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Help

In 2011, an attempt was made to restate the existing international human rights law on the subject of extraterritorial obligations in the area of economic, social and cultural rights, in the *Maastricht Principles on Extraterritorial Obligations of States in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. This restatement was endorsed by a number of international human rights experts, as well as organizations; and it has been increasingly influential within the United Nations human rights system. This may be seen for instance from the endorsement by consensus in 2012, within the Human Rights Council, of the *Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty*. These Guiding Principles state that "as part of international cooperation and assistance, States have an obligation to respect and protect the enjoyment of human rights, which involves avoiding conduct that would create a foreseeable risk of impairing the enjoyment of human rights by persons living in poverty beyond their borders, and conducting assessments of the extraterritorial impacts of laws, policies and practices" (*Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. Final draft submitted by the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona* (UN doc. A/HRC/21/39) (endorsed by consensus by the Human Rights Council in res. 21/11 of 27 September 2012), para. 61).

THE MAASTRICHT PRINCIPLES - VIDEO

Well, the adoption of the Maastricht Principles on the Extraterritorial Obligations of States in the Area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights is a very interesting experience, showing how international human rights law can be made to evolve, thanks to the mobilization

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of nongovernmental organizations and academic experts.

Basically, the idea of these principles being developed emerged from a finding that increasingly human rights were impacted

by states other than the territorially competent state for the individuals

concerned-- the result of trade liberalization,

the result of investment liberalization and economic globalization, generally,

but also the result of the fact that more and more states adopt

unilateral measures that may have an impact on human rights

outside their national territory, for example,

in cases of trans-boundary pollution, where states emit

Help

You may also watch this video on YouTube (<http://youtu.be/MTMgoM4HgrY>). A downloadable version of the video can be found here (<http://podcast.uclouvain.be/SuCJEJAdpv>) (captions (/c4x/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/asset/_Captions__Louv201x_-_The_Maastricht_Principles.srt) in .srt format, as well as a full transcript (/c4x/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/asset/_Transcript__Louv201x_-_The_Maastricht_Principles.pdf) are also available).



The Maastricht Principles - Introduction The
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