



To All the Permanent Missions to the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of France to the UN, in collaboration with the Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature, the International Nuremberg Principles Academy and the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights,

is pleased to invite you to the event entitled

“Ethica – Presentation of the 25 ethical principles for international criminal judges”

That will take place on

Tuesday 24 October 2023
Conference room 6 (CR6), UN
From 1.15pm to 2.30pm
During International Law Week 2023

The 25 ethical principles, adopted in Paris on May 15, 2023, were published in [French](#), [English](#) and [Spanish](#) on September 22, 2023.

Event organised with French/English interpretation
Programme attached to this invitation

We look forward to your participation.

Concept note

Ethica – Presentation of the 25 ethical principles for international criminal judges adopted in Paris on 15 May 2023

**Side event - International Law Week in New York
Conference room 6 (CR), UN
24 October 2023 - 13:15 - 14:30**

Event organised with French/English interpretation

The Ethica project

Arising from the Paris Declaration on the effectiveness of international criminal justice, the project “*Ethica - The path to a common code of ethics for international criminal judges*” aims at examining issues of ethics and deontology in international criminal justice. Led by the Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature, the International Nuremberg Principles Academy and the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights, the project is supported by France through the financial contribution of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and of Expertise France.

Ethica's research and reflections have resulted in the development of a guide containing a series of principles and guidelines for judges of international criminal courts, published on the 22th of September 2023 in [French](#), [English](#) and [Spanish](#). These principles were identified and approved by the international group of experts at two seminars held on 6 February 2023 in Nuremberg and 15 May 2023 in Paris. This high-level group is composed of Presidents of international criminal courts and tribunals as well current and former representatives of such courts and tribunals, of international organizations, civil society and academia.

In its discussions, the group was assisted by the thorough work and research conducted by the Scientific Committee of the project composed of renowned experts with deep and transversal experience and knowledge, in particular in the field of judicial ethics and international criminal justice.

The Ethical Principles are intended to provide guidance to all international criminal judges on ethical issues they might be faced with. The Ethical Principles do not purport to direct a precise line of conduct; rather, it is the responsibility of each judge to determine the appropriate course of action in light of the relevant circumstances. Moreover, they are to be read in conjunction with existing codes

of conduct and provisions regulating the duties and functions of judges applicable in the various international criminal tribunals.

The event

The event will take stock of the ethical issues at stake in international criminal justice and present the questions and challenges facing international criminal judges. In light of this review, the newly adopted ethical principles developed in the framework of the Ethica project will be presented by its Scientific Committee. In particular, they aim to answer questions such as: can an international criminal judge be a member of boards of directors or advisory councils? Can an international criminal judge be a member of a political party? Should the private life of an international criminal judge be subject to rules? Finally, the future of the practice of international tribunals and the means available to international criminal judges to integrate these ethical principles into their daily work will be discussed, followed by a Q&A session with the audience.

Program

Introductory and concluding remarks

- *Pauline GIRERD, Head of the International Department, French National School of the Judiciary*
- *Christoph SAFFERLING, Director of the International Nuremberg Principles Academy*
- *Jean-François THONY, President of the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights*

Moderator

- *Diégo COLAS, Director of Legal Affairs, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs*

Panelists

- *Nicolas GUILLOU, Judge at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, Director of the Scientific Committee of the Ethica project*
- *Hanna Sofia DREIFELDT-LAINÉ, Senior Legal Officer at the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, participant of the international group of experts of the Ethica project*
- *Graciela Susana GATTI SANTANA, President of the United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, participant of the international group of experts of the Ethica project*
- *Ekaterina TRENDAFILOVA, President of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, participant of the international group of experts of the Ethica project*