

## Call for Papers

### Legal Empowerment for Sustainable Development

The Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL) is calling for papers featuring cutting edge research for its new Working Paper Series on "Legal Empowerment for Sustainable Development." The Working Paper Series will be edited by Prof. Sumudu Ataputtu, CISDL Lead Counsel & Associate Director of Global Legal Studies at the University of Wisconsin Law School and Sébastien Jodoin, CISDL Lead Counsel & Associate Fellow with the McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism.

The importance accorded to legal empowerment in development and environmental policy and projects has grown considerably in recent years. As defined by the High Level Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, legal empowerment primarily entails strengthening access to justice and the rule of law as well as securing property rights, labour rights, and business rights for all individuals, especially those hailing from marginalized and disadvantaged communities. A growing body of research and practice stresses the important role and benefits of legal empowerment for poverty eradication, economic development, environmental protection, and resource conservation. At the same time, other emerging scholarship has emphasized the limitations and spillover effects of certain aspects of legal empowerment as well as the challenges associated with implementation in concrete cases.

With this Working Paper Series on "Legal Empowerment for Sustainable Development," the CISDL aims to encourage new and rigorous scholarship of compelling interest to scholars and policy-makers active in relevant fields. Contributions should focus on the law and policy aspects of different pillars of legal empowerment and/or include empirical studies of the implications of legal empowerment for sustainable development. Contributions that focus on the cross-cutting effects of legal empowerment on both the environment and development are especially welcome.

Selected working papers will be posted on the CISDL website and will be launched at a high-level side-event organized during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in May 2012. The working papers may also be collected into a book to be published at a later date.

Submissions of abstracts will be accepted on a rolling basis until 1 August 2011. Authors are encouraged to submit abstracts as soon as possible to ensure paper eligibility and avoid overlap between different papers in the Working Paper Series. Full papers should be submitted by 1 December 2011. Papers should not have been published elsewhere before being submitted to the Working Paper Series. Inclusion in the Working Paper Series does not preclude future publication elsewhere however.

Submissions for inclusion in the Working Paper Series should be submitted as Microsoft Word Documents and should:

- include a 250 word abstract and a 50 word biography of the author;
- be formatted in Times New Roman, 12-point font, with single spacing; and
- include footnotes formatted in accordance with the style guide of the European Journal of International Law (available at: <http://www.ejil.org/about/STYLESH.pdf>).

All submissions of abstracts and papers should be submitted to CISDL Associate Fellow Sean Stephenson at [sstephenson@cisdl.org](mailto:sstephenson@cisdl.org).