

## **Birzeit University**

### **International Conference Call for Papers**

#### **The Quest for Climate and Environmental Justice in Palestine: National Laws and International Parameters**

##### **Introduction**

Climate and environmental justice is a topic of growing concern and dominates the attention of politicians, decision-makers and researchers around the world. There are important factors that crucially influence climate and environmental justice in different countries, including political, economic, administrative, cultural, social and legal. The characteristics and effectiveness of such a climate and environmental justice system varies from one society to another according to the level of coherence and dynamics of interaction between these factors, taken individually or/and collectively.

Law is one paramount tool for environmental justice development. It defines the jurisdiction of various branches of government, and also regulates the activities and operations carried out by the different sectors of society involved in the climate and environmental field. Moreover, the environmental law also frames and informs existing environmental policies that focus on the management of natural resources, and other central environmental issues.

In Palestine, we observe a significant increase in cases and sources of environmental degradation and hazards, which has elicited a growing interest in knowledge and experience in the field of environmental law. Continued Israeli colonial practices, military occupation, and the limited prerogatives of the Palestinian Authority in matters of natural resources, water, and environment more generally, have obstructed the development and implementation of adequate environmental laws and policies. This complex political context along with Israeli policies and practices -such as dumping in the Palestinian Territory solid waste, sewer waters, and industrial residues, land confiscations, the separation wall, and the expansion of Israeli settlements- have seriously and continuously affected and deteriorated the Palestinian environment.

Given these facts, it has become vital to initiate a formal discussion on climate and environmental Justice in Palestine. The discussion should focus on developing plans and strategies to create an appropriate and effective environmental justice system in the country. Accordingly, this conference is designed to review, analyse, and compare the legislative and regulatory frameworks and policies, at a national and international level, along with any other pertinent topic regarding environmental justice in Palestine.

## **Importance of the Conference**

The conference provides a forum for experts' presentations and researches of legal developments in the area of Climate and Environmental Justice, Regulation and Policy. This conference aims to bring together researchers and practitioners in this area to engage in an intimate dialogue on issues that are important in order to develop and sustain an effective climate and environmental justice system in Palestine, from a national and an international perspective. As a result, the conference is expected to focus on the core problem and obstacles facing Climate and Environmental Justice in Palestine and offer ideas, suggestions, and legal strategies capable to create solid basis for the development of an efficient legal environmental system in the country.

## **Conference Objectives**

This conference aims to:

- 1- Shed light on the climate and environmental justice system in Palestine, by highlighting the role of law and its impact on practices at the national and international levels.
- 2- Provide an opportunity to learn from academics, officials, and experts about challenges that face the climate and environmental justice system in Palestine through debate, discussions, and further insights on the different expertise and perspectives.
- 3- Seek general and more specific features of legislative frames and policies capable of informing and orienting decision-makers in planning for an environmental justice system in Palestine; and review different legal frames and regulations, in an analytical and critical manner, in order to identify weaknesses, shortcomings, strengths and best practices in the field of environmental justice, that can serve the Palestinian legislative reform efforts in the field.
- 4- Suggest specific and applicable proposals and recommendations that will improve the effectiveness of the legal system necessary for achieving climate and environmental Justice.

## **Conference Themes**

- **Climate and Environmental Justice at the National Level**
  - Civil and Criminal Liabilities.
  - National laws' Consistency with International Standards.
  - Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development.
  - Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change Impact.
- **Climate and Environment Justice at the International Level**
  - Environment and Human Rights.
  - Trans-boundary Environmental Damage and State Liability.
  - Environment Conventions and International Obligations.
  - Palestine's International Commitment.

- Israeli Harmful Practices and International Law.
- Climate Change and Natural Resources.

### **Eligibility criteria**

1. Participants should send their initial summary of the research paper or presentation by 25/01/2018 (no more than 500 words in case of submission of a paper).
2. The papers should not exceed 20 pages, font (12) - Simplified Arabic for contributions written in Arabic, or font (11) – Times New Roman for English.
3. Papers should adhere to the level of scientific research criteria; honesty, integrity and accuracy of language and citation.
4. After completing the research, the participants must provide a summary of the research paper in Arabic and/or English, of no more than one page.
5. The Research must be original and must not have been published in the past or accepted for publication. It should not be under any scientific review, nor taken from any published thesis.
6. The final acceptance of participation depends on the approval of the conference's Scientific Committee in the Faculty of Law at Birzeit University.

### **Important Dates**

Preliminary research summary	January 25, 2018
The Scientific Committee response regarding the abstracts acceptance	February 1, 2018
Delivery of an electronic research paper, presentation	March 1, 2018
In case of submitting a research paper, Notice of the research's final status (acceptance, rejection, and amendment)	March 15, 2018
Conference (venue Birzeit University)	April 4, 2018
Final Research paper copy for publication	April 25, 2018

### **The Preparatory Committee**

1. Mohammed Al-Qaisi - chairperson
2. Mustafa Abul Baqi - member
3. Amir Khalil - member
4. Ashraf Syam - member and rapporteur

### **Correspondence**

For general questions and inquiries, please contact the chairperson of the Preparatory Committee at:

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## Notes

- The Faculty of Law and Public Administration seeks to publish the conference papers in a special peer reviewed edition, after obtaining a Scientific Committee's approval, and the peer-reviewers' positive responses in accordance with the regulations applicable in the faculty of law.
- For international participants, the University will contribute in bearing financial expenses, including travel and accommodation expenses for the duration of the conference, in the way it deems appropriate.