

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ESIL INTEREST GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS 2022/23

Coordinating Committee: Prof. Belen Olmos Giupponi (Kingston University), Dr. Emanuela Orlando (Sussex University) and Dr. Mara Tignino (University of Geneva).

The Interest Group on Business and Human Rights (IG BHR) is pleased to submit this report to our members and stakeholders. The membership of the IG BHR counts 396 members at the time of writing this Report.

## 1. Activities during 2022

The main activity of the IG in 2022 was the organisation of the annual workshop in the framework of the ESIL annual conference on In/Exclusiveness of International Law, which took place in Utrecht in September 2022. The workshop, on the theme of In/Exclusiveness Through the Lens of International Business and Human Rights, was delivered in hybrid format and was very well attended. We thank all the participants, and particularly our speakers: Professor Larry Catá Backer (Pennsylvania State University), who opened the workshop; Andy Symington, Dr. Nicolas Bueno, Dr. Isidore Ngueuleu, Sek Lun Cheong, Samantha Hopkins, Prof. Miharu Hirano, Tsubasa Shinohara, Stefania di Stefano, Prof. Laurence R. Helfer, Prof. Molly K. Land, Prof. Tim R Samples, Katherine Ireland Kuiper, and Caroline Kraczon.

## 2. Activities during 2023

In 2023, we worked on the organisation of the annual workshop of the IG, which took place in Aix-en-Provence on the 30 August 2023 in occasion of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the European Society of International Law. The workshop was delivered in hybrid format and was well attended both in person and online. In line with the theme of the ESIL Annual Conference, which this year focussed on the question ‘Is international Law Fair?’, the theme of the workshop was ‘Fairness in International Law of Business and Human Rights’. In that framework, the workshop featured several interesting presentations which explored the question of fairness in international business and human rights law through different perspectives, including as a cross-cutting general principle, with specific respect to questions of companies’ due diligence and corporate accountability and liability, and as a procedural principle in public interest and environmental litigation. We would like to take this occasion to thank again the participants and particularly our speakers: Nico Krisch (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies) for delivering the opening presentation; Jannika Jahn (Max Planck Institute of Comparative Public Law and International Law); Inbal Djalovski (Office of Prosecutor, International Criminal Court); Giuseppe Corsaro (University of Catania); Alessandra De Tommaso (Middlesex University); Omer Erkut Bulut (King’s College London); Raas Nabel (Research Society of International Law); Izabela Schiffauer (Adam Mickiewicz University); Alina Gentimir and Ada-Iuliana Popescu (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University); and Maciej Gajos (University of Wroclaw).

After the workshop we discussed different possibility for publication of papers, including with the ESIL Papers series.

### 3. Agenda for the remaining of 2023

Since the workshop in September 2023, we are currently focussing on the following priorities:

- Organisation of the 2024 annual workshop in occasion of the ESIL Annual Conference which will have the theme ‘Technological Change and International Law’.
- Support Members’ activities in the field of Business and Human Rights. In terms of prospective activities, we would also like to sponsor a workshop during 2024.
- Increasing the visibility of the IG BHR by using social media platforms such as Twitter for the posting of news and events. We will maintain the blog updated and open to members suggestions.
- Following the meeting with the Board, when data about members become available we would like to increase participation and representation of colleagues in the IG BHR.

### 4. Members’ Queries and Participation

We welcome proposals from our Members for the organisation of conferences, seminar, research fora and other similar events concerning Business and Human Rights generally. If you have any other queries or any of the members of our IG would like to make any proposals in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Members of the Coordinating Committee by email:

- Dr. Mara Tignino: [Mara.Tignino@unige.ch](mailto:Mara.Tignino@unige.ch)
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We also decided to open the website of the IG BHR for participation from our members. We welcome contributions in the form of short blog pieces, book reviews, reports from conferences, research seminars, and other similar items which will be posted on <https://igbusinessandhumanrights.wordpress.com/>