

Foreword

At the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Control (Kyoto, Japan 20-27 April 2020) Member States, non-governmental organizations and individual experts under an overarching theme “Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”, will deal with the topic of “Multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia, providing access to justice for all; building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions; and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering a culture of lawfulness while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration”.

The Declaration, adopted by the Thirteenth Congress (Qatar, 2015), brought culture of lawfulness to the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Its Goal 16 is particularly relevant: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.

This special issue of “Białostockie Studia Prawnicze” (“Białystok Legal Studies”) cuts across this very complex area, originally prompted by the Doha Declaration. The issue’s theme is “Advancing a Culture of Lawfulness: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda”.

It is obvious that each Member State did not necessarily have the same idea of what they understood by the term “a culture of lawfulness” in agreeing upon the text of the Doha Declaration, or the agenda item of the Fourteenth Congress¹. Hence this special issue of “Białostockie Studia Prawnicze”, which seeks views from academics and practitioners from various countries on what a culture of lawfulness could or should mean for the United Nations.

In this special issue, the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), a non-governmental organisation with a general consultative status with

1 M. Joutsen, *The Rule of Law as a Concept in Discussions at the United Nations*, UNAFEI “Resource Material Series” 2018, vol. 105 (in print).

the Economic and Social Council, with its mix of expert members, will be pleased to disseminate their views on culture of lawfulness to the international readership.

ACUNS, as a global professional association of educational and research institutions, individual scholars and practitioners active in the work and study of the United Nations, multilateral relations, global governance, and international cooperation, is ready to follow-up on the outcomes of the Congress' discussion on a culture of lawfulness. As an organization which promotes teaching on these topics, as well as a forum provider for dialogue and mutual understanding across and between academics, practitioners, civil society and students, ACUNS may help in globalizing that discussion by supporting the relevant United Nations entities and initiatives in their quest to enable universities to train their staff and to teach their students about a global culture of lawfulness.

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