



Organization of  
American States



## **Inter-American Congress on the Environmental Rule of Law**

**Jamaica, 30-31<sup>st</sup> March and April 1, 2015**

### **Call for Abstracts for presentation and publication of Articles**

#### **Application format**

Countries and officials face new challenges relating to core aspects of natural resource governance. To respond to these challenges, the OAS and UNEP, and the World Commission on Environmental Law along with key partners are working to support Member States in developing and strengthening their enabling legal-institutional framework for sustainable development and environmental protection. At the same time, efforts are being pursued with the relevant stakeholders (including the executive, the judiciary and the legislature) to ensure that sustainable development in the region is grounded in the rule of law and in principles of international law. In this context an Inter-American Congress on the Environmental Rule of Law will be established on a periodical basis having its first session under the auspices of the Caribbean Court of Justice on March 30, 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.

In advance of this First Inter-American Congress on the Environmental Rule of Law, the OAS-DSD, UNEP, the World Commission on Environmental Law and the Caribbean Court of Justice, welcome the submission of abstracts for short articles (in English or Spanish with no more than 9000 words including references and footnotes) which provide analysis and discussion on the following relevant topics within the sustainable development agenda. Therefore, authors are invited to participate in any of the following indicative sub themes:

#### ***Substantive Sub-themes:***

- ***Legal Frameworks for Water Resource Management***

The Americas has been endowed with 30% of the world's water resources. Issues related to water governance have been highlighted for over a century. The first international environmental agreements signed in the region were focused on water resource governance,<sup>1</sup> and laws date back to 1906, when the first Bolivian water law was enacted.<sup>2</sup> In recent years, the importance of water governance has been reflected in water legislation and management reform processes in most of the countries in the region, as well as in programs and proposals for reforming water-related public services, particularly urban drinking water supply and sanitation utilities.<sup>3</sup> Disaster emergencies that result from floods and droughts, as well as landslides triggered by intense rainfall, further highlight the need of an integrated

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<sup>1</sup> Organization of American States, Department of Sustainable Development, Policy Series Number 9, March 2006. "Water Management and Climate Change: Lessons from Regional Cooperation".

<sup>2</sup> Ley de Aguas Vigente, 28 de noviembre de 1906. <http://www.oas.org/dsd/EnvironmentLaw/WaterLaw/home.htm>

<sup>3</sup> ECLAC. Water governance for development and sustainability. June 2006.



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approach to address water and land management effectively. Abstracts on this sub-theme should address emerging trends and challenges.

- ***Trade, Investment and Environment***

In pursuit of economic growth and development, the Western Hemisphere continues to support economic integration and the benefits of globalization, including through increased trade. Trade represents one important development driver, but it can also be a source of environmental pressures. Trends regarding sustainability in investment, linkages with climate change law and policy, and supporting environmental compliance by using market based instruments and planning tools as well as challenges regarding Environmental Impact Assessment can be analyzed in abstracts submitted under this sub-theme to inform decision making from the national to the global dimensions.

- ***Conflict Prevention and Management in Shared Natural Resources***

Physical coexistence on earth inevitably results in the sharing of natural resources, thus, sharing a border may mean shared forests, ecosystems and water resources. However, sharing is not limited to geographical borders. The commons that is earth invariably dictates that all countries and all peoples collectively take part in sharing certain of its natural resources. In doing so, there is a corresponding responsibility to manage them soundly. The increased number and intensity of Disasters currently experienced by the region impact availability and access of natural resources generating resulting in tensions that further highlight the need for sound management of border and other natural resources, through the consideration of key approaches and principles of environmental management and international law. Abstracts under this sub-theme shall consider innovative schemes in the management of shared resources and tools for prevention.

***Procedural sub-themes:***

- ***Environmental Enforcement***

One of the main challenges in the Americas is effective enforcement of the vast legal and institutional framework to guarantee the rule of law. Trends and emerging issues in enforcement should be addressed by abstracts under this sub-theme.

- ***Access Rights: Information, Justice and Process***

Access rights are the cornerstone of the environmental rule of law. Instruments such as the Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Sustainable Development Decision Making and the Bali guidelines have been adopted and applicable in countries of the Americas. Trends and challenges regarding access rights should be addressed in the abstracts under this sub-theme, taking into account the three different adjudication procedures that are central to access to justice in member States<sup>4</sup>: (1) to challenge the refusal of access to information; (2) to seek prevention and/or damages for environmentally harmful activities; and (3) to enforce environmental laws directly.”<sup>4</sup>

The abstracts should be submitted by **(February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015)**. The submissions will be reviewed by an expert committee. Articles based on the selected abstracts shall be submitted for presentation during a thematic session of the Congress, and subsequently published in a law review that will be created for the Congress. Abstract

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<sup>4</sup> Ved P. Nanda and George Pring, *International Environmental Law & Policy for the 21st Century* (2003), §2.2.1.3 at 52.



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must be submitted electronically to (sustainable\_development@oas.org) and should be entitled: ***Inter-American Congress on the Environmental Rule of Law Submission on: (sub-theme)***.

Articles should be submitted prior to the Congress for presentation and no later than (**March 1, 2015**). Final versions for editorial and publication process should be submitted by (**April 15, 2015**). Participation of authors of selected abstracts in the Congress will be sponsored by the organizers.

### **Layout and format for abstracts**

Authors are kindly requested to adhere to the following rules:

- Work should be word-processed and be double spaced with minimum margins of 2.5cm all round
- Word-processed work should be left-justified
- Indent the first line of each paragraph or leave a space between paragraphs
- The font size used should be '12'
- Abstracts should be written in Times New Roman 12.
- Abstracts should be of no more than 320 words;
- The electronic file should be Word readable;
- Key words (3-7);
- A note about the author of max. 80 words;
- A statement about the originality, of the idea and how it will illustrate the hemispheric trend on the theme.

### **Layout and format for Article**

- Work should be word-processed and be double spaced with minimum margins of 2.5cm all round
- Word-processed work should be left-justified
- Indent the first line of each paragraph or leave a space between paragraphs
- Number the pages consecutively in the top right hand corner
- The font size used should be '12'
- Articles should be written in Times New Roman 12, single space.
- Articles should be no more than 9000 words long (including footnotes).
- The electronic file should be Word readable.

Moreover each article should have:

1. Key words (3-7);
2. Abstract of max. 80 words;
3. A summary of max. 250 words;
4. A note about the author of max. 80 words;
5. A statement about the originality, authorship of the article indicating that it was not published earlier.

Receipt of proposals submitted will be acknowledged. If a reply is not received within a week then the proposal was not received. We suggest, then, to look for an alternative electronic route or resend.