer, spoke about the January 2015 meetings on the UN Secretary General's Synthesis Report on Post-MDG 2015/SDG Agenda and the May 2015 meeting of African diplomats and academics on security and justice in Africa.