

**Message from His Excellency Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former Secretary General of the United Nations for Professor Emmanouil Roukounas**

MUN is a unique experience for students, an institution that I wholeheartedly supported in my capacity as the sixth UN Secretary General. The idea of honouring a prestigious personality of Greek nationality that has served the institution of the UN is exceptional, given the fact that students, from all over the world, have the unique opportunity of meeting those great people who have contributed so much to the development of international law.

Professor Roukounas' contribution in the international field began since the early 1970s when he started taking part in a number of diplomatic conferences. In 1974 Professor Roukounas participated in the Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian Law and later on he participated in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the World Conferences against Racism and Racial Discrimination. By the early 1980s his career took off as he became a member to various UN Committees as well as to other Committees of regional organizations.

He has been a member of the Bureau of the Steering Committee on Human Rights of the Council of Europe since 1979. Between 1980 and 1999 he served as a member of the Greek delegation in the UN General Assembly. He was a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination between 1983 and 1985. He was a member of the International Law Commission from 1985 until 1991. He was a member of the Group of Experts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe for the Balkans between 1991 and 1992 and of the Group of Experts of the EU for Central America from 1992 to 1999. Between 1993 and 2005 Professor Roukounas was a member of various expert committees and observer of the CDDH in the Steering Committee on Bioethics.

In 1993 in my capacity as Secretary General of the United Nations, I appointed him as an independent Jurist for Africa. He served this post with loyalty till 1999, and I wish to express my gratitude for the excellent work he did.

In 2005 he was elected by the 46 Member States of Council of Europe to participate in a small group, called 'Group of Wise Persons', with the mandate to make proposals for the future of the European Court of Human Rights. The very same year he served as Rapporteur of the Council of Europe's seminar on Human Rights and Terrorism.

He has many professional and academic associations related to his background in law, among them, his membership in the Court of Judiciary in 1991 and the Supreme Court of article 100 of the Constitution of Greece in 1992, the Institute of International Law in 1993, the Academy of Athens and Chair of Public International Law in 1997, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2001.

Since 2000, Professor Roukounas has been an Emeritus Professor of Athens University and in 2005 he was elected President of the Academy of Athens.

To conclude, I should like to express my sincere wish that Professor Roukounas pursues his action in favour of peace, democracy, development and the protection of human rights in conformity with the rules of International Law.

**Boutros Boutros-Ghali**