



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE
FACULTÉ DE DROIT



IISD

International Institute for
Sustainable Development

UNIGE-IISD

Speaker Series on Investment Disputes

NEXT EVENT: Friday, 8 February 2019 from 16.00-18.00

(drinks starting at 18.00)

**WHERE: University of Geneva, Room 1160, Uni-Mail,
Boulevard du Pont-d'Arve 40, 1205 Genève**

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

FRIDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2019: THE CASE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COURT OF CIVIL JUSTICE

We live in a world in which the victims of cross-border mass torts de facto lack a court to turn to in order to pursue legal action against multinational corporations responsible for disasters, atrocities and other harms.

This is what Maya Steinitz argues in her book *The Case for an International Court of Civil Justice*, which is the feature of our panel discussion. We will touch on various themes from the book, which was published by the Cambridge University Press, including:

- While tort victims ultimately receive no redress, corporations must nonetheless spend large sums to defend against sprawling, parallel litigations.
- The only way to provide a fair, legitimate, and efficient process for both victims and corporations is to create an International Court of Civil Justice (ICCJ), highlighting justice-based and economics-based arguments in favor of an ICCJ.
- A procedural and institutional design for such a court is needed which addresses issues such as personal and subject-matter jurisdiction, remedies, appeal, preclusion and judicial independence.

Maya Steinitz, University of Iowa School of Law, will speak with **Carlos Lopez**, International Commission of Jurist, **Kinda Mohamadieh**, South Center and **Elisabeth Tuerk**, Chief of the International Investment Agreements Section, UNCTAD, as commentators. **Nathalie Bernasconi**, IISD's Group Director of the Economic Law and Policy Program, will moderate the event.

SPEAKER: PROFESSOR MAYA STEINITZ teaches civil procedure, international arbitration, international business transactions, and corporations. Her research focuses on a wide range of topics including the intersection of civil litigation and corporate law, public and business international law, transnational dispute resolution, and the global legal profession. She has taught courses in comparative law, international law, and international dispute resolution at Harvard Law School, Columbia Law School, Tel Aviv University, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Prior to joining academia she served as a litigator at Latham & Watkins, LLP and Flemming, Zulack & Williamson LLP and clerked for the Hon. Esther Hayut, currently the Chief Justice of the Israeli Supreme Court. Professor Steinitz remains active in international dispute resolution and regularly serves as an arbitrator, expert, and counsel in international and domestic arbitrations.

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