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**AMITY SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW**  
**(ASIL)**

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**CONCEPT NOTE**

**2<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
INTERNATIONAL LAW PERSPECTIVES ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**9<sup>TH</sup> October 2015**



**ABOUT AMITY LAW SCHOOL, DELHI:**

The Amity Law School Delhi has the unique distinction of being the first Law School in Delhi/NCR to start a 5-year integrated LL.B (H) programme. The Law School was established under the Ritnand Balved Education Foundation (RBEF) to achieve world- class legal education in the country. Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan, the Founder President of the Law School is a great philanthropist and a man of extraordinary vision. His vision has been translated into practical reality through the establishment of various educational institutions and universities including the Amity Law School. His vision for the Law School is to provide excellence in legal education and to produce quality lawyers with good moral principles and great human values. The Amity Law School Delhi has been consistently ranked as one of the top Law School in the Country. The law school offers five year integrated BA, LL.B. (H) degree at graduate level.

**ABOUT AMITY SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW:**

Amity Society for International Law (ASIL) was established in 2014 with 6 founding members under the college's International Law Students Associations (ILSA) Chapter. ASIL was established with the purpose of promotion of research and study in International Law. International Law has a growing role in the modern legal world and it is not that well known and recognized in India. To further its objective, the founding members of ASIL organized the First Annual International Conference on challenges before International Law. The conference witnessed participation of delegates from 10 different countries and was supported by ICRC(International Community for Red Cross Society), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and Chartered Institute for Arbitrators(CIARD). ASIL's main objective through this conference and subsequent conferences happening annually is to ensure proper nurturing of interest and subsequent research into International Law.

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## **Background**

### **Turning the Key: the Challenge of Implementation in a Post-2015 Development Agenda**

Governments and international organizations across the world have made significant and widespread progress in engineering policies and frameworks to meet burgeoning social, economic and environmental needs. Development approaches have been tested in a global context where implementation modalities contend with a dense and complicated socio-political structure, pressed by multiple crises and instabilities such as the economic downturn, food insecurity, disasters linked to extreme weather events and climate change and the impacts of population dynamics.

Looking ahead, the debate for a post-2015 development framework will need to balance globally agreed, locally actionable goals with implementation approaches that move policy to actualization.

### **Millennium Development Goals and Other Implementation Frameworks in Mentoring a Successor Development Agenda**

In order for the post-2015 development to have any meaningful impact, it is important to take stock of the lessons learned from implementing existing frameworks that have been shaped by the global development stakeholders.

#### **The Millennium Development Goals**

The MDGs have been a driving force in mobilizing global attention, resources and modalities to accelerate the implementation of the agreed targets. The MDGs provided a clear and concise template with the Millennium Declaration setting the guiding principles.

#### **Parallel Initiatives**

Parallel discussions have been held on critical issues of finance (Monterrey Consensus), integrating sustainability (Rio+20), harmonizing approaches (Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action), forging commitments to shape the overall context for international development (Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation) and meeting the

specific needs and contexts of developing countries (Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs; and the New Deal for fragile states).

### Critical Gaps

A new agenda should build on the strengths of the MDGs and other implementation formats while also making refinements and additions that help trace an even more relevant outline towards sustainable human development.

The architects of the post-2015 framework will face a number of conceptual and methodological challenges. The MDGs played a major role in galvanizing actors around a common and meaningful set of common goals, but the focus must now move us towards the world we want.

In areas such as poverty, health, and education, which were covered by the MDGs, there is a need to revisit targets and indicators to ensure that they can be relevant for all regions and countries, and within countries; that they capture not only quantitative information but qualitative, too; and that they monitor not only aggregate data but also disaggregated data which can bring inequalities of all kinds into view.

