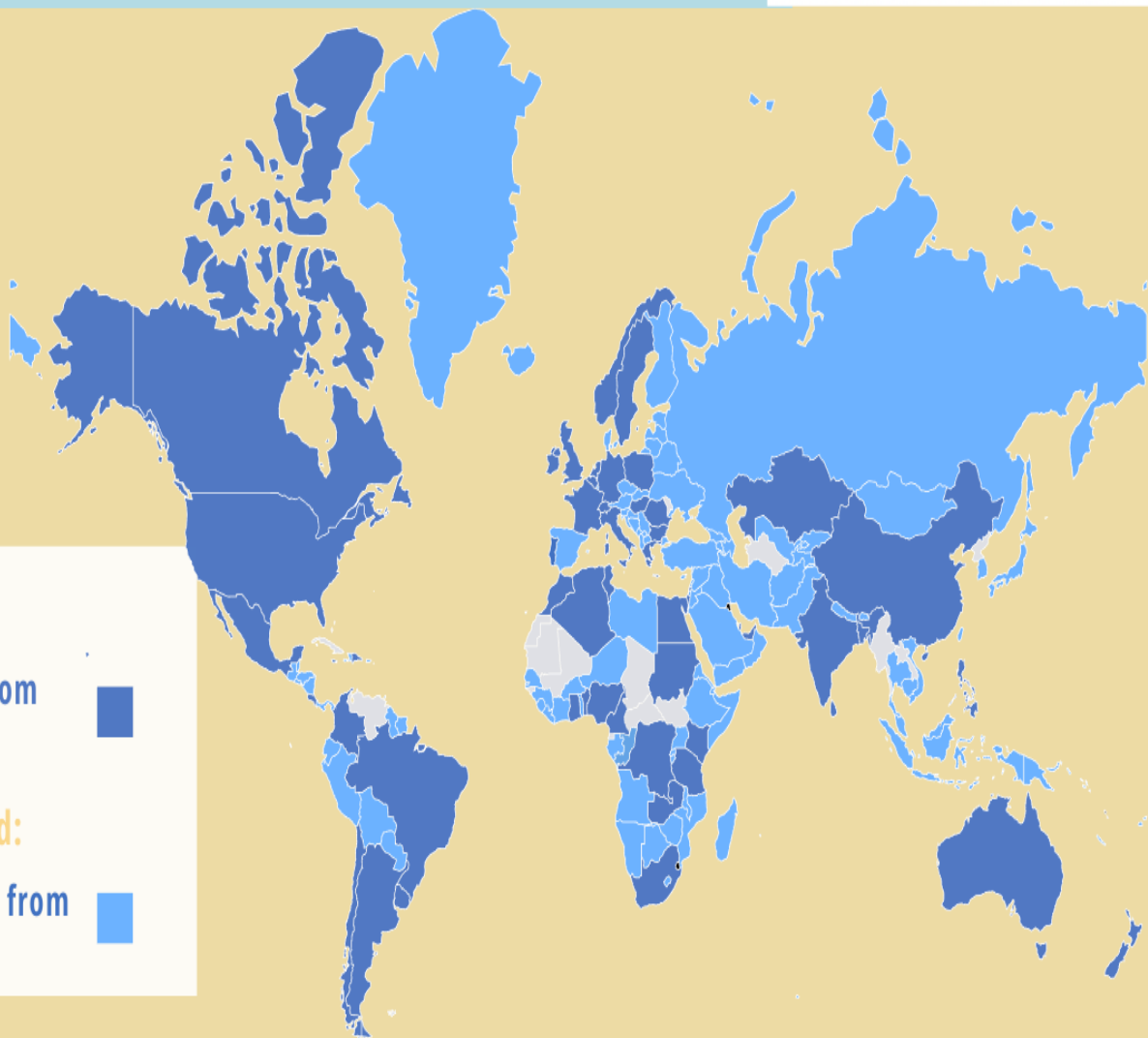


CISDL Biennial Report

CISDL: A Global Network



CISDL Fellows:

149 members from
53 countries



CISDL in the world:

20,000+ contacts from
172 countries



Updated: July 27, 2024

Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL)

BIENNIAL REPORT

2022-2024

About

CISDL is an independent international legal institute which promotes legal research and education relating to sustainable societies and the protection of ecosystems by advancing the understanding, development, and implementation of sustainable development law and governance. With an international secretariat, fellowship and partners in McGill University, the University of Cambridge, the University of Nairobi, the University of Costa Rica, the Hamad Bin Khalifa University and the University of Chile among others, CISDL acts as a global network and cooperation hub for international legal scholars, jurists, and professors on sustainable development law, governance and practice.

Research, dialogue and capacity-building is facilitated through cooperation with international partner organizations including the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), the International Law Association (ILA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Financial Institutions and others, including the presidencies and secretariats of international treaties on biodiversity, climate change, natural resources, trade and investment, and human rights.

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Message from the Senior Director & Board of Governors



CISDL's 2022 - 2024 years featured several key events and achievements, with new developments for CISDL as an international legal research centre, as an established convenor of key experts on the SDGs, and a facilitator of cutting-edge research and publications. CISDL engagements have been varied and impactful, as are country commitments to sustainable development.

Throughout 2022, 2023, and 2024, CISDL was delighted to co-host a series of high-profile online lectures, skill-sharing workshops and seminars,



building our network of over 8,400 sustainable development law contacts in 160+ countries. We co-hosted Climate Law and Governance Day (CLGD) 2022 online during COP27 in Sharm-el-Sheikh and CLGD2023 as an in-person symposium in the Middlesex University Dubai during COP28 in the UAE. We organised an in-person 'Live from Bonn' Roundtable in SB59 in 2023, and for SB60 we organised an official Side Event in Bonn, as well as an online 'Live from Bonn' Roundtable in which over 1200 registrants joined. The pre-COP26 academic conference with partners 'in' Cambridge, United Kingdom, took on a significant pledge to increase climate law and governance capacity from 600 to 6,000 legal specialists by 2024—exceeding 2500 by mid 2024. Further, the CISDL provided unique insights into what future generations can accomplish when their voices are heard, through the Voices of Future Generations Children's Initiative with UNESCO, and in support of the new Global Youth Council on Science, Law and Sustainability. In 2023, New Sustainable Development Law and Policy Online Courses Offered by University of Cambridge Institutions to Democratise Education were piloted with the help of CISDL, and later by 2024 emerging as a pivotal base for online courses for a massive number of students across the globe. On October 19, 2023, we had a book launch "CITES as a Tool for Sustainable Development" coordinated by CISDL and the Biodiversity Law and Governance Initiative (BLGI).



