

International Conference

Negotiating Peace for Ukraine: International Law Dimensions and Implications

3 October 2025, Aula Parva,
Vilnius University, 3 Universiteto St.

PROGRAM



VILNIUS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF LAW



MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Russia's unprecedented assault on the prohibition of the use of force has challenged the international legal order at its core. While brutal attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure continue every day, states still struggle to enforce international law and ensure far-reaching and long-lasting political, legal, and financial consequences for the aggressor.

In the world of shifting interest poles, decreasing trust, and lack of solidarity, everything is interrelated and much needs to be balanced in the face of the dynamic evolution of processes dangerous for the credibility of international law, international peace, security, and regional stability. Comprehensive, just, and long-lasting peace demands not only political will and diplomatic efforts, but also timely and appropriate legal decisions in defence of international law.

The international conference will bring together politicians, academics, and experts to discuss different international law dimensions, their role, and implications for the negotiations towards a just, long-lasting, and comprehensive peace for Ukraine.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

8.30-9.00 a.m. Registration of participants
Welcome coffee

9.00-9.30 a.m. **Welcome Address**

Prof. Dr. Rimvydas Petrauskas
Rector of the Vilnius University

Opening Remarks

Kęstutis Budrys
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Sergiy Kyslytsya
First Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine

Prof. Dr. Haroldas Šinkūnas
Dean of the Law Faculty of Vilnius University

9.30-11.00 a.m. **FIRST PANEL**
Shifting International Order: Peace and Security

Panel will address implications of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, international relations, fundamental principles of international law, and its effectiveness in response to hybrid threats (cyber-attacks, Baltic sea incidents, disinformation campaigns, etc.)

Moderator

Dr. Gabija Grigaitė-Daugirdė
Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, Senior Lecturer of the Law Faculty of Vilnius University

Panel Speakers

Representative of the Ukrainian government

Prof. Dr. Margarita Šešelgytė
Director of the Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius University

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Indrė Isokaitė-Valužė

Associate Professor, Head of the Ukrainian Law Centre of the Law Faculty of Vilnius University

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmunds Broks

Associate Professor and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Latvia

Dr. Kęstutis Paulauskas (online)

Senior Strategy Officer, Strategic Alternatives Branch, NATO Allied Command Transformation

11.00-11.30 a.m. **Coffee break**

11.30 a.m.-1.00 p.m. **SECOND PANEL**
Comprehensive Justice for Ukraine: State Responsibility and Individual Accountability

The panel will address international justice efforts aimed at ensuring individual criminal responsibility for international crimes, including the crime of aggression, from investigations in national jurisdictions to those at the International Criminal Court and the Special Tribunal for the crime of aggression. Forums of state responsibility (reparations) will also be discussed, including the case of Ukraine against Russia before the International Court of Justice and the establishment of a Register of Damage as the first step in an international reparations mechanism.

Moderator

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Indrė Isokaitė-Valužė

Associate Professor, Head of the Ukrainian Law Centre of the Law Faculty of Vilnius University

Panel Speakers

Prof. Dr. Claus Kress

Director of the Institute of International Peace and Security Law at the University of Cologne

Special advisor on the crime of aggression to the Prosecutor of the ICC

Prof. Dr. Pierre d'Argent

Professor at the University of Louvain (Belgium), a visiting professor at the University of Leiden

Prof. Dr. Habil. Magdalena Balczyk

Chief analyst of the Institute for Western Affairs, professor of Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski University, Kraków

Markiyan Kliuchkovskyi

Executive Director of the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine

Dr. Gabrielë Chlevickaitë

Researcher in International Criminal Law at the Asser Institute, Research Fellow at the University of Amsterdam

1.00-2.30 p.m.

Lunch break

2.30-4.00 p.m.

THIRD PANEL

Aiming at Humanity: Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

Panel will address different legal and policy instruments aimed at ensuring that prisoners of war are protected in compliance with international humanitarian law, crimes of sexual violence and other gross and systematic human rights violations do not go unpunished. Panel will also focus on how to ensure that Ukrainian deported children that are subjected to brainwashing, speaking Russian and living in Russian families and even used for propaganda or military purposes, are being brought back and responsibility for deportation, their forceful adoption, militarization and indoctrination enforced.

Moderator

Janet Anderson

Lead correspondent of Justice Info in The Hague

Panel Speakers

Thórdís Kolbrún Reykþjard Gylfadóttir

Council of Europe, Special Envoy on the situation of children of Ukraine

Maksym Maksymov

Project Lead at the Bring Kids Back UA Initiative

Office of the President of Ukraine

Assoc. Prof. Dr. A.M. Marieke de Hoon

Associate Professor of the Faculty of Law of the University of Amsterdam

Co-Director of Public International Law & Policy Group Netherlands Office

Alfons Vanheusden

Assistant Secretary-General of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War

Dr. Kateryna Busol (online)

Associate Professor, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy; Fellow, British Institute of International and Comparative Law

4.00-4.50 p.m.

FOURTH PANEL

Making International Law Work: Sanctions & Enforcement

Panel will focus on the role of sanctions in the enforcement of international law, including the possibility of seizure of Russia's frozen assets as collective countermeasures in the international law.

Moderator

Laimonas Talat-Kelpša

Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Panel Speakers

Dr. Gabija Grigaitė-Daugirdė –

Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, Senior Lecturer of the Law Faculty of Vilnius University

Benjamin Hilgenstock

Head of Macroeconomic Research and Strategy, Kyiv School of Economics Institute

Dr. (HP) Virgilijus Valančius

Senior international expert on EU integration, EU Project Pravo-Justice

4.50-5.00 p.m.

Concluding remarks and closing of the conference