

Workshop on “Business, Human Rights and the Environment in the Andean Countries”

Workshop organized by the Centre of Human Rights Erlangen-Nuremberg (CHREN) and the ADLAF Working Group on Andean Countries.

When: 30 September 2025

Place: Festival Room, 3rd floor- Andreij-Sacharow-Platz 1/ 90403 Nuremberg

Despite the comparatively strong recognition of different types of rights in the Andean countries, business activities such as the extractive industries and large-scale agriculture have often contributed to adverse socio-environmental impacts on the ground. For instance, large business activities have often contributed to deforestation, the loss of access to water, lands and livelihoods of local communities and family farmers or to negative health impacts of consumers and citizens due to pesticide use. Furthermore, workers' rights have often not been sufficiently protected. Problems of modern slavery, child labor, exploitative working conditions and a lack of health and safety standards characterize many working relationships in this region.

Previous research has analyzed the potential and shortcomings of different governance instruments aiming to prevent, mitigate or remediate the adverse impacts of businesses. Among these instruments are environmental, social and human rights impact assessments (ESIA, HRIA); free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) processes; sustainability certification; human rights and environmental due diligence (HREDD) systems; grievance mechanisms; corporate commitments to protect the environment and/or human rights; framework agreements between trade unions and companies; landscape approaches and multi-stakeholder initiatives as well as lawsuits in domestic and regional courts. There have also been many civil society-led initiatives pressuring for corporate accountability and creating socio-economic alternatives, aiming to transform dominant business models.

In our workshop, we first plan to analyze and discuss the different social and environmental impacts of business activities in the Andean countries, within the context of our global (political) economy. Second, we will shed light on different domestic and transnational governance instruments that aim to assess and address adverse impacts caused or contributed to by companies and analyze how they unfold in concrete domestic and local contexts, shaped by different actors and power constellations. Third, we aim to identify new strategies and initiatives that might contribute to a transformation of human rights and environmental problems associated with businesses, for instance by developing more responsible business models, creating new alliances between actors and social movements struggling for socio-environmental justice or by enhancing corporate accountability.

If you are interested to join this workshop, please submit a title and a short abstract of your presentation (max. 300 words) [here](#) until 08/05.

There will be no fee for attending the conference and the organizers will provide alimentation. You can apply for support for funding your trip to the organizers. Depending on the availability of funds, we will decide upon your funding request.

We hope to see many of you soon in Nuremberg!

ADLAF Team

