كلية القانون
College of Law
QATAR UNIVERSITY جامعة قطر

CLD
مركز القانون والتنمية
CENTRE FOR LAW & DEVELOPMENT

Centre for Law and Development (CLD) at the College of Law:

Main achievements
for the Academic Year 2020-2021

Centre for Law and Development (CLD) at the College of Law: Main achievements for the Academic Year 2020-2021

GRANTS ACHIEVED

The center received the following main grants in 2020-2021 AY:

1. **Jean Monnet Module Grant from the European Commission.**

"Doha Courses on European Union Law" – the first Jean Monnet Module in Qatar and the region
Module objectives:

- The Module delivers tailor-made courses on specific European Union law issues relevant for graduates in their professional life. The Module will deliver 40 teaching hours per academic year in EU Law, requiring the academic input of several professors and experts. The Module components focus firstly on the introduction to the European Union's legal history and institutions, and secondly on legal areas where the European Union plays a leading role.
- The Module seeks to foster the publication and dissemination of academic research in EU Law, and to create interest in the EU amongst students in Qatar.

Module Outcomes:

- The Module aims to promote research skills and knowledge in the field of international organizations and integration using the European Union as a model, environmental protection, and human rights, which are key pillars of Qatar National Vision 2030.
- The Module helps Qatar-based lawyers develop skills and knowledge in EU Law so that local businesses and organizations are better equipped to trade with EU companies and deal with EU institutions.
- The Module aims to create interest in the European Union and to constitute the basis for future poles of European knowledge and research, particularly in Partner Countries, including the State of Qatar.
- Finally, the Monnet Module will promote the role of Qatar University as a source of expertise to serve the nation's needs, strengthening local, regional, and international partnerships in strategic areas and be a catalyst development of Qatar.

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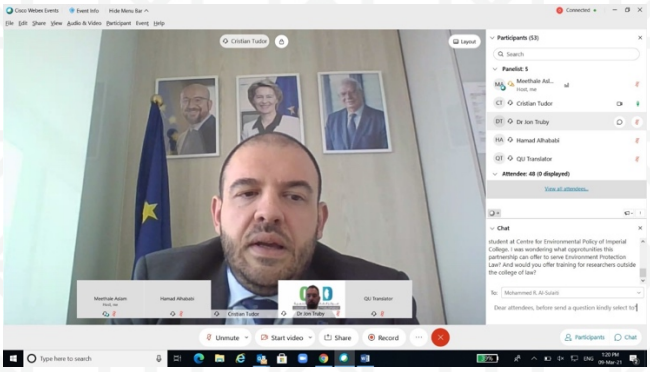
Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

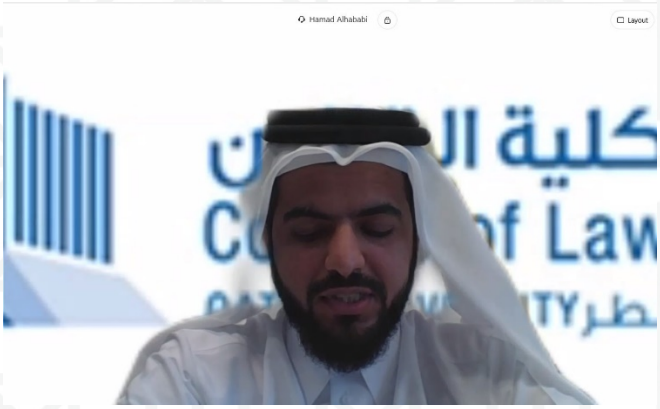
Jean Monnet team: Professor Benedict Chigara; Dr. Francis Botchway; Dr. Ioannis Konstantinidis. Dr. Rafael brown; Dr. Jon Trub.

Events

Kick-off meeting for Jean Monnet module grant between CLD, November. 26, 2020

official launch of the Jean Monnet module at Qatar university 9th of March 2021





The Inaugural Launch disseminated in various media mainly The Peninsula ; Gulf Times; Doha News and Qatar Newswire.

Jean Monnet student policy briefs published on CLD website

Description

- The principal objective of this fellowship is identify recommendations for non-Arctic actors engaged in resource development in the Arctic from the perspective of Indigenous Peoples in the context of a panel.

