



American Society of International Law

Signature Topics Proposal Instructions

A proposal for a signature topic should, if possible, address cross-cutting issues that are of interest to multiple constituencies within ASIL. Co-authored proposals are welcome. Proposals should be no more than 2,000 words in length. Such proposals should address some or all of the following elements:

1. *Importance*: Indicate why this topic is of such significance today to the field of international law that the Society should focus a wide range of ASIL programs on it as a signature topic.
2. *Value Added*: Explain how ASIL could provide “value added” by contributing to public understanding of the issues in a non-partisan manner.
3. *Existing ASIL Programs*: Identify existing ASIL entities that could be encouraged to pursue work on this topic. For example, indicate interest groups that might wish to organize events related to the topic. Identify potential linkages with the annual or midyear meetings.
4. *Existing ASIL Publications*: Suggest sub-topics that could be the focus of one or more of ASIL’s publications (such as a symposium in *AJIL* or *AJIL Unbound* or an *ASIL Insights* article).
5. *Future ASIL Programs*: Discuss whether it might be advisable to create a new programmatic entity, such as: a task force (short-term, likely leading to a report with recommendations); a study panel (longer-term, potentially leading to a book-length project); or roundtable (bringing together different constituencies for focused discussions). To the extent feasible, for any new initiative that may involve significant costs, provide a rough estimate of expected costs and identify potential sources of funds to support the initiative.
6. *Online Delivery*: ASIL has become increasingly active in providing delivery of content online. Indicate the issues/sub-topics that might be appropriate for online video (webinar) or audio (podcast) delivery on this topic.
7. *Persons who Might Participate*: Identify specific individuals, including ASIL members, people outside the United States, government officials, or others, who could potentially participate in work on this topic.
8. *Organizations that Might Participate*: Identify organizations with whom ASIL could potentially collaborate in working on the topic. Such organizations might include other non-profit organizations, inter-governmental organizations, international law or other societies from outside the United States, ASIL academic partners or law firm partners, or donor organizations who might contribute funds to support work on the topic.
9. *Prior Work on the Topic*: Identify recently published books, articles, studies, or other materials that have made important contributions related to the topic.