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 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 with AI as an emerging technology. In this context, this book will focus on the interplay between AI and SDG 16 in particular 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.An 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. Hence, the focus should be on the connection between SDG 16 targets, law, and AI. We invite contributions addressing but not limited to the following topics:

- Target 16.3: promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensuring equal access to justice for all.
- Target 16.6: developing effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.
- The interplay between the promotion of the rule of law and the development of effective, accountable, and transparent institutions.
- Target16.4: by 2030, significantly reducing illicit financial and arms flows.
- Target 16.4: by 2030, strengthening the recovery and return of stolen assets and combating all forms of organized crime.

- Target 16.5: substantially reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms.
- Target 16.10: ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.
- Target 16. A: 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.
- Target 16. B: promoting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

Venue and Dates

A conference will take place online in the following months.

Applications

Applications must be submitted via email to the attention of Dr. Jon Truby and Dr. Imad Antoine Ibrahim at the following address: imad.ibrahim@qu.edu.qa. Please include the following information:

- The author's name and affiliation;

- A 300-word abstract [Wordfile or PDF];

- The author's CV, including a list of relevant publications, if applicable;

- The author's contact details, including e-mail address and phone number;

Publication Opportunities

The organizers have publication plans for the presented papers. The precise format of publication will be discussed during the conference. Among the options already available at the time of the call for papers, the organizers envisage publishing a book with renowned publishers such as Routledge and Edward Elgar.

Organizing Committee

Jon Mark Truby (Dr. Truby; Director of the Centre for Law and Development and an Associate Professor of Law at the College of Law, Qatar University).

Imad Antoine Ibrahim (Research Assistant, at the Center for Law and Development (CLD), College of Law, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar).