



**Side Event at the occasion of the
10th SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
UN – Vienna October 15th 2020
10 a.m - 10.50 a.m., online (Zoom)**

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81890759866?pwd=Q01GM2RUT1V3TmlLV0VQcHluUnJudz09>

Meeting-ID: 818 9075 9866

Kenncode: 599775

**Linking Criminal Justice and the SDGs in a New Way:
Corruption creates wicked legacies at hazardous sites**

Programme

Welcome & Introduction

Ilona GRAENITZ, Chairperson Vienna NGO Committee on Sustainable Development
“Prerequisites for achieving the SDGs”

Presentation

Univ.Prof. Drⁱⁿ. Verena WINIWARTER, BOKU, Institute of Social Ecology
“Eliminating and cleaning up of wicked legacies at hazardous sites by supporting transparent, public information and fighting corruption, thus providing a sound basis for achieving the SDGs”

Questions & Answers

Follow-up activities



About wicked legacies at hazardous sites

Advancing towards the Agenda 2030 goals hinges on progress with target “16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms” Corruption can lead to significant and serious environmental problems, if it jeopardizes the care, maintenance and clean-up of toxic legacy sites. These environmental problems can in particular impact women. The event makes a case for action and calls for a debate on an additional SDG Target, respectively indicators to draw attention to the dangers of toxic legacy sites worldwide; particularly in abandoned mines. The SDGs can only be achieved, if stocks as well as flows of toxic substances and pollutants are reduced and finally eliminated. Abandoned toxic sites and mines present not only challenges to the environment and people, but also a growing threat, as mines worldwide may increasingly be used for storing CO₂ with possibly hazardous results due to chemical reactions. It is of utmost importance to clean up this toxic legacy and manage related risks, as this process is particularly vulnerable to corruption. A panel of experts will offer insight into the risks of toxic legacy sites; the problems of developing legal framework to minimize long-term environmental contamination and its negative impact on human health; and discuss the challenges of minimizing corruption in issues involving specialized technical knowledge. In order to underpin the rule of law and to expedite legal action respecting the “Polluter Pays” principle, the founding of an international High Court for Environment and Health under UN auspices is proposed.

CV Panelists

Verena Winiwarter

Professor of Environmental History at Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt since 2007, from 2018 on holding the same position at BOKU, Institute of Social Ecology. PhD in Environmental History 1998, *venia legendi* in Human Ecology in 2003 from University of Vienna. Since 2016, full member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Chairperson of the Commission for Interdisciplinary Ecological Studies (OEAW), founding member of the European Society of Environmental History. Her co-authored book “Umwelt hat Geschichte. 66 Reisen durch die Zeit” was elected as *Wissenschaftsbuch des Jahres* in Austria and *Umweltbuch des Jahres* in Germany. In 2013, she was „WissenschaftlerIn des Jahres“ in Austria and in December 2019 she was bestowed the "Preis der Stadt Wien für Geisteswissenschaften".

Sustainable Development Committee

The focus of the committee is on the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. It provides a forum for NGOs interested in discussing and analyzing the work of the UN intergovernmental bodies in the field of sustainable development, as well as the related activities of the Vienna-based UN organizations. It encourages new initiatives and seeks inputs into civil society's contribution to the post-2015 agenda of the United Nations and the multilateral negotiations scheduled to start in September 2014.