10th SIEL Global Conference

Reimagining International Economic Law: Reasons, Challenges, and Future Directions

Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa | Let us keep close together, not far apart

7-9 July 2027, Christchurch (New Zealand)

Call for Papers, Posters and Panels

The Tenth Biennial Global Conference of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL) will take place in Christchurch, New Zealand, from 7 till 9 July 2027, hosted by the University of Canterbury, with support from the New Zealand Law Foundation Centre for Law and Emerging Technologies at the University of Otago.

The Tenth Biennial Global Conference will be held in person (a remote option for attendance will be available, but speakers are expected to attend the conference in person).

Conference Theme

The Tenth SIEL Biennial Global Conference will take place at a time of continuing uncertainty in geopolitics, trade and investment relations, alongside ongoing challenges for international economic institutions such as the WTO. At the same time, new bilateral, regional, and plurilateral agreements, together with rapid technological, environmental, and economic change, are reshaping the global economic order.

Against this backdrop, the Conference aims to bring together scholars, practitioners, policymakers, students and other stakeholders to reflect on the future of international economic law and to debate the key challenges and emerging approaches shaping the field. Held between WTO Ministerial Conferences MC14 (2026) and MC15 (2028), the Conference will also provide a timely opportunity to assess recent developments and future institutional directions.

Key themes are expected to include geopolitical shifts, multilateralism and its discontents, trade and investment protection measures, economic security and sanctions, sustainability and climate change, digital transformation, industrial policy, critical supply chains, and food security. More broadly, the Conference will explore how international economic law is adapting to profound changes in global governance and evolving visions of sustainable economic cooperation.

Proposals for panels/papers/posters

We invite proposals for panels/papers/posters in all areas of international economic law (trade, investment, finance, intellectual property, tax, development, technology, etc.). Proposals must address the conference theme, including but not limited to the following topics:

1. Use of tariffs and other unilateral tools in shaping/reshaping international economic law.
2. New trends in international cooperation in trade, investment and other international economic law areas.
3. Theoretical foundations and underlying functions of international economic institutions, including but not limited to the WTO.
4. Relationship between multilateral, plurilateral and bilateral economic arrangements.
5. Supply chain resilience in strategic and emerging sectors, e.g. critical minerals, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, and artificial intelligence (AI).
6. Movements in particular spheres of international economic law, e.g. investment facilitation, trade and inclusiveness, digital economy agreements, data sovereignty, alternative dispute resolution, environmental sustainability, economic security, dual-use technologies, and new developments in international financial systems.
7. International economic law and new emerging technologies.
8. International economic law and economic sanctions.
9. International economic and domestic imperatives, particularly how economic and non-economic goals are reshaping international economic law.
10. Developments in investment dispute resolution.
11. Economic law developments and initiatives in the Pacific region, as compared with non-Pacific regions.

In evaluating proposals, the Conference Organising Committee will give ample opportunity to early-career scholars and practitioners to make their voices heard. In the selection process, preference will be given to SIEL members. Preference will also be given to speakers who will attend the conference on-site.

The conference will have plenary sessions and concurrent panels. Each panel will be moderated, and commentators might be invited to react to the papers presented.

Panel organisers are asked to propose panels that reflect diversity in gender, geography, institutional affiliation, professional background, and career stage. Panels composed exclusively of speakers from a single institution or geographical region are strongly discouraged unless the subject matter provides a compelling justification for that composition.

The Conference Organising Committee reserves the right to adjust the composition of accepted panels in order to ensure thematic coherence, diversity and balance across the conference programme. This might result in the Conference Organising Committee adding an individually accepted paper to a proposed panel or substituting a panellist who is no longer able to attend. Where practicable, those changes will be made in consultation with the relevant panel organiser and panellists.

Submission procedure and instructions

Proposals for papers/posters/panels must be submitted by **14 August 2026** (midnight GMT) via the dedicated web-form, available at https://forms.gle/os81jaeG33mUiSCy8

Please adhere to the following requirements when making your submission:

- Paper or poster proposals may not exceed 2500 characters (ca. 400 words). Only one proposal per person is allowed.
- Panel proposals may not exceed 4000 characters (ca. 700 words). All proposed panellists must have agreed to participate in the panel and to attend the conference in person. Should one or more panellists be unable to participate, the Conference Organising Committee reserves the right to substitute for the(se) panellist(s), merge panels, or withdraw the panel from the programme.

We ask that each paper and panel proposal be accompanied by a set of guiding questions (1-2 for paper proposals and 3-4 for panel proposals), included in the word count.

If a candidate submits an individual proposal and is also included in a panel proposal, the Conference Organising Committee reserves the right to determine which proposal, if accepted, better fits the overall composition of the conference programme.

Every proposal will be reviewed by at least two members of the Conference Organising Committee and SIEL Executive Council, with papers being reviewed on a double-blind and confidential basis. The Conference Organising Committee anticipates announcing the results of this call for papers, posters and panels proposals during the final quarter of 2026.

Titles submitted through the application form will be treated as provisional. Successful applicants may refine the title of their contribution before the programme is finalised,

provided that the substance of the accepted proposal does not materially change and sufficient time remains available to implement this change. Any substantial change to the subject matter or approach of an accepted paper/panel/poster proposal must be communicated to and approved by the Conference Organising Committee.

Scholarships

SIEL will make available a number of scholarships to contribute to the costs (travel and/or accommodation) of speakers, whose paper/poster/panel proposal has been accepted.

Speakers eligible for scholarships include, in particular, early-career scholars and practitioners, as well as government officials and academics based in and with primary affiliation with an organisation in a least-developed country.
To apply for such a SIEL scholarship, please complete the relevant information via the dedicated web-form, indicated above.

Applicants for a scholarship will be asked to provide:

- information about any institutional, employer, grant, or other financial support available to them;
- an estimate of the amount of funding required, together with a brief and realistic breakdown of anticipated travel and/or accommodation costs;
- an indication of whether partial funding would enable them to attend;
- information about any relevant visa expenses, banking restrictions, currency-transfer difficulties, or other circumstances affecting their ability to attend and make travel/accommodation arrangements; and
- any additional information necessary to assess their financial need and available sources of support.

Scholarship applicants should seek institutional or other sources of funding wherever reasonably available. As the number and value of scholarships will be limited, the organisers may be able to offer only partial support and cannot guarantee that all requested expenses will be covered.

Further information concerning the scholarship process, eligible expenses, payment arrangements, and applicable deadlines will be provided to successful applicants.

Enquiries

Please submit enquiries to SIELGlobalConference@gmail.com
The SIEL 2027 Call for Papers, Posters and Panels can be downloaded on the SIEL website.