

# GLOBAL HEALTH LAW INTEREST GROUP NEWSLETTER

## Dear GHLIG members,

Welcome to our third quarterly newsletter of 2024! The GHLIG and its members have been busy over the past few months contributing to scholarship, engaging in conferences, and participating at the cutting edge of intergovernmental negotiations in global health law. Here's a look at what we've been up to:

### I. IG EVENTS

#### GHLIG Co-Sponsors Side Event at the 2024 Global Health Security Conference

Every two years, the Global Health Security Conference brings together a range of stakeholders, including practitioners, researchers and decision-makers across the fields of public health, medicine, veterinary science, agriculture, government, defence, international relations, sociology and anthropology, to examine the progress made to date in strengthening health systems and identify the gaps and opportunities for enhancing the international community's ability to respond more efficiently and effectively to future adverse health crises.

This year, the GHS Conference took place at the International Convention Centre in Sydney, Australia from 18 to 21 June 2024. On **17 June 2024**, the GHLIG co-hosted a side event titled **"The World Together" in Pandemic Preparedness and Response**. Inspired by the World Health Assembly's Special Session in December 2021, this event featured four panels with outstanding experts sharing diverse perspectives on 'last-mile' issues in intergovernmental negotiations for a WHO pandemic agreement.

Following an opening panel featuring a high-level discussion on the amended International Health Regulations, and the current state of pandemic agreement negotiations), three panels covered key topics such as:

- ethical and human rights considerations in pandemic preparedness and response
- proposals for a pathogen access and benefit-sharing mechanism
- issues of intellectual property, tech transfer, and trade



GHLIG Co-Chair Roojin Habibi moderates the opening session of the GHS 2024 side event, with Precious Matoso, Adam Kamradt-Scott and Dr. Aalisha Sahu Khan

We extend our sincere thanks to our co-sponsors including the Open Africa Innovation Research Centre at the University of Ottawa, the Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice at Sheffield Hallam University, the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto, the National University of Singapore's Centre for International Law, the Saw See Sock School of Public Health and the newly launched Asia Centre for Health Security, for their support in making this event a success.

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### Global Health Law Interest Group

#### CO-CHAIRS

Roojin Habibi  
&  
Margherita Melillo

Views contained in this publication are those of the authors in their personal capacity. The American Society of International Law and this Interest Group do not generally take positions on substantive issues, including those addressed in this periodical.

## II. GHLIG MEMBER EVENTS

### **GHLIG's Matthew Carvalho presents at the 2024 Planetary Health Summit and Sixth Annual Meeting**

From 16-19 April, the Sunway Centre for Planetary Health, based at Sunway University, hosted the 2024 Planetary Health Summit and Sixth Annual Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Planetary Health Annual Meeting (PHAM) is a global convening of scientists, policymakers, educators, young leaders, the private sector, and concerned planetary citizens. Held every 18 months, it aims to connect this global community, seek solutions for the grand challenges facing humanity, and provide tools and drivers to support systemic change. Its past five events have brought together thousands of leaders from over 130 countries in gatherings held in the United States, Scotland, and Brazil. Recognizing the key role that Asia plays in planetary health challenges and solutions, PHAM2024 was the first of its kind to be held in Southeast Asia. Malaysia was proud to be the host of PHAM 2024 with the theme of "From Evidence to Action: Confronting Reality."

The key outputs of PHAM2024 were the Planetary Health Roadmap and Action Plan, as well as the Kuala Lumpur Call to Action on Planetary Health. The Planetary Health Roadmap serves as a global document which aims to translate the wealth of evidence-based knowledge so that it can be used by global and planetary health leaders and stakeholders to influence law, policies and behavioral norms more directly and effectively.

The Roadmap is divided into four key thematic priorities: governance, education, business, and communications. The governance section of the Roadmap, entitled *Reimagining Global Governance Institutions Fit for the 21st Century and Beyond*, was the result of a multi-month stakeholder consultation of experts from across the world, convened by GHLIG member Matthew Carvalho, Global Governance and Diplomacy Fellow at the Sunway Centre for Planetary Health and J.D. candidate at Georgetown University Law Center. Over the next year, he will lead in implementing the larger efforts of global governance for planetary health, under the leadership of the Sunway Centre for Planetary Health and advisement of larger stakeholders. This process will include drafting of a plan to leverage international legal fragmentation to break down silos and catalyze action for global and planetary health at the intergovernmental level.

If you might be interested in supporting the implementation of the governance section of the Planetary Health Roadmap and Action Plan, please reach out via email to [mpl129@georgetown.edu](mailto:mpl129@georgetown.edu) and [maisarahf@sunway.edu.my](mailto:maisarahf@sunway.edu.my) for more information.



GHLIG member Matthew Carvalho, presenting the Planetary Health Roadmap and Action Plan at the 2024 Planetary Health Summit and Sixth Annual Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

### **GHLIG Vice Chair, Alicia Ely Yamin, moderates panel on *The Role of Courts in Advancing the Right to a Healthy Environment: Lessons from Latin America***

Latin America has been at the forefront of judicialization of a right to a healthy environment. Courts in different countries have curbed burning and deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon, as well as the expansion of wind farms in Mexico; they have ordered the clean-up of river basins in Argentina and ordered the protection of important ecosystems in Colombia. Some high courts have embraced 'rights of nature' and have fashioned innovative structural remedies, which have included the creation of new institutions. Nonetheless, there is a very mixed record on implementation of the judgments and a complex political economy around creating public policies that advance the effective enjoyment of rights to a healthy environment in a region wracked by economic inequality and the outsized power of extractive and other commercial interests.

