MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR COMPARATIVE PUBLIC LAW
AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Call for Papers

Workshop

The Board of Peace and its role in international law: Challenge, continuity or a new global legal order?

The relationship between Donald Trump's Board of Peace and international law is not straightforward. Established with great fanfare at the January 2026 World Economic Forum in Davos, many commentators, including international lawyers, have analysed the Board as a disruption to existing norms in the governance of global peace and security. Its Charter explicitly marks a departure 'from approaches and institutions that have too often failed.' On the international level, the structure of the Board of Peace has raised questions as to its compatibility with the law of international organizations, with an unprecedented amount of power vested in the Chairman, rather than the member states. In Gaza, its peace plan, despite being endorsed by the UN Security Council, may endanger the self-determination and human rights of the Palestinians affected. Nevertheless, formally, the Charter of the Board commits it to act in accordance with international law.

Looking back at the first year of the Board of Peace's existence, this workshop intends to make sense of its role in an evolving international legal system by exploring three related themes:

- First, do the actions and structure of the Board of Peace actually challenge or even violate international law, both generally and specifically with regards to Gaza?
- Second, in what ways is the Board of Peace a genuinely new development in the global governance of peace and security and peacebuilding, and in what ways does it build on pre-existing ideological and material conditions?
- Third, what to expect from the Board in the coming years, given that so far, it has been rather inactive?

By exploring these aspects, we aim to arrive at a holistic understanding of the Board of Peace and its implications for the international legal order. Such a holistic understanding, we hope, will help us move towards finding solutions to the challenges raised by the Board of Peace.

We welcome papers related to any of the themes of the workshop, from a variety of legal and interdisciplinary perspectives. We particularly encourage submissions from Early Career Researchers, including Ph.D. candidates.

The Workshop will take place on 5 February 2027 at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg, Germany. Presentations may be held in person or in a hybrid format. Limited funding for travel and accommodation might be available for Early Career Researchers not funded by their home institution.

Please submit your abstract (max. 400 words), indicating the stage of development of your draft, with a commitment to have a complete paper by the date of the workshop, as well as a short bio, to seidl@mpil.de by 30 November 2026.