



International Law for the Sustainable Development Goals

Renewable Energy in the SDGs: Barriers, Opportunities, Interaction

Thursday 28 February 2019 13.00-17:30h

Faculty of Law, University of Groningen

The Faculty of Law of the University of Groningen cordially invites you to participate in the **8th Workshop of the 2017-2018 Workshop Series on [International Law for the Sustainable Development Goals](#)**. The workshop is organized in the framework of the inter-departmental Research Programme [Law on Energy & Sustainability](#).

Call for Papers:

Since 25 September 2015, the United Nations 2030 Agenda on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) promotes a global commitment to ‘substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix’, along with calls to ‘enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology’ amongst developed and developing countries (SDG 7).

According to the [Global Tracking Framework](#) for SDG 7, the current share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption is 17.3%. However, this also includes the traditional burning of biomass, such as wood, dung or crop residues, by households, which SDG 7.1 typically seeks to curb because of the adverse effects of air pollution. The share of renewable *electricity* in total electricity consumption stood at 22.8% in 2015, where increases have been largely driven by wind energy. Overall, the global share of renewable energy has only increased by about one percentage point since 1990, indicating that new solutions are needed to deliver on SDG 7.2.

This workshop discusses the opportunities and barriers for scaling up the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, in particular by assessing the facilitating or obstructing role of current international and regional legal arrangements, and by considering new legal solutions.

Importantly, this workshop also acknowledges that the development of renewable energy projects can interact in both positive and negative ways with other SDGs. On the one hand, solar, wind and hydro power are beneficial and even paramount to curbing climate change while they can prevent other forms of environmental pollution or stimulate electrification of previously unserved communities (SDG 13, SDG 15, SDG 7.1.). Yet, renewable energy projects at sea or on land can also have profound negative impacts on local natural and human environments, thereby raising the question of how the burdens of energy transition should be distributed. Are there any legal rights and obligations to take into account here? Therefore, this workshop additionally aims to discuss the importance of a ‘just’ energy transition. It is particularly interested in (legal) aspects of public participation in decision-making, and the potential interaction among international legal regimes applicable to renewable energy goals and related SDGs (e.g. SDG 1, 10, 12, 14, 15 or 17).





OUR FOCUS:

Against this backdrop, the workshop is interested in receiving abstracts pertaining to relevant fields of regional and international law such as energy law, climate law, environmental law, economic law and human rights law. We expressly invite perspectives from the developing world.

Provisional panel topics may include:

- 1) Assessing the barriers and opportunities for stimulating renewable energy access (in the developing world) in international and regional law;
- 2) Rights to public participation in decision-making on renewable energy projects;
- 3) Interactions between international and regional law regimes that affect achieving the goals of SDG 7.2, e.g. amongst environmental law, climate law, human rights law, etc.

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS:

We primarily invite abstract proposals from interested scholars from legal disciplines, but we are open to interdisciplinary approaches to law as well.

Proposals should not exceed **500 words** in length and can be sent to **Lea Diestelmeier** (l.diestelmeier@rug.nl) and **Ceciel Nieuwenhout** (c.t.nieuwenhout@rug.nl) by **21 January 2019**. Acceptance is communicated by **the end of January 2019**.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SERIES:

This workshop is part of a larger Workshop Series on International Law for the SDGs primarily hosted by the Department of Transboundary Legal Studies, which has run in 2017-2018. This 8th Workshop on Renewable Energy in the SDGs is the final workshop. For more information about the series and past workshops, visit: rug.nl/law/il4sdgs, or contact one of the organisers Mando Rachovitsa (a.rachovitsa@rug.nl), Marlies Hesselman (m.m.e.hesselman@rug.nl).