CISDL co-hosted legal roundtables to celebrate the winners of the 2022 Legal Specialist Awards, led further public lectures online, engaging many partners and reaching thousands of people in over 120 countries, and co-hosted the online 2022 and 2024 Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series on Globalization, Sustainability and the Power of Ideas with Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of the WHO in 2022, and Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala Director General, World Trade Organisation in 2024, at the University of Cambridge. CISDL members published books, articles, briefs and blogs relating to the SDGs, continued their work on several volumes for our series with Cambridge University Press, shared

research in a number of online and in-person symposia and conferences across every continent, and served as bridges between the CISDL's mission and values and future generations as professors, experts, practitioners and mentors.

As key global events such as the global pandemic, the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, the conflict in Gaza, among other violations of international law worldwide, are reshaping the contours of international cooperation, CISDL has been working to respond quickly and effectively. Future events and programming for 2022-2027 integrate lessons learned from the pandemic in order to ensure that we maintain in-person connections while also widening access and participation. We also continue to cooperate in research through publications, reports, blogs, research, projects and, of course, plans for the future



CISDL Governance

At the CISDL Annual Research Meetings in 2023 and 2024 the CISDL's Lead Counsel in Plenary reviewed the past year of progress in implementing the Centre's 2022-27 objectives.

In 2023, they discussed how CISDL has established a strong virtual community, and CISDL members continue to engage courses, students and community members in virtual symposia, seminars and other events, with a view to our carbon budget as an institution. There were reports on CISDL operations and research, and from the secretariat on the fellowship, ideas for new commitments and nominations for new members of the CISDL Board of Governors. Moreover, endorsing a collective commitment to achieve key objectives in the coming years, including continuing efforts to strengthen the climate law and governance initiative, the biodiversity law and governance initiative and the voices of future generations children's initiative, to launch and strengthen a sustainable trade and investment law initiative, to co-host the next set of international lectures in memory of the Hon Justice CD Gonthier and to celebrate the HE CG Weeramantry Memorial Fellowship under the mentorship of the HE Justice CG Weeramantry International Justice Award (WIJA) laureates by creating a homepage and online resources to promote the fellowship selection and the award, and to launch new sustainable development law and governance educational resources and courses worldwide. In 2023, new members of the Board of Governors were welcomed to the CISDL community.

In 2024, they launched the new Professor Emeritus Armand de Mestral Scholarships. Also, the forthcoming Honorable CD Gonthier Legacy Conference events in 2026 were approved at ARM 2024, including the decision that the next biennial symposium in 2026 would focus on "Human Rights, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) & the Law". The CISDL Lead Counsel in Plenary also discussed the importance of implementing CISDL principles on equality, diversity and inclusion and creating formal spaces for EDI in the CISDL structure, with plans to further develop CISDL's suite of institutional policies over the coming five years, further diversify the current secretariat and cohort of students and fellows, new respectful communications and harassment, conflict of interest, and conflict resolution, among other important institutional aspects. Further, CISDL laid the foundations for an inclusive and engaging process to renew the fellowship in September 2024.



CISDL Mission & Objectives

CISDL Charitable Objects

- To advance education on law on sustainable development by providing workshops, courses, seminars and conferences to the public in Canada and other countries.
- To conduct research on law on sustainable development, and to disseminate the research findings to the public.



2022—2027 Objectives

- To achieve research and education impact by coordinating the provision of CISDL expertise and analysis in international treaty negotiation and implementation, in collaboration with CISDL partners and networks, building a strong and coherent legal presence in international agendas related to sustainable development, and successfully consolidating global partnership initiatives to strengthen the contributions of law and governance towards implementation of international treaties on sustainable development;
- To advance education by creating and launching new international education and capacity-building on law and governance for sustainable development; offering hybrid or in-person courses alongside international treaty events and in leading universities worldwide, together with partners; developing and disseminating online courses on legal aspects of global Sustainable Development Goals; and leading international student essay competitions;
- To promote world-class scholarship through engaging the CISDL fellowship and networks in our flagship series of Cambridge University Press books on the implementation of treaties for sustainable development; publishing other world-class books, compendia, manuals, working papers and blogs on law and sustainable development; developing law and governance textbooks on sustainable development with leading publishers; and expanding the CISDL website and social media presence.
- To promote new ideas, dialogue and collaboration on justice for sustainable development, continuing the successful Hon Justice CD Gonthier Memorial Lectures at the McGill University Faculty of Law with world-class events in 2024 and 2026, implementing the new global awards and fellowship to honour the legacy of HE Justice CG Weeramantry, co-hosting further international symposia, roundtables, workshops and other forums, and supporting the formation of an international association or academic society on sustainable development governance and law.



Biodiversity & Biosafety Programme

Advancing Legal Expertise and Research for Conservation, Sustainable Use and Equitable Benefit Sharing of Biodiversity

Responds to SDG 15 Life on Land, SDG 14 Life Below Water, SDG 6 Clean Water & Sanitation

Prof. Jorge Cabrera, Lead Counsel

Dr. Daniel Ruiz de Garibay, Programme Coordinator

Biological diversity has become alarmingly degraded in the last few decades, to the extent that species extinction is estimated to be occurring nearly 1000 times faster than baseline levels. Trends may continue increasing this century, making the 'anthropocene' one of the six biggest extinctions in our planet's history. To implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Protocol, the CBD Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and other multilateral (CITES, CMS) and regional agreements related to biodiversity new legal frameworks and capacity building measures are required with the aim to facilitate the national implementation of these agreements (and of the commitments arising from the Conference of the Parties and other subsidiary bodies). The Global Biodiversity Framework has provided new impetus for the legal and institutional reform and a pressing need for legal expertise, research, advice and emerging and innovative tools to advance the achievement of these commitments and obligations.



Events

Lead Counsel Jorge Cabrera and several legal fellows were active speakers in a number of events across the globe.

Key Publications

- Jorge Cabrera Medaglia, Ignacio Sánchez & Catalina Arteaga, *Estudio propuesta de marco institucional en acceso a recursos genéticos y distribución de beneficios para el Ministerio de Agricultura de Chile y sus servicios* (2023).
- Frederic Perron-Welch, Jorge Cabrera Medaglia, Dario Piselli & Aleksandra Spasevski, SDG 15 'Protect, Restore and Promote Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sustainably Manage Forests, Combat Desertification, and Halt and Reverse Land Degradation and Halt Biodiversity Loss', in *The UN Sustainable Development Goals: A Commentary* (2023).
- *CITES as a Tool for Sustainable Development* (Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger, Alexandra Harrington & D. Andrew Wardell eds., 2023).

