



Advancing Legal & Policy Frameworks for Ambition, Obligation & Finance

Climate Law & Governance Initiative 2021

During the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP26

Background & Report on Outcomes – 09 Nov 2021

Legal and institutional transformation is urgently required to support efforts to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels; to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change; to foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development; and to make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards sustainable development.

169 out of 186 countries have stressed the importance of legal and institutional reform in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the global response to climate change under the Paris Agreement. As 99 countries also emphasize in their NDCs, increases in capacity and practice are crucial for implementation and compliance, as new research by the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL), the University of Cambridge and other partners from Climate Law and Governance Initiative has shown.

Climate finance in many forms, if private and public law and governance can be mobilised at all levels to accelerate ambition and convert ambition to obligations, is crucial in all respects. Indeed, with many countries pledging net zero emissions by 2050 or sooner, alignment of \$130 trillion in finance with the Paris Agreement through the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (Gfanz) before 2050, and the Adaptation Fund renewed to higher levels than ever before, law and governance improvements are needed now. For these pledges to meet reality, binding regulations, carefully crafted contracts, disclosure obligations and thousands of other legal tools are required on all levels, rebuilding trust, accountability and compliance towards climate justice.

As Paris Agreement representatives, observers and stakeholders gather in Glasgow for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) from 1-12 November 2021, the world also convened a community of leading law faculties and legal institutes, international organization counsel, government authorities, law associations, judges, professionals and others responsible for inspiring, innovating and building law, policy and governance capacity.

The [Climate Law & Governance Day 2021](#) global symposium was held on 05 November 2021 during the UNFCCC COP 26 in Glasgow and attracted over 1,100 registrants from over 120 countries in person and online across 16 world-class leading sessions and 3 high-level plenaries at the 2021 CLGD with thanks to the University of Glasgow. Co-hosted in the United Kingdom by the University of Glasgow, the University of Cambridge and Strathclyde University, together with the CISDL which hosts the CLGI Secretariat and the new NZLA, which is certified as an Accelerator in the Race to Net Zero of

the UK Presidency. CLGD 2021 provided an important opportunity to share ideas, debate trends and advances, and build legal momentum for climate action.

CLGD 2021 builds on the success of CLGD 2005 at McGill University during COP11 in Montreal, CLGD 2015 at La Sorbonne Law School during COP21 in Paris, CLGD 2016 at the Université Privée de Marrakech and Hassane I University during COP22 in Marrakech, CLGD 2017 with the University of the South Pacific at the University of Bonn during COP23 in Bonn, CLGD 2018 at the University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland, and CLGD 2019 with the University of Chile at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid in Madrid, Spain, among other global events and engagements.

This global symposium also built on an extraordinary online pre-conference on climate law and public policy, co-hosted in the University of Cambridge, '[Climate Change, the SDGs and the Law](#)' on 29-30 October, 2021, which convened over 750 registrants from over 90 countries across two high-level plenaries and six experts panels, engaging leading law professors together with early career scholars, students and practitioners, co-hosted by the Bennett Institute for Public Policy and many other institutions in the University of Cambridge.

To share outcomes at COP26 itself, on 06 November key municipal, national, and international innovations were shared in an official Side-Event on [Net Zero Climate Law and Governance - Advancing Ambition and Action to Implement the Paris Agreement and the SDGs](#). The interactive roundtable brought together leading experts from the Net Zero Lawyers Alliance, Centre for International Sustainable Development Law and other partners of the Climate Law and Governance Initiative, IKEM, the Asociacion Ambiente y Sociedad and Centro Humboldt.

Further, on 07 November 2021, helping to train a new generation of specialists world-wide, the [Climate Law & Governance Specialization Course](#) hosted in the University of Strathclyde certified 163 in person and virtual participants from around the world. Participants gained critical insights from renowned legal experts, deepening their understanding of the legal and institutional mechanisms available to implement their NDCs and the Paris Agreement. Indeed, 163 practitioners, scholars and junior members of delegations were certified and recognized as new Climate Law and Governance Specialists at the 2021 Climate Law and Governance Specialization Course, with thanks to the University of Strathclyde, the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, CISDL and other partners.

Climate Law & Governance Day 2021 Addresses Crucial Challenges to the Law on Climate Change

Partners in the Climate Law & Governance Initiative (CLGI), building on the vision set by the United Kingdom as UNFCCC COP26 President, as informed by the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues - Climate Law and Governance Roundtable on 04 December 2020, highlighted four key legal challenges facing the world:

1. **Operationalising the Paris Agreement:** Addressing the challenges and opportunities of market and non-market mechanisms, transparency frameworks, compliance mechanisms, loss and damage, the Global Stocktake and other elements of operationalizing the Paris Agreement and other relevant international legal instruments.
2. **Testing Legal and Governance Tools for High Ambition Implementation:** Innovating legal and governance instruments for climate mitigation, adaptation and finance, creating synergies within and across sectors, and strengthening capacity amongst legislators, policymakers and institutions, in the context of pandemic recovery measures to help or hinder high ambition implementation of NDCs and LTSs under the Paris Agreement.
3. **Advancing Climate Resilience and Climate Justice:** Engaging civil society and the legal community, including courts and professionals, in accelerating climate action, enhancing transparency and ensuring accountability, integrating rights based approaches into climate actions, advancing the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for loss and damage with effective structures including for financing actions, and climate migration.
4. **Strengthening Net Zero Legal Frameworks to Enable Climate Neutral Investment and Finance:** Exploring the legal tools and obstacles in promoting sustainable climate finance, investment flows, structured finance and global supply chains to implement the Paris Agreement, including reductions in fossil fuel

subsidies, considering contributions of private international law, trade and investment law, also commercial and corporate rules.

Climate Law & Governance Day 2021 – Building Capacity for Legal Action on All Levels

1. **To inspire and optimize** legal and institutional reform for achieving current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, supporting the 2023 Global Stocktake efforts and increasing the ambition of NDCs.
2. **To profile and share** innovative international, national, and local law and governance challenges, mechanisms and good practices relating to global efforts to address climate change.
3. **To catalyse knowledge exchange** and co-generate new climate law and governance scholarship, insights and approaches, facilitating new dialogue and partnerships.
4. **To strengthen capacity, collaboration** among the climate law and governance community of practice to implement the Doha Amendment, Paris Agreement and COP outcomes, supporting achievement of the world's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Climate Law and Governance Day 2021 will be followed by a global online [Leverhulme Lecture and Distinguished Experts Dialogue](#) on 01 December 2021, to which all media is invited online. The CLGI Secretariat is hosted by the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law based in McGill University (Canada), the University of Cambridge (UK), the University of Nairobi (Kenya) and the University of Chile (Chile).

With all appreciation to the UNFCCC CoP22, 23, 24, 25 & 26 Presidencies:



With grateful recognition of our law association, law journal, publisher, law firm and registered charity partners:



With special thanks for the excellent advice and engagement of experts from key international organisations:

