

## PREFACE

The present volume collects, in the form of chapters, an updated and more elaborated version of the speeches made by the authors in the course of an international conference held in Perugia on 13 October 2023. The initiative followed a series of webinars organized during the pandemic by a group of international lawyers from the University of Coruña (Research Centre of European Studies Salvador de Madariaga), the FASTA University in Mar del Plata, and the University of Perugia (Department of Law), which had also resulted in the publication of a collected book edited by Gabriela Oanta, Ana Villanueva and myself<sup>1</sup>. With the end of the health emergency, it was finally possible to meet in person again and organize an event in Italy, which also benefited from the participation of international lawyers from the University for Foreigners of Perugia.

While the law of the sea has been the *fil rouge* of all the previous initiatives organized by the Italian-Spanish-Argentine group, for the 2023 international conference we decided to select a broader subject, which offered us the opportunity to discuss recent developments in the same field while at the same time intersecting other research interests of all the speakers. Various circumstances led us to choose climate change as the focus of the event. Not only is climate change one of the most pressing and serious threats which humankind will have to face in the next decades. It has been gaining enormous attention among international and EU scholars and is a topic which some of the invited speakers based in Perugia have been studying for years. Furthermore, as explained by BONGIOANNINI CERLINI and SARACENI in their Chapter, the University of Perugia hosts a research centre on the climate and has launched an innovative interdisciplinary project which also includes lawyers and other social scientists. The funding of a European project on water governance in the time of climate change (“More4Water”, Principal Investigator: Silvia Meniconi), in which a unit of lawyers is working alongside engineers, confirms the University of Perugia’s foresight in establishing such interdisciplinary networks. Fortuitously, the conference was held in Perugia – linked to Assisi by the Path of Peace – just a few days after the publication of Pope Francis’s apostolic exhortation on the climate crisis, *Laudate Deum*<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> OANTA, VEZZANI and VILANUEVA (eds.), *El desarrollo del Derecho del mar desde una perspectiva de Argentina y europea*, Barcelona, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> “Laudate Deum: To All People of Good Will on the Climate Crisis”, apostolic exhortation

The book is divided into two sections. The first tackles general issues revolving around the impact of climate change on the international community and the European Union. Ample space is devoted to climate change as one of the most serious threats to the ability of present and future generations to enjoy human rights, with three chapters dealing respectively with the notion of vulnerability (Chapter I by MARCHEGIANI), the climate jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights (Chapter II by ANGELINI), and climate-induced migration (Chapter III by VEZZANI). Chapter IV by CARTA examines the EU strategy for a Blue Economy in the context of the Green Deal, while Chapter V (BONGIANNINI CERLINI and SARACENI) enriches the volume by offering the perspective of two climatologists.

Section II collects contributions on recent developments in the law of the sea in the face of climate change. Most notably, Chapter VI (OANTA) examines the impact of climate change on the European Union's fisheries activities in the Mediterranean, while Chapter VII (SOBRINO-HEREDIA) emphasises how the failure by flag States to exercise proper jurisdiction and control with respect to vessels undermines the efforts of the international community to protect the global environment. Chapter VIII (VILLANUEVA) focuses on the BBNJ Agreement by also emphasizing its relevance in terms of mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Chapter IX (QUIRICO) deals with the Arctic policy of the European Union, by evidencing some of the most relevant geopolitical consequences of rising sea level. Lastly, Chapter X (MOSCUZZA and RIVERA) examines the impact of climate change on seafarers.

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