



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC LAW ORGANIZATION (EPLO):
GLOBAL RULE OF LAW COMMISSION
(side event)**

Remarks

by

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Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and
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Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be with you today and to participate, once again, in an event of the European Public Law Organization on the Rule of Law.

I have been closely following the rule of law projects of the EPLO since it launched its Global Rule of Law Initiative in 2019.

I strongly believe in the significant role that organizations like yours can play in the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law, especially through the dissemination of knowledge and expertise and through capacity-building activities.

The concept, meaning and different dimensions of the rule of law have been defined and refined through the years. What is needed now is to work towards the effective and global implementation of the rule of law.



When I see your projects spanning all around the world, from small villages to major metropolises, I believe that, yes, we have a chance to strengthen the rule of law.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is no secret that we are experiencing a global decline of respect for the rule of law.

Brutal conflicts continue to rage; weapons of mass destruction continue to develop; human rights continue to be violated; inequalities persist; climate change is worsening; and poverty and global injustice are growing.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The rule of law is at the very heart of the United Nations' mission. It is a concept under which all persons, institutions and entities, including the State itself, are accountable.

Accountable to laws that are freely adopted, equally implemented, and independently adjudicated.

The rule of law also plays a key role at the international level. It gives predictability and legitimacy to international relations.

The item entitled "The rule of law at the national and international levels" has been on the agenda of the General Assembly since 2006.





Most recently, in his 2021 report on Our Common Agenda, the Secretary-General undertook to promote a new vision for the rule of law;

A vision that upholds a rule-based international order;

A vision that seeks peace through law.

As per his New Vision for the rule of law, the Secretary-General declared that the United Nations will reinforce the centrality of the rule of law in all its activities and mainstream it across its work;

From peace and security; to development and the protection of the environment; to human rights and accountability; in addition to artificial intelligence and sharing of data.

It is a new vision by which the United Nations intergovernmental bodies will be encouraged to provide mandates and increase funding for rule of law programmes, to ultimately support Member States, communities and individuals.

It is also a vision that puts people at the centre of justice.

I trust that your organisation, and civil society more generally, will support and engage with the New Vision for the rule of law of the Secretary-General. Civil society has always been, and remains, an indispensable partner in our efforts to uphold the rule of law.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the central legal service of the United Nations, my Office, the Office of Legal Affairs, is entrusted with upholding the rule of law on the international level on different fronts;





My Office contributes to the implementation and development of international law, by providing substantive secretariat services to the Sixth Committee, the primary forum for the consideration of legal questions in the General Assembly;

My Office contributes to the codification and progressive development of international law, by providing substantive secretariat services to the International Law Commission; and by assisting the work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law;

My Office contributes to the international administration of justice, by discharging the legal responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Statute of the International Court of Justice, the Principal Judicial Organ of the United Nations;

My Office also supports accountability efforts, by acting as a focal point for cooperation between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court; and by supporting other international and hybrid criminal courts and tribunals and non-judicial accountability mechanisms;

Last but not least, and as EPLO does, we also undertake numerous activities for capacity-building, teaching and dissemination, and the wider appreciation of international law. We work together with Member States and various stakeholders, to raise awareness and advocate for greater compliance with the rule of law.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are at an inflection point in history.

All stakeholders—States, international organizations, civil society and the private sector—have a responsibility to contribute to building and upholding the rule of law.





Education, research, and capacity-building remain essential, and organizations like yours can play a significant role in this regard.

EPLO's launch of the Global Rule of Law Initiative in 2019, and the establishment of the Global Rule of Law Commission and the Institute of the Global Rule of Law in 2022, are concrete steps in that direction.

These activities align with our work. And, most importantly they contribute to an international cultural shift that embraces the rule of law for the planet, for prosperity, for peace and, ultimately, for the people.

Thank you.

