

Nils-Hendrik Grohmann

Strengthening the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies

An Analysis of the Committees' Legal Powers and Possibilities for Reform

[Stärkung der UN-Menschenrechtsvertragsorgane. Eine Analyse der rechtlichen Befugnisse der Ausschüsse und der Möglichkeiten für eine Reform.]

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The UN human rights treaty bodies are still in need of reform, since past initiatives were not as successful as hoped. Therefore, to secure the effective discharge of their various mandates, particularly under the reporting procedure, the Committees need to be reformers on their own. Nils-Hendrik Grohmann delineates the Committees' powers from both a practical and theoretical perspective and demonstrates how far their legal mandates can reach. Effectiveness-orientated interpretation of procedural provisions that already endow the Committees with certain powers, allows for the extension of mandates. Thereby, the Committees can introduce new powers without State consent. In doing so, they are well-advised to approach the reporting procedure holistically, to develop coherent procedural approaches and to take into consideration the considerable overlap in terms of substantive provisions under the nine UN human rights treaties. Another key factor for reform is cooperation itself among the Committees, which increased in recent years through the Meeting of Chairpersons.

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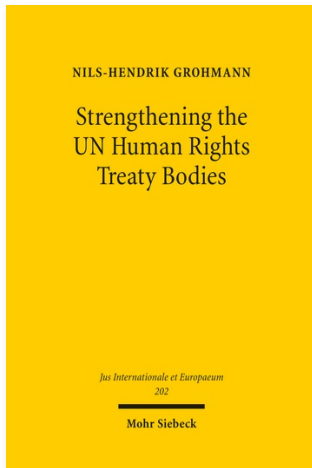
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Nils-Hendrik Grohmann Born 1992; Law studies at the University of Münster and Oslo; 2018 Research assistant at the Chair of European and International Law at the University of Potsdam; 2022 Legal clerk at the Kammergericht Berlin.
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8328-2944>

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Mohr Siebeck GmbH & Co. KG
Postfach 2040
D-72010 Tübingen
info@mohrsiebeck.com
www.mohrsiebeck.com