



Human Rights, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) & the Law

International Online Symposium & Hon Justice CD Gonthier Memorial Lectures

FINAL OUTLINE

Friday, 15 May 2020

9:00 – 16:30 EST / 18:00 – 19:30 EST

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Human Rights, the Sustainable Development Goals & the Law **2020 International Online Symposium &** **Hon Justice CD Gonthier Memorial Lectures**

9:00 – 16:30 EST International Legal Symposium
18:00 – 19:30 EST Hon Justice CD Gonthier Memorial Lectures

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OUTLINE

The international symposium on **Human Rights, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Law** will be held on May 15, 2020 and will focus on three key themes, as identified by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which may be essential for post-pandemic law and policy measures:

* **Transformation:** As an agenda for “people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership”, the SDGs offer a paradigm shift from the traditional model of development, providing a transformative vision for post-pandemic measures that are people and planet-centred, human rights-based, and gender-sensitive.

* **Comprehensiveness:** Alongside a wide range of social, economic and environmental objectives, post-pandemic measures which contribute to the SDGs will promote “more peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence” with attention to democratic governance, rule of law, access to justice and personal security (in Goal 16), as well as an enabling international environment (in Goal 17 and throughout the framework). They cover issues related to all human rights, including economic, civil, cultural, political, social rights and the right to development.

* **Inclusion:** Post-pandemic measures which contribute to the SDGs will leave no-one behind, envisaging “a world of universal respect for equality and non-discrimination” between and within countries, including gender equality, by reaffirming the responsibilities of all States to “respect, protect and promote human rights, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national and social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.”

8:30 – 9:00 Online Moderation & Plenary Chair/Speaker Registration

Online Masters of Ceremony: Ms. Robyn Rugenius (Coordinator, McGill Centre for Human Rights & Legal Pluralism CHRLP) & Mr. Freedom-Kai Phillips (Operations Director, Centre for International Sustainable Development Law CISDL)

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome & Opening Plenary (Zoom Room ZR Montreal)

Chairs: Prof. François Crépeau (Director, CHRLP / Hans & Tamar Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law, McGill University) & Prof. Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger (Senior Director, CISDL / Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professor, University of Cambridge / Professor of Law, University of Waterloo)

9:30 – 10:00 Plenary I - Keynote Addresses (ZR Montreal)

Prof. David Boyd (United Nations UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights & the Environment / Assoc. Professor, University of British Columbia)

Dr. Catarina de Albuquerque (Chief Executive Officer, Sanitation & Water for All / former UN Special Rapporteur on Rights to Water & Sanitation, Chair of UN Working Group on Optional Protocol to ICESCR)

10:00 – 11:00 Simultaneous Global Experts Panels I & II

I Advancing Post-Pandemic Justice, Governance & Partnership - SDG 16 & 17 (ZR Montreal)

How to strengthen efforts to secure peace, justice and good institutional governance in international and national post-pandemic responses? What are some of the critical challenges facing peace-building, transitional justice and governance in light of the pandemic? How can the partnerships highlighted in SDG 17 be used to craft a durable post-pandemic response that facilitates the achievement of all SDGs?

Chairs: Prof. Alexandra Harrington (Lead Counsel & Research Director, CISDL / Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Global Governance) & Ms. Janet McIntyre (Director of Access to Justice Secretariat, Justice Canada)
Keynote: Prof. Payam Akhavan (Professor, McGill University / Member, Permanent Court of Arbitration)

II Addressing Rights, Poverty & Disabilities - SDGs 1, 8 & 11 (ZR Cambridge)

How and to what extent do various SDGs recognize the importance of promoting the rights, dignity, and inclusion of persons with disabilities? What are the barriers facing persons with disabilities in the recognition and protection of their human rights? What practices are needed to empower persons with disabilities as agents and beneficiaries of inclusive sustainable development?

Chairs: Prof. Sebastien Jodoin (Asst. Professor, McGill University / Canada Research Chair in Human Rights & Environment) & Prof. Nandini Ramanujam (Executive Director, CHRLP / Assoc. Professor, McGill University)

11:00 – 11:15 Health Break

11:15 – 12:15 Simultaneous Experts Panels III & IV

III Designing Post-Pandemic Rights-Based Approaches to Paris Agreement Implementation - SDGs 7 & 13 (ZR Montreal)

Why and how could a human-rights based approach to climate change yield better results than simply focusing on emission reductions? Given that access to energy determines levels of development, should there be a human right to energy and if so, what role would renewables play? What standard of care would be implied by a “human right to a stable climate” and what is expected of States?

