



Permanent Mission of the
Republic of Vanuatu to the
United Nations



PERMANENT MISSION OF VIET NAM
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



CONCEPT NOTE

Achieving Climate Justice through the Rule of Law, and Global Accountability

Friday 25 October 2024 / 8.30 – 10 AM / Permanent Mission of Viet Nam to the United Nations, 866 United Nations Plaza, 4th Floor, Suite 428, New York

Organizers: Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Vanuatu and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

Event Overview:

The recently adopted Pact for the Future recognises climate change as one of the greatest challenges of our time. Indeed, through the Pact and its accompanying Declaration on Future Generations, states have committed to strengthening action to address climate change. Simultaneously, the Pact acknowledges the vital role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations in peacefully settling disputes.

Regional and international courts are the new frontier in the fight for climate justice and present a tangible means in which to actualise commitments laid out in the Pact for the Future and Declaration on Future Generations. In the face of rising sea levels, soaring temperatures and increasingly extreme weather events, Developing States and youth climate champions have led the cause for greater action and accountability through legal processes and justice mechanisms. This includes the advisory opinion on climate change at the ICJ in line with UNGA Resolution A/77/L.58, in which the world's highest court will address the legal obligations of states – and the consequences for their violations – for the very first time.

This event will explore how climate change can be addressed and climate justice can be achieved through a rule of law approach. Panelists will examine this from diverse perspectives, particularly in the lead-up to the ICJ oral hearings commencing on December 2nd in The Hague, a historic moment driven by youth activism in partnership with states and with the interests of present and future generations in mind. It will also bridge the gap between New York and The Hague by identifying synergies with the recent Summit of the Future and exploring how the ICJ can safeguard the rights of present and future generations from the adverse effects of climate change. Throughout the discussion, panelists will elaborate on how strengthening the rule of law and fostering partnerships and multilateral cooperation can increase access to justice and address structural inequalities in the context of climate change – particularly for groups and communities who have been historically marginalized and face the greatest challenges in enforcing their rights.

Tentative Agenda (1h30)

1. Opening Remarks

- Welcome address by H. E. Mr. Dang Hoang Giang, Permanent Representative of Viet Nam Mission
- Opening statement by Ms. Jan Beagle, Director-General of IDLO

2. Keynote Address

- Lee-Anne Sackett, Director of International Legal Affairs, Vanuatu Climate Justice Program

3. Panel Discussion:

- Dr. Lan Anh Nguyen, UNCLOS Arbitrator, Vice President of the Asian Society of International Law
- April Nishimura, of the Gitksan Nation and Co-Executive Director of Together Rising as an Environmental Community
- Sofie Sandstrom Jaffe, Permanent Observer of International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to the UN
- Jule Schnakenberg, World Youth for Climate Justice (WY4CJ)
- Laura Turquet, Deputy Chief of the Research and Data Section, UN Women
- Moderator: Malcolm Dalesa, Climate Attache, Permanent Mission of Vanuatu

4. Q&A Session:

- Interactive session with the audience.