Outcome

- Presentation entitled: Arctic Indigenous Communities and Antarctic Icebergs as Subjects of Inter-Legality

The center continued delivering on its existing main grants in 2020-2021 AY:

1. **NPRP-C: A Secure End-to-End Blockchain-Based Solution to Finance Trade: The Legal, Technological, and Economic Framework.**

Financial technologies (FinTech) are expected to revolutionize the banking industry and help overcome inherent hurdles in the current finance-related processes. As an example, conventional trade finance processes (e.g., Letter of Credit) continue to be a resource-intensive operation due to the physical exchange and scrutiny of trade-related documents that are vulnerable to fraudulent activities. Bank settlements and fulfillment of financial obligations are also time consuming locking up the working capital of banks and businesses alike. Moreover, the lack of transparency and interoperability between different trade partners impedes the banks' ability to detect malicious behavior in the financial ecosystem. The FinTech industry duly proclaims that the blockchain technology can address many of these inefficiencies. It is also expected to enable the creation of innovative financial services through the integration of data flows and processes across various stakeholders. Realizing the legal and security challenges that this disruptive technology presents, QCB in collaboration with QDB, recently assembled a FinTech taskforce to explore the full potential of Blockchain technology. The taskforce aims at creating a FinTech ecosystem to host startups and FinTech companies to operate in Qatar under QFCRA. A blockchain sandbox will be established under the governance of the Central Bank to help companies experiment with FinTech utilities endorsed by stakeholders of the FinTech taskforce. The key applications of interest include trade, payment, and commerce.

الصندوق القطري لرعاية البحث العلمي
Qatar National Research Fund

2. **NPRP-S: Fintech and Regtech: Building a resilient, inclusive and competitive legal and regulatory framework for 21st century finance in Qatar.**

   Developing the legal infrastructure around blockchain in the financial services sector
   Financial technologies (FinTech) are expected to revolutionize the banking industry and help overcome inherent hurdles in the current finance-related processes. As an example, conventional trade finance processes (e.g., Letter of Credit) continue to be a resource-intensive operation due to the physical exchange and scrutiny of trade-related documents that are vulnerable to fraudulent activities. Bank settlements and fulfillment of financial obligations are also time consuming locking up the working capital of banks and businesses alike. Moreover, the lack of transparency and interoperability between different trade partners impedes the banks' ability to detect malicious behavior in the financial ecosystem. The FinTech industry duly proclaims that the blockchain technology can address many of these inefficiencies. It is also expected to enable the creation of innovative financial services through the integration of data flows and processes across various stakeholders. Realizing the legal and security challenges that this disruptive technology presents, QCB in collaboration with QDB, recently assembled a FinTech taskforce to explore the full potential of Blockchain technology. The taskforce aims at creating a FinTech ecosystem to host startups and FinTech companies to operate in Qatar under QFCRA. A blockchain sandbox will be established under the governance of the Central Bank to help companies experiment with FinTech utilities endorsed by stakeholders of the FinTech taskforce. The key applications of interest include trade, payment, and commerce.

3. **NPRP: Dangerous Driving Behavior Interventions Through the Usage of Telematics Data: Application to Young Drivers in Qatar**

   It is a well-established fact that the number one cause of death in male youths around the ages of 15 – 29 is road accidents globally. Youth are well known to be aggressive behind wheels. Today, almost everyone uses a smart hand phone, especially youths. These smarts phones are equipped with accurate built-in GPS and are portable telematics devices. Based on the above literature, the main aim of this study is to demonstrate that telematics devices with proper feedback mechanism (protocols) can be used as a mean of direct intervention to reduce risky driving behavior amongst young adult drivers in Qatar. The feedback mechanism will be customized for each driver based on risk profiling through obtained telematics data. Artificial intelligent will be designed in the feedback mechanism to provide such customized feedback. The secondary aim will be to create indirect interventions through the usage of telematics data for traffic violations citations and UBI without infringing data security and privacy. Here changes to existing national policies (Qatar) will be proposed. In general the project has three dimensions (1) Scientific – module development for existing mobile/smartphone application, (2) social sciences in using telematics devices for direct behavior interventions and (3) legal from the perspective of using telematics devices for traffic violations and usage based insurance.