Chairs: Prof. Christina Voigt (Full Professor of Public and International Law, University of Oslo / Chair of the IUCN WCEL’s Specialist Group on Climate Change) & Adv. Ayman Cherkaoui (Lead Counsel, CISDL / Obama Foundation Africa Leader)

Closing Remarks: Adv. Hafijul Islam Khan (Co-coordinator, Loss and Damage Team, UNFCCC LDCs Group / Centre for Climate Justice-Bangladesh (CCJ-B) / Researcher, University of Waterloo)

IV Devising Post-Pandemic Rights-Based Approaches to Global Health & Gender - SDGs 3 & 5 (ZR Cambridge)

How can governments shape international and national post-pandemic responses to advance the SDGs? What are the balancing concerns between responding to the pandemic from a medical perspective, and maintaining or strengthening existing human rights laws and norms? How will gender concerns be integrated in the post-pandemic response and what examples can be informative in this context?

Chairs: Prof. Maya Prabhu (Assoc. Professor, Yale University / Yale Center for Asylum Medicine / Yale Institute for Global Health Fellow, Lead Counsel, CISDL) & Dr. Oonagh Fitzgerald (Member of the Board, ILA-Canada / Co-Chair of Canadian Environmental Domestic Advisory Group under the CETA)

12:15 – 12:45 Lunch Break

12:45 – 13:15 Plenary II - Keynote Addresses

Chairs: Dr. Ashfaq Khalfan (Chair, CISDL Board of Governors / Director, Amnesty International) & Prof. Susan Breau (Dean, University of Victoria Faculty of Law)

Hon. Minister David Lametti (Minister of Justice, Government of Canada)

Prof. John Knox (Full Professor, Wake Forest Law / former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment)

Launch of HE Judge CG and Rosemary Weeramantry International Law and Sustainable Development Global Fellowship / Celebration of HE Justice CG Weeramantry International Justice Awards

13:15 – 14:15 Simultaneous Experts Panels V & VI

V Structuring Rights-Based Trade, Investment & Financial Rules for Economic Recovery - SDGs 9, 10 & 11 (ZR Montreal)

How can the human rights and the SDGs be better integrated into post COVID-19 economic recovery plans, to foster or frustrate a fast transition to a greener economy and zero-carbon societies? How can new economic laws, including tax and intellectual property rules, contribute to the realization of human rights and the SDGs? What reforms to trade and investment agreements could promote more sustainable, resilient infrastructure, industrialization and innovation, especially in cities and communities?

Chairs: Dr. Markus Gehring (Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge / Lead Counsel, CISDL) & Dr. Wayne Garnons-Williams (Chair, Inter-Tribal Trade & Investment Organization & Principal, Garwill)

VI Securing Co-Benefits of Human Rights, Biodiversity & Freshwater Ecosystems Protections - SDG 15 & 6 (ZR Cambridge)

How can the post-2020 biodiversity agenda effectively advance sustainable development and respond to cross-cutting global issues such as climate change or global health? What are the lessons learned from national experiences which illustrate pathways for achievement of the SDGs? What are ways to promote nature-based solutions and what are the interfaces with traditional knowledge, ecosystems, and food security.

Chairs: Prof. Jorge Cabrera (Professor, University of Costa Rica / Lead Counsel, CISDL) & Mr. Freedom-Kai Phillips (Researcher, University of Cambridge / Operations Director, CISDL)

14:15 – 14:30 Health Break

14:30 – 15:30 Simultaneous Experts Panels VII / Roundtables VIII

VII Empowering Children's Voices & Quality Education - SDG 4 & SDG 17 (ZR Montreal)

Education plays a formative role in shaping children and young people's values. In what ways can global partnerships influence the content of education globally to promote sustainability and environmental protection, in the pursuit of more resilient societies? How can children's voices and perspectives regarding human rights be heard in planning post-pandemic responses? How to advance the educational rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and SDG 4 through the local and global empowerment of children and youth?

