

Webinar Series – Human Rights Due Diligence for Climate Change Impacts

Episode 3 – Mandatory human rights due diligence laws: What are their implications regarding corporate climate change impacts?

Speaker Biographies

Surya Deva is an Associate Professor at the School of Law of City University of Hong Kong, and a member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights. Surya's primary research interests lie in Business and Human Rights, India-China Constitutional Law, and Sustainable Development. He has published extensively in these areas, and has advised the UN bodies, governments, multinational corporations and civil society organisations on matters related to business and human rights. He is one of the founding Editors-in-Chief of the Business and Human Rights Journal.

Merryl Lawry-White is member of Debevoise & Plimpton's International Dispute Resolution Group based in London. Merryl's practice includes contentious and advisory work across public international law, investment treaty arbitration, commercial arbitration, international humanitarian law, human rights and transitional justice. She acts as counsel on claims and complaints brought before multiple international bodies, including international arbitral tribunals, the International Court of Justice, WTO panels, international conciliation commissions, human rights treaty bodies and domestic courts. Merryl is also a member of the firm's business integrity group, assisting clients to understand and mitigate business and human rights and environmental impacts. She is also a member of the IBA's Subcommittee on ESG in arbitration, and the Justice Rapid Response Roster of Experts for the investigation and reporting on international humanitarian law, human rights and criminal law violations. She frequently publishes and speaks on questions of public international law, human rights and international arbitration.

Chiara Macchi is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Researcher at Wageningen University & Research – Law Group and an associate member of the Essex Business and Human Rights Project. She is carrying out a two-year research project on business and human rights focusing on EU policies (BHR_EU, 2019–2021). As part of the project, she has been exploring the integration of climate due diligence into the notion of human rights due diligence. Since 2012, she has conducted consultancies for governments, NGOs, companies, trade unions and lawyers on business and human rights-related issues. She is co-chair of the Business and Human Rights working group of the Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research and a member of the European Law Institute's project 'Business and Human Rights: Access to Justice and Effective Remedies'.

Kathia Martin-Chenut is a Senior Researcher of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) attached to the *Institut des Sciences Juridique et Philosophique de la Sorbonne* – ISJPS (University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), and Deputy Director of Scientific Affairs at the Research Mission on 'Law and justice'. Her research focuses on corporate responsibilities for human rights abuses, including the right to a healthy environment. She is a member of the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights where she leads a working group on 'business and human rights', and a member of the French National Platform of Global Actions for Corporate Social Responsibility.

Paul Mougeolle is Project Coordinator and Legal Advisor at Notre Affaire à Tous, as well as a PhD Candidate at Paris Nanterre University and the University of Potsdam. Paul leads the work of the French climate litigation against Total. This lawsuit is based on the Duty of Vigilance Statute and the tort standard of environmental care. He directed as well a comparative study on the implementation of the climate due diligence standard by 25 corporations, highlighting thereby their shortcomings with regard to the claims made in the Total case.

Sara L Seck is an Associate Professor at the Schulich School of Law and Marine & Environmental Law Institute at Dalhousie University, Canada. In 2015, Sara was the recipient of an Emerging Scholarship Award from the Academy of Environmental Law of the IUCN in recognition of her research contributions on sustainable mining and international environmental law. She is a co-editor of Global Environmental Change and Innovation in International Law (Cambridge University Press, 2017), co-editor of a special issue of the Canadian Journal of Women and the Law on resource extraction and the human rights of women and girls, and co-editor of the forthcoming Cambridge Handbook on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Development. Current projects include co-editing a research handbook on international and transnational approaches to climate loss and damage. She is affiliated with the Business and Human Rights Scholars Association, the Business and Human Rights Teaching Forum, and the Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment (GNHRE).

Roda Verheyen is Partner at the firm Rechtsanwälte Günther since 2013. Roda has written her Ph.D. on climate change damage in international law and now works in her own law firm specialized in environmental, planning and energy law in Hamburg, Germany. She was previously a Director of the Climate Justice Programme, which she founded in 2002 with Peter Roderick. Before registering as an attorney, she was an independent consultant for (inter alia) the GTZ (today GIZ), the Federal Environment Ministry, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and Germanwatch e.V., Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FILED, London) as well as a member of the German delegation to the Climate Change Convention. She is a co-author in one of the main text books on Environmental Law in Germany (Koch/Reese/Hofmann, Umweltrecht, Beck). Her active cases include a case brought by a Peruvian homeowner against a major energy utility, claiming costs for a risk reduction measure to protect his house from a major glacial outburst flood (Lluiya v. RWE), several cases against development consents and permits for coal power plants in Germany and Poland, as well as cases involving lignite mining permits and planning acts. She co-represents the People's Climate Case, a case brought by families in and outside the EU against the insufficient climate targets for 2030 (ECJ Case No. C-565/19 P, GC Case No.T-330/18). She also represents claimants in an ongoing constitutional complaint before the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany requesting adequate climate protection.

Lena Walker is a PhD student at the Institute for Environmental and Planning Law at the University of Münster. She currently explores environmental due diligence regulation in European and national law. This includes existing legislation such as the European Timber Regulation and newly suggested legislation such as the German Draft on Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence. Lena studied Law in Münster (Germany) and Saragossa (Spain) and completed her legal clerkship at the Higher Regional Court of Cologne, at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and in Cape Town, South Africa. She has worked in Environmental Law at Görg Lawyers and contributed to several expert reports on Human Rights Due Diligence, among others for Amnesty International.