



INTEREST GROUP ON “INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS”

Invitation on the occasion of the 12th ESIL Annual Conference
“How International Law Works in Times of Crisis”

WORKSHOP

“Non-State Actors, Human Rights and Sustainable Development Goals: An Opportunity for International Law in Times of Crisis?”

Wednesday, 7 September 2016

From 14:30 to 17:00

Riga Graduate School of Law (Room W-31, 3rd floor) Strēlniekuiela 4 A (please visit the conference [website](#) for directions)

On the occasion of the 12th ESIL Annual Conference, the Coordinating Committee of the Interest Group on “International Business and Human Rights” invites its members and other participants of the ESIL Conference to join a discussion on the role of the business sector in the funding for development.

Background & Questions

International negotiations regarding the funding for development and the Agenda Post-2015 have put in sharp focus divergent opinions in two points: which responsibilities should be borne by poor countries to realize the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and which commitments must be taken by rich countries in the context of the cooperation for sustainable development? There is nevertheless a large consensus on the role of the private sector: all stakeholders agree that non-state actors play an essential role for the economy. Even in developed countries, the private sector represents more than 90% of job creation and allows communities to fund – through taxes – public services and social institutions. The 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development agree that the private sector must collaborate with States and international organizations to fund economic, environmental and social projects. This cooperation is vital to achieve the objectives of the post-2015 agenda while respecting international agreements and standards on human rights.

Key questions addressed by the speakers will be:

- 1) What are the challenges and opportunities posed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to strengthen the role of the international instruments and standards on business and human rights?
- 2) Are there any obligations of the private sector to achieve the SDGs?
- 3) Which mechanisms are available to ensure the implementation of SDGs?

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PROGRAMME

Welcome address:

Mara Tignino – Senior Lecturer and Coordinator of the Platform for International Water Law/Geneva Water Hub, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva; Member of the Coordinating Committee of the Interest Group on “International Business and Human Rights”.

Opening Speech:

Laurence Boisson de Chazournes – Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva; Former President of the European Society of International Law.

WORKSHOP

Co-Chair: *Marta Bordignon and Dennis West* – Members of the Coordinating Committee of the Interest Group on “International Business and Human Rights”.

Speakers:

- *Chiara Macchi* – Postdoctoral Researcher in International Human Rights Law, Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies.
- *Roberto Rando* – Senior Complaints Officer, European Investment Bank.
- *Kirsteen Shields* – Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Dundee; Co-Chair of the Interest Group on “Human Rights” of the American Society of International Law.

Discussant:

- *Karin Buhman* – Professor, Department for Intercultural Communication and Management (ICM), Copenhagen Business School.

16.15-16.30
Questions & Answers

Conclusions:

Owen McIntyre – Professor, Faculty of Law, University College Cork, Ireland.



**BUSINESS MEETING OF THE INTEREST GROUP
“INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS”**

From 17:30 to 18:30

Room W-31, 3rd floor

AGENDA

- Next events of the Interest Group.
- Cooperation with the Interest Group on “Human Rights” of the American Society of International Law (ASIL).
- Exchange of information on the activities of the members of the Interest Group (website, regular emails etc.).
- Other issues.