

it concerns itself more with finding out what the law on a general subject is, rather than in applying the law to specific questions. The Commission can thus be of assistance to the World Court by clarifying the law and setting it out in a systematic form for the Court or any other body to use. The International Law Commission is of course not the only body doing this kind of work. Every treaty or convention agreed upon between countries contributes towards giving a more accurate statement of the law. There are various regional bodies of jurists who are working on similar problems of codification on a regional basis, such as the Inter-American Juridical Committee. The International Law Commission differs from these, however, in that it reports directly to the General Assembly of the United Nations and has, therefore, a world-wide audience for each of its recommendations. The significance of this can be seen in the Conference on Diplomatic Relations and Immunities which took place this year in Vienna and which was attended by 81 countries. Rules adopted by this conference were originally prepared in draft form by the Commission and the recommendation that the conference be held was also made by the International Law Commission. These rules formed, in effect, an authoritative version of diplomatic custom and practice that has grown up over the centuries.

In an era in which the relations among countries are becoming increasingly complex and in which the size of the international community is growing almost from day to day, it can easily be appreciated how important it is to have firmly acknowledged rules governing the day to day behaviour of the members of this community.