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Journal of International Law and Trade Policy

Abstract

When Land Disappears: How Digitization Could Preserve Statehood Beyond Montevideo

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Climate change–induced sea-level rise threatens the territorial existence, statehood, and continuity of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This article explores the legal and political implications of potential island submergence, focusing on sovereignty, international recognition, and preservation of state identity. It argues that digital statehood offers a viable framework for maintaining continuity and governance beyond physical territory. The article thereby examines how digital sovereignty can support SIDS in addressing climate displacement and safeguarding their national existence.

Keywords: Climate change, sea-level rise, digital statehood