

The Lisbon Climate Conference (4th edition):

Climate Change and Reparations

Lisbon (Portugal), September 29th-30th, 2026

Call for papers

ORGANIZED BY:

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In recent years, the rise in contentious and advisory proceedings has contributed to a more nuanced understanding of States' obligations in respect of climate change. In particular, international courts and tribunals have restated and clarified the content of States' mitigation and adaptation obligations, the scope of parallel treaty and customary obligations binding States, and the legal consequences for States, including the obligation to provide reparation for climate change-related harm. In fact, the advisory opinion rendered in July 2025 by the International Court of Justice could not have been more adamant in affirming States' obligation, under the customary law of State responsibility, to compensate for harm caused by greenhouse gas emissions, even though it also emphasized this duty only in abstract terms and in a fact-detached manner (as expected in an advisory opinion).

As such, the topic of climate reparations still requires further clarification and development. Bridging the gap between an abstract restatement and a concrete application of the obligation to provide reparation for climate harm is the next big step in climate litigation. Topics in need of further clarification and development in scholarship include, among others, the attribution of conduct to the State, the establishment of the required causal link, the concurrent role of States and corporations in

greenhouse gas emissions, the establishment of victim status, the shared responsibility of States, the modalities of reparation, and the interplay between different forms of reparation.

If ‘climate reparations’ are the next big issue in climate litigation, the purpose of this conference is to contribute to the scholarly discussion on this topic and to pave the way for future developments before domestic, regional, and international courts and tribunals.

Interested practitioners and scholars (including early career researchers and Ph.D. candidates) are invited to submit an abstract of about 500 words, in English, by **1 June 2026** at the latest, to:

lisbonclimateconference@gmail.com

Submissions should include a CV, with email and institutional affiliation.

Abstracts will be assessed on the basis of:

- Originality and the innovative nature of the work;
- Relevance to the overall conference theme; and
- Coherence of panels and the conference as a whole.

Only one abstract per person will be considered, but joint submissions are admitted.

Selected participants will be informed by **15 July 2026**.

Travel and accommodation expenses are **not** covered by the organization.