

Ivan Šimonović, candidate for the Human Rights Committee 2025-2028

Distinguished scholar and practitioner in human rights and atrocity prevention area
in the UN, expert bodies, civil society and government



Name and first name: Ivan Šimonović

Date and place of birth: 2 May 1959, Zagreb, Croatia

Working languages: Croatian, English, German, Italian.

Current position/function:

- **PR of Croatia** to the United Nations in New York / Zagreb **Law School Professor** (returning to active academic duty in 2024)
- **Chair** of the **UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)** (2023 – 2024)
- **Vice-president** of the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** (2023 – 2024)
- Member of the **International Commission Against the Death Penalty (ICDP)**
- **Director General** of the **Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik (IUC)** and the **co-director** of the course on **Atrocity Crimes Prevention and Human Rights**

Main professional activities:

- **University of Zagreb Law School professor** of Legal theory, Human rights, and International relations, published over one hundred books and articles (1986 – to date)
- **Visiting professor:** Brisbane, Leeds and Penn (2016 – 2020)
- **Special Adviser of the UNSG on Responsibility to Protect** (2016 – 2018)
- **Senior Visiting Scholar and Fellow**, Columbia University, New York (2016 – 2018)
- **UN Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights**, Head of NY Office (2010 – 2016)
- **Minister of Justice** of the Republic of Croatia (2008 – 2010)
- **Agent** of Croatia before the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** (2000 – 2010)
- **Vice-Rector** Zagreb University (2007 – 2008), **Law School Vice-Dean** (2005 – 2006)
- **Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs** of Croatia (2003 – 2004 and 2005 – 2006)
- **PR of Croatia** (1996 – 2002) and **President of ECOSOC** (2002 – 2003)

Educational background:

- 1994 – **Research fellowship**, Law School, University of Graz, Austria
- 1993 – **Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship**, Yale Law School, New Haven, USA
- 1990 – **Ph.D.**, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, Croatia
- 1984 – **Master's Degree** in Public Administration, Zagreb, Croatia
- 1982 – **Bachelor of Laws Degree**, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

- **Advisory Board, Auschwitz Institute** (2022 – to date)
- **Co-chair of the Group of Friends of R2P** at the UN in New York (2021 – to date)
- **Co-coordinator of all UNGA COVID-19 pandemic related activities** (2021 – 2022)
- **Advisory Board, Global Centre for R2P** (2019 – to date)
- **Chief organizer** of UN events on **moving away from death penalty** (2013 – 2016)
- **Commission for Democracy through Law, CoE** (2007 – 2008)
- **European Commission against Racial Discrimination and Intolerance CoE** (2007 – 2008)
- **President of the United Nations Association of Croatia** (2006 – 2008)
- **Head of delegation, First Special Session of the UN HR Commission** (1993)
- **Vice-President (Croatia), of the World Conference on Human Rights** (1993)
- **Plenipotentiary of Croatia** on humanitarian issues during conflict (1992 – 1995)

List of most recent publications in the field:

- Do we need the UN? *Zbornik PFZ*, 73, (2-3) 561-591 (2023)
- Towards Evidence Based Atrocity Prevention (with Bellamy, A. J), *Journal of International Peacekeeping*, 24, (3-4), 285-566 (2021)
- Why does fight against the death penalty matter? *Zbornik PFZ*, 70, (2-3) (2020)
- Atrocity Crimes and Preventive Diplomacy, *Global Center for R2P* (2020)
- Das OHCHR als Prometheus? *German Review on the UN*, Vol. 66, No. 6 (2018)

Awards:

- Legion of Honor of the French Republic
- Helsinki Committee of Croatia Human Rights Award
- Member of the World Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts
- Five high Croatian decorations