



International Conference
on
ADVANCING OCEAN
GOVERNANCE
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE:
THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

28 - 29 MARCH 2025
GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, GANDHINAGAR



BACKGROUND

The blue economy sustains millions of livelihoods, but unsustainable exploitation threatens marine ecosystems, endangering both ecological balance and economic security. Key Challenges such as Overfishing, pollution, habitat destruction, and climate change demand urgent action to safeguard ocean resources. Achieving marine sustainability is critical for long-term prosperity and aligns with SDG 14's goal of conserving and sustainably using marine resources.

A balanced approach that integrates economic growth, social equity, and environmental stewardship is key. Recent global efforts, such as the 2023 UN BBNJ Agreement and the 2022 WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, mark progress. However, weak enforcement, fragmented regulations, and policy inconsistencies remain significant hurdles. This conference aims to bridge gaps in policy, research, and practice, fostering solutions for a thriving blue economy and resilient marine ecosystems.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The **CTIL-GNLU-GMU-SAIELN Conference** titled “**Advancing Ocean Governance for a Sustainable Future: The Role of International Law**” brings together experts, policymakers, academicians, industry participants, and researchers to explore the legal, economic, and environmental aspects of ocean governance and the blue economy. With a focus on marine sustainability, the conference will feature keynote addresses, panel discussions and paper presentations on critical challenges and opportunities.

Technical sessions will highlight advancements in fisheries law, blue economy and sustainability, marine science, and governance frameworks like UNCLOS, emphasising sustainable resource use. By fostering dialogue and collaboration, the conference aims to develop innovative solutions for ocean governance for a sustainable future.

CONFERENCE TRACKS

The Conference will address a wide range of topics, offering insights into the legal, economic, and environmental dimensions of fisheries governance and management. The Conference will comprise two tracks: (a) the panel discussion track, and (b) the paper presentation track.

Panel Discussion Track

Expert panel discussions on ocean governance and blue economy, featuring leading experts who will share diverse perspectives on the evolving landscape in today's global context.

Paper Presentation Track

Selected authors are invited to present their research through a PowerPoint presentation. Each author will be given a total of 10 minutes to present their paper, of which 5 minutes will be for the presentation and the remaining 5 minutes will be for Q&A and feedback.

THEMES



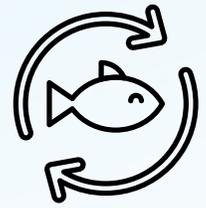
THEME I: Recent developments in international fisheries governance, including fisheries subsidies in WTO

THEME II: Blue economy, sustainability, and conservation

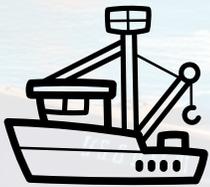


THEME III: UNCLOS and marine sustainability

Theme I: Recent Developments in International Fisheries Governance including fisheries subsidies in WTO



- Historical evolution of international fisheries law
- Recent international agreements advancing ocean governance such as the Agreement on Port State Measures
- The linkage between marine sustainable development at the United Nations and WTO measures
- Role of WTO: Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies
- Fisheries management in territorial seas and exclusive economic zones
- Regulation of Fishing activities in the high seas
- Practical implementation of measures regulating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing
- Current negotiations on Additional Provisions (Overcapacity and Overfishing)
- Role of FAO in fisheries conservation
- Legal Dimensions of Fisheries Conflicts and Negotiations
- Analysis of Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT)
- Inter-regional collaboration and the role of RFMOs



Theme II: Blue Economy, Sustainability, and Conservation

- Sustainable development goals (SDGs) associated with marine development
- Role of aquaculture in the blue economy
- Marine Biodiversity Convention and economic drivers
- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and legal protection mechanisms
- Balancing economic and environmental interests in extraction of minerals from the seabed
- Impact of exploration and exploitation of oil and gas from the deep seabed on biodiversity
- Challenges in the transfer of marine technology for sustainable use
- Protection from land-based and ship-sourced marine pollution and related agreements
- Submarine cables and ocean governance
- Protection of environment from military-owned or state-owned vessels used for non-commercial purposes
- Capacity building for developing states and SIDS in blue economy sectors
- Integrating maritime security with Sustainable Development Goals

Theme III: UNCLOS and Marine Sustainability



- Role of UNCLOS in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water)
- Interdisciplinary linkages between UNCLOS and other international agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Interaction of dispute settlement mechanisms for marine sustainability under UNCLOS and other international fora
- Territorial disputes and their impact on marine sustainability
- Protecting marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)
- Addressing the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise through UNCLOS
- Deep-sea mining and the ISA's mining code: possible interactions with investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS)
- Emerging technologies and innovations for monitoring and enforcing UNCLOS provisions

REGISTRATION FEE

For foreign academics, professionals, and others:

US\$ 100

For Indian academics, professionals, and others:

INR 1,000

For foreign students:

US\$ 50

For Indian students:

INR 500

[Click here to register to attend](#)

NOTE:

Conference attendees who are not presenting are also required to register through this link.