Fellowship

Lead Counsel: Prof. Jorge Cabrera Medaglia, B.C.L, LL.M., M.B.A., D.C.L. (Costa Rica)

BLGI Programme Coordinator: Dr. Daniel Ruiz de Garibay BA, GDip, MSc, MPhil, PhD (England/Spain)

Legal Fellowship: Prof. Chidi Oguamanam, LL.B., LL.M, Ph.D University of Ottawa (Canada/Nigeria); Dr. Freedom-Kai Phillips, B.Sc., M.A., LL.B. (Canada); Adv. Abike Yacoubou Chabi-Yo, LL.M. (Canada/Benin); Dr. Aline Jaeckel, LL.B., LL.M. (Australia/Germany); Adv. Guy Jules Kounga, LL.M. (Cameroon); Dr. Rakhyun Edward Kim, BSc MSc, LLM, PhD (Australia/Korea); Adv. Lydia Young B.Sc. J.D (Canada); Prof Robert Kibugi LL.D. (Kenya); Dr. Claudia Ituarte-Lima B.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. (Sweden); Adv. Harry Jones LL.B., LL.M., Ph.D. (South Africa); also the Legal Working Group for the Biodiversity Law and Governance Initiative (BLGI).

CISDL Legal Specialist Award 2022: Prof. Hugo Echeverria

Prof. Hugo Echeverria is an Attorney at Law and Doctor of Jurisprudence granted by Pontificia Universidad Católica de Quito, Ecuador. Master of Laws (LLM) granted by McGill University in Montreal - Quebec, Canada. Alumni of the Chevening Fellowship Program, directed by The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, on Environmental Governance at Wolverhampton University – United Kingdom. He is the author of the first *Amicus Curiae* submitted at the National Court of Justice, in a case regarding wildlife crime, as well as an *Amicus Curiae* submitted at the Constitutional Court of Ecuador, in the first case selected by the Court to issue binding jurisprudence on Rights of Nature.

Natural Resources Programme

Responds to SDG 2 Zero Hunger, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities & Communities, SDG 14 Life Below Water

Prof. Ilaria Espa Lead Counsel

Adv. Ilaria Colombo and Adv. Giada Giacomini, Programme Coordinator

In contribution to global efforts towards more sustainable management of natural resources for development, through our Natural Resources Programme in 2022- 2024, CISDL sought to: (i) advance knowledge and understanding of international law on natural resources through robust legal research tools on sustainable use of water, forests, land and extractive industries, and through related education, awareness and capacity building activities;

(ii) research and strengthen capacity for the implementation of innovative sustainable resources governance instruments, taking into account recent local, national, regional and international developments; (iii) investigate pressing sustainable development questions in law and policy on natural resources, especially in light of post-pandemic recovery and taking into account the importance that sustainable natural resources have been gaining in international law instruments that address economic, human rights and environmental issues; and, disseminate results, as emerging out of the recently adopted ILA Guidelines on the Role of International Law for Sustainable Natural Resources Management for Development, widely; (iv) explore the link between international economic law (specifically international investment law) and the exploitation of transboundary natural resources, in order to unearth the relationship, conflicting or synergetic, between the legal frameworks in place for investment and environmental protection.



Events

CISDL The Natural World, Sustainable Development Goals & the Law: Online International Legal Symposium on 26 July 2024;

<https://www.cisd.org/the-cisd-2024-biennial-global-symposium-on-the-natural-world-the-sdgs-and-the-law/>



Key Publications

- Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger, Ilaria Espa & Nicolaas Schrijver eds., *Natural Resources, Sustainable Development and International Law* (forthcoming 2025).
- Ilaria Espa, *Energy-Related Disciplines in PTAs Between Security and Sustainability Concerns: A Comparative Perspective*, 26 J. Int'l Econ. L. 684 (2023).
- Barbara Janusz-Pawletta & Mara Yodalieva, *Stakeholder dialogue for improved water management in the Central Asian region in Safeguarding Mountain Social-Ecological Systems* (Vol. 2, July 2024).

Fellowship

Lead Counsel: Dr. Ilaria Espa, Ph.D., M.A., BA (Italy)

Programme Coordinator: Adv. Ilaria Colombo and Adv. Giada Giacomini (Italy)

Senior Research Fellowship: Prof. Dr. Konstantia Koutouki, LL.D., LL.M., LL.B. (Canada)

Legal Fellowship: Prof. Dr. Emmanuella Doussis, Ph.D., D.E.A. (Greece); Prof. Dr. Barbara Janusz-Pawletta, Ph.D., LL.M, BCL. (Germany/Kazakhstan); Adv. Katherine Lofts B.A.Hons, M.A., B.C.L. & LL.B. (Canada); Dr. Zaker Ahmad LL.M., M.I.L.E., Ph.D. (Bangladesh).

Researchers: Adv. Xinyuan Meng, M.A., LL.B. (China); Dr. Andrea Mensi, Ph.D., J.D. (Italy); Adv. Diana Quavedo, M.Phil, LL.M., LL.B. (Colombia); Adv. Cairo Robb, M.A. (Cantab); Lic. spéc. dr. eur. (ULB) (UK).

CISDL Legal Specialist Award 2022: Prof Barbara Janusz Pawletta

Dr. Barbara Janusz-Pawletta is vice-president on International Cooperation at the Kazakh-German University (DKU), a member at the Technical Committee of the Global Water Partnership (GWP), UNESCO Chairholder for water management in Central Asia, a member of the International Law Association, and Affiliate of International Water Law Academy. Her teaching and research fields cover legal frameworks and institutional interstate cooperation including the water, climate, land and energy nexus. She is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the Central Asian Journal of Water Research (CAJWR), has written more than 35 research publications, among others.

Climate Change Programme

Responds to SDG 13 Climate Action, SDG 7 Affordable & Clean Energy, SDG 2 Zero Hunger

Adv. Ayman Cherkaoui, Lead Counsel / Dr. Antoinette Nestor and Adv. Maeve McDermott Climate Law and Governance Initiative Coordinators

Climate change is already reaching the threshold for significant impacts upon sustainable development.

