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LAW UNIT

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CAVE HILL CAMPUS
FACULTY OF LAW

International Conference

Climate Change Advisory Opinions from International Courts: Exploring Synergies & Implications

Dates: Thursday 19 and Friday 20 March, 2026

Location: Ralph Carnegie Law Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Law Building, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados

Background:

In a number of recent climate change advisory opinions, international courts have clarified the legal obligations of States to address climate change in mitigation and adaptation action, as well as global cooperation, in particular on issues of climate finance and loss & damage. The opinions were given by the the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), the Inter-American Court on Human Rights (IACtHR) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). A fourth opinion was requested from the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights (AfCHR) in May 2025 and is currently pending. Collectively, the courts clarified international legal obligations with respect to climate change from different angles: human rights, law of the sea, UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and customary international law. They also addressed the legal consequences of breaching such obligations.

This international conference will bring together regional and international experts from a wide range of relevant backgrounds in a discussion about the synergies between these opinions and the regional implications of the findings by the world's highest courts. The conference will be targeted towards climate lawyers, scientists and civil society, including NGOs & FBOs from the Caribbean region and other small island developing states, as well as international climate law experts.

Organization:

The Conference is organized by Prof. Dr. Christina Voigt, Visiting Professor at The UWI, and Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law and Dr. Alana Malinde S.N. Lancaster, Lecturer in Law & Head of the Caribbean Environmental law Unit, The UWI, Faculty of Law.

The Conference is kindly hosted by the University of the West Indies, Faculty of Law and supported by the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the University of Oslo's Energy and Environment Program, the Horst Sigrist Prize and the Judicial Institute for the Environment, in collaboration with the Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment Caribbean Region and the International Law Association, Caribbean Branch.



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PROGRAM

Day 1: Thursday 19 March 2026

08.30am - 09.00am Registration

09:00am – 10:00am High Level Opening

Chair: Ayman Cherkaoui

National Anthem of Barbados

Welcoming Remarks: Professor Dr. Christina Voigt and Alana Malinde S.N. Lancaster

Opening Addresses

Speakers:

1. Campus Principal and Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor R. Clive Landis
2. Interim Dean of the Faculty of Law, Dr. Antonius Hippolyte
3. Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema (*Recorded Video Address*)

10:00am - 10.30am Networking Break

10.30am - 12:30pm Session 1

Three (Plus One) Climate Change Advisory Opinions: Emerging Synergies & Parallels

Chair: Professor Dr. Christina Voigt



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Speakers:

1. Zachary A.R Phillips, Crown Counsel, Attorney General's Chambers, Antigua & Barbuda (the Advisory Opinion of the ITLOS)
2. Alexander Ramdass, CariJustice Alliance (the Advisory Opinion of the ITLOS)
3. Alana Malinde S.N. Lancaster, Lecturer in Law & Head of the Caribbean Environmental Law Unit of the Faculty of Law at Cave Hill (the Advisory Opinion of the IACtHR)
4. Professor Claudia de Windt (the Advisory Opinion of the IACtHR)
5. Professor Francesco Sindico (the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ)
6. Britney Nurse, Renew TT (the Request for an Advisory Opinion of the AfCHPR)
7. Dr. Alosis Mugadza, Research Fellow, Faculty of Law at Cave Hill (the Request for an Advisory Opinion of the AfCHPR)
8. Dr. Justin Soboin, (the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ) (*Virtual*)

12:30pm - 01:30pm Lunch

The UWI Staff Longue

01:30pm – 03:30pm Session 2

Obligations to Address Climate Change: Implications of Advisory Opinions

Chair: Dr. Claudia de Windt

Speakers:

1. Maren Solmelke, Visiting Researcher, Faculty of Law at UWI Cave Hill
2. Emmanuel Kasimbazi, WCEL Steering Committee Member (*Virtual*)
3. Ayman Cherkaoui, Deputy Chair of the IUCN WCEL and Director of the Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training, Morocco
4. Maria-Goreti Muavesi, IUCN WCL Steering Committee member & Chair of the WCEL Biodiversity Law Specialist Group (*Virtual*)
5. Dr. Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Director Environmental Law Division, UNEP

03:30pm - 04:00pm Networking Break



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04:00pm – 05:30pm Session 3

Stakeholder Reflections on Advisory Opinions on Climate Change & Their Protection of Vulnerable Groups and Individuals in the Caribbean Region

Chair: Alana Malinde S.N. Lancaster

Speakers:

1. Maylene Alleyne, International Human Rights Lawyer & Founder, Freedom Imaginaries (*Virtual*)
2. Theresa Rodriguez Moodie, CEO, Jamaica Environmental Trust (*Virtual*)
3. Kate Wilson, Former Legal Officer, Department of Sustainable Development, Government of Saint Lucia
4. Dr. Adetutu Aina-Pelemo, Deputy Dean (Postgraduate Studies & Research), Faculty of Law at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus
5. Leisa Perch, CEO & Founder of SAEDI Consulting Barbados Inc

06:00pm Dinner

The UWI Staff Longue

Day 2: Friday 20 March 2026

08.30am - 09.00am Registration

09:30am -11:00am Keynotes

Chair: Rico J. Yearwood Adjunct Lecturer, Faculty of Law at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus

1. Mr. Justice Winston Anderson, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ)
2. Minister Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin, Chief Justice of the National High Court of Brazil

11:00am -11.30am Networking Break



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11.30am-12:30pm Second Keynote & Discussion

The Advisory Opinions Clarifications on the Law of the Sea and Sea Level Rise

Chair: Maria-Goreti Muavesi, Chair WCEL Biodiversity Law Study Group (*Virtual*)

Keynote and Comments & Discussion

Dr. Nilufer Oral, Director of the Centre of International Law at the National University of Singapore. Member of the UN International Law Commission (ILC) and chair of ILC Working group on International Law and Sea Level Rise (*Virtual*)

Comments: Professor Dr. Agnès Michelot, University of La Rochelle and UNESCO Chair Ocean and Sustainable Coastline (*Virtual*)

12:30pm - 01:30pm Lunch

The Mount Restaurant

01:30pm – 03:00pm Session 4

Discussion on the Role of Courts and Climate Change

A. The Judiciary

Chair: Professor David Forman

Speakers:

1. Madam Justice Michelle Weekes Judge, Supreme Court of Barbados
2. Justice Michael Wilson, Hawaii (*Virtual*)

B. The Bar

Chair: Professor Francesco Sindico



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Speakers:

1. Larry Smith, President of the Barbados Bar Association
2. Professor David Forman, Co-Director of the Environmental Law Program, William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

03:00pm-03:30pm Networking Break

03:30pm – 04:30pm Session 5

Conversations by the Seashore: Unpacking the Legal Consequences of the Opinions for Cooperation and Finance Obligations in a Caribbean Context

Chair: Claudia de Windt

Speakers:

1. Dr. Amanda Kennedy, Chair, IUCN Academy of Environmental Law) (*Virtual*)
2. Professor Nicholas Robinson, Gilbert and Sarah Kerlin Distinguished Professor of Environmental Law (Emeritus), Elisabeth Haub School of Law, Pace University (former WCEL Chair) (*Virtual*)
3. Christine Adam, Director, UNFCCC Legal Affairs Division

04:30pm – 05:00pm Next Steps & Closing Remarks

Professor Dr. Christina Voigt

**5:00pm – 6:00pm Cocktail
Conference Room
Faculty of Law**

Please register here to follow the conference online:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_614_P4GZTdCK10R2rFTRTg