



Title: Accountability for Environmental Violations and Crimes: Advancing a More Global and Inclusive Approach to International Environmental Law

Date, Time & Venue: September 27, 1:15-2:45 pm, UN Headquarters Conference Room 5

Co-Sponsors:

- Government of Antigua and Barbuda
- Government of the Republic of the Philippines
- Government of the Republic of Vanuatu
- Atlantic Council Strategic Litigation Project
- Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
- International Union for Conservation of Nature World Commission on Environmental Law

Event Description:

In the aftermath of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea’s landmark May 2024 [advisory opinion](#) on the international legal obligation to mitigate climate change, a growing number of States are eager to both reaffirm and further bolster the legal bases for international climate and environmental justice. The advisory opinion sets important precedent for related proceedings pending before international forums, including the UN General Assembly’s [request](#) to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion on the obligations of States in respect of climate change and Colombia and Chile’s [request](#) to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for an advisory opinion on the scope of State obligations to respond to the climate emergency under international human rights law.

This side event, convened on the margins of UN General Assembly High-Level Week and the 25 September High-Level Meeting to Address Existential Threats Posed by Sea-Level Rise explores upcoming opportunities to facilitate the potential progressive development of environmental crimes under international law, including through a more global and inclusive approach to international legal processes. The esteemed panelists will address linkages between the pending climate justice proceedings and ongoing legal discussions around environmental violations and core international crimes, including the [proposals](#) to incorporate environmental crimes such as “environmental degradation” and the “exploitation of natural resources” in the potential crimes against humanity before the UN General Assembly Sixth Committee. The panel will also address the urgent need to ensure equal State participation in international environmental legal processes, drawing lessons learned from other thematic areas to overcome capacity and resource limitations.