Recent reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimate that climate change will cost governments more than \$100 billion a year in loss and damage – an estimate that includes the cost of rising sea levels, higher temperatures, crop losses, and fresh water shortages, but does not account for more devastating scenarios such as typhoons and floods. A recent study indicated that at least 12 trillion USD are needed over the next 25 years solely to hold the increase in the global average temperature to 2 degree above pre industrial levels (Bloomberg New Energy Finance).



A global regime, based on the obligations of 197 Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the new 2015 Paris Agreement, focuses on achieving climate mitigation, adaptation, capacity building, technology and financing across many sectors of law and policy for sustainable development. It is imperative to design an optimal Paris Rulebook and to ambitiously implement the new Paris Agreement through its Nationally Determined Contributions and other mechanisms. As a number of countries are currently in the process of reforming their laws and institutions to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement and sustainable development objectives, there is a pressing need for legal expertise, capacity building and advice in this emerging field of research and education. Furthermore, Non State Actors such as municipalities, local governments, academia, civil society and businesses are at the forefront of the global effort to tackle the challenges of climate change and knowledge sharing and capacity building is needed to integrate these efforts and maximize sustainable development outcomes.

Events

In 2023, UNFCCC COP28 was held in Dubai. On Friday 5 December, the Climate Law and Governance Day (CLGD) 2023 was co-hosted with partners from the University of Cambridge, Middlesex University Dubai and the University of Dubai, together with the International Law Association, the International Bar Association, the Centre for Sustainable Development Law, International Development Law Organisation, World Commission on Environmental Law and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. CLGD 2023 focused on Engaging in Global Stocktake through Legal Lenses, with the following four key themes: operationalising the Paris Agreement in International Law; testing legal and governance tools for high ambition implementation; advancing climate resilience and justice; and net zero legal frameworks to enable climate neutral investment and finance. CLGD 2023 featured a grand opening, three high-level plenaries, and 16



substantive experts sessions with over 1,730 registrants in person and online.

On 7 December 2023, the Climate Law and Governance Specialisation Course was hosted at the University of Dubai. With more than 600 registrants, this course trained a new generation of climate specialists worldwide capable of advancing climate law and governance and advocating for implementation. The half-day course provided a foundational understanding of the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC and included sessions on Law, Governance and Climate Mitigation; Climate Law and Governance on Adaptation, Loss and Damage; and Climate Law and Governance on Finance, Compliance and Transparency. Upon completion, 220 practitioners, scholars and junior members of delegations were certified and recognised as new Climate Law and Governance Specialists.

On 11 December 2023, Climate Law and Governance Initiative partners shared the outcomes of CLGD during the Initiative's official side-event on Global Stocktake through Legal Lenses: Implementing Outcomes via Climate Law and Policy Reform, during UNFCCC COP 28 in the Blue Zone. The side-event's interactive legal roundtables brought together leading experts from the Advocates for International Development, Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research, World Future Council and Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, University of Victoria, and the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law.

Key Publications

- Christina Voigt, *The Power of the Paris Agreement in International Climate Litigation*, 32 Rev. Eur. Compar. & Int'l Env't L. 237 (2023).
- Ayman Cherkaoui, *Book Review on 'Debating Climate Law,'* edited by Benoit Mayer and Alexander Zahar, *Carbon & Climate L. Rev.* (2023).
- Susan Ann Samuel, Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger, Jellie Molino & Antoinette Nestor, "*Bending the Curve*": *The Need for Legal Innovation in the UNFCCC-CBD Nexus*, PLOS Climate (forthcoming 2024).

Fellowship

Lead Counsel: Maitre Ayman Cherkaoui, B. Eng, LL.B., M.Sc. (Morocco/Canada)

CLGI Programme Managers: Dr. Antoinette Nestor, B.C.L., LL.M., Ph.D. (Chile/Ireland); Adv Maeve McDermott B.S., J.D., M.Phil (USA)

Senior Research Fellows: Prof. Christina Voigt LL.M., Ph.D. (Norway/Germany); Prof. Cosmin Correndea LL.M., S.J.D. (Romania) Prof. Damilola Olawuyi LL.M., D.Phil. (Nigeria); Adv. James Cameron LL.B., LL.M. (UK).

Legal Research Fellowship: Adv. Hafijul Khan LL.M. (Bangladesh); Dr. Christopher Campbell-Duruffé Ph.D., LL.M. (Canada); Prof. Benoit Mayer Ph.D. (France); Ms. Valeria Zambianchi (Switzerland); Ms. Katherine Lofts, B.A. Hons, MA, B.C.L. / LL.B. (McGill); Adv. Emily Morison M.Phil., LL.B., B.A. (Australia); Adv. Miguel Saldivia LL.B., M.A., LL.M. (Chile); Adv Tim Arvan M.A., M.Phil. (USA); Adv Magdalena Stryja LL.M., Ph.D. (Poland); Prof. Megan Bowman, LL.M., PhD (ANU) (UK); Wendy Miles QC, B.A., LL.B., LL.M. (UK).

CISDL Legal Specialist Award 2022: Prof. Francesco Sindico

Prof. Francesco Sindico is the Carbon Neutral Islands lead at the Scottish Government Islands Team on secondment from the University of Strathclyde Law School in Glasgow, Scotland where he is a Professor in International Law and Founder of the Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance (SCELG). He was Counsel for the Plurinational State of Bolivia in the Dispute over the Status and Use of the Waters of the Silala (Chile v. Bolivia) before the International Court of Justice.



Trade, Investment & Finance Programme

Responds to SDG 8 Decent Work & Economic Growth; SDG 9 Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure; SDG 12 Responsible Consumption & Production; SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities & SDG 17 Partnerships

Prof. Markus Gehring, Lead Counsel / Adv. Marios Tokas and Adv. Matheus Frederico Paes Garcia, Programme Manager

Trade, investment and financial laws and policies could foster or frustrate sustainable development. Global economic growth is slowly resuming, and in 2021 world merchandise exports rose 8%. Alongside global rules and continuing, though hampered, dispute settlement in the World Trade Organization (WTO), global flows of foreign direct investment recovered to pre-

pandemic levels last year, reaching \$1.6 trillion (UNCTAD 2022 World Investment Report), and 796 Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) have been notified (WTO RTA Gateway). There is new impetus for international economic law to support a global green economy, and significant potential for international legal innovation. With slow progress in the Doha Development Agenda trade round negotiations, widespread trade skepticism, Brexit, the growth of protectionism and the breakdown of the WTO dispute system new forms of economic cooperation are being developed and economic nationalism being opposed.

