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### **International Regime Conflicts on Environmental Issues**

The paper addresses one of the conference's major focuses, namely the one on problems of regime integration and joined-up policy-making on the horizontal level. It intends to contribute to existing institutions theory by developing a comprehensive analytical framework for the analysis of a particular dimension of the increase in institutional intersections, namely for the analysis of conflicts between international regimes in the empirical domain of environmental protection.

Based on the examination of several cases of conflicts between environmental regimes and free trade regimes, as well as drawing on various literatures including the theoretical and empirical findings of the few pioneering projects on institutional interplay (Institutional Interaction Project, UNU Inter-linkages Initiative), the paper conceptualizes inter-regime conflicts in two steps. First, it identifies distinctive criteria (including the degree of conflict manifestation [latent, manifest], conflict arenas [internal, external], actors involved [bureaucracies, member states, etc.], functional overlaps of conflicting regimes [single-issue conflicts, cross-issue conflicts] as well as their geographical intersections [single-level conflicts, multi-level conflicts]), thereby differentiating between various types of regime conflicts. Furthermore, the paper introduces a second typology of solution strategies for regime conflicts and maps regularities and patterns between certain conflicts and certain strategies.

Building on these typologies, a second step comprises the generation of a set of relationally framed hypotheses in order to gain explanatory knowledge about the impact of international regime conflicts on the effectiveness of the involved regimes. Potential independent variables include some of the typological criteria (e.g. the degree of functional or geographical overlap), but also other relative regime properties such as the respective degree of legalization. The application of this analytical framework might prove highly useful when it comes to uncovering supportive conditions for the strengthening of involved environmental regimes.