

**DECLARATION OF RABAT OF THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
MARKING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED
NATIONS**

1. On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations – signed on 26 June 1945 in San Francisco, United States, and entered into force on 24 October of the same year – the Institute of International Law, meeting in Rabat, Morocco, for its 82nd biennial session, considers it appropriate to emphasize the enduring fundamental importance of the Charter for our World.
2. The Institute, in accordance with its Statute, acts “*by contributing... to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the respect of human rights and the law applicable in case of armed conflict*”, including international humanitarian law. The Institute also recalls the Declaration of Angers for its 150th anniversary (2023), by which its members reaffirmed their “*commitment to the promotion of respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, fundamental human rights, and the principles of environmental protection*”.
3. The Charter of the United Nations forms the basis for the maintenance of international peace and security, for upholding international law and, consequently, for an international order based on the rule of law, for the achievement of higher standards of living for all, for addressing economic, social, health, environmental and related problems, and for the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination.
4. The Charter aims at saving the post-1945 generations “*from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind*”. It draws lessons from earlier, less successful attempts and seeks “*to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained*”. Upon the basis of the Charter, well-established practices have evolved, such as UN peace-keeping operations, the process of decolonization, international development co-operation and the development of monitoring and supervisory mechanisms to ensure the compliance with human rights. The Charter has also allowed for the development of the crucial role of the International Court of Justice as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, both regarding the peaceful settlement of disputes and its advisory function for the clarification and development of international law. In order to achieve its aims, the Charter must be fully observed and implemented, and also, as a living instrument, be capable of responding to the evolving needs of the world community.
5. The Institute considers that in this time of multiple and severe international tensions, persistent warfare and global injustices, the Charter remains the cornerstone of the current world order. It calls upon all States, peoples and other international actors fully to respect the Charter of the United Nations, its principles and the rules of the international legal order that it contains, as well as to strengthen their support for its institutions. Such respect and support is crucial for enabling the Charter to continue to fulfill its purpose at this critical juncture in the history of humanity and our planet.