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On **29 March 2024**, justices from Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil, discussed the evolution of this jurisprudence in their respective countries, and a panel discussion, moderated by GHLIG's Professor Alicia Ely Yamin, followed that examined challenges as well as successes. Panellists included Alfredo Gutiérrez Ortiz Mena, Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, México; Antonio Herman Benjamin, Justice of the National High Court of Brazil; and Ricardo Lorenzetti, Judge of the Supreme Court of Justice of Argentina. Welcome remarks were delivered by Sol Carbonell, Interim Executive Director of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University. You can watch the panel here: <https://petrieflom.law.harvard.edu/events/details/courts-in-advancing-the-right-to-a-healthy-environment>.



GHLIG Vice Chair, Alicia Ely Yamin, moderates panel on *The Role of Courts in Advancing the Right to a Healthy Environment: Lessons from Latin America*.

## III. PUBLICATIONS BY OUR MEMBERS

We are pleased to highlight the following new and forthcoming publications by GHLIG Members:

### Articles & Book Chapters

UN Tax Convention: A structural transformation for financing health by Joel Curtain and Alicia Ely Yamin, *Geneva Health Files* [Guest Essay], 28 August 2024

Another pandemic looms. Guess what? We're still not ready by Lawrence O. Gostin, Sam Halabi and Alexandra Finch, *The New York Times*, 21 August 2024

The resurgence of mpox in Africa by Caitlin Rivers, Crystal Watson and Alexandra L. Phelan, *JAMA*, 20 August 2024

Global health law reforms: an update on the amended international health regulations and the pandemic agreement negotiations by Gian Luca Burci, Adam Strobeyko and Daniela Morich, *ASIL Insights*, 25 July 2024

Global health reform must continue amid new infectious disease threats by Alexandra L. Phelan, Benjamin M. Meier, Roojin Habibi & Lawrence O. Gostin, *BMJ*, 2 August 2024

Historic amendments to the WHO's *International Health Regulations* create a path towards an equitable pandemic treaty by Roojin Habibi, *The Conversation*, 11 June 2024

Navigating equity in global access to genome therapy expanding access to potentially transformative therapies and benefiting those in need requires global policy changes by Tsung-Ling Lee and Tsutomu Sawai, *Frontiers in Genetics*, 2024

Global health governance and the challenge of holding power to account: UNU-IIGH working paper by David McCoy, Anu Joshi, Rajat Khosla, Marta Schaaf, and Alicia Ely Yamin, *United Nations University International Institute for Global Health*, 2024

Using Human Rights to Advance Global Health Justice in An Age of Inequality by Alicia Ely Yamin, *PLoS Global Health*, 2024

Reforms to the International Health Regulations must advance human rights by Lisa Forman, Judith Bueno de Mesquita, Luciano Bottini Filho, Benjamin M. Meier and Matiangai Sirleaf, *Geneva Health Files* [Guest Essay – Subscribers Only], 8 March 2024

**Informal rulemaking at the World Health Organization: technocratic, iterative, and political constraints** by Tsung-Ling Lee, *International Organizations Law Review*, forthcoming 2025





## IV. MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

### ***New journal alert: Submit your manuscripts to the Journal of Global Health Law***

The *Journal of Global Health Law* publishes two issues a year and welcomes scholarly articles as well as shorter commentaries, case notes and book reviews. Articles are subject to double blind peer review.

The Journal welcomes submissions that analyze aspects of global health governance, including new developments and assessments of existing treaties and governance mechanisms. Current burgeoning issues in the field of global governance of infectious disease include the recently agreed reforms of the International Health Regulations, the challenges posed by the pandemic agreement, and new prospects for antimicrobial resistance policies in light of the UN High-Level Meeting in September 2024. Meanwhile, the next UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs (non-communicable diseases) in 2025 calls for taking stock of the field. Furthermore, recent attempts to govern artificial intelligence at a global level in the form of the Council of Europe treaty raise questions regarding the implications for global health.

The Journal looks forward to receiving your submissions. For more information, visit <https://www.elgaronline.com/view/journals/jghl/jghl-overview.xml>.

### ***Ask the IG to co-sponsor your next global health law event!***

We encourage you to explore opportunities for GHLIG co-sponsorship of your global health law events. Whether it's an in-person event, online webinar, conference, or publication initiative, reach out to the IG co-chairs to discuss potential collaborations.

*Thank you for reading our September newsletter!*

*Want to share your latest work or next event in our next GHLIG quarterly newsletter? Email the details to the IG co-chairs, Roojin Habibi ([rhabibi@uottawa.ca](mailto:rhabibi@uottawa.ca)) and Margherita Melillo ([mm4808@georgetown.edu](mailto:mm4808@georgetown.edu)) on or before 30 November 2024!*