University College London

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICy

**Climate Governance after the Paris Agreement**

**Convenors:** UCL Global Governance Institute

**Date:** Friday, 25 November 2016

**Workshop venue:** French Embassy Residence, 11 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QP

**Public panel debate venue:** ArcheologyG.06 Lecture Theatre, University College London, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY

University College London Global Governance Institute is hosting a closed workshop and public panel debate titled: Climate Governance after the Paris Agreement on 25 November 2016, kindly supported by the French Embassy in London as part of its Conference-Debat series, UCL Grand Challenge and the UCL Centre for Law and Environment which are co-hosting the evening panel.

With participation from over 30 leading international practitioners and scholars in the field of climate change law, governance and policy, this event is intended to:

* Identify the most innovative governance features of the Paris Agreement, with particular attention to the agreement’s legal, operational and normative status
* Consider the role of government, civil society, policy-makers and academics in accelerating implementation of more ambitious climate action
* Examine examples of novel pathways for mobilisation presented by the Agreement, both within and outside the UNFCCC system
* Enhance understanding of the relationship between the Paris Agreement and existing domestic governance arrangements within the UK, France and beyond
* Identify next steps required to operationalising the Paris Agreement within existing government structures at the regional and domestic level, drawing on concrete examples from relevant policy sectors.

This event comes at a critical time – with the Paris Agreement adopted in December 2015 marking a dramatic breakthrough in multilateral negotiation following years of deadlock. The Paris approach to global governance has been hailed by Anne-Marie Slaughter as “a model for effective global governance in the twenty-first century.” The colossal challenge of breaking decades of multilateral gridlock had as its mantra: don’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

A hybrid of hard, soft and non-law, many of the provisions thrashed out in Paris are purposely framed in order to accelerate implementation action, with targets or “Nationally Determined Contributions” (NDCs) left to be determined by government at a later date. Considerable debate surrounds the legal, operational and normative status of provisions within the Agreement, the promise of a range of innovative global mechanisms such as the global stocktake, for enabling new avenues for legal and political mobilisation, as well as how the agreement will connect with existing government and policy activities already underway within regional and local political systems.

This event will take stock of the potential of the Paris Agreement to drive forward effective climate governance, as well as review progress made at the COP 22 meeting in Morocco in November 2016. As policy-makers, practitioners and scholars seek to realise and ratchet up the impact of the Paris Agreement, it is essential to advance understanding of how to operationalise governance of the UNFCCC framework in practice.

The event will be structured around three sessions which are intended to be cross-cutting:

* Climate Governance after the Paris Agreement: Taking Stock and Pathways Forward
* Mobilising the Paris Agreement: Monitoring, Political Opportunity and Strategic Litigation
* Domestic Governance Arrangements in the Context of the Paris Agreement

Further information including programme, session summary and list of participants can be found below. Each session will open with three brief opening remarks, before opening up for discussion. The workshop is intended to be highly interactive and participatory. A policy report based on workshop findings will be widely disseminated afterwards.

**Workshop Programme**

**Friday 25 November 2016**

**10:30 Coffee**

**10:45-11:00 Convenors’ welcome**

**11:00-12:30 Climate Governance after the Paris Agreement: Taking Stock and Pathways Forward**

*Summary:* This session will serve as a mapping of governance innovation in the Paris Agreement. Issues which will be explored include: (1) the legal, operational and normative status of the Paris Agreement, with a view to identifying governance innovation and the opportunities and challenges they represent. (2) Both “bottom-up” mechanisms, such as the INDCs, as well as “top-down” procedural obligations, for example the new transparency system, global stocktake and periodic review mechanisms. (3) The implications of bottom-up and top-down elements, including the “non-adversarial” compliance body, for driving forward implementation action by government, civil society, policy-makers, and practitioners. (4) How cross-sectoral policy transition can be achieved in areas such as the move from the clean development mechanism to the sustainable development mechanism and the revamping of the UN-REDD Programme.

