



REFORMING THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE:
THE EU FOR SDGS IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW



Western Sahara Research Group

Second Conference and Book announcement

With the Support of the Re-Globe Jean Monnet Module

Call for Papers

The **Second Conference of the Western Sahara Research Group** will take place in presence on 16th October 2023 at the **Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna, Italy, also as an activity of the Re-Globe Jean Monnet Module**. The second Conference will take place almost 50 years after the landmark ICJ's Advisory Opinion on the self-determination of that territory. In such occasion, **the research group will announce the publication of a book to be published in 2025 by a leading international publisher in occasion of the 50th anniversary of the ICJ Advisory Opinion. The contributions selected for the Conference will also be considered as chapters in the new book**. This Conference will have as general theme the international legal status of Western Sahara and will have also a particular focus on the role of the EU trade policy in this territory. The conference aims at looking at this general theme from the point of view of public international law, considering however inputs from other scientific fields. As such, the organizers hereby invite all interested to submit contributions for one or more of the following thematic groups:

Thematic group 1: *Western Sahara, self-determination and human rights*

This group aims at analysing the problems arising from the international of Western Sahara from the viewpoint of its self-determination, international recognition and the military and political situation in the region. **Topics:** Self-Determination; Use of Force and Law of Occupation; Law of Territorial Acquisition; Human Rights; International Humanitarian Law; Recognition; Self-Governance.

Thematic group 2: *Western Sahara and the European Union*

This group focuses on the international stance and actions of the EU regarding the Western Sahara region, as well as past, pending and future legal questions presented to the institutions of the EU, especially the European Court of Justice, regarding that region. In particular, with reference to the definition of the international legal framework for the economy of Western Sahara, the group intends to consider the contribution of stakeholders and civil society in the definition, implementation and enforcement of the rules of international economic law, considering the respect of the principles of transparency (also with reference to the sources of funding of NGOs) and inclusive and participatory democracy. **Topics:** EU and international law; ECJ litigation; EU Trade Policy; EU External Action; Member-States' diplomatic and international practice.

Thematic group 3: *Western Sahara and international economic law*

This group aims at exploring the international economic legal issues arising from the current status of Western Sahara, focusing on the exploration and exploitation of natural resources in the region, especially relating to the main issue of the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources. The group will also consider the respect of the SDGs of the 2030 UN Agenda in the international rules and policies concerning economic activities in Western Sahara, and the attention to international voluntary codes and guidelines on

business & human rights by the economic operators working in Western Sahara. **Topics:** International Trade Law; International Investment Law, Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources; maritime boundaries and natural resources; exploitation of natural resources and environmental considerations; international business & human rights.

Thematic group 4: *Western Sahara in international politics*

This group aims at considering the international political and diplomatic causes and consequences of the ongoing dispute regarding the status of the Western Sahara region. **Topics:** United Nations; African Union, International Relations; Geopolitics; Diplomatic practice; Regional Politics.

The contributions shall be sent at andrea.mensi2@unibo.it in the form of a summary (*500 words*) of the paper to be presented at the conference, accompanied of the title of the paper and four keywords. This summary, as well as further inquiries, should be sent to the following email until **30th July 2023**. The selected contributions for the book should be sent to the same email and to jfsdiogo@gmail.com no later than **1st March 2024**. More details and the program of the Conference will be available on the website of the Research Group <https://westernsahara.cedis.novalaw.unl.pt/> and on the [Re-Globe Jean Monnet Module website https://site.unibo.it/reglobe/en](https://site.unibo.it/reglobe/en)

Bologna, 7 June 2023

The Organizers,

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