While a growing web of RTAs increasingly recognize sustainable development objectives; create exceptions for health, environment, natural resources and other public policies; address sustainability aspects of procurement, intellectual property rights, subsidies and investments; move from referencing climate change to making it an essential element, environmental goods, services and technologies; encourage sustainable energy, forestry and other resources use; highlight corporate social responsibility; and seek mutual supportiveness with social and environmental policies, these new 'progressive' trade agreements will be the focus of the research, especially when advancing the economic interests of indigenous peoples.



Projects

Fellows engaged in CISDL Trade, Investment and Finance Programme are collaborating with key stakeholders over the last two years. Lead Counsel, Professor Markus Gehring, shared findings at the Trade and Public Policy Network (TaPP) workshop on 21 April 2023, discussing the implications of pursuing Net Zero for UK trade policy. Members of the CISDL Trade, Investment, and Finance Programme have been actively

engaging with the Green Trade Network, established by the Institute for European Environmental Policy.

During the WTO Public Forum held

from 12-15 September 2023, Adv. Marios Tokas consulted with representatives from the Green Trade Network, the Geneva Trade Platform, and the Jacques Delors Institute to discuss potential collaborations and receive feedback on recent publications.

On 24 and 27 November 2023, CISDL presented initial findings from two key reports during high-level panels. The first session on 24 November, involved discussions with experts from Latin America and New Zealand, focusing on trade relations between the EU and New Zealand, EU-Mexico, and reviewing the Policy Paper on the Interrelation between the Paris Agreement and EU FTAs. This roundtable highlighted the presentation of a Policy Paper on EU FTAs, the Paris Agreement, and various aspects of Latin America. The second roundtable on 27 November, featured experts addressing trade relations between the EU and Chile, the Andean Community, Mercosur, and Central America. Experts from the Trade, Investment, and Finance Programme also participated in COP28 in Dubai in December 2023. In February 2024, CISDL organized a high-level panel at the Trade and Sustainability Hub, organized by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), on the margins of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC13) in Abu Dhabi. During MC13, the CISDL team, along with the Green Trade Network and E3G, met with delegations from EU Member States. In March 2024, following the UNFCCC COP and CLGD 2023, CISDL members participated in "Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals: Future Directions for International Law and Governance," an event held by partners from the University of Cambridge, the University of Dubai, and Middlesex University Dubai.

On 8 and 9 May 2024, Professor Cordonier Segger, alongside experts and academics, participated in a one-day event titled "Restructuring the International Trade System for Climate Change Progress and a Sustainable Future." Hosted by the Remaking Trade Project in collaboration with E3G, ODI, and the European Climate Foundation (ECF), this event brought together stakeholders from government, business, and civil society to review global progress on trade and climate issues. The diverse engagements demonstrate CISDL's commitment to integrating climate ambition, environmental protection, and sustainable development into global trade policies. Through these forums, CISDL has highlighted the interconnectedness of trade and climate policies, emphasizing



the need for consistent financial flows aligned with the Paris Agreement, the importance of legal frameworks in advancing climate goals, and the role of international collaborations in fostering sustainable development. These activities underscore the critical role of legal expertise in navigating the complexities of international trade and environmental governance, advocating for robust policies that support climate action, and ensuring that trade agreements reflect the highest standards of environmental protection and sustainability.

Events

Professor Markus Gehring shared findings in the Trade and Public Policy Network (TaPP) workshop, held on 21 April 2023, discussing what the pursuit of Net Zero means for UK trade policy. Additionally, Professor Gehring also spoke on a panel organized by the University of Singapore on 25 July, on the topic of International Trade Law and Governance and Climate Change - role, potential and interaction.

Members of the CISDL Trade, Investment and Finance Programme have been actively engaging in the activities of the Green Trade Network, established by the Institute for European Environmental Policy. During the 12-15 September 2023 WTO Public Forum, Adv. Marios Tokas held consultations with representatives on the Green Trade Network, the Geneva Trade Platform, and the Jacques Delors Institute to discuss the possible collaborations and get feedback from recent publications.

On 24 and 27 November, during two high-level panels, CISDL delivered initial findings from two main reports. In the two round tables, these findings were informed by engagement of various experts from Latin America and New Zealand. On 24 November, the CISDL organized the first session of the roundtables. In this session, experts from the CISDL addressed the trade relations between the EU and New Zealand, EU-Mexico, and reviewed the Policy Paper on the Interrelation between the Paris Agreement and EU FTAs. The roundtable concluded with the presentation of a Policy Paper on EU FTAs, the Paris Agreement, and various aspects of Latin America. On 27 November, the CISDL team held a second roundtable, where experts from the CISDL addressed the trade relations between the EU and Chile, Andean Community, Mercosur and Central America.

Experts from the Trade, Investment and Finance Programme also participated in COP28 in Dubai in December 2023. The CISDL organized a panel entitled 'Promoting CLimate Action through Trade Law'. Additionally, on 6 December, in the Philippines Pavillion at COP28, Professor Markus Gehring participated in a Panel organized by the National University of Singapore. Discussions centered on how the global stocktake, as a legal and policy process, can aid Parties in enhancing their national commitments with the promise of Paris-aligned consistent financial flows. The experts examined developments in the international governance framework, including trade and investment rules, developments in FTA practice, and the global disclosure systems in meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Further, in February 2024, the CISDL organized a high-level panel in the Trade and Sustainability Hub organized by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), at the margins of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC13) in Abu Dhabi. During MC13, the CISDL team had the opportunity, together with the Green Trade Network and E3G, to meet



with two delegations from EU Member States.

In March 2024, as a follow-up from the UNFCCC COP and CLGD 2023, members of the CISDL participated in Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals: Future Directions for International Law and Governance. This event was held by partners from the University of Cambridge, the University of Dubai, and Middlesex University Dubai.

On 8 and 9 May 2024, Professor Cordonier Segger, together with experts and academics, participated in a one-day event entitled Restructuring the International Trade System for Climate Change Progress and a Sustainable Future, hosted by the Remaking Trade Project in collaboration with E3G, ODI and the European Climate Foundation (ECF). Through a series of workshops, this event brought together various from government, business and civil society to review global progress on trade and climate issues.

