

# GERMAN REVIEW ON THE UNITED NATIONS | Abstracts

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pp. 195–200

## Looking Back on Twelve Years of the International Criminal Court

In 2002, the International Criminal Court was established as the first permanent world court. This was perceived as a major step forward for the international community in its fight to end impunity. Has the ICC delivered? This article draws a picture of the first decade of the International Criminal Court's existence and the difficulties it was, and is faced with in its endeavor to punish those most responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. It assesses the criticism with which judges and the prosecution have been confronted, e.g. selectivity, lack of transparency, and an exclusive focus on Africa. It also shows the great successes the Court demonstrated in dealing with multiple cases in ongoing violent conflicts and prosecuting high-ranking politicians while striving to respect their right to a fair trial. If the International Criminal Court starts addressing its shortcomings, receives more financial support from member states and more qualified staff from the soon ending International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda, it should stand a good chance to meet the challenges ahead.

for the period of 1991–2009. In making such statements, states confer legitimacy on the Council or withhold legitimacy from it. The authors conclude that the Security Council suffers from a legitimacy deficit because negative evaluations by United Nations member states far out-weigh the positive ones. Its legitimacy deficit results primarily from states' concerns regarding the body's inadequate working methods. Misgivings with regards to shortcomings in performance rank second. Whether or not the Council complies with its legal mandate has failed to attract much attention at all.

Cornelia Ulbert

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## Comment: Ebola Crisis Reveals Major Shortcomings

The author stipulates that the Ebola virus epidemic in late summer 2014 could have been contained earlier if the World Health Organization had not previously experienced grave financial cuts, and if the world would have focused less on a few measurable Millennium Development Goals and more on securing accessible and affordable health care in developing countries.

Dirk Messner

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## Comment: Interpretative Authority on Climate Protection

Ban Ki-moon's high-level Climate Summit in September 2014 in New York was a success. Not only was the issue brought back to the top of the international policy agenda, but also numerous remarkable low-carbon initiatives were presented. The climate protection movement has claimed a stronger normative hold over the future of the global economy. The fact that the global economy and key players in business, society and politics are changing course can only serve to increase the chances of a binding climate treaty.

Martin Binder · Monika Heupel

pp. 202–206

## The Legitimacy Deficit of the UN Security Council. Extent, Causes, Remedy

As of yet, research on the legitimacy of the United Nations Security Council has failed to investigate whether and why UN member states perceive the Council as legitimate or illegitimate. The article analyzes evaluative statements by states in UN General Assembly debates on the Security Council

Stefanie Lux

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## The UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies.

### Working Methods and Jurisprudence Put to the Test

The UN human rights treaty body system has seen tremendous growth in recent years. Over the past decade, three new treaties have entered into force and six new individual complaints mechanisms have been established. However, the effectiveness of the system has been hampered by insufficient resources and meeting time. To further strengthen it, treaty bodies should take into account criticism regarding the coherence and argumentative quality of their findings. Since most states do not consider treaty body output, i.e. concluding observations, general comments and views, to be legally binding, their impact often depends on persuasiveness and sound reasoning. As the discussion of some recent findings in Germany shows, a lack of clarity and reasoning could risk undermining the authority and credibility of treaty bodies in the eyes of governments, the public and scholars.