Those submitting abstracts may register upon receiving acceptance.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Authors must submit an abstract of no more than 500 words in a Word document, accompanied by a cover letter. The cover letter should include the author(s)' name(s), designation, institution/affiliation, manuscript title, and contact details (email, phone, and address). Authors of selected abstracts will be invited to present their papers.

Students, early-career academics, and professionals are encouraged to apply. SAIELN will award scholarships of INR 3000 each to five student presenters, selected on the basis of the quality of their abstracts. Applicants seeking a scholarship must indicate their interest in the Google Form and provide justification when submitting their abstract.

Additionally, the conference may lead to a publication opportunity, as the organizers are in discussions with reputed publishers. Finished papers may be submitted at a later date, which will be notified separately.

[Click here to submit your abstract](#)

Abstracts are to be submitted through the Google Forms link provided above. All abstracts must be submitted by **10th March 2025 (Midnight IST)**. Notifications of acceptance will be sent to presenters by **15th March 2025**. Co-authorship is allowed but limited to **two authors**.

Abstract Guidelines

Abstracts must include a cover page with the title and author details. They should also indicate one or two guiding questions.

Length: Maximum 500 words excluding title/cover

Margins: 1 inch

Font: Times New Roman, 12 points

Spacing: 1.5

In case of any queries, please contact **+91 94973 44024**. Alternatively you can write to us at [**maritimelawcourse@gmu.edu.in**](mailto:maritimelawcourse@gmu.edu.in).



Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL)

The Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) was established in 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in pursuit of its objective of developing international trade and investment law capacity in India. The Centre is a part of the Centre for Research in International Trade (CRIT) at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi. CTIL provides sound and rigorous analysis of legal issues pertaining to international trade and investment law to the Department of Commerce, Government of India and other governmental departments. The Centre functions as a repository of information on trade and investment law, with a wide range of resources at its disposal. It is a leading platform in India for engaging in and influencing the evolving discourse on global economic law issues. The Centre has been consistently providing technical inputs to the Government of India on the issues of international trade and investment law.



Gujarat National Law University (GNLU)

Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) is a statutory university established by the Government of Gujarat under Gujarat National Law University Act, 2003. The university holds recognition from the Bar Council of India (BCI) & the University Grants Commission (UGC). GNLU is affiliated with several prestigious organizations, including the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), & the International Association of Law Schools (IALS). GNLU offers interdisciplinary legal courses in five faculties namely, BA LLB, BCOM LLB, BSC LLB, BSW LLB, BBA LLB; post-graduate programmes namely, LLM as well as doctoral programmes in law & interdisciplinary fields. GNLU also offers PhD in Economics. This course is offered with an interdisciplinary study of law.



South Asia International Economic Law Network (SAIELN)

SAIELN is a collaborative network of academics, practitioners and officials interested in the field of International Economic Law. SAIELN is committed to providing a platform for its members to articulate their views, brainstorm their ideas, and importantly, to nurture and develop the field of international economic law especially in the South Asia region. SAIELN's focus is to create an environment conducive to the exchange of ideas and the promotion of scholarship in this field. At the same time, SAIELN is global in its outlook and reach, and inclusive in its membership and activities. Scholars from any part of the world are welcome to join us and contribute to our activities. SAIELN also seeks to build on and expand the activities of Society of International Law (SIEL) in promoting and enriching International Economic Law.



Gujarat Maritime University (GMU)

Gujarat Maritime University (GMU) is an endeavor by Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB), the state regulator for the ports and maritime activities in Gujarat. The University has been conceived by visionaries to address the burgeoning need for a skilled workforce in the ever-changing dynamics of the maritime sector. Gujarat Maritime University is a bespoke institution for advancing maritime education, training, and research in India. The University began its academic journey in the year 2019 and has established two schools so far namely, the School of Maritime Law, Policy and Administration, and the School of Maritime Management. In pursuit of creating an institution of global standards, GMU has collaborated with internationally prominent institutions like Erasmus University, STC International, CBS Executive, ISWAN, and many more such alliances shall be forged in times to come.

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