The center also applied to the following Grants:

1. <u>High Impact Grant (HIG) - Cycle 05 & NPRP14S-0324-210090: Regulating artificial intelligence in Qatar</u>

   Description

- The projects are directly in alignment with the needs identified in Qatar's National AI Strategy (noted above), Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV) and the priority pillars contained in the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) National Priorities Research Program (NPRP) call for proposal (13th cycle). The projects address two of the five 'Grand Challenges for Qatar' embodied in QNV 2030. Specifically (1) modernization and preservation of traditions, and (2) balancing the needs of this generation and the needs of future generations. The Projects are also aligned to NPRP-S 'Priority Pillars' under the Social Science, Arts and Humanities Pillar, and particularly under 4.3. 'Economic Diversification and Sustainability'. Specifically, the projects contributes to economic diversification and sustainability in Qatar by: i. Addressing the impact of AI on public and private organizations and markets; ii. Identifying the risks and opportunities presented by the emergence and adoption of AI; and iii. Proposing legal and regulatory reforms that manage and leverage AI as an emerging technology for the national benefit. Additionally, the projects are aligned with the NPRP-S Social Science, Arts and Humanities Pillar under

4.5 'Lifestyle and Quality of Life' in that the projects aim to explore and propose an AI Ethics and Governance Framework that will support and guide the sustainable growth and use of AI in sectors from medicine, public health and security to public transport, financial services and entertainment. The main objective of the projects is to propose an AI Ethics and Governance Framework that is tailored to Qatari social, cultural, and religious norms and traditions, while also aligned with international standards. The secondary objective is examining data protection regulations in Qatar.

2. Collaborative Grant Cycle: Enhancing the Governance of Qatar's Transboundary Aquifers Description

- The main goals of the projects are to ensure the good management of selected transboundary aquifers shared between Qatar and the rest of the countries of the Gulf Region. These aquifers are 1) Umm er Radhuma Aquifer, shared between Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and 2) Dammam Aquifer, shared between Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Each of these aquifers has its own set of challenges and problems preventing its good governance. This project is aiming at addressing these challenges. especially given the absence of transboundary water agreements between Qatar and the countries sharing the aquifers in the selected case studies. Hence, the focus of the project is on understanding the problems and providing solutions that can enhance the management of these transboundary aquifers. These solutions shall be presented to the Qatari government in the form of policy recommendations on the basis of which the government can initiate negotiations with the rest of the nations sharing the aquifers. Moreover, the project shall establish a model agreement that can be used for transboundary groundwater management which the Qatari government can use in the negotiation process. These are the main objectives of this project. To reach the above stated goals, the projects have established partnerships with various colleges and centers at Qatar university mainly the college of engineering and business. Each college and center has a great reputation in the area of transboundary water management as evidenced through the great amount of publications and research projects that have been carried out over the years. The innovative approach in this context is related to the interdisciplinary analysis that shall occur where the Legal/Scientific/Technical Nexus aims at providing an added value through which practical good water management solutions can be established. By doing it this way, researchers can fulfil the objectives of the project while considering various experiences and expertise.

PUBLICATIONS

The center have published numerous articles in Academic Year 2020-2021 including:

