



Alfons Vanheusden is the Assistant Secretary-General of the *International Society for Military Law and the Law of War* (based in Brussels, Belgium). On 1 April 2021, he also took up the position of Special Advisor (with the rank of ‘Conseiller général’/’Adviseur-generaal’) to the Director-General for Legal Support of the Belgian Ministry of Defence. Furthermore, he is one of the co-editors of the ‘Leuven Manual on the International Law Applicable to Peace Operations’ (Cambridge University Press, December 2017), a Reserve Officer (with the rank of Corvette Captain) of the Belgian Navy, and an Alternative Member of the OCCAR’s Appeals Board (Bonn, Germany).

Earlier in his career, he served *inter alia* as Director of Legal Affairs at the respective cabinets of the Belgian Minister of the Interior and the Belgian Minister of Defence; as Director of the Legal Advisory Division of the DG Legal Support of the Belgian Ministry of Defence; as Multilateral Affairs & Human Rights Advisor to the Belgian Minister of Justice; and as private attorney-at-law at the Bar of Tongeren, Belgium’s oldest city.

In January 2016, he represented the Minister of Justice as a member of the Belgian delegation during Belgium’s Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council, and in 2014 and 2015, he was in charge of various activities organised in the framework of the Belgian presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. In 2010, he was a member of the Belgian delegation to the diplomatic Review Conference on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, held in Kampala, Uganda. Until early 2008, he also served as the first Chairperson of the Belgian Committee for Legal Review of New Weapons. In 2005 and 2007, he saw operational service as a legal advisor in Lebanon and Afghanistan. As guest lecturer, Mr. Vanheusden taught public international law in Brussels from 2004 to 2012, first at the Royal Higher Institute for Defence and later at the Royal Military Academy.

Mr. Vanheusden studied law at K.U. Leuven, Belgium, and at University College Galway, Ireland. Furthermore, he is a graduate of the National Security Law Institute (University of Virginia, VA, USA), and the ‘Hautes Etudes de Sécurité et Défense’ (Royal Higher Institute for Defence and Egmont - Royal Institute for International Relations).

Mr. Vanheusden speaks English, French and Dutch, and he is currently learning Spanish. He participated as a presenter, chair or facilitator in many conferences, seminars, workshops etc., including in Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Republic of Korea, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Tunisia and Ukraine.