



**University of
Zurich** ^{UZH}



**Institute for
Global Negotiation**

Dynamics of Global Cooperation

Negotiating Complexity: Lessons from Food Security

Virtual Conference

22-23 February 2023 – afternoon CET

Russia's war in Ukraine triggered a sharp rise in food, fuel and fertiliser prices, leading to a spiralling food crisis that has affected the whole world. The war has merely exacerbated an already precarious situation with global food supplies reeling from the effects of other conflicts, economic pressure, the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. Addressing these complex challenges involves a range of actors with patient negotiation and mediation skills key to finding successful solutions both in the short and long term. This online conference examines cases related to food security to draw lessons for the conduct of complex negotiations.

The conference is part of an annual series on the dynamics of global cooperation organised by the Institute for Global Negotiation in partnership with the Chair of Political Philosophy at the University of Zurich. The aim of the series is to provide students and young professionals with the chance to explore contemporary issues in the field of global cooperation with senior practitioners and academics. To this end, the virtual conference includes a keynote address and three expert-led panel discussions.

Schedule

Wednesday 22 nd February		Thursday 23 rd February	
13:30-14:00	Introduction to the Conference & Welcome, IGN Team	13:15-13:30	Introduction Day 2
14:00-15:30	Panel 1: Negotiation on the Ground Abdulrahman Najeh, World Food Program Moderated by Vera Hauser	13:30-15:00	Panel 2: Stakeholder Engagement: A Case Study from EU Agriculture and Food Policies Lara Fornabaio, Client Earth Moderated by Erika Zanellato
		15:30-17:00	Panel 3: Mediation and Moral Responsibility between Competing Needs Alexandria Poole, University of Twente Moderated by Alexandra Pintilie
16:00-17:00	Keynote Speech: The Role of Conflict Mediation in the Russia-Ukraine Grain Deal Richard Wilcox, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue Moderated by Francis Cheneval and Jack R. Williams	17:15-18:00	Concluding Session/Outro, GNC Team

Biographies of Speakers

Keynote Address: The Role of Conflict Mediation in the Russia-Ukraine Grain Deal **Richard Wilcox, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue**



Richard is an adjunct professor of International Relations at the John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS Europe) and a Senior Advisor at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Geneva.

Richard has held positions such as Assistant Secretary General and Director General, a.i., African Risk Capacity, Rome; Senior UN Liaison, Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq (2003); Director of Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs, National Security Council (2000-2001); Political Advisor to the Commissioner of the International Police Task Force, UN Mission in Bosnia (late 1990s). He has had several assignments with the United Nations in the Balkans.

Richard holds a PhD in Political Science from MIT, a Master in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and completed his B.A. at The Citadel.

Panel 1: Negotiation on the Ground **Abdulrahman Najeh, World Food Program**



Abdulrahman Najeh has been working in the humanitarian sector since 2012 in Aleppo, Syria under different capacities and is a member of the Competence Center on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN).

Most notably working with the World Food Programme (WFP) in Syria as the Head of Programme in the Aleppo Office, his main focus was responding to multiple population displacements due to armed conflict. In addition to re-establishing and managing WFP's office in Deir Ezzor in the northeast of Syria which was previously besieged by ISIS, focusing on establishing strategic relationships which require critical negotiation skills.

Currently, Abdulrahman is the Policy and Planning Coordinator in the Nutrition division at WFP's Headquarters in Rome, Italy.

Abdulrahman holds a bachelor's degree in Economics and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Syria and is currently studying for a second master's in Reconciliation and Peacebuilding. He enjoys researching and watching debates and lectures on sociology, religion, and peacebuilding theories.

Panel 2: Stakeholder Engagement: A Case Study from EU Agriculture and Food Policies
Lara Fornabaio, Client Earth



Lara leads ClientEarth's work on the protection of natural resources. Prior to this role, she contributed to the development of ClientEarth agriculture team, which she has led since 2020. She supports the team in advocacy initiatives and in bringing legal challenges aimed at better implementation and enforcement of environmental laws tackling pollution from agricultural and industrial sources.

Before joining ClientEarth Lara was an intern at the Centre for International Environmental Law in Geneva and worked for the International Training Centre of the UN International Labour Organisation.

Lara holds a PhD in EU Food Law from the University of Ferrara (Italy) and has carried out research in several countries, including The Netherlands (Wageningen University), France (University of Nantes), and Switzerland (Swiss Institute of Comparative Law). She has researched in a variety of legal and multidisciplinary domains, from sustainable food systems, to governance studies and indigenous law.

Panel 3: Mediation and Moral Responsibility between Competing Needs
Alexandria Poole, University of Twente



Alexandria joined the Department of Philosophy at the University of Twente as Assistant Professor in 2020. Previously, she was an Assistant Professor in Philosophy at Elizabethtown College.

Alexandria's research focuses specifically on addressing gaps between epistemological frameworks, such as appreciation between technoscientific values and indigenous communities. Within her work, she explores societal drivers of change by engaging avenues for social and environmental justice within education, policy and our engagement with major technologies within our everyday life.

Alexandria holds her PhD in *Environmental Philosophy* from University of North Texas, preceded by two Master degrees, namely a Masters in Environmental Science and a Masters in Environmental Philosophy. She has co-authored numerous scholarly articles exploring issues of ethical and ecological literacies and biocultural conservation.