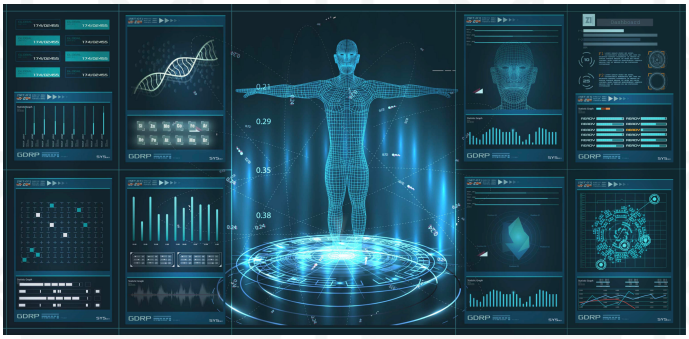
Journal Articles

1. Andrew Dadhal; Jon Truby & Hussam Botosh, Trade Finance in Qatar: Blockchain and Economic Diversification, 14(4) Law and Financial Market Review. 223-236 (2020).
2. Jon Truby & Rafael Brown, Human digital thought clones: the Holy Grail of artificial intelligence for big data, 30(2) Information & Communication Technology Law. 140-168 (2020).
3. Otabek Ismailov, Developing Bilateral Investment Treaties in a Post-COVID19 Era, LEXIS NEXIS / THE QATAR BUSINESS LAW REVIEW (2020).
4. Abdelnaser Zeyad Ali Hayajneh, Law in the Corona and post-Corona Era, Flexibility and Efficiency Test of the Qatari Laws: Horizontal Overview, 24(1) British Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences. 94-107 (2020).
5. Rafael Dean Brown, Challenging the Enforcement of Emergency Arbitrator Decisions, Kilaw (2020).
6. Rafael Brown, Property ownership and the legal personhood of artificial intelligence, 30(2) Information & Communication Technology Law. 208-234 (2021).
7. Imad Antoine Ibrahim, Water as a Human Right, Water as a Commodity: Can SDG6 be a Compromise? The International Journal of Human Rights. (2021).
8. Imad Antoine Ibrahim, Arctic Indigenous Communities and Antarctic Icebergs as Subjects of Inter-legality, 57(1) Stanford Journal of International Law. 105-136 (2021).
9. Imad Antoine Ibrahim, Legal Tools for Addressing Uncertainty and Managing Risks in the Energy Sector: Is There a Role for International Disaster Law?, 14(3) The Journal of World Energy Law & Business. 163-175 (2021).
10. Imad Antoine Ibrahim, Is the Ecosystem Approach Effective in Transboundary Water Systems: Central Asia as a Case Study?, WIREs Water. E1542 (2021).

While the Ecosystem Approach (EA) holds great potential in the management of transboundary rivers, this advanced review examines the difficulties it encounters in practice, especially in the Global South with a case study of Central Asia, and suggest a holistic approach to overcome such obstacles.

11. Jon Truby, Rafael Brown & Imad Antoine Ibrahim, A Sandbox Approach to Regulating High-Risk AIs, European Journal of Risk Regulation (2021) (forthcoming).
12. Imad Antoine Ibrahim & Jon Mark Truby, Governance in the Era of Blockchain Technology in Qatar: A Roadmap and a Manual for Trade Finance, Journal of Banking Regulation (2021) (forthcoming).
13. Imad Antoine Ibrahim, "The Importance of International Corruption Law and International Environmental Law to Achieve SDG16: An Analysis of Global Instruments Addressing Environmental Corruption", Higher Education Policy. (Palgrave Macmillan 2021) (Forthcoming).
14. Imad Antoine Ibrahim, "Overview of Export Restrictions on COVID-19 Vaccines and their Components", 25(10) American Society of International Law (ASIL) Insights. 1-6 (2021), https://www.asil.org/insights/volume/25/issue/10

AI Digital Cloning article



Books and Book Chapter

1. Imad Antoine Ibrahim, Rafael Dean Brown & Jon Mark Truby, BIG DATA ANALYTICS AND ITS IMPACT ON BASIN WATER AGREEMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL WATER LAW: A STUDY OF THE RAMOTSWA AQUIFER (Brill 2021). (Forthcoming).
2. Imad Antoine Ibrahim, International Energy Agency (Kluwer Law International; 2021).
3. Imad Antoine, Ibrahim & Davide Dzopolatto, Greening the Economy for the Sustainability Transition: An International Legal Perspective, THE PALGRAVE HANDBOOK OF CLIMATE RESILIENT SOCIETIES (Robert C. Brears ed., Palgrave Macmillan, 2021) (Forthcoming).
4. Imad Antoine Ibrahim & Paolo Davide Farah, Water-Energy-Food Nexus: A Legal Analysis, in HANDBOOK ON THE WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS (Floor Brower ed., Edward Elgar Publishing, 2021) (forthcoming).