Key Publications

- Javiera Cáceres Bustamante, Brief on the Chile Inclusion of Environment Commitments in Trade Agreements and The Current EU-Chile Trade Agreement Negotiations (2022).
- Christian Delev & Markus Gehring, European Union Trade Agreement Negotiations with Latin American States: Next Steps in the Climate, Sustainable Development and Trade Agenda (2022), <https://www.cisdl.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/EU-Latin-America-FTAs-Progress-Nov-2022.pdf>.
- Javiera Cáceres, Markus Gehring & Marios Tokas, Effects of the Elections in Chile on trade and climate policy and law (2022), <https://www.cisdl.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Effects-of-the-Elections-in-Chile-on-trade-and-climate-policy-and-law.pdf>.

Fellowship

Lead Counsel: Prof. Markus Gehring, Dr iur. (Hamb), J.S.D. & LL.M. (Yale), MA (Cantab), Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge and Civil Law Section, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa

Programme Manager: Marios Tokas, LL.B. LL.M. (Athens), M.I.L., PhD Cand. (Graduate Institute) and Adv. Matheus Frederico Paes Garcia, LL.B. (Brasilia), MA (Geneva)

Legal Research Fellowship: Dr. Avidan Kent, PhD (Cantab), LL.M. (McGill), Faculty of Law, University of East Anglia, Norwich; Adv. Emily Morison, LL.B., JD (Sydney), LL.M. (Cantab); Dr. Henning Grosse Ruse-Khan, Dr iur. (Muenster), Assessor; University of Cambridge (UK); Prof Alexandra Harrington, DCL (McGill), LL.M. (McGill) JD (Albany) (USA), BA (NYU); Eric Kassongo, LL.B. (Kinshasa) (DR Congo); Adv. Cairo Robb, Cambridge (UK); Mr. Rodrigo Mella, LL.M. (NYU), LL.B. (UChile) (Chile); Javiera Cáceres Bustamante, BA (Catholic Uni Chile), MA (UChile); Adv. Christian Delev, PhD Cand. (Cantab.) (UK), also the Legal Working Group for the Mercosur and ECF Projects;

CISDL Legal Specialist Award 2022: Prof. Javiera Cáceres

Prof. Javiera Cáceres is an Instructor Professor at the Institute of International Studies of the University of Chile. She holds a BA in English Literature and Linguistics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile and a MA in International Strategy and Trade Policy at the University of Chile. Her main research interest are gender and trade, intellectual property, and trade policy.



Human Rights Programme

Responds to SDG 1 No Poverty, SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities

Prof. Sumudu Atapattu, Lead Counsel / Adv. William Shipley, Programme Manager

Around the world, poverty and human rights violations continue to pose significant challenges to humanity, making it impossible to achieve sustainable development without prioritizing equity and inclusion. Over 1 billion people live on less than one dollar a day, and more than twice that number lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation.



Many groups, particularly Indigenous communities and women, are excluded from most legal decision-making processes. In the realm of international law, numerous questions persist, such as how the principles of international environmental law and human rights law can facilitate sustainable development. Key international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), alongside their optional protocols, are increasingly pertinent to sustainable development.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) acknowledges the special needs of least developed states and those particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Additionally, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which garnered widespread international support, is the first global environmental treaty to explicitly recognize the need to protect human rights in climate action. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with their focus on equity and poverty eradication, underscores the urgent need for robust and innovative international legal research and education. Building international legal expertise, capacity, and providing advice in developing countries is crucial to achieving these goals.



Events

CISDL members engaged in the Human Rights Programme, including Lead Counsel Sumudu Atapattu, were actively involved in Climate Law and Governance Day 2023. Additionally, Prof. Sumudu Atapattu presented “Climate Migration, Human Rights and Climate Change” on climate migration, displacement, and reparations at the New York University School of Law’s Environmental Law and Climate Advocacy Conference.

Key Publications

- Benoit Mayer, *The Contribution of Urgenda to the Mitigation of Climate Change*, 35 J. Env’t L. 167 (2023).
- Sumudu Atapattu, *UN Human Rights Institutions and the Environment: Synergies, Challenges, Trajectories* (2023).
- Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh & Melina Antoniadis, *Climate Displacement and the Right to Mental Health*, in *Climate Refugees: Global, Local and Critical Approaches* 167 (Simon Behrman & Avidan Kent eds., 2022).

Fellowship

Lead Counsel: Dr. Sumudu Atapattu, LL.M., PhD (Cantab), Attorney-at-Law (Sri Lanka)

Programme Manager: Adv. William Shipley, BA (Northwestern), B.C.L./LL.B. (McGill) (USA)

Legal Research Fellowship: Prof. Benoit Mayer (France); Adv. Zecharias Fassil (Ethiopia); Prof. Myron Frankman, PhD (Texas), McGill University (Canada); Adv. Emeline Pluchon, LL.M., Int. Energy & Env. Law, LL.M. (France); Adv. William Shipley, BA, B.C.L./LL.B. (USA); Dr. Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh B.Sc., B.A., E.M.A., LL.M., Ph.D. (Netherlands).

CISDL Legal Specialist Award 2022: Prof. Rebecca Bratspies

Prof. Rebecca Bratspies is a Law Professor at the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law, where she is the founding Director of the Center for Urban Environmental Reform. She is an internationally recognized expert on environmental justice, the regulation of new agricultural technologies, and the human right to a healthy environment. She serves as an appointed member of the New York City’s Environmental Justice Advisory Panel, and EPA’s Children’s Health Protection Advisory Committee. Professor Bratspies also serves as a scholar with the Center for Progressive Reform, as core member of the Global Network for the Study of Human Rights and the Environment, and on the editorial board of the International Journal of Law in Context.



Peace, Justice & Governance Programme

Responds to SDG 4 Quality Education, SDG 16 Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions, SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals

Dr Fabiano de Andrade Correa, Lead Counsel & Adv. Neshan Gunasekera, Lead Counsel

Redirecting our development path towards sustainability is a significant challenge globally, nationally, and locally. Sustainable development requires governance, accountability, equity, and justice for present and future generations. Unfortunately, environmental and human rights threats disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. Legal and economic

tools have not been effective enough in integrating environmental and social aspects into the economy. However, these tools remain essential for addressing sustainability issues, emphasizing the need to understand and improve them. Effective implementation of international treaties necessitates strong governance and accountability. As countries reform their laws and institutions to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 16, there is a pressing need for new expertise and capacity. SDG 16 focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions.

SDG 4, 16 and 17 is pivotal because it underpins the success of all other SDGs. To meet these challenges, there is an urgent need for a new generation of experts who can provide the necessary capacity and guidance. These experts must be adept at crafting policies and instruments that address the gaps in current legal and economic frameworks, ensuring they are robust enough to drive meaningful change.



