



**THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW  
(ESIL) INTEREST GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**

**CALL FOR PAPERS  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
SDGS, BIODIVERSITY  
AND PLANT HEALTH:  
INTERNATIONAL  
LEGAL ASPECTS**

**10- 11 APRIL 2020**

***RUDN University  
Moscow, Russian Federation***

**under the framework of  
XVIII BLISCHENKO CONGRESS ON PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW**



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
PLANT HEALTH  
2020**

# CALL FOR PAPERS:

**The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, agreed by all States Members of the United Nations, sets out an ambitious framework of universal and indivisible goals (SDGs) and targets to address a range of global societal challenges. Biodiversity and ecosystems feature prominently across many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets. They contribute directly to human well-being and development priorities. Biodiversity is at the centre of many economic activities, particularly those related to crop and livestock agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Globally, nearly half of the human population is directly dependent on natural resources for its livelihood, and many of the most vulnerable people depend directly on biodiversity to fulfil their daily subsistence needs. **The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020** and its **Aichi Biodiversity Targets** adopted under the **Convention on Biological Diversity 1992** have been recognized as setting the global framework for priority actions on biodiversity. The 2030 Agenda is consistent with other existing international commitments, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. The SDGs and the Strategic Plan are mutually supportive and reinforcing, and therefore the implementation of one contributes to the achievement of the other.

The United Nations has declared 2020 as the **International Year of Plant Health**. The year is a once in a lifetime opportunity to raise global



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
**PLANT HEALTH**  
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**IN DECEMBER 2018, THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED THE RESOLUTION A/RES/73/252 DECLARING 2020 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH (IYPH). IN OCTOBER 2019 THE XVIII BLISCHENKO CONGRESS WAS INCLUDED IN THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH OFFICIAL EVENTS LIST.**

awareness on how protecting **plant health** can help **end hunger, reduce poverty**, protect the **environment**, and boost **economic development**.

Plants are the source of the air we breathe and most of the food we eat, yet we often don't think about keeping them healthy. This can have devastating results. FAO estimates that up to 40% of food crops are lost due to plant pests and diseases annually. This leaves millions of people without enough food to eat and seriously damages agriculture - the primary source of income for rural poor communities.

*"Plants provide the core basis for life on Earth and they are the single most important pillar of human nutrition. But healthy plants are not something that we can take for granted"* said FAO Director-General

Qu Dongyu who launched the Year on the sidelines of the UN agency's Council meeting.

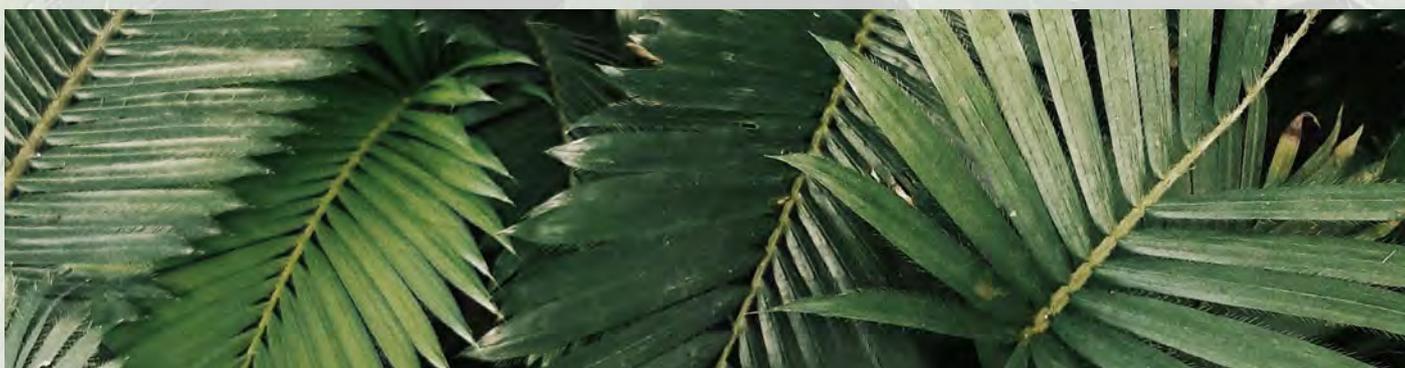
**Plant health** is increasingly **under threat**. **Climate change**, and **human activities**, have **altered ecosystems**, reducing **biodiversity** and creating new niches where pests can thrive. At the same time, international travel and trade has tripled in volume in the last decade and can quickly spread pests and diseases around the world causing great damage to native plants and the environment.