EVENTS

The center have organized the following events in Academic Year 2020-2021:

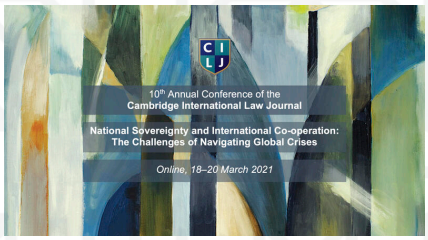
1. 25 November 2020: e-Roundtable: The Impact of Recent Labour Law Reforms on the Economic Development of Qatar.

2. 27 January 2021: Information Session: Jean Monnet Open Day.
3. 9 August 2021: AMCIS 2021 Mini Track: From Regulating Technology to Regulatory Technologies.
4. 1 April 2021: e-Roundtable: Research Outcome Seminar on Fintech'21
5. 8 April 2021: Webinar; The GCC and the 2021 Erasmus+ Jean Monnet call for proposals
6. 25 March 2021: e-Roundtable: Decentralized finance: supporting SME's access to credit in Qatar.

The center have made the following presentations in Academic Year 2020-2021:

1. QU LAWC Research Affairs: CLD Overview and Faculty participation.
2. Jul. 21, 2021: Online international research symposium “Evidence for Action: Aligning the Climate and SDG Agendas” organized by IISD.
3. Jul. 13-15, 2021: The 27th Annual Conference of International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS): Accelerating the Progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in Times of Crisis.
4. June. 28- Jul. 2: 18th Annual Colloquium of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law – “The Future of Environmental Law: Ambition and Reality” organized by the University of Groningen.
5. June. 14, 2021: Small Businesses: Good Food for All – MENA Dialogue conference. Co-convened by the International Chamber of Commerce, African Union and International Agri-Food Network ahead of the UN Food Systems Summit.
6. June. 8, 2021: International Water Resources Association Online Conference “One Water, One Health: Water, Food and Public Health in a Changing World”.
7. May. 28, 2021: The 11th Annual Maritime Law and Policy Postgraduate Research Conference organized by the University of London.
8. Apr. 24, 2021: Teach Me Something Season 01 - Episode 04: “Space Mining”, organized by InterNations Group, Doha, Qatar.
9. Mar. 24, 2021: 115th Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law conference: “Reconceiving International Law: Creativity in Times of Crisis”.

10. Mar. 19, 2021: 10th Annual Cambridge International Law Conference: ‘National Sovereignty and International Co operation: The Challenges of Navigating Global Crises’.



11. Jan. 26, 2021: Early Career and Young Professionals - Transboundary Water Governance in the Arab World Webinar organized by the International Water Resources Association.
12. Jan. 18, 2021: Early Stage Researcher Event: BeComing a Researcher.eu How to make our research impactful?, organize in the context of EnergyShift project.
13. Jan. 9, 2021: Professional Specialization Course in HYDRIC SECURITY organized by United Nations University- Institute for Water, Environment and Health.

14. Dec. 11, 2020: STALS (Sant'Anna Legal Studies) seminars: The Law of the Belt and Road Initiative A Transnational Dialogue.
15. Nov. 12, 2020: Urgenda vs Juliana: Lessons for Future Climate Change Litigations Cases, organized by Faculties of Arts, Languages, Law and Social Sciences at Uppsala University.
16. 28-30th October 2020: BIG DATA IMPACT ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER AGREEMENTS.

