

**Organised by:** Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi

**Session Type:** Panel Discussions

## Session Title

The Melting of Himalayan Glaciers and its Implications: Climate Change Accountability under International Law

## Session Description

The geographically sensitive Himalayas, which have the largest number of glaciers on earth, are warming at a rate far in excess of the world average. Keeping the temperature rise below 1.5 degree Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels is essential to preserving and protecting the Himalayan eco-system. The ecological crisis in the Himalayas is bound to affect some of the most vulnerable, especially the entirety of the population in Nepal – a landlocked country – and certain parts of India, Pakistan, Bhutan and Bangladesh. The change in weather patterns present ominous signs in the nature of flash floods, landslides and subsidence, and the resultant loss of lives and property. Alarming, any permanent ecological change can place the existence of the perennial rivers that constitute the lifeline of people living in this region in peril. The affected South Asian economies will not be able to prevent or manage the looming crisis on their own. In the above setting, the panel examines the role of international law and institutions in providing appropriate redressive mechanisms in identifying responsibility and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change on specific geographical regions. In addition, the panel will examine the role of supportive measures which are backed by an enforceable regime.

This Panel will examine the following questions:

- Is there a concept of state responsibility for anthropogenic actions that lead to climate change under international law? What are the situations in which state responsibility can be attributed?
- What inter-agency cooperation is needed at the regional and international level for averting a climate catastrophe?
- In what way can climate pacts promote financial help for vulnerable economies affected by climate crisis? How can the Loss and Damage fund be revitalized?

## Proposed Speakers and Moderator

- Dr. James J Nedumpara, Head and Professor, Centre for Trade and Investment Law, and WCP Chair, India (Moderator).
- Prof. Dr. Achyut Wagle, Registrar, University of Kathmandu and WCP-Chair, Nepal.
- Ms. Sparsha Janardhan, Associate, Centre for Trade and Investment Law, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi.
- Dr. Shailly Kedia, Associate Director, Sustainable Development and Outreach, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
- Ms. Shiny Pradeep, Assistant Professor, Centre for Trade and Investment Law, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi.