



PROGRAMA DE
PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM
DIREITO



Pontificia Universidad
JAVERIANA
Bogotá



FIRST LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

Call for Papers

Bogotá, Colombia

Dates: 2-3 May 2019

Venues: Universidad del Rosario and Pontificia Universidad Javeriana

Concept note

The issue of business and human rights has come to the forefront of the international agenda in the past fifteen years. This is especially relevant for Latin America, a region of great interest for business enterprises as a result of its important natural resources, low-paid labor, and governmental interest to attract foreign investment. As it is known, many of the transnationally-operating businesses enjoy international legal protection deriving from bilateral investment treaties; however, for different reasons, it has not been easy to set up (international or national) norms that impose legal obligations for companies in the field of human rights, both at home and in host States.

The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011, have sparked discussion and established a platform upon which different efforts and developments are being built, especially to strengthen the capacity of States to prevent, monitor and ensure access to justice, as well as to foster the inclusion of a human rights perspective in business' decisions and operations. To date, the first of such developments has taken place primarily through public policies (National Action Plans), despite the fact that in several parts of the world, efforts are being made to develop domestic normative frameworks that create a corporate obligation to prevent human rights abuses. Nevertheless, in the Human Rights Council, another important initiative is being discussed: the development of a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights.

This dichotomy is particularly important for Latin America, due to the fact that the economy of several States in the region is capital and market-oriented, while others have important reservations vis-à-vis those economic models. Due to this, it is important to reflect upon the way in which Latin America can and must address this situation, taking into consideration the common characteristics of the different States in the region. The First Latin American Conference on Human Rights and Business, co-organized by Universidad del Rosario, the Instituto de Derechos Humanos y Empresas of Universidad de Monterrey, the Clínica de Direitos Humanos do Programa de Pós-Graduação em Direito of Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná, and Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Bogotá, jointly with the Global Business and Human Rights Scholars Association, seeks to become a forum for regional reflection on the great challenges faced by States, business enterprises and victims to ensure an adequate protection, respect and guarantee of human rights in the face of

business activities, as well as to foster a deeper dialogue on potential ways to achieve a responsible business conduct that is respectful of human rights in the twenty-first century.

Topics

This call for papers invites interested authors to present abstracts that *preferably* address one of the following topics:

1. The treaty process on business and human rights.
2. National Action Plans to implement the UN Guiding Principles.
3. Responsibility of home and host States.
4. Business and human rights in the Inter-American Human Rights System.
5. The experience of national jurisdictions in relation to reparations and access to remedy.
6. Development, business and human rights.
7. The challenges for supply chains in Latin America.
8. Foreign investment and constitutional and conventional blocs.
9. State-owned enterprises, privatization and human rights.
10. Latin American private international law in the context of business and human rights.
11. Sector-specific challenges for human rights (sweatshops, IT, extractive industries, etc.).
12. Vulnerable groups vis-à-vis business activities (women, children, people with disability, indigenous peoples and afrodescendants, LGBTI, etc.).

Abstracts

Abstracts submitted for consideration should have a **maximum length of 400 words**, including a footnote with the relevant information and experience of the author. Abstracts can be sent in **Spanish, Portuguese or English**. They shall be received by **25 January 2019** at the latest, and should be sent to **dhyempresas@gmail.com**. Results of the accepted proposals will be communicated by **3 February 2019**. Editorial guidelines for the papers that will be presented at the Conference will be shared at that stage. Draft papers shall be sent to the organizing committee by **25 April 2019**. In addition, publication plans will be shared during the conference.

Only those abstracts submitted by candidates with *at least* a Master's degree will be considered.

Organizing Committee

- Dr. Humberto Cantú Rivera, Instituto de Derechos Humanos y Empresas, Universidad de Monterrey (Mexico)
- Dr. Danielle Anne Pamplona, Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná (Brazil)
- Dr. Carolina Olarte Bácares, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Colombia)
- Dr. Enrique Prieto Ríos, Universidad del Rosario (Colombia)