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SPECIALIST IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND SPACE LAW LECTURES AT IMLI

Professor Maria Helena Fonseca de Souza Rolim (Specialist in Environmental Law and Space Law) recently delivered a set of lectures entitled “*Invasive Alien Species*” to the IMLI Class of 2020-2021 and participants who are attending IMLI’s specialized short courses. She was warmly welcomed and introduced to the participants by Professor Norman Martinez (Professor, IMLI)



*Professor Maria Helena Fonseca de Souza Rolim
(Specialist in Environmental Law and Space Law)*

Professor Rolim’s lectures focused on the international law on ballast water management and its role in preventing bio-pollution. She noted that bio-invasions have been disastrous in many locations, and continue to grow at an alarming pace, causing damage to the marine environment as well as human health, biodiversity, fishing and mariculture. She noted further that harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens are ‘free dangerous dancers’ that do not respect geographical

and jurisdictional boundaries in the oceans. As a result, multilateral agreements based on standardized technical approaches are required to respond to global bio-pollution.

Professor Rolim went on to discuss the international response, particularly, the 2004 International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention). She stated that the BWM Convention endorses essential principles with respect to the protection of the marine environment, in particular those in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the precautionary and preventive principles, international co-operation, transfer of technology and the no harm principle.



Professor Rolim has been a Legal Adviser to the Brazilian Government and other foreign Governments, since 1975. She has also been a Legal Adviser of Space Law and Law of the Sea to many United Nations Organizations including FAO, IMO, IOC/UNESCO since 1990 and also to the Brazilian National Institute of Space Research, Space Law.

She has been a Professor, Visiting Professor and Researcher in many eminent educational institutes including Space Policy Institute of George Washington University's Elliot School of International Affairs in America, Chinese Space Law and Policy, Harbin Institute of

Technology in China, the Faculty of Space Engineering of the Brazilian Air Force, Technological Institute of Aeronautics (ITA), Law of the Sea at the Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law, Oslo University in Norway.

Professor Rolim has published widely in International Law, Law of the Sea and Space Law in Brazil, Chile, France, Germany, Japan, Mozambique, The Netherlands, Portugal and United Kingdom. She is a Member of the Political-Strategic Studies Centre in the Brazilian Navy, since 2017 and a Member of the Brazilian Navy Society Friend, since 1993.

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