

A few comments about the book *Reinvigorating the United Nations*.

Prof. UG dr hab. Wojciech Zalewski

Reinvigorating the United Nations, a book edited by Slawomir Redo and Markus Kornprobst, is an extremely valuable study, which is certainly worth recommending not only to law students, but also to politicians and all those interested in the problems of the modern world.

The book consists of 4 parts each of them is extremely thoughtful and carefully developed.

While it is easy to criticize the United Nations organization, to criticize the book reviving the United Nations is not easy.

Reinvigorating the United Nations provides readers with a wide range of current issues and thus compels reflection

We get here an in-depth diagnosis of the current social, economic and political situation of the world struggling with the problems caused by globalization economic diversification and the resulting poverty problems of social exclusion, climate change religious racial cultural tensions, wars, etc.

In the book you will also find threads relating to current problems associated with the implementation of artificial intelligence in many areas of the functioning of countries and international organizations with the United Nations at the forefront.

The value of the publication in addition to accurate diagnoses carried out in many areas is the formulation of proposals for changes in the functioning of the United Nations organization.

International cooperation is not possible without efficiently functioning bodies. In the book, therefore, you will find chapters entirely devoted to this issue in the foreground.

In the excellent chapter by Mona Ali Khalil Readers will find considerations devoted to the power of principles. In contemporary discourse on international law, the importance of standards of principle is repeatedly emphasized and even their primacy over specific laws is considered. Standards, thanks to their indeterminacy, are subject to interpretation in accordance with current interests and the maintenance of human rights standards and the rule of law. In the following texts, including especially Klaus Bachman, the topic of the functioning of international criminal justice comes to the fore.

In the modern world, in which there are so many different armed conflicts, the question of criminal responsibility for crimes committed during them becomes a primary

A key problem is to ensure the smooth functioning of international criminal justice. Klaus Bachmann correctly points out the need to reduce the number of *ad hoc* international courts and tribunals created. He rightly advocates limiting the functioning of the international judiciary to ensuring the efficiency of already functioning institutions.

In an interesting text on the political-criminal problem of redistribution of wealth in needy states, Slawomir Redo refers to the principles of justice formulated by John Rawls. This need for transparency in the application of distributive justice is evident in this case.

In the following texts devoted strictly to the problem of repair of the United Nations organization, readers can learn about the historical evolution of the organization the uneasy history of the United Nations organization makes it clear how difficult it is to build a platform for international cooperation.

It seems that in the modern world it is necessary to do everything so that the United Nations organization does not duplicate the mistakes of its predecessor - the league of nations

The key to the success of the United Nations organization is to improve the functioning of the Security Council. The permanent members of the Security Council have repeatedly proved that they are unable to reach a consensus even in the face of obvious violations of the standards of international law and human rights.

In a series of texts, the authors develop proposals for improving and reforming the Security Council and the United Nations itself, including, above all, breaking the principle of the veto.

The proposals presented are balanced and thoughtful.

What is a virtue of the publication is that it breaks down the standards of thinking about the United Nations organization. Undoubtedly, the UN Security Council reflects the balance of power that prevailed in the world after the end of the second world war the problem of the UN organization is the lack of representation of African countries in the UN Security Council.

Another issue highlighted in the work presented is the problems with financing the operation of the United Nations. It cannot be that the budget of the United Nations organization hinges on the goodwill of a few countries.

The largest contributors to the UN are, of course, the United States, but second place goes to China. Well, this is where questions arise about how and the interest of the states financing the operation of the United Nations organization. The lack of clear funding rules is particularly evident in the international health organization. The WHO has shown a lack of organizational agility especially during the COVID 19 pandemic. Then, too, the shortcomings of clear funding rules for the organization became apparent.

Improving the United Nations organization is not possible without improving the rules of financing the organization.

The most interesting text of the publication, in the opinion of the writer of these words, is the text by Natalia Samarasinghe on the problem of rebuilding trust and the trust deficit in the United Nations organization. One should share the author's concerns about the possibility of simply rebuilding trust in the UN. Various problems related to the inefficiency of the organization as well as corruption and sexual abuse scandals have cast a shadow over the UN.

Rebuilding trust for the United Nations is a long and labor-intensive process. Its beginning, in my opinion, should primarily involve rebuilding trust in institutions directly related to the prevention of security, the construction and operation of peacekeeping missions and the functioning of international criminal justice.

A good example illustrating the possibility of rebuilding such trust is the example of the functioning of hybrid courts in Rwanda. Of course, someone could say that Rwanda is an example of how the international judiciary should not function. After all, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda has convicted only a few dozen people. Nevertheless, thanks to the joint work of the Rwandan community and the international community and the appeal to traditional Ubuntu philosophy and restorative justice methods, it has been possible to restore faith in justice in Rwanda. The key to success is openness to out-of-the-box solutions adapted to local conditions and the needs of local communities. Respect for difference is key to restoring trust in the United Nations.

An extremely important text in the work under review is the chapter on the linguistic human rights of Adams Bodo. For it is impossible to build a cultural identity without preserving the traditions and language of a community.

The fourth section in the work under review, Summary and Recommendations, prepared by Markus Kornprobst and Slawomir Redo, contains the most important recommendations appearing in the various chapters of the monograph. The summary of the work is thoughtful and thought-provoking.

The authors rightly point out that the United Nations organization was not created to take humanity to heaven but to defend it from hell. To protect humanity from hell we undoubtedly need the United Nations organization. The book refers to the agenda of Pact for the Future, that is, the meeting to be held at the United Nations headquarters in the second half of September this year. I think that this publication contains a lot of arguments that will be used during the debates on the documents of the Pact for the Future both in the area of strengthening international cooperation regarding the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and, for example, the use of digital technologies. The effectiveness of the United Nations organization is proven every day in the dozens of actions taken by the organization especially in the space of achieving the ambitious 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted in the 2030 Agenda.