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Constitutionalism in the Age of Global Ecological Challenges

International Association of Constitutional Law Roundtable

Istanbul, 5-6 June 2026





ISTANBUL BAROSU

Venue: Atty. Orhan Apaydın Conference Hall
Address: Istanbul Bar Association,
İstiklal Caddesi No. 163
Beyoğlu / İstanbul
Türkiye

Background and Context

Global ecological challenges—including climate change, biodiversity loss, and large-scale environmental degradation—are no longer peripheral concerns but defining structural conditions of contemporary governance. These interconnected crises are reshaping political authority, legal systems, and institutional practices, placing unprecedented pressure on existing constitutional frameworks. The broader challenges facing international law and institutions are also reflected in the field of environmental governance, where their effectiveness in addressing global ecological challenges remains limited.

In this evolving context, constitutional frameworks must adapt to governance conditions marked by uncertainty, complexity, and interdependence. This raises fundamental questions about the scope of state obligations in the face of ecological risk, the capacity of constitutional rights to address cumulative and intergenerational harms, and the continued adequacy of core constitutional principles such as the separation of powers, legality, and the rule of law. It also invites renewed reflection on the role of courts in addressing ecological degradation, climate change, and governmental inaction.

This roundtable brings together scholars to critically examine how constitutionalism is being transformed under mounting ecological pressures. It aims to foster a sustained academic dialogue on the reconfiguration of institutional authority, the emergence of climate and environmental constitutional jurisprudence, and the implications of ecological crises for fundamental rights and the rule of law. At the same time, it seeks to assess how constitutionalism can continue to serve as a framework for accountability, ensuring that ecological governance remains transparent, rights-respecting, and resistant to arbitrariness or exceptionalism.

Program

5 June 2026

10:00-10:30 Opening Speeches

- President of the Istanbul Bar Association
- President of the IAACL
- President of the CIDCE
- President of the Anayasa-Der

10:30-11:00 Keynote Speech –

- İbrahim Ö. Kaboğlu (President of the Istanbul Bar Association, Türkiye)
“Constitutionalism between Ecology and Authoritarianism: Tensions and Transformations”

11:00-12.50 Panel 1-Global Perspective on Ecological Constitutionalism

Chair:

- Michel Prieur (President of the CIDCE)
“Gaps in Environmental Constitutional Provisions”
- Pasquale Policastro (University of Szczecin, Poland)
“Constitutionalism as Symbiosis: Reconstructing the Rule of Law within the Biosphere”
- Francesco Lucherini (University of Bologna, Italy)
“Writing Circularity in Constitutional Political Economy”
- Ian Lee (University of Toronto, Canada)
“The positive/negative rights distinction and climate litigation under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms”

12:50-14:00 Lunch Break



5 June 2026

14:00-16.00 Panel 2- Courts on the Frontline: Litigating Climate and Protecting Rights

Chair:

- Chung Thi Kim Nguyen (FPT University, Vietnam)
“Environmental Rule of Law without a Constitutional Court: Oversight, Administrative Justice, and the Bar in Vietnam”
- Konrad Lachmayer (Sigmund Freud University, Vienna)
“Effective Legal Protection for Vulnerable Groups? Three Phases of Eco-Constitutional Adjudication”
- Vicente Ugalde (El Colegio de Mexico, Mexico)
“The Consolidation of the Right to healthy environment in the Decisions of the Supreme Court of Mexico”
- Dian Agung Wicaksono (University of Gadjah Mada, Indonesia) and Wibisena Caesario (University of Gadjah Mada, Indonesia)
“Struggle For Eco-Constitutionalism Continues: Extended Legal Protection for Environmental Activist by the Indonesia’s Constitutional Court”
- James May (Washburn University, USA)
“What does data reveal about whether constitutional recognition of a right to a healthy environment improves environmental outcomes?”

16:00-16.15 Coffee Break

16:15-17:00 Panel 3-Climate Justice in Motion: Migration, Displacement, and Responsibility

Chair:

- Serkan Köybaşı (Bahçeşehir University, Türkiye)
“The Global North’s Duty of a Regulated Open-door Policy Regarding Climate Migrants from the Global South”
- Linus O. Nwauzi (Rivers State University, Nigeria)
“Ecological Displacement, Migration And Constitutional Protections”

6 June 2026

9:30-11:00 Panel 4- Beyond Borders: Global Climate Governance and Legal Obligations

Chair:

- Didac Amat (University of Barcelona, Spain)
“The Paris Agreement’s temperature goal: an obligation of due diligence to protect the 1.5°C threshold”
- Erin Daly (Delaware Law School, USA)
“The role of international human rights law in safeguarding the environment”
- George Katrougalos (Democritus University of Thrace, Greece)
“Global Ecological Risks, Constitutional Limits and the Crisis of Multilateralism”

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

11:15-12:30 Panel 5-Constitutional Law and Environment: Emerging Perspectives from Junior Scholars

Chair:

- Francesca Galimi (University of Messina, Italy)
“Constitutional Governance of Italy’s Ecological Transition: Territory, Separation of Powers, and Judicial Review”
- Flaviana Cerquozzi (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)
“From Sustainability to Sustainable Resilience: The European Green Deal, Energy Security, Eastern Enlargement and the Reconfiguration of Parliamentary Responsibility”
- Elisa Maffassiolli Hartwig (Unisinos, Brazil / Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France)
“Climate Constitutionalism as a Safeguard Against Climate Disinformation”
- Ece Elif Kuruoğlu (Altınbaş University, Türkiye)
“The Principle of the environmental rule of law in the decisions of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye”
- Priya Singh (Jawaharlal Nehru University, India)
“Ecological Constitutionalism and the Reconfiguration of Legality: Critical Insights from the Indian Jurisprudence”

6 June 2026

12:30-14:00 Lunch Break

14:00-15:30 Panel 6- Environmental Justice and Defence
Chair:

- İbrahim Gündüz (Journalist – Writer)
“An Analytical Perspective on Ecocide Practices Intensifying the Violence of Neoliberalism in Light of the İliç – Çöpler Disaster”
- Atahan Yılmaz (Attorney – Istanbul Bar Association)
“The Changing Concept of Public Interest in the Context of Environmental and Urban Rights”
- Eren Can (Attorney – Istanbul Bar Association)
“Earthquake Criminal Cases and Impunity”
- Seher Eriş (Attorney – Istanbul Bar Association)
“Earthquake Cases in the Context of Constitutional Rights”

15:30 Concluding remarks

- Selin Esen (IACL)
- Michel Prieur (CIDCE)
- İbrahim Kaboğlu (Istanbul Bar Association)
- Didem Yılmaz (Anayasa-Der)

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