



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Canadian Council on International Law  
45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

### *The Promise of International Law: Solutions for the World's Crises*

Ottawa, Canada  
November 3-5, 2016

#### I. Theme

In a crisis, be aware of the danger –  
but recognize the opportunity.”  
— John F. Kennedy

In a world of accelerating change, there is a need to adapt quickly and implement solutions to address crises.

The term crisis can be applied to almost any international law issue when that issue reaches an undeniable intensity. The international community faces crises on numerous fronts across all dimensions: social, political, economic, and environmental. In fact, it can be applied to almost any international law issue. As such, international law has been called on to tackle pressing subjects like climate change, genocide, fluctuating oil prices, unstable economies, human migration, disease outbreak, poverty, consumerism/consumption, war, species extinctions, corporate instability, and lack of governance.

International law has often been called upon to provide the solution to these various crises. Sometimes, international law becomes the framework for international legal actors to resolve issues. Other times, international law is itself the solution to the problem. In what ways are international law being looked to and applied to the issues of today that are of most concern to the global community? What are those potential solutions and what is the action-plan to move forward?

But is the current international legal system yielding enough solutions to address new crises? International law may be falling short and losing relevance. International law experts constantly adapt to stay relevant in this fluctuating world. But are we keeping up? Is international law moving fast enough with technology? Can treaties and governance help in situations of constant changes? What are the solutions therein?

The term “crisis” itself raises several foundational questions of its own. Is it too abrasive? For instance, can the slowing economy and fluctuation of oil prices really be considered a crisis? Perhaps they are just cyclical challenges with solutions just around the corner. Is climate change at a crisis already? If not yet at that level, can a crisis on the international legal issues be averted through cooperation and international law? What are the crisis-prevention measures exactly, and what do they look like? Or does the international community require a crisis in order to galvanize?

All these issues, and more, will be discussed at the 45th Annual Conference of the Canadian Council on International Law (CCIL). Join us as we discuss solutions to the world’s crises.

## II. Proposals

All types and topics for panel and paper proposals are welcome. When crafting the proposal, note and address the following, where applicable:

- All proposals must relate to the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference theme: *The Promise of International Law: Solutions for the World’s Crises*.
- The CCIL encourages proposals from all sectors within the legal profession (academia, private law firms, NGO’s, and government lawyers).
- Diversity in speakers and panel composition from designated groups will be a focus when crafting the program.
- Creativity in proposals will also be a focus and we encourage deviation from traditional reading of a power point presentation, such as case studies, debates, ensuring interaction with audience such as extended Q&A, mock treaty negotiation, etc.
- Speaker duplicates during the Conference are discouraged (i.e. one speaker should not be on more than one panel).

Potential Topics - All areas of international law are welcome, for example:

- Public International Law; Air Law; Corporate Law; Courts and Tribunals; Dispute Resolution; Environmental Law; Human Rights; International Criminal Law; International Economic Law; International Intellectual Property Law; International Investment Law; International Judicial Institutions; International Organizations; State Responsibility; Law of the Sea/Maritime Law; Legal Theory; Migration Law; Nonproliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament Law; Refugee Law; Security Law; Space Law; State Jurisdiction (Customary Law); Technology Law; Territory and Land Frontiers; The Law of Armed Conflict/International Humanitarian Law (Military Occupation; War Crimes; International Armed Conflict); The United Nations/International Civil Service; Trade Law; Treaties and Other International Agreements; etc.

## a). Panel Proposals

Panel proposals should be organized around the Conference theme and must include a brief description of the focus, format, and speakers.

*Focus:* The focus of the panel should be described including a **presentation title**, with **descriptions** of the particular sub-topics proposed (300 words maximum). Emphasis should be placed on the various perspectives on the sub-topic that will be presented. Solutions for each crisis must be offered.

*Construction/Format:* **Diversity** (i.e. Equal gender representation and/or designated group representation) and **creativity in panel format**(i.e. Deviation from traditional delivery methods), such as increased audience interaction, will be considered an asset. Formats should encourage audience interaction with an objective toward solution-making and teachable moments. Examples of creative panel formats include:

- Debates (ex. Theory vs. Practice)
- Case Studies; Real-life Experiences
- Mock negotiation/trial/arbitration/etc. (possibly based on a case, which can then be reviewed with the solution & applied law in reality)
- Roundtable
- Panels focused mainly on interaction with delegates, such as Q&A's

*Proposed Speakers:* Include a list of the proposed speakers (minimum of 3 speakers) with their anticipated contributions, such as topics or titles. Note that:

- Proposed speakers must have already expressed a willingness and availability to participate in the Conference should the proposal be accepted.
- All speakers must be available each day of the Conference for assignment to a program timeslot (November 3-5, 2016).
- Designations/title, organization, and short biographies of the proposed Chair and speakers should be included with the proposal.
- Speakers will receive a 50% discount on the Conference fee.
- Speaker duplicates on different panels is discouraged (Speakers should not appear more than once on the program, which will be a factor in panel selection).

If accepted for the program, speakers must be confirmed and panels must be finalized and provided to the CCIL by September 26, 2016. CCIL will assign the date and time of the panel.

## b). Paper Proposals

Paper proposals should include a working title of the paper and an abstract (300 words maximum) describing the paper's main thesis, methods, and contribution. Applicants should also include the designation/title, organization, and a short biography (200 words maximum). Solution(s) for any crisis in the proposal must be offered.

Authors of accepted proposals have the option to draft a paper on their proposed topic, and CCIL may publish the paper. Final papers should be sent to [manager@ccil-ccdi.ca](mailto:manager@ccil-ccdi.ca) no later than November 1, 2016.

## **III. Submission Logistics**

The Conference will take place at the department of Global Affairs Canada, 111 & 125 Sussex Drive, in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, from November 3 to 5, 2016.

How to Submit: Please submit your proposal online at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSB2QFP](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSB2QFP).

Deadline: Proposals must be received no later than **May 31, 2016**.

Speaker Fees: All speakers will receive a 50% discount on Conference fees.

Speaker Availability: All proposed speakers must be available for the duration of the Conference (November 3-5, 2016) in order to be considered. If accepted, CCIL will assign the date and time of the panel on which the speaker will be participating. Dates and times of sessions may change during the planning process of the Conference.

Speaker Duplicates: Speaker duplicates during the Conference is discouraged (i.e. One speaker should not be on more than one panel).

The CCIL anticipates communicating acceptance decisions during the Summer and early Fall of 2016.

Please address any questions to the 2016 Conference Committee, via the CCIL Secretariat at [manager@ccil-ccdi.ca](mailto:manager@ccil-ccdi.ca).