

Short bio Prof. Alfred H.A. Soons

Prof. Soons (b. Aruba, 1948) studied law at Utrecht University, The Netherlands, followed by postgraduate studies in international law at the University of Washington (US) and Cambridge University (UK). He obtained a PhD-degree at Utrecht University with a thesis in the field of the law of the sea (on the legal regime of marine scientific research).

After having served between 1976 and 1987 as a civil servant in various legal and policy positions at the Netherlands Ministry of Transport, Water Management and Public Works, he became professor of public international law and director of the Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea (NILOS) at Utrecht University in 1987. He retired from these positions in 2014.

He was, *inter alia*, a deputy-judge at the Rotterdam District Court, adjunct professor of public international law at Erasmus University Rotterdam, member and chairman of the Advisory Committee on Public International Law of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a Founding Co-director of the Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy, and Director of Studies of the International Law Association. Currently he serves as chairman of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Netherlands Defense Academy, and is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Curacao. He was elected an associate member of the *Institut de Droit International* in 2015.

As counsel and arbitrator he has been involved in international litigation at the International Court of Justice and arbitral tribunals (including ICC arbitrations).