

Global Rule of Law Commission of the European Public Law Organization

Side Event, 14 November 2024, United Nations, New York

*Which Feasible Reforms to Strengthen the UN on behalf of the Rule of Law?*

Concept Note

Since the turn of the century, two trends have been reshaping the international order and by implication have had profound impact on the work of the United Nations.

On the one hand, the onset of globalization, coupled with privatisation and deregulation, have produced a global legal space, filled with regulations, decisions, and transactions by governments, international and regional organizations, as well as private actors, contributing to global governance. On the other hand, the resurgence of national sovereignties, coupled with a retreat from the rule of law and even disregard for obligations stemming from multilateral agreements, are placing the post World War II liberal order under increasing strain.

These two antinomic, but interrelated trends have produced a fractured international order, consisting of multipolarisms that may be uncooperative. This state of affairs calls for the reappraisal of the role of the United Nations in our era, an era of pervasive international and non-international armed conflicts, human rights violations, as well as complex problems, such as climate change, that require cooperative solutions.

To put it in a single phrase: *what can we realistically do to make the United Nations present and future-proof?*

In order to answer this question, the event will delve:

- (i) into the role the UN and its Organs have exercised in key areas, such as maintaining international peace and security and guaranteeing the enjoyment of human rights;
- (ii) into the lessons learnt from the past engagement of the UN in peacekeeping missions, as well as missions related to human rights;
- (iii) into the lessons that can be derived from the workings of other international or regional intergovernmental organisations in terms of reform;
- (iii) into possible and realistic reforms and improvements that could render the Organization more capable, effective and agile in fulfilling its mandate, while respecting the principle of sovereign equality.