Call for Proposals

For the 3rd International Symposium (CCD2016) on:

CLIMATE CHANGE & LAW:
A CHALLENGE FOR THE COP22

October 20-21, 2016

Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences, Rabat - Souissi

organized by

The Research Group on " Environmental Law and Sustainable Development"

and

The Private Law Department of the Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences, Rabat - Souissi

in collaboration with

The Center of Research for Environment, Human Security and Governance (CERES)

With the sponsorship of the Society for Environment and Urban Engineering

BACKGROUND:

In recent decades, climatic changes have been considered by a myriad of actors (governments, inter- and non-governmental organizations, the scientific community, the public, etc.) as a growing challenge given their various present and expected impacts. They have questioned the reality of these changes, their causes, their future evolutions and, more specifically, their immediate and far-reaching implications for human and ecological systems. Accordingly, numerous initiatives, with mixed results, have been taken on all governance levels to deal with this emerging challenge. In fact, fighting global warming requires structural changes beyond the "business as usual scenario", a process that is not easy to undertake as was the case for many other environmental problems.

Indeed, the fight against climate change can not be effective unless without the achievements of many objectives such as:

- The establishment of a new global climate governance system that will replace the system inherited from the 20th century, considered as inappropriate and insufficiently equipped to manage the environmental risks to be faced by the Humanity in this century. However, the existing global governance system, rejected by environmentalists, must integrate the principles of the third generation of human rights.
- The establishment of climate justice mechanisms, or "the possible best balance" according to the COP21 President, Laurent Fabius, pronounced during the adoption of the Paris Agreement on December 12, 2015, by the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This is a compromise supported by the principle of "climate justice". That is, the recognition that the Northern and the Southern countries have "common but differentiated responsibilities" when it comes to the fight against climate change, and that their "respective capabilities" to deal with the challenge are unequal.
- The elaboration of legally binding public policies. In this perspective, climate change impacts and scenarios urge the adoption of long-term strategies at all levels of the decision-making processes. Although disruptions are inevitable, doubts persist as to their extent and local implications. They depend in part on our ability to react, especially in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The reduction of climate change impacts on vulnerable communities. Such communities have generally contributed to climate change in a marginal way, particularly in the Global South.

Therefore, it seems very relevant to make a shift far from the last three decades, where national and international policies —related to the areas of environmental, climate and human rights governance — remained generally incentives with a more or less restrictive legal value. It is the personal and political choices we adopt today that will determine and shape the future of our socio-ecological systems.

These are the reasons and ambitions that were behind the results and instruments adopted at the COP21,mainly the "Proposals for a law to secure the climate" advanced by the major actors during the global meeting. Such a progress has the potential:

- to provide the law with the needed tools to build appropriate and effective climate governance systems, by requiring the establishment of sufficiently binding national and local climate development plans.
- To make the COP22 a decisive and essential turning point in the process of fighting climate change, by offering a binding legal framework that meet the aspirations of all stakeholders. The adoption of an international convention on civil liability for damage due to climate change and an international compensation fund for climate damage are examples of desirable outcomes.
- to consider the climate change as an opportunity in order to make the law as a source of guidance for our societies when implementing appropriate and effective mitigation and adaptation measures. This perspective will not be feasible unless we develop a risk management system globally and mobilize a set of legal disciplines (all branches of Law). Indeed, the fight against climate change must be the result of a trans- and interdisciplinary approach.

It is within this perspective that the Research Group on "Environmental Law and Sustainable Development" and the Private Law Department of the Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences, Rabat – Souissi, in collaboration with the Center of Research for Environment, Human Security and Governance (CERES), organize a symposium on "Climate Change and the Law: A challenge for the COP 22". The main objective is to approach climate change from a legal and governance perspective in order to provide insights and recommendations with the potential to guide both scientific research and decision-making agendas.

OBJECTIVES:

The Symposium aims at:

- Exploring the links between the fight against global warming, the legal approach and climate governance.
- Developing a vision about the innovations and good practices made in other countries in these fields.
- Creating a space for exchange, dialogue, and sharing among researchers and other actors (decision makers, NGOs, development actors...) from Morocco and other countries.

MAIN TOPICS:

- Existing regulatory frameworks in the area of climate: assessing the effectiveness and relevance
- Climate Governance: The role of Law
- Climate justice and the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities"
- Recognition of the principle of climate civil and criminal liability
- Climate change and human rights

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Body text (A4 format) will provide 2.5 cm for all margins. The text including footnotes pages, bibliography, should not exceed 15 pages, written in Times New Roman (12) single-spaced.

The first page, not numbered, includes only:

- The title of the article in small capitals letters (Times New Roman 18 bold);
- The authors name and affiliations (Times New Roman 14 bold);
- The email address of the author to whom correspondence should be addressed (Times New Roman 12);
- A single spaced abstract of approximately 500 words (10 to 15 lines), containing in particular the objective of the research, the essential elements of his theoretical and methodological framework and its main results (Times 12, justified);
- A maximum of five (4) Keywords (Times New Roman 12).

The text, including the footnotes, references and appendices, should not exceed 15 pages (30000 characters including spaces). It should be written in Times New Roman (12 points), single spaced and justified. Pages must be numbered without header or footer pages.

Level 1 securities small caps (Times New Roman 14 bold) Level 2 small caps (Times New Roman 12 bold).

The page footnotes have the continuous numbering starting on each page and should not be used bibliographic references (Arial 10).

The bibliography includes only the sources cited in the text. References should be presented in alphabetical order of the first author. Each statement must be complete and accurate.

Figures and tables will be numbered consecutively. The top title and the source are below.

The name of the file must contain only the name of the author followed by the title of the paper. If more than one author it will put the name that appears first in the paper.

Papers that do not meet the formal standards listed above will be returned by the organizing committee for remodeling. The papers comply with the formal rules will be subject to the substantive assessment of the Scientific Committee.

PUBLICATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS

The conference proceedings will be published in a contributed volume.

TIMELINE

July 2016	Announcement of the call for proposals
September 30, 2016	Deadline for proposal submission (in Arabic, French and English)
October 3, 2016	Notification of acceptance/rejection decision
October 10, 2016	Deadline for full paper submission
October 20-21, 2016	Symposium venue

ORGANIZINGBOARD

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Said Laaribya	Ibn Zohr University -Agadir

Proposals and complete papers should be sent to:

• Dr. Bouchra Nadir: b.nadir@um5s.net.ma (proposals in French and Arabic)

• Dr. Mohamed Behnassi: behnassi@gmail.com (proposals in English)

The Symposium will be held at the key Amphitheater of the Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences of Rabat-Souissi, Rue Mohammed Ben Abdellah Regragui, Madinat Al Irfane, Rabat, Morocco.