



UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

2024 Annual Meeting of the Field Legal Advisers and Officers

Opening remarks



September. I have very much cherished our frank and insightful exchanges during these meetings throughout our many years together. Your commitment to meeting in-person each year, despite the challenging times in which you carry out your work is an inspiring example of your dedication to the success of our engagement.







I am joined today by colleagues from GLD and OLC. Assistant Secretary-General Stephen Mathias will attend some of the afternoon sessions and close the meeting tomorrow together with the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix.

As you will have seen from the agenda, we will begin our meeting with our traditional and insightful Tour de table. This will be followed by the topical issue concerning SOFA/SOMA interpretation and implementation, a discussion of SOFA violations database and issues of privileges and immunities. We will also benefit from a presentation on commercial insurance and claims in field missions, particularly in the context of car accidents, by colleagues from the Department of Operational Support.

Tomorrow, GLD colleagues will provide relevant updates regarding Administration of Justice and SE-related matters.

Colleagues from DOS will provide an overview of the UN framework related to claims for compensation for death and disability of uniformed personnel, as well as an overview of the work of Boards of Inquiry, which is a topic many of you deal with regularly.

Developments in the areas of Data Protection, use of the UN's name and emblem, updates on issues involving engagements with state actors, and post-mandate





mission activities and issues arising from withdrawal and liquidation of UN missions will also be discussed.

In sum, we have a full agenda and will cover a broad range of topics together in the next two days. I look forward to your usual active engagement and I have no doubt that overall, we will have a very fruitful exchange.

Thank you.