Events

As the Deputy Chair of the IUCN WCEL Climate Change Law Specialist Group and Legal Counsel with the CISDL, Dr. de Andrade Correa was heavily involved in COP 28 in December 2023. He served as panelist and moderator in several UNFCCC side events, including “The Transformative Power of Law in Promoting a Just Transition to a Climate Positive World”. The event was organized by the University of Oslo, the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, the International Development Law Organization, and the United Nations Environment Programme. It also featured CISDL members Christina Voigt and Ayman Cherkaoui. As the Deputy Chair of the Climate Change Law Specialist Group, Dr. de Andrade Correa co-hosted a discussion with CISDL on law as an enabler of Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Action.



At COP 27 in November 2022, Dr. de Andrade Correa, again representing CISDL and the IUCN WCEL, participated in a roundtable discussion organized by the CISDL on Strengthening Legal Tools and Capacity for Climate Justice and Resilience. He also facilitated a panel discussion organized by the International Development Law Organization on climate change and mobility.

At the 2022 Oslo International Environmental Law Conference of the IUCN WCEL, Dr. de Andrade Correa headed the first in-person gathering of the Climate Change Law Specialists Group. He also participated in a panel discussion on promoting integration between climate change, biodiversity, and pollution regimes in international law.

In July 2024, Adv. Gunasekera participated in a panel co-hosted by the Congress of Nations and States and the Citizens for Global Solutions and World Federalist Society. The panel was titled “Global Justice in Conversation: A Closer Look at the Role and Impact of International Courts and Tribunals” and discussed the justice and accountability measures around the world.



At the May 2024 UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, Adv. Gunasekera led the seminar “Earth Trusteeship: Establishing Representatives for Future Generations,” which outlined the principles and practices of Earth Trusteeship and strategies to safeguard the interests of future generations.



As the Co-Chair of the Right to Livelihood’s Earth Trusteeship Working Group, Adv. Gunasekera organized the 2023 and 2024 Earth Trusteeship Dialogues. The 2023 Earth Trusteeship Dialogue, which took place in Thailand, also featured the launch of the publication “Reflections on Earth Trusteeship: Mother Earth and a new 21st-century governance paradigm.” The book brings together 22 authors worldwide to promote “Earth Trusteeship” as a model of planetary governance, including a chapter by Adv. Gunasekera titled “Education for Earth Trusteeship: From seed to budding plant.”



Adv. Gunasekera was also a key organizer and speaker in the “Caring for the Earth, Transforming Lives: Linking Faith & Natural Regeneration” seminar, which was hosted in part by the Earth Trusteeship Working Group and the Right to Livelihood. Adv. Gunasekera spoke to the role of international law in natural regeneration and shared the wisdom of Right to Livelihood Laureate Judge Weeramantry.

Key Publications

- Neshan Gunasekera et al., *Discussion Paper on Biosphere Defenders in Latin America and the Caribbean & Written comments to the Escazu Agreement's Draft Regional Action Plan on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters* (Raoul Wallenberg Inst. & Glob. Network for Hum. Rts. & Env't 2024).
- Fabiano De Andrade Corrêa, Margret Vidar & Tejas Rao, *UNFCCC CoP26: Key Outcomes for Soil Management*, in *International Yearbook of Soil Law and Policy 2022* (Fabiano De Andrade Corrêa et al. eds., 2024).
- Fabiano De Andrade Correa & Alessandra Lehmen, *Trade, Sustainable Development and Climate Change: How Can Free Trade Agreements Be Leveraged for Increased Climate Action? Perspectives on the EU-MERCOSUR Agreement*, 50 *Legal Issues Econ. Integration* 287 (2023).

Throughout the past two years, the Voices Child Authors and Child Ambassadors have been vocal advocates for climate change awareness and reform. In this context, Child Authors and Child Ambassadors have been critical in the creation of eco- councils in their home cities and in organizing and chairing children’s climate strikes and other activities. VoFG Child Authors and Ambassadors also participated as Youth Ambassadors in the 2024 edition of The Goals Project, a free global collaboration project for all classrooms of the world. The Authors and Ambassadors created videos in which they shared about their passions and how they advocate for the SDGs in their respective regions and communities. They also gave inspiring words of encouragement and calls to action, empowering other children to lift their voices and defend their rights and the rights of nature.



Are you interested in learning about the links between education, children's rights, and sustainability to build Sustainable and Peaceful Societies?

Are you inspired by the leadership of children and youth to advance the global Sustainable Development Goals, especially quality education (SDG 4)?

Would you like to help implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, by encouraging Indigenous children's voices?

Register for a very special
Online International Roundtable on Education for International Literacy Day, Promoting Literacy for a World in Transition: Building the Foundation for Sustainable and Peaceful Societies

FREE REGISTRATION

Tickets available at www.vofig.org/news/literacyday2023

In celebration of International Literacy Day
Saturday 9 September 2023
8:00 PDT | 11:00 EDT | 16:00 BST




The VoFG’s work also includes hosting online seminars. In September 2023, the VoFG, together with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, The Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL), the National Sixties Scoop Healing Foundation of Canada, and a wider consortium of educational charities that support the children's rights and the global Sustainable Development Goals hosted an Online International Roundtable on International Literacy Day, “Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the Foundation for Sustainable and Peaceful Societies”.

Upcoming Event:

VoFG is also currently preparing to host the Online International Roundtable on Indigenous Children’s Voices and Rights on 10 August 2024. This will be an interactive dialogue to advocate for, celebrate, and amplify the voices of Indigenous children worldwide in Celebration of the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples.



Online International Roundtable on Indigenous Children’s Voices and Rights

Saturday, 10 August 2024
9:00 PST / 12:00 EST / 17:00 BST

in celebration of
International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples

Featuring:
Indigenous Child Authors, Child Ambassadors, Youth leaders, and Human Rights experts engaged in an inspiring intergenerational dialogue.

Register Now!

*Event programme coming soon.






