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MEDIA ADVISORY

ASIL CO-SPONSORS LAUNCH OF BOOK ON
UN SECURITY COUNCIL'S EXPANDED LEGAL AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law (ASIL), in conjunction with the U.S. Institute for Peace (USIP), will sponsor a launch of the new book *Council Unbound: The Growth of UN Decision Making on Conflict and Post-Conflict Issues after the Cold War* by ASIL Executive Council member **Michael J. Matheson**. The event will take place on Tuesday, March 27, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at USIP headquarters, 1200 17th Street NW, Washington, DC. Members of the press and public are invited to attend this free event by sending name, affiliation, and telephone number to rsvp@usip.org, with "Council Unbound" in the subject line.

Since the end of the Cold War, the scope of authority exercised by the UN Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter has vastly expanded. The Council has not only asserted the authority of the UN to intervene in a wide variety of ongoing armed conflicts but also to take proactive measures to prevent conflicts or to mitigate the effects of conflicts that have already occurred. Although many have asserted that the UN's effectiveness and legitimacy have eroded, the Council continues to use its

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expanded authority in new ways to deal with emerging conflicts and threats to peace.

Using *Council Unbound* as the starting point, members of the panel will look at this issue and evaluate the Security Council's expanded legal authority from their various perspectives. The speakers will be **Michael J. Matheson**, *Council Unbound* author, member of the International Law Faculty at George Washington University School of Law, and former Deputy Legal Advisor and Acting Legal Advisor at the U.S. Department of State; **Ruth Wedgwood**, ASIL Vice President and Professor of International Law and Diplomacy at the Johns Hopkins University School for Advanced International Studies; and **Søren Jessen-Petersen**, Guest Scholar at USIP and former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and head of the UN Mission in Kosovo. **Lynn Tesser**, Program Officer at USIP, will moderate the discussion.

ASIL events generally deal with one of the Society's seven program areas: Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, International Institutions, International Law and Development, International Security, Science and Technology, Trade and Investment, and Transnational Litigation and Arbitration. ASIL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational membership organization. It was founded in 1906, chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1950, and has held Category II Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 1993. ASIL's mission is to foster the study of international law and to promote the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice. The Society's 4,000 members (from nearly 100 countries) comprise attorneys, academics, corporate counsel, judges, representatives of governments and nongovernmental organizations, international civil servants, students, and others interested in international law. For more information, visit www.asil.org.

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