



**Society of
International
Economic Law**
SIEL Conversations
Thoughtful Dialogues in International Economic Law

SIEL Conversations is a webinar series launched by the Society of International Economic Law in 2020.

Its aim is to bring together authors and commentators to deliver talks that are idea-focused, with the goal of fostering learning, sparking inspiration, and offering conversations that matter.

Each SIEL Conversation lasts approximately one hour and features commentary from the speakers, followed by questions from the audience.

What's On

Critical Minerals: Global Governance and National Policies under a Critical Lens



**Michelle Ratton Sanchez
Badin** – *Moderator*
Professor
FGV Law School



Natalia Figueiredo – *Moderator*
Professor
Federal University of São Paulo



James Boafo
Lecturer
Murdoch University



Nidhi Srivastava
Law and Policy Consultant
New Delhi



Clovis Freire
Head of Commodities Branch
UNCTAD

When

23 June 2025



11:30
London



12:30
Brussels



07:30
São Paulo



16:00
New Delhi



20:30
Sydney

Register here for the event: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yw-P_aXySnKeWPo_GPIN0A

More information available at www.sielnet.org



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Description

Critical Minerals: Global Governance and National Policies under a Critical Lens

This SIEL Conversation explores the growing geopolitical and regulatory tensions surrounding critical minerals, essential to the global energy transition. It brings together perspectives on how national policies, such as export controls, investment screening, and industrial strategies, interact with emerging frameworks for global governance. The discussion takes a critical look at power asymmetries in trade and investment law, the implications for sustainable development, and the role of Global South actors in shaping more equitable regulatory approaches. By bridging insights from legal scholarship and practice, the session aims to contribute to a more inclusive and strategic dialogue on the future of international economic law.

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Participant Bios



Michelle Ratton Sanchez Badin is a Professor at FGV Law School in São Paulo and a former Global Hauser Fellow at NYU. She coordinates the Center for Global Trade and Development and the WTO Chairs Programme in Brazil). Her research focuses on understanding the legal instruments that underpin international economic relations from the perspective of Brazil, and how tools from the field of International Economic Law influence other areas of social relations. She was one of the founders of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL), and is a director of the Latin American Network of International Economic Law and of the International Law Association/Brazil.



Natália Figueiredo is a Professor of Business Law at the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP), where she coordinates the Comparative Business Law Research Group (GEDEC). She holds a PhD in International Economic Law from Maastricht University and the University of São Paulo, an LL.M. in Business Law, and an LL.B. from the University of São Paulo. Natália is Co-Director of the Latin American Network on International Economic Law (RedLatDEI) and a member of the Executive Council of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL). Her research focuses on international economic law, corporate governance, and regulation in the context of sustainable development and regional integration in Latin America. She has over a decade of experience bridging legal practice and academia.



James Boafo is a Lecturer in Sustainability and a Research Fellow at the Indo-Pacific Research Centre, Murdoch University, Australia. James's research focuses on sustainability, energy transitions, and the social justice dimensions of critical mineral production in Africa. His research interrogates the complex interplay between resource extraction and equitable development. James's work seeks to ensure the transition to a low-carbon society is fair and inclusive, benefiting local mining communities. He has published his work in peer-reviewed academic journals and contributed to public scholarship through platforms such as The Conversation.

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Participant Bios



Clovis Freire is the Head (a.i.) of the Commodities Branch of the Division on International Trade and Commodities of UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD). He leads the technical support to the UN Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals (CETM) on the areas of CETM value addition, economic diversification, trade and investment. He is an Economist specialized in economic diversification and strategies for building productive capacities in developing countries. His work supports the structural transformation and sustainable development of commodity-dependent developing countries. He has over 21 years of work experience in the United Nations in programmes related to economic diversification, commodity dependence, least developed countries, and technology and innovation for development. He holds a PhD in Economics from the Maastricht University.



Nidhi Srivastava is a Law and Policy Consultant based in New Delhi. A lawyer by training, she has over fifteen years of experience in legal and policy research on issues relating to the environment, natural resources, energy and climate change, and technology regulation. Prior to becoming an independent consultant, Nidhi worked with Institutes such as The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and WWF India. She holds Advanced Masters degree in Energy and Environment Law from Catholic University-KU Leuven, Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts degrees from University of Delhi. She has a PhD degree from Energy Studies Programme, School of International Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University where she wrote her thesis on governance of critical minerals for energy transition.

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