Areas which were at the heart of the Millennium Declaration also need to be better reflected in the next global development framework, including issues of governance, voice and participation, peace, security, and national self-determination; and a fuller embrace of gender equality and women's empowerment. Looking ahead to implementation, a debate is needed to contribute more to the definition of policy that enables a focus on the achievement of priorities for a post-2015 development agenda. Development cannot be achieved by governments alone. Sustainable human development requires the joint efforts of all stakeholders – nationally, regionally, and globally.

## Context

### Deliberations for Post-2015 Agenda

#### The Process to Date

The post-2015 agenda is driven by the search for a successor framework to the MDGs and the follow-up to the Rio+20 conferences on Sustainable Development, where the decision was taken to negotiate concrete SDGs. There are a number of different processes providing input into the post-2015 dialogue.

- The Sustainable Development Goals Open Working Group (OWG), established in response to recommendations from Rio+20, will present its final recommendations to the UN General Assembly in September 2015.
- The Expert Committee on Sustainable Development Financing has also convened and will likely deliver a report and recommendations in time for the September 2015 General Assembly.
- The Sustainable Development Solutions Network released a report on 7 May 2013 entitled “An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development.”
- The High Level Panel on a post-2015 development agenda released its final report entitled “A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development,” in May 2013.
- The UN Global Compact (UNGC) released a report on 17 June 2013 entitled “Corporate Sustainability and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda.”
- The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) has led over 88 national consultations in Member States; eleven thematic consultations on issues such as inequalities, food security, and access to water; and through online platforms such as the World We Want 2015 Website and the MY World survey, people are able to continue to contribute their ideas and articulate their priorities. To date over 1 million people have been engaged in the dialogue. While a final synthesis report will be released in time for the September 2013 General Assembly, an initial document was released on 20 March 2013 entitled “The Global Conversation Begins.”

These consultations are generating dialogue around priorities for the new development agenda. While in many cases efforts were made to keep the focus on ‘issues’ and the rationale for their inclusion in a new development framework, those engaged in the consultations have consistently moved the discussions into more operational debates.

### **Emerging Implementation Priorities**

Defining the post-2015 implementation agenda can use the MDGs as a starting point. The MDGs had important implications on development investment and the conditions and incentives for governments to increase their capacity to deliver on them, and as a point for advocacy for dialogue with governments and donors.

What has emerged from the deliberations to date is the view that all development is interconnected. In particular the next development framework must reflect the interdependencies of social, economic, and environmental sustainability. This is of critical importance as the post-2015 and SDGs processes begin to come together as one.

At the national level, questions around partnership and the revision of MDG 8 have surfaced across Asia in many countries as they have transnational cooperation issues such as global trade and the role of the private sector among others.

In Africa more than half of the national consultations have included discussions around the ‘means of implementation.’ Several of the thematic discussions included operational aspects in their discussions, such as finance (Education and Growth and Employment consultations), accountability mechanisms (Governance consultation), among others.

Most thematic consultations have addressed measurement issues in some form or another in the course of their 2013 engagement.

The Co-Chairs of the OWG have provided remarks on how to build data and statistical capacities along with the financing issues in thematic areas such as social protection and education. The OWG will continue to discuss ‘means of implementation’ in December 2013 with a special focus on science and technology, knowledge sharing and capacity building, and a global partnership for achieving sustainable development, in addition to relevant discussions on the thematic areas in the course of their work.

The High Level Panel report has included various ideas and references on the implementation of the Post 2015 agenda, including a call for a revolution in data and effective monitoring and accountability systems.

## **Objectives and Outcomes of the Conference**

Against this backdrop, there is a need to gather all these implementation concerns and channel thinking about “how” the post-2015 agenda is going to be implemented. As highlighted, the ongoing business of MDGs implementation is a departure point to consider other development processes and commitments, their implementation bottlenecks and the lessons learned from their execution. Factors such as political will; institutional and systemic capacity at global and local levels; financing for development; partnerships and cooperation challenges; and widening the window of opportunity for the inclusion of technology, knowledge and innovation applications can all be deliberated.