Chairs: Hon. Marcel Szabo (Justice, Constitutional Court of Hungary/former Hungarian Ombudsman of Future Generations) & Dr. Gabrielle Sacconaghi Bacon (Goodwill Ambassador, UNESCO Voices of Future Generations Childrens Rights Initiative VoFG)

VIII Promoting Indigenous Rights, Identity & Food Security - SDGs 2 & 14 (ZR Cambridge)

In the context of the SDGs, how can international and national law be tailored to implement respect for indigenous rights in the post-pandemic recovery? What has been the experience of indigenous communities, with respect to realizing human rights and reconciliation, and the SDGs? What can indigenous knowledge provide in the context of modern food security, agro-ecological systems and fisheries, and how can indigenous approaches help to weather the pandemic and guide recovery in this respect?

Chairs: Hon. Judge Sebastien Grammond (Justice, Federal Court of Canada / former Dean, University of Ottawa Civil Law Section) & Prof. Konstantia Koutouki (Professor, University of Montreal, Lead Counsel, CISDL, President, ILA-Canada)

Special Guest Speaker: Ms. Adelyn Sophie (Child Author, VoFG & Scholar, Canada)

15:30 – 16:30 Plenary III – Closing International Experts Roundtable (ZR Montreal)

The SDGs offer a paradigm shift from the traditional model of development and post-pandemic measures - why did your session consider this shift to be essential? How did your session find a rights-based approach might strengthen post-pandemic measures to achieve the SDGs, in different countries – what were the worst and best examples that you discussed, and what can we learn from them? Moving forward, how to design, develop and enforce international and domestic measures to advance the SDGs which fully respect and realise human rights – what is the advice of your session, into the future, who should be engaged and what are the first key steps?

Chairs: Prof. Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger (Senior Director, CISDL / Professor, University of Waterloo / Leverhulme Visiting Professor, University of Cambridge) & Rt Hon. Judge Prof. Nico Schrijver (Full Professor, Leiden University / Member, Permanent Court of Arbitration & former President, Institut de Droit International & International Law Association)

Interactive Dialogue with Chairs of International Experts Panels:

Prof. Alexandra Harrington, Prof. Maya Prabhu, Dr. Gabrielle Sacconaghi Bacon & Dr. Wayne Garnons-Williams; Hon Judge Sebastien Grammond, Prof. Christina Voigt, Dr. Markus Gehring & Mr. Freedom-Kai Phillips; Ms. Janet McIntyre, Prof. Jorge Cabrera, Prof. Sebastien Jodoin & Adv Ayman Cherkaoui.

Closing Remarks: Prof. François Crépeau (Director, Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, Hans & Tamar Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law, McGill University)

18:00 – 19:30 Hon Judge Charles D Gonthier Memorial Lectures (Online)

(Zoom Room Montreal / www.cisd.org)

Chairs (live, online):

Prof. Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger (Senior Director, CISDL / Professor, University of Waterloo / Leverhulme Visiting Professor, University of Cambridge) & Prof. François Crépeau (Director, Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, Hans & Tamar Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law, McGill University)

Opening (online, by film):

* **Rt Hon. Chief Justice Richard Wagner, PC (Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Canada)**

* **Prof Robert Leckey (Dean, McGill University Faculty of Law)**

* **Prof. France Houle (Doyenne, Université de Montreal, Faculté de droit)**

Hon Justice CD Gonthier Memorial Lectures (online, by film):

* **Hon. Justice Prof. Marcel Szabo (Judge, Constitutional Court of Hungary, Professor of International Law and former Ombudsman for Future Generations)**

* **Dr. Elizabeth Mrema (Acting Executive-Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity)**

Questions & Discussion (live, online):

Moderators: Prof. Alexandra Harrington (CISDL Research Director & Fulbright Chair in Global Governance, Balsillie School of International Affairs, Canada) & Prof. Michel Morin (Professor, Université de Montreal, Faculté de droit)

Closing (live, online):

* **Hon. Judge Sebastien Grammond (Justice, Federal Court of Canada / former Dean, University of Ottawa Civil Law Section)**

* **Maitre Pierre Gonthier (Chair, Hon Justice CD Gonthier Memorial Lectures Committee, LSA Avocats & Board of Governors, CISDL)**

* **Mr. Arsalan Ahmed (Editor-in-Chief, McGill Journal of Sustainable Development Law 2019-2020) & Ms. Kimia Towfigh (Editor-in-Chief, McGill Journal for Sustainable Development Law 2020-21).**

Masters of Ceremonies (online, live):

Maitre Freedom-Kai Phillips (CISDL Operations Director, fkp22@cam.ac.uk) & Ms Robyn Rugenius (Coordinator, McGill CHTLP, robyn.rugenius@mcgill.ca)