

Call for Papers

Australia's Relationship with the United Nations Security Council: Eighty Years and Counting

***Australian Year Book of International Law* Volume 44 (Special Issue)**

2026 marks the eightieth anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). To mark this important milestone, the *Australian Year Book of International Law* (AYBIL) invites submissions for a special issue (Vol. 44) exploring Australia's engagement with and on the UNSC across more than eight decades.

Australia has a rich history of contributing to the framework and functioning of the UNSC. On 17 January 1946, it was one of six non-permanent members to join the five permanent members to constitute the inaugural Council. Moreover, it was the first country to hold the presidency of the Council, with Norman Makin -- then Australia's Minister of the Navy -- granted the unique privilege of being the first individual to wield the Council gavel as President. During the Cold War, Australia was a regular non-permanent UNSC member, featuring approximately once a decade. It has featured less frequently during the post-Cold War period, with just one Council term (2013-2014) to its credit. It is now seeking to rejoin the UNSC, having declared its candidacy for the 2029-2030 term.

AYBIL invites submissions from international legal scholars and practitioners, as well as scholars from related disciplines, for consideration for possible inclusion in the special issue. The volume will be curated by four guest editors selected by AYBIL's editors for their expertise on Australia and the UNSC (Hon. Prof. Michael Bliss, Prof. Jeremy Farrall, Prof. Devika Hovell, and Dr. Marie-Eve Loiselle).

Contributions might be:

- Historical / archival (e.g. Australia's contributions to the San Francisco conference; Cold War engagement)
- Doctrinal (e.g. Australia's contributions to Charter interpretation; implementation of UNSC resolutions into domestic law)
- Thematic / issue-based (peacekeeping; R2P; counter-terrorism; women, peace and security)
- Reform / structural (e.g. Australian perspectives on UNSC reform debates; UNSC's relationship with the UN General Assembly; UNSC's relationship with regional organisations)
- Forward-looking (e.g. strategic priorities for the region; middle powers and UNSC influence)

Interested contributors are invited to submit a short expression of interest by **15 March 2026** to aybil@anu.edu.au, including (i) a provisional title, (ii) a 350 to 500-word abstract and (iii) a short author biography (300 words).

On the advice of the Guest Editors, the editorial team will aim to respond to submissions before **30 March 2026**, when it may invite the author/s to proceed towards submission of a full article. This would be up to 8000 words and due by **30 May 2026** for sending out to double blind peer review, with revised final contributions due by **1 August 2026**.

Submission of an abstract / expression of interest does not by itself guarantee inclusion in Vol. 44.

AYBIL continues to welcome submission of articles that do not necessarily relate to this special call.