



International Business
and Human Rights
Interest Group



Sustainability, Business & Human Rights: Evolutions from Soft to Hard Law

ESIL Research Forum 2026 – Kraków, 9-10 April 2026
‘Sustainable International Law – Reconciling Stability and Change’
Pre-Forum Workshop
7 April 2026
09:00-12:00 BST (online)

Programme

09:00–09:05 Welcome

Panel I Evaluating the trajectory of sustainability and international law

Moderator: Belén Olmos Giupponi

09:05–09:40 Judith Bauder, European University Institute, PhD researcher
‘Translating the rights and obligations protected under the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive for corporations’

09:40–10:15 Xuan Shao, University of Bristol, Lecturer in law
‘Critical minerals, supply chain governance, and the geoeconomic turn: Sustainability as the new frontier of investment law’s “civilizing mission”?’

Panel II Evaluating the actors and mechanisms shaping international law

Moderators: Cristina Elena Popa Tache and Nina M Hart

10:15–10:50 Otgontuya Davaanyam, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, Postdoctoral researcher
‘From soft guidance to authoritative governance: The normative ambiguity of OECD national contact points in business & human rights’

10:50–11:25 Bilge Erbaş, Istanbul University, PhD researcher
‘Hardening of soft law through interpretation: The role of the World Bank Inspection Panel’

11:25–12:00 Asude Oruklu, University of Padua, PhD researcher
‘From soft governance to hard effects: The regulatory power of non-judicial grievance mechanisms in addressing harassment in global supply chains’

12:00–12:05 Closing remarks

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86907468832?pwd=182wbafI8UO7r85N0dsO0TqqdMGuLr.1>

IG Convenors: Nina M Hart, Belén Olmos Giupponi, Cristina Elena Popa Tache