



International Bar Association  
the global voice of the legal profession

**IBA PRESIDENCY - 2023/2024**

# Strengthening the IBA further



## AREAS

## WHAT

## HOW

Relevance

**Increase the IBA's profile:**  
Communication of substantial projects and of institutional activity, strategic alliances with leading education and communications institutions.

Engagement

Further **engagement with members**, especially Member Organisations, to ensure alignment.

Internal cohesion

Promoting **dialogue and collaboration** between the IBA constituencies.

- **Achievement of the IBA's Strategic Plan Goals:**
  1. Prepare the legal profession for the future, support rule of law, human rights and professional core values.
  2. Improve the membership offering.
  3. Improve governance.
- **Five key topics and projects.**
- **Building a relevant agenda of institutional meetings.**

# Key topics and projects



- 1

**IMPACT**  
Highlighting the legal sector contribution.
- 2

**GENDER EQUALITY**  
Gender equality in the legal sector and beyond.
- 3

**ESG**  
Placing the IBA/the legal sector as a relevant player in the ESG agenda.
- 4

**DIGITAL + RIGHTS**  
Freedom of expression in the digital environment.
- 5

**YOUNG LAWYERS**  
Training lawyers for the future.

Special reports



- 1. Impact: The Legal Sector Contribution.
- 2. ESG: The IBA ESG Corporate Governance Guide.
- 3. Freedom of Expression in the Digital Environment.

Education



- 1. Gender equality.
- 2. Young Lawyers International Programme.
- 3. The IBA International Lawyer Degree.

Meetings & conferences



- 1. Legal Agenda Forum.
- 2. World ESG Lawyers' Conference.
- 3. Latin America / Iberia Summit.

# Enhanced communications



INTERNAL	<b>Between the IBA senior leadership and IBA members.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Direct communication through in-person and remote meetings.</li></ul>
	<b>Between the different parts of the Association.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Strategic Implementation Group, formed by the Vice-Chairs of each constituency with the support of the IBA Vice-Presidents and the Secretary-General, as a forum to ensure coordination.</li></ul>
	<b>Institutional communication with members.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The IBA President will establish a monthly communication with members through the IBA e-newsletter.</li></ul>
EXTERNAL	<b>Specific communication plans for substantial IBA projects.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Impact project: Maximising the impact of the legal profession.</li><li>• Guidelines on Freedom of Speech in the Digital Environment.</li><li>• Gender equality guidelines and reports on different jurisdictions.</li><li>• Launch of the Young Lawyers International Programme.</li><li>• Launch of the IBA International Lawyer Degree.</li><li>• Latin-American/Iberian Day: Recommendations for improvement of the legal environment.</li><li>• IBA ESG Corporate Governance Manual.</li></ul>
	<b>Specific communication plans for IBA substantial institutional agenda events.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The presidency will have a space on the IBA website providing information about the most relevant IBA projects, activities and agenda.</li></ul>

# Institutional agenda

## Presidential visits

Attendance at IBA events combined with institutional visits, including to bars, law societies and local firms.

During the presidency the main continents may be covered, selecting relevant jurisdictions for the IBA.

A well thought-out agenda of institutional meetings.

### Initial meetings:

- Secretary General of **UN**.
- President of the **European Commission**.
- **European Court of Human Rights** — Strasbourg.
- **International Criminal Court** — The Hague.
- HM the **King of Spain**.



### > Link to the Strategic Plan

- **GOAL 1.** Advocacy of the rule of law and of the core values of the legal profession.
- **GOAL 2.** Defend and support human rights.

### > Objective

- Strengthening the **relevance** of the IBA.
- Strengthening **engagement with members**.

# Special reports



## Impact — Maximising the impact of the legal profession

Special report to be carried out by the IBA working jointly with a consultancy firm to analyse the legal sector contribution to society.

Study of the current impact (tangible and intangible) and development of a perspective on the contribution of the legal profession to society and how to maximise it in the future, in the context of the challenges it is faced with.



### > Link to the Strategic Plan

- **GOAL 1.** Enhancing the profession and its core values.
- **GOAL 2.** Showing support for the rule of law and protection of human rights

### > Objective

- **Relevance of the IBA.**
- **Engagement with members:** interesting content
- **Highlight** the importance of the legal sector.
- **Generate data** currently inexistent.
- **Provide recommendations** to improve current impact.



## Freedom of Speech in the Digital Environment

The fundamental importance of freedom of speech in a democratic society can be challenged and abused in the digital environment.

- What are the issues?
- What is, or should be, the position of internet intermediaries?

