



Climate Law and Governance Day 2015

Climate Change, Sustainable Development and the Law: Governance Challenges and Innovations **MEDIA PACKAGE**

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In Paris, on December 4th 2015, during the 21st Conference of the Parties of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Climate Law and Governance Day (CLGD) was inaugurated at the École de Droit de La Sorbonne (Paris 1). In this event, **over 400 jurists, judges, experts, professors and law students** participated in the preparatory events and in the Day, with **more than 4000 more engaged online or over social media**.

The importance of the Climate Law and Governance Day and its timeliness were underlined by **Dr Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger**, Senior Director, Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL) & Fellow, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law (LCIL), University of Cambridge: *"Over 180 national climate actions plans are now registered as INDCs under the UNFCCC, with nearly all planning legal and institutional reforms. Well-designed treaties and laws, backed by good governance and local ownership, can make a massive difference on climate change. We are delighted to be inaugurating Climate Law and Governance Day, with a consortium of world-leading partners, to galvanize the global rule of law, governance and justice community to respond to climate change."*

Dr. Oonagh Fitzgerald reiterated the key interactions between the Climate Law and Governance Day and the COP 21 by stating *"The inaugural International Climate Law and Governance Day symposium provided a unique opportunity for international law scholars and practitioners to interact with leading observers of COP21 and discuss a wide range of emerging issues in climate change law and governance – from human rights and climate justice, to landscape renewal, clean technology transfer, and carbon border tax adjustments."*

During the morning opening plenary, following a warm welcome by **Prof Yann Kerbrat**, Co-Director, Research Institute for International and European Law (IREDIES), attending experts enjoyed very inspiring and historical keynote speeches from the **Rt Hon Mary Robinson**, President, Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice / former President of Ireland & Laureate, Right Livelihoods Award and **Dr Ibrahim Thiaw**, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme. Among remarks of the highest caliber, the **Rt Hon Mary Robinson** outlined the importance of *"Law as a transformative tool, with hope and courage, for climate justice"*. **Dr Ibrahim Thiaw** chose to explore the linkages that enable laws to propel change when



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The keynote speech of the afternoon plenary was given in a clear, dynamic and humorous exposé by **Prof John Knox**, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment & Henry C. Lauerman Professor of International Law, Wake Forest University School of Law. Prof. John Knox connected COP 21 with his United Nations responsibilities when he declared *“An increase of even 2 degrees would have devastating effects on the human rights of the most vulnerable. The Climate Vulnerable Forum countries’ proposed target of 1.5 degrees would better accord with human rights principles.”*

Kishan Khoday, Team Leader for Arab Region, United Nations Development Program noted that *“to achieve real transformational change to achieve a zero carbon development pathway requires a shift in development thinking, and new innovative forms of governance. UNDP as the UN’s largest provider of country assistance on climate change and on governance stands ready to support countries on their ambitious implementation agendas.”*

The closing plenary included a very engaging keynote speech, with emphasis on landscape approaches, from **Dr Peter Holmgren**, Director-General, Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). Dr Holmgren was keen to share with the audience his conviction that *“For difficult problems of how to link investors to smallholder farmers, we must embrace complexity and diversity”*

Building on the success of the CLGD 2015, The Climate Law and Governance Day 2016 in Marrakech promises to be even bigger. All law and governance actors are invited to join us for that even that will be held in November 2016.

For more information or interview requests, please contact

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Climate Law and Governance Day, as a new annual event, will build a community of 6,000 international and national leaders and actors who are united in their determination to engage law and governance actors, including law-makers and parliaments, judges, government authorities, research and education institutions, associations, civil society organizations and firms, across the justice sector, in global efforts to address climate change.

