



AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION



Creating a Culture
of Justice

International Development
Law Organization

Side Event on the Sidelines of the
2021 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

CLIMATE JUSTICE: GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Thursday, July 8, 2021, noon-1:30 pm ET on Zoom | [Register](#)

*Sponsored by
American Bar Association (ABA) and
International Development Law Organization (IDLO)*

1. Background

The escalating risks of climate change and the current pandemic have brought to the forefront the need for urgent action to deliver smart, accessible, and sustainable solutions to close societal inequalities and climate justice gaps. Addressing these gaps is particularly urgent for women and girls because they are often among those most disproportionately affected by climate impacts. Discriminatory gender norms, unequal access to land and other resources, and the pervasiveness of gender-based violence mean that women and girls are more at risk. Although women and girls are often at the forefront of movements demanding climate justice, they continue to have limited participation in climate-related decision-making processes.

The human rights of women and girls must be at the center of climate action. Governments, women's organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), and international actors, among others, can be proactive in creating enabling frameworks to promote women's environmental rights, enhance access to justice for women, enable inclusive economic development and provide enhanced opportunities for women's participation and leadership in decision-making. The rule of law offers an important tool in building this enabling environment and in ensuring that women and girls, in all their diversity, are not left behind in the development and implementation of sustainable climate solutions.

This panel of rule of law, gender and climate justice champions will provide a global tour of innovative approaches for expanding gender integration into national and local climate actions. They will share country experiences, case studies, and best practices for embedding gender perspectives in national climate policies, plans, strategies, and programs. They will also provide specific examples illustrating how stakeholders have developed and implemented human rights- and rule of law-based approaches to empower women, particularly marginalized and vulnerable women, to claim their rights and participate in sustainable development. The panelists will also discuss considerations related to gender data and analysis, institutional capacity building, and multistakeholder participation in implementation.

Attendees will gain insights on opportunities for strengthening and accelerating efforts to implement the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals (particularly 5, 8, 13, 16, and 17), the enhanced Lima Work Program on Gender supporting the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and Generation Equality's Global Acceleration Plan on Gender Equality, in particular the Feminist Action for Climate Justice agenda.

2. Objectives

This side event will contribute to the achievement of Goal 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment, Goal 8 on employment, Goal 13 on climate action, Goal 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions, and Goal 17 on partnerships. The event will also support the activities leading to the Food Systems pre-Summit on 26–28 July 2021 in Rome and Summit in September 2021 in New York, and the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1–12 November 2021. The side event also will also contribute to the Generation Equality's Global Acceleration Plan on Gender Equality, in particular the Feminist Action for Climate Justice agenda.

3. Purpose

The event will equip attendees with practical skills and knowledge to:

- (1) recognize and appreciate key interlinkages of gender, justice, and climate action, and their broader relevance to sustainable development;
- (2) enhance their knowledge of the rule of law in creating enabling frameworks for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment; and
- (3) identify practical solutions for integrating gender perspectives into national climate-responsive actions.

5. Event Format

- Welcome (ABA) (<5 min)
 - **Joseph L. Raia**, Chair, ABA International Law Section
- Introductory Remarks (10 min)
 - **Jan Beagle**, Director-General, IDLO
- Keynote Remarks (7 min)
 - **Fleur Newman**, UNFCCC Gender Focal Point and Focal Point for Women, UN Climate Change Secretariat
- Panel (60 min)
 - Prepared remarks (35 minutes)
 - Moderated panel discussion and audience Q&A (25 min)
- Wrap-up (ABA) (<2 min)
 - **Joseph L. Raia**, Chair, ABA International Law Section

6. Panel [moderator + 4]

Amy Lin Meyerson (Moderator)
ABA Deputy Representative to the United Nations
American Bar Association (ABA)

Dr. Ilaria Bottigliero
Director of Policy, Research and Learning
International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

Barbara Rambousek
Director, Gender & Economic Inclusion
Department of Country and Sector Economics
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Szilvia Lehel
Gender and Climate Finance Specialist
Bangkok Regional Hub for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Kehkashan Basu
Founder and President
Green Hope Foundation;
United Nations Human Rights Champion

7. Audiences

The primary audiences will be participants of the July 2021 HLPF, including representatives from UN entities, Member States, NGOs, regional organizations, and other stakeholders and ABA and IDLO audiences.

9. Webinar

The event will be hosted as a webinar on Zoom. The American Bar Association International Law Section will host the Zoom webinar and will provide a livestream on YouTube and Facebook. The event will be recorded. Attendees will be able to view the speakers, submit questions in the Q&A feature, and interact with other attendees in the chat. The speakers will be able to view the chat and the questions submitted by the attendees.

10. Registration

This virtual event will be free and open to the public. The American Bar Association will handle registrations. Attendees must register in advance to receive the Zoom information. Reminder emails with the Zoom link will be sent to registered attendees before the event.

Registration: https://americanbar.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nt64CIM8QmGMtJVA-aS9tA

11. Outcome

A written summary, to be widely distributed, will be prepared by the American Bar Association International Law Section in collaboration with the organizing partners. The archived video will be available on YouTube.