Chair: Professor Joanne Scott (UCL)

Opening Thomas Spencer (IDDR)

remarks: Lavanya Rajamani (Centre for Policy Research)

Sharon Turner (European Climate Foundation)

Jacob Werksman (European Commission)

**12:30-13:30 Lunch**

**13:30-15:00 Mobilising the Paris Agreement: Monitoring, Political Opportunity and Strategic Litigation**

*Summary:* This session will place the focus on mobilising implementation. The Global Stocktake has the potential to facilitate other mechanisms and targets both within and even outside the UNFCCC system, which could serve as a powerful basis for mobilisation within both regional and national political systems, including climate litigation. The Stocktake is just one example of novel opportunity structures in the Paris Agreement with real potential for impact. This session will probe mobilisation pathways which have the potential to accelerate implementation through third party action, building upon the latent ambition of the Agreement as exemplified by the ratchet mechanism. It will be important to reflect on the opportunities presented by emerging regulation and mechanisms comng out of the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies. However, as this session will make clear, progress is not going to be shaped exclusively by the UNFCCC governance frameworks.

Chair: Dr Lisa Vanhala (UCL)

Opening Daniel Compagnon (Sciences Po Bordeaux)

remarks: Peter Newell (University of Sussex)

Gita Parihar (formerly Friends of the Earth)

**15:00-15:15 Coffee**

**15:15-16:45 Domestic Governance Arrangements in the Context of the Paris Agreement**

*Summary:* At the regional and domestic level, government machinery and policy continues to evolve rapidly with the potential to ground Paris Agreement implementation in existing arrangements. However, achieving coherence across policy frameworks will require identification and locking-in of policy synergies, as well as mitigation of potential negative interactions at the local level. This session will draw on concrete examples, including the UK Climate Change Act, city-level innovation, how litigation strategies can impact upon private actors, as well as developments within regional governance settings. It will offer insights on how domestic governance arrangements will fit into the broader overarching Paris framework. Participants will be invited to identify already operational governance mechanisms and policy frameworks in the energy, technology, and other key policy sectors, which could serve as a model for advancing progress in other jurisdictions.

Chair: Professor Maria Lee (UCL)

Opening Emily Boyd (University of Reading)

remarks: Martin Hession (EC, DG Climate Action)

Jonathan Church (ClientEarth)

**18:00 Public Panel Debate: Climate Governance after the Paris Agreement**

Chair: David Coen (UCL)

Panellists: Frank Lecocq (CIRED)

Lavanya Rajamani (Centre for Policy Research)

Sharon Turner (European Climate Foundation)

Jacob Werksman (European Commission)

**20:00 Dinner for participants**

**List of Participants**

* Jean Arlat (Science and Technology Counsellor, French Embassy in London)
* Alina Averchenkova (LSE)
* Peter Betts (Director, International Climate Change, UK Government)
* Emily Body (University of Reading)
* Simon Caney (University of Oxford)
* Christophe Cassen (CIRED)
* Jonathan Church (ClientEarth)
* David Coen (UCL)
* Daniel Compagnon (Sciences Po Bordeaux)
* Sila Guiance (International Climate Change, UK Government)
* Celine Guivarch (CIRED)
* Tom Hale (University of Oxford)
* Martin Hession (EC DG Climate Action)
* Jane Holder (UCL)
* Julia Kreienkamp (UCL)
* Frank Lecocq (CIRED)
* Maria Lee (UCL)
* Peter Newell (University of Sussex)
* Dan Osborn (UCL)
* Gita Parihar (formerly Friends of the Earth)
* Tom Pegram (UCL)
* Roberta Pierfederici (IDDRI)
* Ed Procter (UCL)
* Lavanya Rajamani (Centre for Policy Research)
* Christopher Rapley (UCL)
* Tim Rayner (UEA)
* Anna Lisa Savaresi (University of Stirling)
* Joanne Scott (UCL)
* Thomas Spencer (IDDRI)
* Sharon Turner (European Climate Foundation)
* Lisa Vanhala (UCL)
* Jacob Werksman (European Commission)
* Lauriane Wolf (UCL)
* Farhana Yamin (Track 0, UCL)