Key Publications

- Alastair Marke, Michael Mehling, Fabiano de Andrade Correa (eds), *Governing Carbon Markets with Distributed Ledger Technology*, Cambridge University Press (2022).
- Fabiano de Andrade Correa, *Environmental Justice: Securing Our Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment*, United Nations Development Programme (2022)

Children's Books

- *Finding the Language* by Adelyn Newman-Ting (2021) (*Global Indigenous Child Author*) on *quality education (Goal 4)* and *life on land (Goal 15)* - <https://www.vofg.org/findinglanguage>
- *The Girl Who Changed Everything* by Freya Tikva (2021) (*Europe*) on *sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11)* and *responsible consumption and production (Goal 12)* - <https://www.vofg.org/girlchange>
- *The Challenge of a Generation* by Christina-Angelina Kassongo (2021) (*Africa*) on *quality education (Goal 4)*, *sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11)*, and *peace and justice (Goal 16)* - <https://www.vofg.org/challengeofageneration>

Fellowship

Lead Counsels: Dr Fabiano de Andrade Correa LL.B., M.A., LL.M., Ph.D. (Brazil) & Adv Neshan Gunasekera LL.B., M.A. (Sri Lanka)

VoFG CI Programme Manager / Coordinator: Dr. Odeeth Lara-Morales, B.Comm., M.A., Ph.D. (Mexico/Canada) & Ms. Ela Martinez, B.Sc., M.Ed. (Dominican Republic)

Legal Research Fellowship: Adv. Wayne Garnons-Williams, B.A. (Windsor), M.P.A. (Dalhousie), LL.B. (Queens'), LL.M. (Oklahoma) (Canada); Mr. Miguel Saldivia B.A., LL.B. (Chile), LL.M. (UCL) (Chile); Dr. Odeeth Lara-Morales, B.Comm., M.A., Ph.D. (Mexico/Canada); Ms. Ela Martinez, B.Sc., M.Ed. (Dominican Republic); Ms. Allison Lalla, B.A.&Sc. (Canada); Ms. Hyfa Azeez, LL.M., LL.B. (UK); Adv. Tejas Rao, LL.M., LL.B. (India).

CISDL Legal Specialist Award 2022: Dr. Ilaria Bottigliero

Dr. Ilaria Bottigliero is an international civil servant, academic and expert practitioner with over 25 years' experience in international law, justice and human rights. She currently serves as the Director of Policy, Research and Learning at IDLO. In her role, she is responsible for the production of high-impact strategic research, trends analysis in rule of law and justice, and integration of thematic expertise throughout the organization. She regularly represents IDLO in global debates. Prior to joining IDLO, Dr. Bottigliero has lectured and conducted researched in over 25 countries on human rights, humanitarian law and gender issues, including at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Lund, Sweden, the Lund University Faculty of Law, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and at the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law. Dr. Bottigliero is the author of the seminal book "Redress for Victims of Crimes under International Law", and the recipient of the 2010 Worldwide Universities Network International and Comparative Criminal Justice Fellowship.



Health Programme

Responds to SDG 3 Good Health & Well-Being, SDG 5 Gender Equality & SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities

Dr. Maya Prabhu, Lead Counsel

International efforts to realize the universal right to health, especially for the bottom billion countries, are only recently making progress, with a great deal of further work remaining. While there has been steady progress in many of the United Nations health-focused Millennium Development Goals, there is still a long way to go.



Disparities remain with regard to water quality and sanitation, maternal and child health and various zoonotic diseases. In international law, many questions remain, including for the further development and implementation of the WHO Tobacco Convention, the Espoo Convention and its Kiev Protocol and the Minamata Convention. With likely agreement on a global sustainable development goal on health, there is a pressing need for cutting-edge new international legal research and education, including legal expertise, capacity and advice.

In contribution to global efforts, through our Health Programme in 2022-2027, CISDL aims to:

- Advance knowledge and understanding of international law on health for sustainable development, building global legal research and advisory capacity, and disseminating key findings to the public, academia and decision-makers.
- Lead new legal research and education on international legal instruments for eco-health, including international impact assessment principles and instruments, treaties on hazardous wastes, chemicals and ozone, and transboundary pollution.
- Lead new legal research and education on respect for the human right to health, including mental health, and on how innovative international health law-making processes and the regulation of international health services can be strengthened and implemented.

Events

Members of the CISDL, including Professor Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger, Tejas Rao, Freedom-Kai Phillips, Dr. Annette Nestor and Dr. Markus Gehring participated in the 01 March 2022 University of Cambridge Vice Chancellor's Lecture on Globalisation, Sustainability, and the Power of Ideas with Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, (Director-General, World Health Organization), entitled "Global Pandemic Response, Public Health and Sustainability", which was delivered online -

<https://www.cisdl.org/global-pandemic-recovery-public-health-and-sustainability-the-vice-chancellors-lecture-on-globalisation-sustainability-and-the-power-of-ideas-with-dr-tedros-adhanom-ghebreyesus-director/>



Key Publications

- Maya Prabhu, *Global mental health law and the interface with ethics*, in Textbook of Global Mental Health: Ethical Principles and Best Practices 31 (A.R. Dyer, P.J. Candilis & B.A. Kohrt eds., 2021).
- Brigit Toebes et al., *Health and Human Rights: Global and European Perspectives* (2d ed. 2022).
- *Rethinking Participation in Global Governance: Voice and Influence after Stakeholder Reforms in Global Finance and Health* (Joost Pauwelyn, Martino Maggetti, Tim Buthe & Ayelet Berman eds., 2022).

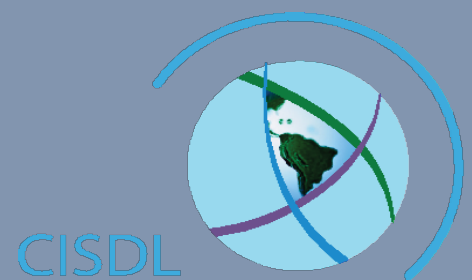
Fellowship:

Lead Counsel: Dr. Maya Prabhu, M.Sc, M.D, LL.B (Canada)

Legal Research Fellowship: Dr. Fabiano de Andrade Correa, Ph.D., LL.M. (Brazil/Italy); Adv. Cairo Robb M.A., U.L.B. (UK).

Legal Specialist Awards 2022: Prof. Brigit Toebes

Professor Dr B.C.A. (Brigit) Toebes is a legal scholar with twenty-five years of experience in the international standards protecting health, with a strong emphasis on the role of human rights in health promotion and disease prevention. Currently involved in the discussion about 'global health law' as an emerging branch of public international law. Recent research themes include the NCD pandemic and the regulation of behavioural risk factors (in particular smoking and unhealthy diets), the regulation of vaccination, and the role of law in socio-economic health inequalities. In 2013, Prof. Toebes was awarded a Rosalind Franklin Fellowship at University of Groningen Faculty of Law, which led to her appointment in the Chair Health Law in a Global Context in 2018



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