



Wisconsin International Law Journal Annual Symposium

“Sustainable Development Goals and International Law: Intersections of Environmental Law, Human Rights and Environmental Justice”

Friday, April 6, 2018

Room 2260, UW Law School

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Overview

The year 2015 was a historic year for environmental protection in many respects. The international community adopted the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The concept of sustainable development has had a long and winding road culminating in the adoption of the SDGs in 2015. However, sustainable development and sustainability have remained rather elusive concepts - hard to define and hard to achieve. The SDGs thus are a welcome and long-overdue development as they provide measurable goals and targets. From the Brundtland Report in 1987 to the Rio Declaration in 1992 and the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, the global community took close to three decades to flesh out the parameters of sustainable development.

This symposium seeks to discuss the three pillars of sustainable development as articulated by the global community in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development (1995) and endorsed later by the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002) – environmental protection, economic development and social development - and discuss how SDGs intersect with them using environmental law, human rights and environmental justice as overarching frameworks.

Program

8:30-9:00	Registration and Breakfast
9:00	Welcome John Rejowski and Jasmin Elhindi <i>WILJ Symposium Editors, UW Law School</i>
9:05	Welcome Remarks Dean Margaret Raymond <i>Fred W. & Vi Miller Dean and Professor of Law, UW Law School</i>
9:10	Welcome Remarks Heinz Klug <i>Evjue-Bascom Professor of Law and WILJ adviser, UW Law School</i>
9:15-10:45	Panel 1: Evolution of Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals Chair: Paul Robbins <i>Director, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, UW-Madison</i> “Our Pen as Hourglass: Past, Present and Future Generations of Sustainable Development Law” Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger <i>University of Waterloo, Canada</i> “From ‘Our Common Future’ to Sustainable Development Goals: Evolution of Sustainable Development” Sumudu Atapattu <i>UW Law School</i> “Sustainable Development Goals and the Global South” Usha Natarajan <i>American University in Cairo, Egypt</i>
10:45-11:00	Break

11:00-12:30

Panel 2: Exploring Key Components of Sustainable Development

Chair: Cathy Middlecamp

Office of Sustainability & Nelson Institute, UW-Madison

"The Environmental Objective of Sustainable Development"

Christina Voigt

University of Oslo, Norway

"Sustainable Development: Energy Justice and Women"

Lakshman Guruswamy

University of Colorado at Boulder

"Business Responsibilities for Environmental Human Rights in Sustainable Development: Reimagining the Worker as a Relational Being"

Sara Seck

Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, Canada

"Why Corruption Matters in the Sustainable Development Goals"

Rukshana Nanayakkara

Transparency International Secretariat, Germany

12:30-2:00

Lunch and Keynote

"Sustainable Development and Human Rights: The Necessity of a Common and Transversal Agenda"

Margaret May Macaulay

Commissioner, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

2:15-3:45

Panel 3: Intersections: Sustainable Development, Human Rights and Environmental Justice

Chair: Anna Gade

Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, UW-Madison

"Sustainable Development Goals and Environmental Justice: Realization through Disaggregation?"

Joshua Gellers

University of North Florida

"Promoting Environmental Justice through a Partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals: Shareholder Activism for Climate Action and Stakeholder Engagement to Curb Corruption"

Erika George

University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law

"Shutting Down Poletti: Human Rights Advocacy Lessons from an Environmental Justice Victory"

Rebecca Bratspies

City University of New York School of Law

3:45-4:00

Break

4:00-5:30

Panel 4: Future of Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals, and the Role of International Law

Chair: Heinz Klug

UW Law School

“SDGs and Transitioning to the Anthropocene: The Imperative of a More Radical Ecological Rule of Law”

Duncan French

University of Lincoln, U.K.

“Sitting at the Crossroads: The City as Locus for Sustainable Development, the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda or the Art of Precarious Living-With”

Ileana Porras

University of Miami School of Law

“SDGs and the North-South Divide: The Promise of International Law”

Carmen Gonzalez

Seattle University School of Law

6:30

Dinner for speakers, chairs and invited guests