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Corporate Accountability in Transitional Justice: Reflections on an Ongoing Social Lab (Roundtable)

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Corporate Accountability in Transitional Justice: Reflections on an Ongoing Social Lab (Roundtable)

Panelists: Avery Kelly, Corporate Accountability Lab. Tatiana Devia, Corporate Accountability Lab. Kaushik Sunder Rajan, University of Chicago. 2 participants of the CLASP Lab, TBD.

This roundtable describes and reflects upon the Corporate Liability and Sustainable Peace (CLASP) Lab, a “social lab” convened to advance corporate accountability in post-conflict and transitional justice settings around the world. Launched in February 2021, the CLASP Lab is a virtual forum in three languages, bringing together more than 40 lawyers and community activists from 25 countries in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East to share experiences and devise strategies for holding corporations accountable for human rights violations, as part of processes of transitional justice.

The CLASP Lab seeks to center questions of corporate abuses of human rights, and corporate accountability, in the building of transitional justice processes. Post-conflict processes around the world have tended to completely ignore, or inadequately address, the direct and indirect participation of economic actors in the conflict. To counter this, the social lab model aims to leverage participants’ diverse perspectives and creative thinking and intends to advance accountability for the role businesses play in civil conflicts.

Each participant of the CLASP Lab brings their experiences with conflict and with the law. Using a design-driven process, the Lab provides a forum for sharing a multiplicity of unique experiences, while also identifying common themes and patterns. In the process, it allows for a mapping of corporate violence and human rights abuses, even as it provides possibilities for building solidarity and sharing strategies to hold corporations accountable for their violations.

In this interdisciplinary roundtable, panelists will share the preliminary findings of the CLASP Lab. They will also share the lessons learned, in order to consider how this social lab model might serve as a template for broader strategies of participatory transnational solidarity building and human rights.