



UNIVERSITY OF
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UNESCO Chair on Environmental Law
and Sustainable Development
المركز الدولي للدراسات في القانون البيئي
والتنمية المستدامة



Association of Environmental Law Lecturers
in Middle East and North African Universities
جمعية محاضري القانون البيئي في جامعات الشرق الأوسط وشمال إفريقيا

UoB Dubai-ASSELLMU Experts Roundtable on Net-Zero and Just Energy Transitions

Saturday 27 April 2024

Venue: University of Birmingham Dubai Room 0209

About the Workshop

The University of Birmingham Dubai in conjunction with the UNESCO Chair on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development at the Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar, and the The Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in Middle East and North African Universities (ASSELLMU), cordially invites the general public to this energy experts' roundtable.

One of the landmark decisions at COP28 was a recognition of the need for 'inclusive and participatory approaches to just transitions that leave no one behind.' While the aim of the ongoing global net-zero energy transition is clear, the nature, scope and guiding principles of natural resources law and policy required to achieve it in a just, orderly and inclusive manner is still evolving in many parts of the world. A starting point is the need to explore how legal and governance frameworks can be revitalised to drive a just, orderly and inclusive energy transition, especially to promote the security and sustainability of supply of essential natural resources needed to drive the transition process.

Post COP28, the aim of this roundtable is to bring together leading scholars, practitioners, policy makers, students and other stakeholders to examine and share experience on just and equitable net zero energy transitions in the Middle East and beyond. The event also aims to enable a fruitful discussion with today's youth and as such, students will be given an opportunity to present their projects and share their suggestions on the role that corporate entities can play in a just and equitable transition to net zero.

Cutting edge questions to be raised and discussed include:

- What are the roles of natural resources, such as natural gas, solid minerals and renewables in the ongoing global energy transition; and what are the policy changes required to ensure their just and equitable exploitation in light of projected exponential growth in demand for them?
- What are the existing enablers, challenges, and barriers faced for equitable financing for climate adaptation?
- What are innovative legal tools, governance best practices, research, resources and models that can enhance legal and institutional capacity on just net zero transitions?

- What are the capacity development gaps and needs of natural resources practitioners, policymakers and scholars, and how can they be met to improve local content in the design and implementation of just net-zero plans?

If interested and would like to attend, please contact the organiser, Dr. Walters Nsoh (w.nsoh@bham.ac.uk).

AGENDA	
27 April 2024	
08.00 – 09.00	Arrival and Coffee
09.00-09.10	Workshop Opening and Introductions Dr. Walters Nsoh, Associate Professor in Law and Programme Director, Online LLM in Energy and Environmental Law
09.10-09.30	Welcome Remarks Prof. Yusra Mouzughy, Provost, UoB Dubai Prof. Damilola S. Olawuyi, SAN, UNESCO Chair on Environmental and Sustainable Development, HBKU, and ASSELLMU President
09:30- 09:45	Keynote Remarks Ms. Yasmine Barbir, Founder of Responsible Legacy and ESG Consultant
09:45 – 10:00	Questions and Discussion
10.00 – 11.00	Session 1: Expert Led Discussion What are the roles of natural resources, such as natural gas, solid minerals and renewables in the ongoing global energy transition; and what are the legal and governance innovations required to ensure the security of their supply? Chair: Dr. Synda Obaji, Assistant Professor in Energy Law, University of Birmingham <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Riyad Fakhri, Vice President, ASSELLMU & Professor of Law, Hassan First University of Settat, Morocco 2. Dr. Aude-Solveig Epstein, Visiting Assistant Professor of Legal Studies, New York University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates 3. Mehrnoosh Aryanpour, SJD candidate, Carey Law School, University of Pennsylvania, United States 4. Dr. Duygu Sever Mehmetoglu, Post Doctoral Associate,

	<p>Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Doha, Qatar</p> <p>5. Dr. Omar Al Khataibeh, Lawyer / Board Member of ASSELLMU</p>
11.00 – 11.15	<i>Questions and Discussion</i>
11.00 – 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 – 12.15	<p>Session 2: Student Led Discussion</p> <p>- What are the existing enablers, challenges, and barriers faced for equitable financing for climate adaptation?</p> <p>- What are innovative legal tools, governance best practices, research, resources and models that can enhance legal and institutional capacity on just net zero transitions?</p> <p>Chair: Zeenat Beebeejaun, Assistant Professor in Law, University of Birmingham Dubai</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Feryal Fekri, LLM Energ & Env Law, UoB Dubai - Promoting Green Hydrogen Development and its Application in F1 Racing in the MENA Region 2. Jose Cezar Fittipaldi, LLM Energ & Env Law, UoB Dubai - Effectiveness of the Paris Agreement: Brief comparison between the "Troika" of COP host countries (UAE, Azerbaijan, Brazil) 3. Shugufta Shaikh, LLM Intern Comm Law, UoB Dubai - ECO Food AI - An Initiative Using AI to Combat Greenhouse Gas Emission in Food Industry 4. Josephine Ilesanmi, PhD candidate, Durban University of Technology, South Africa - Eco-entrepreneurship as a tool for low-carbon transitions 5. Tasniem Ahmed Elyass Hussain, JD Candidate, HBKU College of Law - Financing the Clean Energy Transition: Role of Islamic Finance (online) 6. Elena Athwal, Harvard Law School, USA - Net Zero, ESG and Risk Management (online)
12.15 – 12.30	<i>Questions and Discussion</i>

12.30 – 02.00	Lunch
02.00 – 02.30	Session 3: General discussion of action plan
	Prof. Damilola S. Olawuyi & Dr. Walters Nsoh
02.30 – 02.45	<i>Closing Remarks</i>
03.00	<i>End of Workshop</i>
19.00	Dinner Venue TBC

Conference speakers and organizers (in alphabetical order)