AN INTRODUCTION: CHARTING NEW FRONTIERS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

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Today’s world is marked by dramatic shifts in the global economy, the environment, technological innovation, geopolitical power structures, and human mobility. These shifts are forcing societies around the world to redefine their normative foundations and are creating new frontiers in the physical and conceptual structure of our international order. The 110th Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law aimed to address these developments, and brought together more than 1,150 attendees from around the world to reflect upon the challenges and opportunities presented by these shifting frontiers in the world and in law.

In line with the theme of charting new frontiers, the 2016 Program Committee organized more than forty substantive programs addressing cutting edge topics. The sessions explored a wide array of issues across different fields of international law, including: migration, international dispute resolution, cultural heritage, LGBTI rights, the growing influence of nonstate actors, cyber warfare, digital surveillance, national security, space law, deep seabed mining, new models of international lawmaking as exemplified by the Iran nuclear deal and the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the continuing role of the International Court of Justice in international dispute settlement. The Program Committee devoted particular effort to exploring nontraditional panel formats, such as mock debates, rapid response, and roundtables, to ensure a lively discussion. The Program Committee also organized a Professional Development track dedicated to fostering the growth of junior international lawyers and expanding access into international law.

The 2016 Annual Meeting broke many barriers. Chilean President Michelle Bachelet became the first sitting head of state to address the Annual Meeting when she delivered the Grotius Lecture on “The Challenges to International Law in the 21st Century.” United States Supreme Court Associate Justice Stephen Breyer gave a keynote address at the Society’s first ever Assembly, speaking on the impact of international law on the Supreme Court’s jurisprudence. Professor Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler became the first woman to deliver the Charles N. Brower Lecture in a presentation titled “Accountability in International Investment Arbitration.” The Annual Meeting also featured remarks by the United States State Department Legal Adviser Brian Egan on “International Law, Legal Diplomacy, and the Counter-ISIL Campaign.”

As Co-Chairs, we took seriously the view that rigorous engagement with the complex challenges confronting the international order requires a diversity of experiences and perspectives on these challenges. As a result, we worked with the Program Committee to ensure this diversity and are proud of the results. The program comprised over 210 speakers and moderators who were diverse across nationalities, professions, ethnicities, age, and gender. Significantly, 49.3 percent of the panelists and moderators were women—the highest percentage on record—and the program similarly set records for ethnic diversity. A third of the panelists and moderators were international. The Program Committee was especially keen to ensure that speakers also included representatives of groups most directly impacted by

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the issues addressed by the program. In addition, this year’s Annual Meeting welcomed a number of high-profile speakers of diverse backgrounds. Speakers included judges from the International Court of Justice and the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal, the Deputy Director-General of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, a former Canadian Cabinet Minister, a former Dutch Minister of Justice, the Ambassador of Nicaragua to The Hague, the Director-General of the International Affairs Division of the Singapore Attorney General’s Chambers, a former agent of the United States to the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal, and defense officials from the United States, United Kingdom, and Georgia.

The 2016 ASIL Annual Meeting created an environment for policymakers, judges, academics, practitioners, and students to explore the dynamic frontiers of our international order and to address the questions they present. This volume of the ASIL Proceedings records the discussions at the Meeting, which we hope will inspire further discussions on the theory and practice of international law.