Throughout the Inaugural 2015 Climate Law and Governance Day, Esteemed International Experts exchanged perspectives and experiences, covering topics such as:

- *Mainstreaming Rights into Global Climate Change Responses*
- *Designing Legal & Financial Frameworks for Sustainable Landscapes*
- *Promoting Metropolitan Governance for Low-Carbon Food Security*
- *Governing Climate Consequences*
- *Identifying Governance Pathways to Decarbonization*
- *Promoting Legal Preparedness for REDD+*
- *Litigating Climate Change*
- *Incentivizing Sustainable Energy Investment*
- *Pathways for Local Land-use Change and Reforms*

The following keynote speakers contributed to the event:

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- Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, UK
Department of Energy & Climate Change
- Ms Bianca Jagger, President, Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation & Senior
Fellow, CIGI
- Senator Prof Nico Schrijver, University of Leiden, Faculty of Law / Vice-President,
International Law Association (ILA)
- Prof John Knox, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment &
Henry C. Lauerman Professor of International Law, Wake Forest University School
of Law
- Dr Bradnee Chambers, Executive Secretary, Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- Dr Gerd Droesse, former General Counsel, Green Climate Fund

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Speakers included noted experts such as:

- Prof Joan Divil, Director of External Relations, Sorbonne Law School (Paris 1)
- Prof Ying-Shih Hsieh, Chairman, Environmental Quality Protection Foundation (EQPF)
- Prof Ben Cashore, Forestry and Environment School (FES), Yale University & Director, Governance Environment & Markets
- Prof Matt Hoffmann, University of Toronto Dr Laura Tozer, Researcher, University of Toronto
- Mr Martijn Wilder, Head of Climate Practice, Baker & McKenzie
- Mr Andrew Wardell, Senior Manager, CIFOR
- Dr Ashfaq Khalfan, Director of Law & Policy, Amnesty International & Chair of CISDL Board
- Dr David Estrin, Co-Chair, International Bar Association (IBA) Climate Justice & Human Rights Task Force and Senior Research Fellow, CIGI
- Mr Martin Doe, Senior Legal Counsel, Permanent Court of Arbitration
- Prof Markus Gehring, Jean Monet Research Chair, University of Ottawa / Lecturer, University of Cambridge
- Mr Richard M. Saines, Partner, Baker & McKenzie
- Prof John Dernbach, Director, Environmental Law & Sustainability Centre, Widener University Law School
- Prof Sumudu Atapattu, Director of Research Centers, University of Wisconsin Law School / Lead Counsel Human Rights, CISDL
- Prof Francois Guy Treballe, Sorbonne Law School (Paris 1)
- Lic Alberto Sandoval, Executive Director, Transversal

The heartening intellectual enrichment that emanated from the positive dialogue between the speakers and the roundtable participants during the inaugural Climate Law and Governance day generated an impressive amount of new law and governance research, teaching and pledges for action. The resulting strengthening of the climate law and governance community will bear fruit in many shapes in the near future. For example, new publications are due to appear online over the coming weeks and months. Even sooner, at the Venue of COP 21, on Friday 11 December 2015, the Climate Law and Governance Partnership will be able to share, during an Official UNFCCC Side Event, the key ideas and pathways that arose from CLGD 2015.

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The Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL), in cooperation with the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law (LCIL) at the University of Cambridge, the Centre for Research on Climate Resilience (CR2) at the University of Chile, and the Centre for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy (CASELAP) of the University of Nairobi, also announced during CLGD 2015 the winners of this year's student legal essay competition on **"Climate Change, Sustainable Development and the Law: International / National Legal and Governance Innovations to Implement the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions and the Paris Outcomes."**

The winners are:

- Gold

A global justice approach to losses and damages from climate change: From culpability to compensation
By: Alexis Durand (Brown University)

- Silver

Environmental Assessment of the Browse Liquefied Natural Gas Precinct: Using the Environmental Impact Assessment Process to Regulate "Scope 3" Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated with Major Projects By: Susanah Vindedzis (University of Western Australia)

Climate Change, Sustainable Development and the Law: International / National Legal and Governance Innovations to Implement the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions and the Paris Outcomes. A Perspective on Nigeria By: Ezeala Chinonyerem Ijeoma (University of Ottawa)

Climate Law and Governance Hosts

Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL), Institut de Recherche en Droit International et Européen de la Sorbonne (IRDIES), the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law (LCIL) of the University of Cambridge, the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), the Governance, Environment and Markets (GEM) Initiative of Yale University, the Environmental Governance Lab at the University of Toronto Munk School for Global Affairs, and a consortium of

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