



**NOVA  
UNIVERZA**

## ***Conference on Climate Change, Business and Human Rights***

**Monday, 15 September 2025**

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**Nova univerza**

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**Jože Pučnik Lecture Hall**

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**Mestni trg 23, 1000 Ljubljana**



**Sofinancira  
Evropska unija**

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

**New University, ARIS Project on Corporate accountability, human rights and climate change, and Jean Monnet Module Dialogues on EU Business and Human Rights Law**

cordially invite you to an international scientific conference dedicated to Climate Change, Business and Human Rights. A detailed program of the conference is attached below.

The conference will take place at the New University in Ljubljana on 15 September 2025.

Please confirm your attendance at the conference no later than Thursday, 11 September at: [pr@nova-uni.si](mailto:pr@nova-uni.si).

With best wishes,

Professor Jernej Letnar Čerňič

Faculty of Government and  
European Studies, New University

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## **Objectives of the conference**

Climate change has, over the decades, negatively affected the socio-economic livelihoods of ordinary rights-holders. Through climate change, business activities have negatively impacted individual enjoyment of civil and political rights. Rights-holders have been struggling to bring successful actions against businesses for the negative effects of climate change on their enjoyment of human rights. The domestic systems often do not provide individuals with direct and practical avenues to bring cases against businesses for human rights abuses related to climate change. Only a few domestic systems offer such possibilities at judicial or quasi-judicial levels. Only a little resort is also found in regional systems, making positive reform in domestic systems necessary. However, where can rights-holders enforce accountability for the negative impacts of climate change and business-related human rights abuses? How can they establish corporate accountability for business-related human rights abuses due to climate change? States in the Global North have increasingly accepted at least partial responsibility for climate change.

On the other hand, major businesses have been reluctant to assume at least part of the responsibility. As such, apart from a few cases in some national jurisdiction and regional courts, climate change victims have been unable to effectively enforce corporate accountability for business-related human rights abuses in domestic, regional, and international systems. Climate change litigation can bring about other positive effects in prevention and respect for human rights, thereby triggering climate change mitigating policy and reform of normative frameworks. Access to justice for business-related human rights violations has been one of the most difficult challenges in business and human rights.

The Ljubljana conference will, therefore, explore the viability of strengthening domestic and international legal orders for corporate accountability for adverse human rights impact due to climate change. It aims to critically study the existing normative frameworks for access to remedies in various legal regimes both at the domestic level, regional level in the European Union's legal system, and internationally within the UN and other normative systems. As such, the conference will critically analyse current access to remedy structures for corporate human rights accountability for climate change and explore models for reform.

The conference will occur on Monday, 15 September 2025, between 9:00 and 16:45 at New University, Mestni trg 23, Ljubljana, Slovenia.



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Conference: Monday, 15 September 2025

## PROGRAM

9:00–9:15

### Introduction and Setting the Scene: Slovenia, Climate Change, Business and Human Rights

Prof. dr. Jernej Letnar Čerňič, Nova univerza

09:15–10:45

### Panel 1: Climate Change, Compliance, Due Diligence, and Legal Frameworks

**Monika Feigerlová** (Czech Academy of Sciences/Charles University): *Corporate carbon offsetting: A path to climatewashing?*

**Azra Bećirović** (Sustineri Partners (Sarajevo)/New University – European Faculty of Law): *Biodiversity as a Due Diligence Obligation: Bridging Voluntary Frameworks and Legal Accountability through TNFD, GBF and Emerging HREDD Laws*

**Bruna Singh** (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Nuremberg/Erlangen): *The Duty to Influence: Rethinking Business Responsibility through the Leverage Assessment Matrix*

Moderator: Gorazd Justinek (Nova univerza)

10:45–11:15

Coffee break

11:15–12:45

### Panel 2: International and European Normative Frameworks, Climate Change and Corporate Responsibility

**Eoin Jackson** (London School of Economics): *The Role of UN Special Procedures in Shaping Corporate Climate Responsibilities: Toward a Normative Consensus on Corporate Climate Accountability under International Human Rights Law?*

**Karmen Lutman** (University of Ljubljana): *Remedies for Greenwashing in European Private Law: The Right Tools for Achieving Sustainability in the EU?*

**Giuseppe Di Vetta** (Sant'Anna School) & **Benedetta Pattera** (University of Pisa): *The Interplay between ECD and Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence to Strengthen Corporate Criminal Liability in Environmental Offences*





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Moderator: Anja Strojin Štampar (Nova univerza)

12:45–14:00

Lunch

14:00–15:00

### Panel 3: Corporate Practices and Responses to Sustainability and Climate Change Challenges

**Elena Plotnikova** (Jyväskylä University): *Powering up Sustainability in SMEs: the role of Business Development Services and Stakeholder Cooperation in enhancing sustainability due diligence*

**Jaime Villeta García** (University of Barcelona): *Puerto Rico's Coast: Preservation through Positive Obligations on Property Owners and the State in the Context of Climate Change*

Moderator: Jure Andolšek (Univerza v Ljubljani)

15:00–16:30

### Panel 4: Climate Change, Financial Institutions, and Courts

**Aylin Yildiz Noorda** (Lisbon Public Law Research Centre, University of Lisbon): *When Balance Sheets Pollute: Litigating the Climate Change-Related Human Rights Impacts of Financial Institutions*

**Socheata Sao** (Royal University of Law and Economics, Cambodia): *Assessing the Effectiveness of Independent Accountability Mechanisms in Addressing Corporate Environmental and Social Harm: A Case Study of the Office of Compliance Advisor Ombudsman of the IFC*

**Enikő Krajnyák** (University of Miskolc, Hungary): *The Role of Corporations in Human Rights-based Climate Litigation: Lessons from the Inter-American Court*

Moderator: Katja Hančič Mlinarič (Nova univerza)

16:30–16:45

Conclusion



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