

## CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE „PEACE AND LAW“:

### PEACE THROUGH LAW

- 1. The idea of peace is a fundamental and most important common social and legal value.*
- 2. Settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of peace must be in conformity with the principle of justice and international law and achieved by peaceful means.*
- 3. The rule of law ensures that international law and the principles of justice apply equally to all states and requires that all states equally adhere to it.*
- 4. Respect for the rule of international law generates an environment for achieving the purposes of peaceful conflict solutions.*
- 5. International law provides an indispensable basis for friendly relations between States. It provides a structure for the conduct of international relations and creates reciprocity between States as sovereign equals, accords predictability and legitimacy to their actions within an agreed multilateral system and provides a means to resolve disputes arising. Of particular importance to peace and security are the principles of territorial integrity, non-use of threat or force in any manner inconsistent with the international law and the commitment to implementation of international legal obligations.*
- 6. Peace can hardly be maintained when legal disputes exist or when they grow into a warlike situation.*
- 7. Even in time of war, when, in accordance with the old wisdom Inter arma silent leges, laws are silent, parties to an international dispute, conflict or war, should still have access to diverse measures and mechanisms for dispute resolution, including: negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration or different forms of judicial settlement. International law, no matter how weak or fragile it might be in time of war, can provide legitimate processes for the resolution of grievance.*
- 8. Despite its obvious weakness as a means for achieving peace in times of armed conflicts, international law can help in prevention of violence against civilians in armed conflicts. When the role of international law as a tool for prevention of conflicts fails, the protection of civilians should become a foremost priority for international law. Any protection activity, be it physical, political or through the establishment of a protective environment, must be based on the rule of law and aims to give the applicable laws practical relevance in difficult circumstances.*

9. *No matter how the prospects of international law and law in general look gray in such terrible times, at least we, the jurists, should not allow that belief in importance and value of law vanishes and that disbelief overwhelms our spirits. Above everybody else, we jurists must believe that justice and peace have kissed each other (iustitia et pax osculatae sunt).*
10. *After all, peaces last longer than wars. Therefore, times in which the sound of cannons overcome the strength of law last shorter.*
11. *Out of this belief, we, participants of the Conference, express our deepest support for a noble idea that the rule of law is a means and tool which will arrange peace better than anything else. We can call this: the eternal „Kampf ums Recht“.*