Protecting plants from pests and diseases is far more cost effective than dealing with full-blown plant health emergencies. Plant pests and diseases are often impossible to eradicate once they have established themselves and managing them is time consuming and expensive. Prevention is critical to avoiding the devastating impact of pests and diseases on agriculture, livelihoods and food security and many of us have a role to play in that process.

## KEY TOPICS

The organizers are particularly interested in presentations that address one or more of the following questions (although any paper proposal relevant to the subject of the Roundtable will be considered):

- **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND BIODIVERSITY: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASPECTS**
- **POSSIBLY INTERACTIONS BETWEEN CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD) AND INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION (IPPC)**
- **PLANT HEALTH AND FOOD SECURITY: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASPECTS**
- **PLANT HEALTH AND ECOSYSTEMS: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASPECTS**
- **PLANT HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASPECTS**
- **THE WTO AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES SETS AND RULES FOR FOOD SAFETY AND PLANT HEALTH STANDARDS**
- **PLANT HEALTH AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASPECTS**



# APPLICATIONS

Paper proposals, no longer than 250 words, should be sent to **Alexandr Solntsev** ([solntsev-am@rudn.ru](mailto:solntsev-am@rudn.ru)), **Paolo D. Farah** ([paolo.farah@glawcal.org.uk](mailto:paolo.farah@glawcal.org.uk)) and **Denis Gugunskiy** ([gugunskiy-da@rudn.ru](mailto:gugunskiy-da@rudn.ru)), not later than 12.00 CET on **20 February 2020**. All submissions need to be accompanied by a **short CV** (no longer than 2 pages). Selected speakers are expected to submit **extended outlines** (8-10 pages) of their papers before the Conference.

## VENUE AND DATE

The conference will take place at the premises of the the Department of International Law of the RUDN University, Moscow, Russian Federation on 10 -11 April 2020.

## ELEGIBILITY

Speakers will be expected to bear the costs of their own travel and accommodation. Both ESIL members and non-members are invited to submit abstracts. ESIL membership will be required if the abstract is selected.

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

**Paolo Davide Farah** (West Virginia University, USA and gLAWcal - Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development, UK & ESIL Board Member and Convener of the ESIL IG on International Environmental Law)

**Alexandr Solntsev** (RUDN University Moscow, Russian Federation)

**Denis Gugunskiy** (RUDN University Moscow, Russian Federation)

## CO-ORGANIZERS

The conference is jointly organized by the ESIL Interest Group on International Environmental Law (ESIL) and the Department of International Law of the RUDN University, Moscow, Russian Federation.

## XVIII BLISCHENKO CONGRESS

The Congress represents a platform for discussing contemporary issues of international law and bears the name of Professor Igor Blischenko, who headed the Department of International Law, RUDN University for 20 years. The Congress will bring together the heads of departments of international law at leading Russian Universities, foreign and Russian scholars, UN experts and representatives of other international organisations, the representatives of ministries, non-governmental organisations, mass media and judicial publishing houses. Congress annually brings together more than 500 scholars, practitioners, students and Ph.D. students from more than 50 countries, including the representatives of more than 50 regions of Russia. The event will take place on April 11, 2020, in the RUDN University: 6 Miklukho-Maklaya st., Moscow, Russia. The registration for the Congress will be in the main hall of the University from 9.00 till 10.00. The plenary session will be held in the Assembly hall from 10.00 to 12.00. The sections will be held from 13.00 to 17.00. At 17.10, the closing ceremony of the Congress will start.

For more information and application form follow the link <http://intlaw.rudn.ru/en/blischenko-congress/application/>.



