IBA 2026 COPENHAGEN 4–9 OCTOBER

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION



OPENING CEREMONY PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2026, 1700

IBA Annual Conference Opening Ceremony 2026

The Ceremony will commence at 1700

Host Committee Co-Chairs

Lise Lotte Hjerrild

Martin Dittmer

Søren Skibsted

Special guest speaker

Lars Løkke Rasmussen

Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs

Rule of Law Education Programme
Award presentation

IBA President's address

Claudio Visco

IBA President

Keynote address

Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein of Jordan

President of the International Peace Institute

(United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 2014 to 2018)

Q&A with Prince Zeid



Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein

Former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2014 to 2018)
President of the International Peace Institute

Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein served as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 2014 to 2018. A distinguished diplomat and international statesman, in 2019 he was elected to The Elders, an independent group of global leaders founded by Nelson Mandela.

Prince Zeid has represented Jordan on the world stage as its ambassador to the UN in New York on two occasions and as its ambassador to the United States. In January 2014, he served as president of the UN Security Council.

Earlier, in 2002, he became the first president of the governing body of the International Criminal Court (ICC), serving until 2005. He also served, from 1994 to 1996, as a UN civilian peacekeeper with UNPROFOR – the UN Protection Force.

Prince Zeid received his B.A from John Hopkins University. He was then a research student at Christ's College, Cambridge, where he gained a PhD. In 2016, he was made an Honorary Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge.

He is currently President of the International Peace Institute and Perry World House Professor of the Practice of Law and Human Rights at the University of Pennsylvania.



Lars Løkke Rasmussen

Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs
(Prime Minister of Denmark 2009-2011 & 2015-2019)

Lars Løkke Rasmussen is Denmark's Minister for Foreign Affairs. He has served as a member of the Danish Parliament, the Folketing, for more than three decades.

He was first elected to Parliament in 1994 for the Liberal Party (Venstre), serving the party until the end of 2020. Following a period as an independent member, he joined The Moderates in 2022 and continues to represent the party in the Folketing.

Lars Løkke Rasmussen has twice served as Prime Minister of Denmark, first from 2009 to 2011 and again from 2015 to 2019. His previous ministerial appointments include Minister for the Interior and Health from 2001 to 2007 and Minister for Finance from 2007 to 2009. He was Chairman of the Liberal Party from 2009 to 2019, having previously served as its Vice-Chairman.

He became Minister for Foreign Affairs in December 2022 and was reappointed to the role in June 2026.

A graduate of the University of Copenhagen, Lars Løkke Rasmussen received his Master of Laws degree in 1992. He is also the author of several books, including Ud af det blå (Out of the Blue), published in 2021, Om de fleste og det meste (On (Nearly) Everyone and Everything), published in 2020, and Hvis jeg bli'r gammel (If I Get Old), published in 1997.



Welcome Party

1900 – 2200

Discover Denmark

Denmark will unfold around you - inviting you to explore the country's many hidden gems in one unforgettable evening.

Wander through the vibrant streets of Copenhagen, where urban energy meets green parks and creative city vibes. Unleash your imagination in Southern Jutland, the home of LEGO, and discover the joy of building and creating. Feel the calm and charm of Bornholm, Denmark's sunshine island, where nature and hygge take centre stage. Head up to Northern Jutland, known for its lively pub culture - enjoy a cold beer and challenge a colleague to a game.

And don't miss a magical stop on Funen, birthplace of the master of fairy tales - Hans Christian Andersen, where you'll step into the enchanting universe of one of his most beloved tales: The Snow Queen.

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