



International Law for the Sustainable Development Goals

Workshop and Conference Series 2017-2018

Workshop 5: The role of industries in the global increase of chronic diseases such as cancers, heart diseases, and diabetes:

Multidisciplinary perspectives on cross-sector and multi-stakeholder collaboration to support sustainable health outcomes in line with the SDGs

1 June 2018, 12.30-18.00

Norman Building, Groningen, the Netherlands

The Department of Transboundary Legal Studies of the University of Groningen cordially invites you to attend our fourth workshop. More information on the workshop can be found below.

This event is organized as a joint event as part of the conference on Law and Noncommunicable Diseases organized by the European Scientific Network on Law and Tobacco (ESNLT) as led by the Global Health Law Groningen Research Centre of the University of Groningen, and the Leuven Institute for Healthcare Policy and the Leuven Centre for Public Law of the KU Leuven with support of the European Association of Health Law.

CONCEPT NOTE

International human rights and health law and governance contain a range of different norms, standards, and obligations towards governments to regulate corporate activities that impact on health. Moreover, Article 5 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control explicitly requires governments to protect their tobacco control strategies from the interests of the tobacco industry. Yet, at the same time the human rights treaty monitoring bodies suggest that governments should mobilize and use private resources as part of their obligation to fulfil human rights (e.g. the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), and hence also actively engage with the private sector, including possibly NCD-related industries. In light of this seemingly dual approach in international law, we thus question what the appropriate level of engagement should be between the public and private sectors in relation to optimal health as well as how international law could help to achieve this appropriate level of engagement.



With this in mind, we aim to enter into a focused discussion from the different academic disciplines of governance, ethics, and law. We will examine experiences navigating public-private engagement in ‘communities of practice’ with examples from the tobacco, food and beverage, and pharmaceutical industries.

Outline session 1

This session offers an overview of the different academic perspectives (legal, ethical, governance) on the appropriate level of engagement in international law with private companies in the NCD crisis. This overview serves as a foundation for Session 2. Speakers will present the 3 most important points about public-private engagement from their discipline. Important points to focus on are:

- To what degree is public-private engagement permitted from my disciplinary perspective (i.e. on the spectrum of prohibition-tolerance-full support)? Please focus on sectors related to NCDs.
- On what basis is this engagement grounded (i.e. what legal basis/ethical argument/political declaration?)?
- **To what degree is my disciplinary perspective reflected in international law?**

In the Q&A session we aim to reflect on each presentation and raise questions such as:

- Is the role of public-private engagement defined by each perspective? If so, how?
- How is the appropriate level of engagement determined by each perspective? Where do the different approaches converge or diverge?
- **What is the role of international law in determining levels of public-private engagement and how could international law serve to create greater clarity or coherence in this field?**

Outline session 2

This session builds on the perspectives in Session 1 by illustrating different approaches to public-private engagement in communities of practice. Speakers will present the 3 most important points about public-private engagement from their community of practice/organisation. Important points to focus on are:

- To what degree is public-private engagement permitted in my community of practice (i.e. on the spectrum of prohibition-tolerance-full support)?
- On what basis is this engagement grounded (i.e. what legal basis/ethical argument/political declaration?)?
- What are the benefits and challenges of public-private engagement in practice?

In the Q&A session we aim to reflect on each presentation and raise questions such as:

- How could and should international law further support appropriate public-private engagement?