Editorial

This issue of the International Community Law Review Journal explores how international law can respond to a diversity of contexts. The interpretation of international law within different regions, whether through courts, regional treaties or *opinio juris*, provides opportunities for development and nuance of legal obligations.

The issue begins with an examination of the protection of cultural property under the Rome Statute. In *'The Narrow Protection of Cultural Properties and Historical Monuments in The Rome Statute: Filling the Gap'*, the author utilises the discussions of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the *Al-Mahdi* case to differentiate the nature of the prohibition of the destruction of property from that protecting cultural buildings. The article examines acts by terrorists, and other groups, in the destruction of cultural property drawing upon situations in Iraq and Syria. The author concludes that the crimes are actually supplementary to one another, allowing for a wide and joint interpretation that would fill a gap in the protection for cultural property under the ICC Statute.

The second article looks to the Caribbean context through doctrinal study in the *'Interpretation of the Meaning of "Direct Effect" in The Revised Treaty of Basseterre (RTB).'* The author presents that the region maintains a dualist system and as a result, the notion of 'direct effect' has been controversial. Through utilisation of the Vienna Convention on Law of Treaties (VCLT) principles relating to object and purpose, the article concludes that direct effect within the RTB amounts to *'a consequence or resulting change, without any intervening legal factors or intermediaries.'* The author argues this interpretation ensures the RTB fulfils its purpose of establishing and preserving an economic union between member states, through facilitating consistent and immediate administration of issues in the areas of legislative and administrative competence.

Our third article, *'Some Thoughts on Centring Pan-African Epistemic in the Teaching of Public International Law in African Universities,'* looks to another regional context, that of the African continent, through a critical analysis of the teaching of public international law within the region. The author argues that such teaching remains unresponsive to the imperative of decolonisation and is steeped in Eurocentric canons. To counteract this thinking, the author proposes the 'critical integrative approach' as a viable ontological framework

that should shape the inclusion of important pan-African epistemic in the teaching of public international law in African universities.

The issue ends with a doctrinal examination of the principles relating to 'relevant rules' within the VCLT. In '*A Study of the Issue of 'Relevant Rules' of International Law for the Purposes of Interpretation of Treaties under Article 31(3)(c) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties*,' presents that the absence of a definition of 'relevant rules' and scant jurisprudence on the topic causes problems for treaty interpretation. The author argues that there are certain factors which the interpreter must take into consideration for determining 'relevance' of rules of international law under Article 31(3)(c) of the VCLT; namely subject-matter, object and purpose and intertemporality.

Finally, Fitzmaurice and Dordeska provide a perceptive review of Rein Müllerson's illuminating and thought-provoking work '*Geopolitics and the Clash of Ideologies: Dawn of a New Order*.'

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