



PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
POST-CONFLICT CONSTITUTIONS
WAR CRIMES PROSECUTION

October 31, 2024
H.E. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that The Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG) continues to uphold the ten principles of the UN Global Compact in the areas of human rights, labor, environmental responsibility, and anti-corruption. Since becoming a UN Global Compact member in 2018, PILPG has integrated these principles into its daily operations and collaborations. As a group of international legal experts and human rights advocates, PILPG views respect for core human rights as essential to its mission. Below are selected examples of PILPG's ongoing commitment to these principles, organized by principle category.

Human Rights

As a *pro bono* international law firm, PILPG is dedicated to advancing human rights, representing diverse clients including states, sub-state groups, opposition forces, self-determination movements, civil society, and marginalized communities, such as women and youth. Operating in regions where human rights abuses are prevalent, PILPG's mission involves collaborating with governments, civil society, and key stakeholders to curb or prevent these violations and align states with UN Human Rights treaty standards.

PILPG continues to play a leading role in documentation, gathering data on past atrocity crimes for potential accountability efforts. By working toward accountability for those responsible for international crimes, PILPG commits to supporting and upholding internationally recognized human rights and ensuring non-complicity in human rights abuses. Core to PILPG's mission and trainings is the ethical principle of "do no harm." This principle stresses that human rights documenters must prioritize the physical and psychological safety of everyone they engage with, including victims, witnesses, local communities, intermediaries, and fellow investigators. In every PILPG training on documentation, the focus remains on safeguarding the communities involved while striving for accountability for past violations.

In early 2024, PILPG concluded a program launched in 2019 focused on training Rohingya documenters in Bangladesh to document atrocity crimes experienced during the 2017 genocide. As part of this program, PILPG trained two dozen Rohingya individuals who are now continuing to collect evidence of the atrocities that have and are still occurring in Myanmar, as well as raise awareness among their community about transitional justice and democratic principles.

Recently, PILPG began work with a Yemeni civil society cohort of eighteen organizations working on the peace process and human rights issues in Yemen, many of which focus on highlighting the voices and perspectives of women and youth in the country. PILPG will be working with the cohort doing capacity building training on negotiation skills and substantive topics relevant to peace negotiations, should new negotiations come about in the near future. PILPG is conducting similar work with the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, conducting capacity building training on issues related to human rights relevant for regional mediators.

Since the escalation of conflict between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces in 2023, PILPG has actively supported the Taqaddum coalition, the Sudanese Coordination of Civil Democratic Forces, a pro-democracy civilian-led coalition. PILPG has provided legal support to Taqaddum during their pre-negotiation meetings and Founding Convention in Nairobi, Addis Ababa, and Kampala, focusing on critical areas such as Security Sector Reform, Transitional Justice, constitutional arrangements, and local governance. Additionally, PILPG has supported civil society groups, predominantly women and youth groups, training them on aspects of peace negotiations, international humanitarian law, and documentation. Furthermore, PILPG participated and provided legal expertise during the US-led Geneva talks in August 2024. In addition to our direct support, PILPG has launched a podcast series, titled *Lawyering Peace Hot Takes*, aimed at spreading awareness about Sudan's previous peace agreements, providing insights into their successes, shortcomings, and the lessons learned that can guide current efforts.

Lastly, PILPG continues to hold regular Expert Roundtables as part of its Thought Leadership Initiative to highlight pressing international affairs and legal issues, launch PILPG reports, and engage with the larger public international law community.

Labor

PILPG is an equal opportunity employer with policies protecting against discrimination and harassment. As a truly global organization, PILPG employs a diverse workforce and has clear procedures in place for addressing arising concerns. Moreover, PILPG does not hire children or unpaid interns.

Environment

As a modern organization, PILPG promotes the adoption of environmentally sustainable practices whenever feasible. Employees are proficient in digital storage, favoring electronic archiving over paper files. Additionally, PILPG collaborates with partners to assess whether travel for meetings, conferences, and trainings is essential, and if so, aims to select a central meeting location and limit the number of attendees. With a fully remote structure that eliminates the need for regular commuting, these measures enable PILPG to actively reduce its carbon footprint.

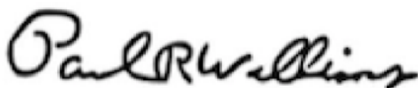
Earlier this year, in partnership with the International Bar Association, PILPG successfully contributed to the Environmental Crimes Training week for Ukrainian prosecutors. The training was highly impactful and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from PILPG's Ukrainian colleagues, who are doing exceptional work in the prosecution of environmental crimes. Notably, they are developing Ukraine's first case addressing the alleged crime of ecocide, a crime recognized under Ukrainian law. Throughout the training, PILPG experts shared lectures on prosecuting international environmental crimes, and presented case studies based on factual instances documented in Ukraine during the ongoing war.

Anti-Corruption

PILPG maintains a strong stance against corruption and bribery. As an organization that manages multiple grants at once from funders across the globe and receives *pro bono* contributions from private law firms who support PILPG's initiatives, due diligence is given to full transparency. PILPG submits regular narrative and financial reports to each funder and is audited annually, documenting all transactions and reimbursements.

PILPG greatly values its partnership with the UN Global Compact and its collaboration with fellow member organizations and companies. As a leader in international human rights, PILPG takes pride in its dedication to these guiding principles and remains committed to exploring innovative and sustainable practices. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul R. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul R. Williams
President, PILPG