New team members in Academic Year 2020-2021

Research Assistant Professor: Imad Antoine Ibrahim

Imad Antoine Ibrahim is a Research Assistant, at the Center for Law and Development (CLD), College of Law, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar. He is also a Research Associate at gLAWcal – Global Law Initiative for Sustainable Development, Essex, United Kingdom and a Non-Resident Research Fellow at the Center for Innovation in Gas Research and Utilization (CIGRU) & Institute of Water Security and Science (IWSS), West Virginia University, United States. He has been working on global environmental issues from a legal perspective and their interplay with other fields such as emerging technologies for the last five to six years where he spent three of them working on European commission projects in China on topics related to Climate change, energy, and environmental protection. He is currently involved in several projects related to natural resources management from a legal perspective and their interconnection with emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Big Data in places such as South Africa, MENA region, Central Asia, and China. Previously, he was a visiting researcher at the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), Washington, DC, United States, a Junior Fellow in the Global Research Network Think Tank, United Kingdom, an Early Stage Researcher at the Dutch Research Institute for Transitions (DRIFT), Rotterdam, the Netherlands, a resident research fellow at the Center for United Nations Constitutional Research – CUNCR, Brussels, Belgium, an Energy policy expert at the Lebanese Oil & Gas Initiative – LOGI, Beirut Lebanon, an EU commission Marie Curie Fellow at Tsinghua University School of Law, THCEREL—Center for Environmental, Natural Resources & Energy Law, at the CRAES—Chinese Research Academy on Environmental Sciences in Beijing (China) and at the Business School, Research Center for Climate Change and Trade and at Beijing Normal University. He also worked as a researcher in several European and Italian institutes and universities such as the University Institute of European Studies (IUSE) and Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale, Novara. Imad was a trainee lawyer at the Jad Law Firm reviewing international conventions related to conventional energy. He holds a Phd in Law from the Institute of Law, Politics and Development (DIRPOLIS), Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Italy; a master in European Interdisciplinary Studies, from the College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium, and a Bachelor in Law from the Lebanese University "Filiere Francophone de Droit", Beirut, Lebanon.

Administrative Coordinator: Mrs. Anwar Ibrahim Shams

Anwar is a graduate of Qatar University Business and Economics Program. Anwar studied a bachelor's degree of Business Administration with Marketing as minor. She is fluent in Arabic and English languages.

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CLD Call for Papers and book chapters

1. **Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy in the MENA Region: Legal, Institutional and Policy Developments**

This call for papers aims at examining the energy transition in the MENA region countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen). Some of these nations are blessed with conventional energy resources that were used in the last century and are still being exploited currently while others do not possess such resources. These nations are looking to invest in alternative energy resources for various reasons mainly energy diversification, combating global warming and ensuring environmental protection. To that end, various investments were made in the last couple of decades in the renewable energy industry while further calls have been made to that end by experts, government officials and international organizations. Hence, public authorities are making long term plans in that direction where governments such as Qatar have included this objective within its 2030 Qatar National Vision. This special issue aims at examining the energy transition in the MENA region from a legal, institutional and policy perspective through the lens of SDG7 focusing on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy.

2. Call for papers: Artificial Intelligence and the Rule of Law: A Focus on SDG 16

Peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable societies are dependent upon effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels, as well as citizens having access to justice to protect their rights. The goals of the rule of law and Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG16) are intertwined, both seeking to promote the provision of access to justice for all and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions. The emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has presented both risks and opportunities to rule of law objectives and SDG16. AI has been deployed to both automate decision making, which can enhance fairness in outcomes but has sometimes been shown to produce discriminatory outcomes. AI has been deployed for instance to monitor and report illicit financial transactions but could also be used to facilitate money laundering. In developing countries where data safeguards are limited, there are further risks of lack of governance of AI algorithms which can disadvantage rule of law and SDG16 objectives. So far there is a shortage of legal literature addressing the interplay between SDGs and AI. This book is seeking to fill this gap by focusing on a specific SDG and its interplay on AI as an emerging technology. In this context, this book will focus on the interplay between AI and SDG 16 specific targets of SDG 16. These include target 16.3 related to the promotion of the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensuring equal access to justice for all; target 16.4 according to which, there is a need to significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime by 2030; target 16.5 focusing on substantially reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms; target 16.6 concerned with the Development of effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. Other targets in the context of SDG 16 that this book will focus on are target 16.10 related to ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements; target 16.A associated with strengthening relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime and finally target 16.B concerning the promotion and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development. The interplay between these targets and AI from a legal perspective is not well examined even though each target is extremely important for good governance. This book will address SDG16, AI and the legal nexus with contributions from various legal authors in this regard. This call for papers aims to examine the development of SDG 16 and its targets in the context of the AI revolution and emerging technologies from a legal perspective. The main goal is to figure out the best ways to implement this SDG in practice to accelerate the realization of the 2030 agenda where various targets were selected as case studies to that end.

Future call for papers involves topics related to water governance in the MENA region, blockchain and many other topics.