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Introduction: The Islamic State and International Terrorism – The Architecture of Response

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On April 15, 2016, the American Bar Association Section of International Law (ABASIL) organized a blue ribbon panel titled “The Islamic State and International Terrorism: The Architecture of Response.” This distinguished panel addressed questions concerning the architecture of response to, as well as the methodologies of control and incursion employed by, the Islamic State (IS) and its affiliates. The organizers brought together both U.S.-based and other international organizations in engendering a “canopy” or “canopies” to effectuate effective and coordinated responses.

The Panel was comprised of personnel from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), USAID, and former United States government employees representing the intelligence community. In addressing questions concerning arising existential threats, the participants posited their opinions as to how the international legal order may address such phenomena as transnational violence, non-state actors and the rise of the Islamic State. Further, the panelists opined as to what legal structures are required to coordinate effective responses to the spread of international violence from the Levant to the African continent, and how such “localized” phenomena as Al-Shabaab and Boko Haram are to be addressed. Further, whether an article VII enforcement action is required pursuant to Security Council authorization, and if so, what architecture is required to coordinate the responses of Allied and regional organizations in enforcing such Security Council authorization(s)?

The panel concluded with participants addressing questions concerning the contextualized responses required pursuant to differing country conditions, including, but not limited to economic embargo and quarantine.

* Jonathan Michael Meyer, Attorney at Law, Vice Chair, National Security Committee, the American Bar Association, Section of International Law, Co-Chaired the ABA Panel, “The Islamic State and International Terrorism: The Architecture of Response.”

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