## **Objectives**

The second International conference on International Law Perspectives on Sustainable Development Goals is a forum to submit additional evidence and analysis for continuing the discussion on how to better design key building blocks of the post-2015 framework implementation. The conference will serve as a stock-taking and analytic exercise and an opportunity to discuss the means of implementation based on the lessons learned from predecessor frameworks including the MDGs and other international development processes.

The conference aims to:

- Provide space for a diverse range of leading stakeholders (governmental and non-governmental) to voice their expert opinions, proposals, analysis and aspirations for the implementation of the post- 2015 development agenda;
- Help defining specific sectoral concerns and how they contribute to the overall framework for the discussions how to implement the post-2015 development agenda.



**Structure of the Conference:**

<b>9TH OCTOBER, 2015</b>	
<b>10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM</b>	Inauguration of the conference.
<b>11:00 AM TO 11:30 AM</b>	Tea.
<b>11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM</b>	Plenary session
<b>1:30 PM TO 2:00 PM</b>	Lunch.
<b>Technical session-1</b>	
<b>2:00-3:00</b>	I. Parallel session-1 on “Legal Analysis of United Nations Development Goals”.
	II. Parallel session-2 on “Implementation of United Nations Development Goals”.
<b>Technical Session – 2</b>	
<b>3:00 PM TO 4:00 PM</b>	I. Parallel session-3 on “Role of International Environmental Law
	II. Parallel session-4 on “Role of International Trade Law
<b>4:00PM TO 5:00PM</b>	Valedictory Ceremony

## **Theme of the conference**

The theme of the conference will focus upon the International Law Perspectives on Sustainable Development Goals.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda will build on the progress achieved through the MDGs: eight goals established after the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000. At the same time, it will address persistent issues and new challenges facing people and the planet. The MDGs faced criticism for not sufficiently covering the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and for not addressing interlink ages between its three dimensions. Instead of addressing the dimensions of sustainable development separately the SDGs are expected to adopt an approach that fully integrates the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The conference will be giving a forum for facilitating the discussion on the development for post 2015 agenda. The proposed themes for four session of the conference will be:

### **III. LEGAL ANALYSIS OF UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

- Inclusion
- Accountability
- Health & Nutrition, Gender Equality and Employment
- Tracing the Development of MDGs – Domestic Legal Approach
- Intergovernmental view on implementation and present state of SDGs (Transnational Cooperation) and how to develop sustainable model on the International Front.

### **IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

- Role of international law and International institutions in developing post 2015 agenda.
- Sustainable development model in developing countries vs. developed countries - Comparative Law Approach.
- Sustainable development and inclusion of fragile states- International. Humanitarian law and international institutions.

- Participation of non state actors/youth in giving innovative solutions for implementation of SDGs.
- Reasons for non-compliance of MDGs and Legal barriers in implementation of SDGs.

#### **IV. ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**

- International legal framework to curb human induced climate change
- Ensuring sustainable energy through effective implementation of laws.
- International legal governance for conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- Creating International Law for taking urgent action to curb environmental change and its impacts.

#### **V. ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW**

- Role of trade and trade law in developing post 2015 agenda.
- International Trade Policy and its role in implementation of SDGs
- Conflict between International Trade Law and SDGs
- International Trade Law Framework to finance the SDGs.

**Note:** These sub-themes are indicative in nature and proposals are welcome on any related topic to the identified theme.

### **Call for papers**

Academicians, Professionals, Research Scholars, Advocates, NGOs and Students are invited to submit their abstracts and full papers to the convener of the seminar. Abstract should not be more than 300 words and full papers not exceeding 5000 words to the organizing committee on or before 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015 on alsdasil@amity.edu. Co-authors are allowed up to two.

