

Side Event Joint Proposal, UN Forum on Business and Human Rights 2015

Name of organisers:

- International Bar Association
- Faculty of Law, Western University, Ontario, and International Law Research Program, Centre for International Governance Innovation)

Tentative session title: *Business, Climate Change and Human Rights*

Tentative schedule: November 17, 2015 15:00 – 16:30

Aim and objectives:

To draw attention to the current lack of access to environmental and climate justice for vulnerable affected individuals and communities

To discuss the specific recommendations for businesses made in the IBA's 2014 Report on Climate Change Justice and Human Rights (here: <http://www.ibanet.org/PresidentialTaskForceCCJHR2014.aspx>), which are designed to be practical, manageable and politically feasible for companies, while recognising companies' increasing responsibilities for their impact on the environment and human rights

To discuss the work of the IBA Working Group on a Model Statute for Climate Change Liability

To discuss the obligations placed on businesses in the 2014 "Oslo Principles on Global Climate Change Obligations".

To consider the implications for the business community of the increasing global recognition of environmental rights, as evidenced by the recent work of Professor John Knox, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment

Target audience

- State representatives from the North and the South, NGOs, academics, businesses, and legal experts.
- All stakeholders interested in addressing simultaneously the dangers presented by climate change, the need for sustainable economic development and the important role of governments and businesses in responding to these challenges, including corporate personnel and shareholders seeking to engage on these issues within their businesses.

Format

We envision short presentations by speakers who have expertise understanding the challenges and promises of achieving environmental and climate justice, followed by a moderated discussion, and Q & A.

Speakers

Confirmed:

Moderator: **Basil Ugochukwu**, International Law Research Program, Centre for International Governance Innovation

Panellists:

Conor Linehan - Partner, William Fry, Vice-Chair, IBA President's Task Force on Climate Justice and Human Rights, and Co-Chair, IBA Working Group on Adaptation

- CL will speak to the IBA Climate Change Justice and Human Rights Report and business responsibilities

Roger Martella – Partner, Sidley Austen LLP, Vice Chair of the IBA President's Task Force on Climate Justice and Human Rights, and Vice Chair of the IBA's Working Group on a Model Statute for Climate Change Remedies

- RM will speak to the IBA Report and the Working Group on a Model Statute for Climate Change Liability

Jessica Simor QC, Matrix Chambers, and member of Oslo Principles Expert Group on Climate Obligations

- JS will speak to the implications for business of the Oslo Principles on Global Climate Change Obligations

Sara L Seck – Senior Fellow, International Law Research Program, Centre for International Governance Innovation, and Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Western University

- SS will speak to her research for CIGI on business responsibilities for human rights and climate justice (providing a critique of both the IBA and Oslo Principles, in light of John Knox's work on environmental rights, etc)