



# Call for Papers

## 10. UN-Research Colloquium: „The United Nations and Resources“ 8.-10. October 2020 at the Ruhr-University Bochum



**Organiser:** Working Group on Young UN Research (AG Junge UN-Forschung) in the United Nations Association of Germany (Deutsche Gesellschaft für die Vereinten Nationen, hereinafter DGVN) in cooperation with the Institute of Development Research and Development Policy (IEE) and the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) of the Ruhr-University Bochum (RUB)

**Keynote:** Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Löwenstein (IEE), Prof. Dr. Pierre Thielbörger (IFHV)

**Framework Program** (preliminary): Guided tour through the Deutsches Bergbau-Museum Bochum, Conference Dinner

Deadline for Abstracts: **01.08.2020**

Deadline for Paper: **01.10.2020**

Deadline for Admission: **27.09.2020**

The general event language is German. Presentations and the subsequent discussion can be held in English if preferred.

**The colloquium is open for interested researchers, even without own contribution.**

### **Topic:**

Under the topic "The United Nations and Resources" the role of resources (material and immaterial) for the stability of the UN as well as the global regulatory framework and peace between states, but also the resource focus of transnational corporations will be examined. In doing so, we want to shed light on "traditional" resources such as money, manpower, natural resources/land resources, water, land, but also on often forgotten resources such as political influence, trust, good governance and other soft power elements. Especially big global challenges like the current COVID-19 crisis raise questions about the distribution and value of these very diverse resources.

Questions may arise in particular in three thematic blocks, each with two sub questions:

#### 1. The resources of the United Nations and Germanys responsibility

- Resources crises of the UN
  - What resources does the UN need in order to achieve its goals?
  - In this context, what is the impact of the current crisis of multilateralism and the loss of confidence in (international) institutions?
  - How can the UN secure its continued existence and functioning when state funding (e.g. from the USA) is dwindling?
  - How capable is the UN in the face of global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic?
- Germanies new resources in the UN
  - What resources can Germany offer to promote international cooperation, peacekeeping, the goals of sustainable development (SDGs) and the safeguarding of human rights, especially through Germany's current membership in the UN Human Rights Council and the UN Security Council?

#### 2. Resources scarcity and inequality as a cause of global challenges

- Resources and COVID-19
  - What role do resources play in overcoming the COVID-19 crisis and (re)building resilient societies? This could include questions about the distribution of medical materials and a potential

vaccine or the role of social and economic human rights for resilience to pandemics. How far can the UN contribution to combating pandemics and promoting global stability?

- Scarcity of resources as a reason for migration  
To what extent is resource scarcity and exploitation (e.g. of water, land or food) a cause of migration and flight?  
How can human rights and humanitarian emergencies caused by resource scarcity and unjust distribution of resources be combated more effectively by the international community?
- Resource-based poverty reduction  
How do resource inequality and poverty relate to each other?  
What role does global climate change play in upcoming questions of resource distribution; what is the role of unsustainable consumption and production patterns based on the exploitation of ecological and human resources?  
How can Sustainable Development Goal 1, the eradication of extreme poverty, be achieved through international cooperation and development programmes, especially those of the UN?  
How can negative externalities be avoided, for example in the transformation of a rural agricultural society into an urban industrial society?  
Which strategies are actually effective in poverty reduction?

### 3. Resource allocation vis-à-vis people and companies

- Resources in the field of business and human rights  
What role do resources play in corporate human rights violations?  
What answers does international law have to the crime of pillage?  
What solutions does the new research field of Business and Human Rights offer for these problems?  
To what extent do companies have a global responsibility, e.g. in the supply of medicines?
- Resources as rights of individuals  
Who owns the resource "labour"?  
How can living wages and human rights-compliant working conditions be ensured in global supply chains?  
Can and should groups (and individuals) also have rights to resources? To what extent is this related to a Eurocentric capitalist world order and can colonial continuities be recognized in this? Where do lines of conflict with traditional forms of knowledge exist?

The topics mentioned are for illustrative purposes and are by no means exhaustive.

### **Organizational framework of the colloquium:**

The 10th UN Research Colloquium is organized by the members of the Working Group on Young UN Research of the United Nations Association of Germany, whose members come from the fields of international law, political science, and sociology. Cooperation partners of this year's UN Research Colloquium are the Institute of Development Research and Development Policy, and the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict at the Ruhr-University Bochum. The colloquium welcomes young researchers and students of all disciplines. It offers the opportunity to present and discuss research and study projects with reference to the United Nations. It has proven to be particularly inspiring when the papers submitted are presented by discussants and the respective contribution is then discussed intensively. The interdisciplinary approach allows common definitions to be questioned and problems to be looked at anew.

Authors are kindly requested to register with an **abstract** (approx. 200 words) on the main topic of "The United Nations and Resources" by **01.08.2020**. Confirmation will be given until 12.08.2020. The deadline for submission of the **completed papers** (max. 5,000 words) is **01.10.2020**. This allows all persons to prepare for the colloquium.

**Interested participants** can register for the event by email until **27.09.2020**. When registering, please indicate whether you would like to take on the role of a discussant. There is no participation fee. Participants presenting their paper as well as DGVN members can apply for a **travel allowance** (please indicate when registering).

If you have any questions or wish to register, please contact us at [info@uno-forschung.de](mailto:info@uno-forschung.de).

**Corona note:** We are hopeful that the research colloquium in October can take place in this way. If the restrictions do not allow it, it will be moved to the digital room instead.