

FOREWORD

Great advances have been made in the use of non-judicial dispute procedures – Alternative Dispute Resolution or ADR – in municipal contexts, and in their formal incorporation within the municipal legal systems. The practical importance of analogous procedures within the international system is at least as great, but they have attracted relatively little attention from international lawyers. With a few exceptions, such as the seminal studies by Cot and Kirgis, these procedures have not been made the subject of sustained analysis.

Dr Koopmans has, I think rightly, sensed that the time is ripe for a revival of non-judicial procedures in international dispute settlement. This careful analysis of one of the most flexible and responsive of those procedures, conciliation, is alive both to its advantages and its pitfalls, and also demonstrates the variety of forms that it may take. This monograph, a product of his doctoral research, is a substantial contribution to the literature on international dispute settlement and an important marker of the particular role of conciliation within international law. Dr Koopmans has not only championed its cause, but also invested a great deal of effort in the production of this valuable monograph; and for both, international lawyers are indebted to him.

Oxford, All Souls Day 2007

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