The report, to be prepared by the the IBA working in collaboration with a leading law school, will outline best practices to be shared and supported by different institutions.



### > Link to the Strategic Plan

- **GOAL 1.** Defend and support human rights.

### > Objective

- Strengthening the IBA's **profile**.
- The IBA as a **prescriber** of best practices.

Prepare and  
transform the  
legal profession

## Gender equality

Promote gender balance in the legal profession by making the IBA a prescriber of best practices. This initiative will take into account the 50:50 by 2030 Global Gender Study driven by the IBA (LPRU, D&I Council, WLG) and the LexisNexis Rule of Law Foundation.

### Activities:

- **Guidelines.** Working Group to develop guidelines against any type of discrimination in the legal profession.
- **Ambassadors.** Identify powerful women & men within the IBA to act as local ambassadors for the guidelines in their respective jurisdictions.
- **Bars.** Engage with local bar associations to disseminate and implement the IBA message.



### > Link to the Strategic Plan

- **GOAL 1.** Avoiding of all forms of discrimination and bias within the legal profession.

### > Objective

- Further increase the IBA's **relevance** as a leader in the promotion of gender equality in the legal sector.

## Young Lawyers International Program

Training programme allowing young lawyers to have their first immersion into the international environment.

- The programme will be based on the 'pilot' programme developed in Japan and will be adapted by the relevant committees in collaboration with a leading academic institution.
- Short duration (to be discussed).
- Potential implementation by bars/law societies.



### > Link to the Strategic Plan

- **GOAL 1.** Prepare the legal profession for the future.

### > Objective

- Helping to **close the gap** with less favored jurisdictions through their bars.
- **Strengthening engagement** with Member Organisations and law schools.
- **Attracting young lawyers** to the IBA.
- Increasing the **IBA's visibility**.

## The IBA International Lawyer Degree

The degree to operate as a 'quality seal' for any lawyer considering the possibility of working in an international environment. An LLM of key topics for international lawyers.

(i) **Technical skills:** common law in corporate, commercial, corporate governance, etc.

(ii) **Soft skills:** communication, relating with international clients or colleagues.

(iii) **Technology skills.**

(iv) **Ethics.**



### > Link to the Strategic Plan

- **GOAL 1.** Prepare the legal profession for the future.

### > Objective

- Leading **new trends** in legal education.
- **Strengthening collaboration** with top law schools.
- **Attracting young lawyers** to the IBA.
- Increasing the **IBA's visibility**.

# Special meetings



## Legal Agenda Forum

Think-tank of leading practitioners from IBA members as well as third parties who may help to direct the work of determining issues of top importance to IBA members and the legal community.

- By-invitation event.
- To be the basis of the key legal topics to permeate in the activities of the Association.
- Initial kick-off meeting Q1 2023.



### > Link to the Strategic Plan

- **GOAL 1.** Prepare the legal profession for the future.
- **GOAL 2.** Improve the membership offering.

### > Objective

- Increase **engagement** with members
- The **IBA as prescriber** of legal trends.
- Raising the **IBA profile**.
- **Visibility**.



## IBA ESG Project

A project aimed at positioning the IBA/legal sector as a key player regarding the ESG framework, giving greater prominence and focus to ESG legal issues and their impact, also on the legal profession.

- **Providing visibility** to existing IBA work in the ESG area.
- **IBA ESG Conference** to be held in NY - March 2023: launch of Project.
- **Educating lawyers** in developing countries around ESG — engaging with law schools and law societies.
- **Exploring partnership** with non-legal organisations to leverage IBA's impact.
- Issuing the **IBA ESG Corporate Governance Manual**.



### > **Link to the Strategic Plan**

- **GOAL 1.** Prepare the legal profession for the future.
- **GOAL 2.** Improve the membership offering.

### > **Objective**

- The IBA as **prescriber**.
- Increasing the **IBA profile and visibility**.

## Latin America / Iberia Summit

Summit of IBA Group Members and Corporate Members dedicated to discussing the overall legal environment in Latin America and Iberia respectively, and international business transactions between Latin America and Iberia by prominent practitioners from both sides of the Atlantic.

Duration: 1½ days.



### > **Link to the Strategic Plan**

- **GOAL 1.** Prepare the legal profession for the future.
- **GOAL 2.** Improve the membership offering.

### > **Objective**

- **Engagement with members:** improve the offering to Group Members and Corporate Members.
- **Test appetite** for bilateral meetings in other regions.
- **Facilitate** legal developments.
- **Insight** on the respective legal markets.



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