



Arrria-formula meeting of the UN Security Council

Human rights, accountability and justice: contributions to international peace and security

Address by Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares

Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and
United Nations Legal Counsel

Monday, 11 March 2019, 3:00 p.m.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the governments of Peru and France for the invitation to participate in this meeting on the contributions of human rights, accou1Cc(ri)6(g).Putionaccou1



the groundwork for the development of a body of rules of international criminal law a field that barely existed before.

At the same time, by establishing those tribunals, the Council advanced the interpretation of the Charter and of its own functions thereunder. It acknowledged the existence of a close link between international criminal justice and the Purposes of the United Nations. It affirmed that the advancement of international





in the future by national, regional or international courts that may have jurisdiction over crimes that have been committed in these territories.

In this regard, the Security Council established in 2005 the International Independent Investigation Commission to assist the Lebanese authorities in their investigation of all aspects of the terrorist bombing in Beirut, Lebanon, that killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and others.

More recently, in 2016, the General Assembly established the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism on Syria (IIIM). This mechanism represents a significant new approach, focusing on supporting the prosecution efforts of other stakeholders rather than conducting its own prosecutions.

In the case of Iraq, the Security Council adopted resolution 2379 in September 2017, requesting the Secretary-General to establish an independent Investigative





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Ladies and Gentlemen,

International criminal accountability is still a relatively new area of work for the United Nations, and there is no doubt that the Security Council has played a pivotal





Secondly, I wish to refer to international humanitarian law and international human rights law rules, standards and best practices. The Security Council needs to be the driving force to ensure that these rules, norms and standards are fully included in any accountability process, in particular as we celebrate this year the 70th anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Thirdly, finding resources to sustainably support accountability bodies remains a problem. Already today, as members of the international community create new institutions, funding for some of the existing hybrid in2 reW* nU2 heisting pydrwin res

