

Sustainable Development Law & Policy Brief Presents: All Eyes on Paris: The Global Agreement on Climate Change

November 11, 2015, 09:00am-5:00pm

American University Washington College of Law

Room 603, 4801 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington DC 20016

The Sustainable Development Law & Policy publication will hold its annual symposium this November on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties in Paris (COP-21) taking place in December of this year. This conference will be of ultimate importance in determining how to move the world forward in addressing climate change. The 195 countries that are parties to the UNFCCC committed to create a new international climate agreement by the end of COP-21. The symposium will include panels featuring leading experts on climate change, domestic environmental law, and international environmental law who will discuss various issues surrounding the negotiations. The topics will include particular focus on President Obama's Clean Power Plan, economic implications of the negotiations, the 2-degree goal and whether it is feasible, and the means for reaching the goals and purposes of the UNFCCC.

Panel One: U.S. Climate Action: This panel will focus on the United States' actions toward agreement at COP21 and mitigating climate change; the expectations for the United States going into negotiations; the potential commitments, financial and otherwise, the United States will be willing to make; and how the outcomes of the negotiation will be received in the current U.S. political climate. Particular attention will be given to President Obama's Clean Power Plan. Keyword Topics: Clean Power Plan, power plant industry response, financing the Clean Power Plan, political will to address climate change.

Panel Two: Agreeing on 2 Degrees: World leaders have set forth a target to limit global temperature increase to 2 degrees Celsius and have agreed to take steps to meet this target. In preparation for COP-21, countries have put forward their own plans for meeting the two-degree target, also called INDCs (intended nationally determined contributions). Reaching this 2 degree target, that some argue should be lowered to 1.5, has been the basis for much of the debate in the negotiations with some countries arguing the 2 degree target imposes too high a burden on economies and development, and others arguing that immediate action is necessary. The second panel will explore this debate, address the feasibility of the goal, discuss the mitigation efforts to reach it, and describe the potential benefits to the U.S. Keyword Topics: INDCs, 2-degree target, avoided impacts, mitigation, carbon emission reductions, PPM levels, legal framework for mitigation, MRV.

Panel Three: Adaptation and Compensation: The final panel will discuss the ways in which countries are adapting to climate change and how this adaptation is financed. In particular, panelists will discuss the countries paying the highest price because of climate change in terms of sea level rise, drought, and extreme weather, among other problems. The panel will discuss how adaptation actions will be financed and how these countries will be compensated for the damage inflicted by climate change, if at all. Keyword Topics: adaptation, human rights, compensation, loss and damage, GCF, climate justice.

This event will be webcasted live at: <http://media.wcl.american.edu/Mediasite/Play/85d90859e3d0491187d15580ab7369f11d>

Feel free to submit questions via the webcast or directly to sdlp@wcl.american.edu.

Follow us on Twitter @sdlp_wcl for live tweeting of the event. Look for hash tags #COP21, #AllEyesOnParis, #ClimateAction
4.0 CLE credits will be applied for as requested – Cost of CLE is \$220

Registration without CLE is free but required – www.wcl.american.edu/secleregistration.

For further information, contact: Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education, 202.274.4075 or seclereg@wcl.american.edu.