## Paper Submission

### Abstract Submission

The author(s)/researcher(s) have to submit the abstract by the stipulated date. Based on the abstract, the author(s)/researcher(s) will be informed about the selection and will be asked to submit the full paper. The Abstract should include:

1. Title of the Abstract and Theme
2. Name, Designation and Institution of Author(s)/Researcher(s), Email, Contact number
3. Abstract (Issues, Methodology, Value-addition and Usefulness of the research)
4. The Abstract limit is up to 300 words. It must be typewritten in the Times New Roman, 12 Points, Line Spacing: 1.5 and justified alignment. No Footnotes shall be provided in the abstract.
5. Key words (5-6)
6. All abstracts are to be submitted at [alsdasil@amity.edu](mailto:alsdasil@amity.edu) in .doc or .docx format with the subject titled as 'ABSTRACT: YOUR NAME(s) AND COLLEGE.'

### Full Paper

The selected author(s)/researcher(s) will have to submit full paper by the stipulated date. The paper should have the cover page that will include:

1. Title of the paper
2. Theme
3. The **Final Paper** shall be **not less than 3500 words** and **not more than 5000 words** and must be typewritten in the **Times New Roman, 12 Points**, Line Spacing: **1.5** and justified alignment. All footnotes shall be in in the **Times New Roman, 10 Points**, Line Spacing: **1** and justified alignment.
4. Name, Designation and Institution of Author(s)/Researcher(s), Email, Contact number
5. All full papers are to be submitted at [alsdasil@amity.edu](mailto:alsdasil@amity.edu) in .doc or .docx format with the subject titled as '**FULL PAPER: YOUR NAME(s) & COLLEGE**' respectively.

**Citation Method Review of Abstracts and Full Papers**

1. Submissions shall be reviewed by a distinguished panel of impartial judges and academicians. Submissions will be judged anonymously.
2. The submissions must be original and unpublished works of the authors. They should not be under consideration for publication elsewhere.
3. Plagiarism of any nature will attract immediate disqualification.
4. The contributions presented to and accepted for publication and the copyrights therein shall be the intellectual property of the Amity Law Review and Amity Law School, Delhi.
5. The organizers reserve the right to reject entries that do not conform to the aforesaid rules.

Every paper should follow the Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA) for footnotes style. The citation method is available at:

[http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/published/OSCOLA\\_Quick\\_Reference\\_Guide\\_001.pdf](http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/published/OSCOLA_Quick_Reference_Guide_001.pdf)

**Publication:**

Amity Law School Delhi publishes its bi-annual, student-edited, peer-reviewed law journal titled 'The ALSJ Student Journal.' Selected Papers would be published in the Journal. Along with the student journal the papers will be published in a book having an ISBN number, containing the papers from the conference; Our College has published several books in the same regard with respect to other conferences such as Corporate Governance, The book containing the papers from the conference in 2014 and Election Law Conference.

## Registration Fees

<b>REGISTRATION FEES</b>	
Academician/Lawyers/NGOs	1000/-
Research Scholar	750/-
Students*	500/-
Observers/participants**	350
*separate registration of the co-author.	
** Participants will be provided conference kits, certificates and food.	

## Important Dates:

- Abstract Submission *along with short bio and research credentials*- 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015
- Notification of Selection- 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015
- Submission of Final Paper- 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 along with registration form and DD.
- Dates of the conference-09<sup>th</sup> October 2015

## Mode of Payment

The delegates may send demand drafts in favor of **Amity Law School, Delhi payable at Delhi.**

The confirmation after the payment of the fee should be sent by mail to the convener. Details regarding the bank transfer will be mailed to the selected participants upon acceptance of the abstract.

**Resource Persons and Collaboration:**

The conference will be guided by resource persons having experience and expertise in matters relating to international law such legal professionals, academicians, institutional experts, and members of international organizations.

Through mutually collaborating with these experts and professionals we seek to disseminate Knowledge, views and opinions about the critically influential field of international law and shower light upon the present and future aspects relating to the same.

**CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

**Chief Patron:** Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan

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