Legal Implications of the Paris Agreement and Renewable Energy Integration



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The Paris Agreement



- Brings the global community to a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat global climate change
- More than 190 countries signed the Paris Agreement
- Cut greenhouse gas emissions and reduce & limit rise in global temperature to well below 2 degree Celsius this century

Mitigation Priorities



- Renewable energy targets, fuel economy and energy efficiency standards
- Grid modernisation
- Environmental and waste management, forest conservation, and
- Transportation

Existing Climate Change Policies & Legislation



The Synthesis report by the UNFCCC shows:

- Many (33%) of the INDCs are built on existing CC strategies, policies and legislation or facilitate the creation of new CC policies and legislation
- INDCs are backed up by existing domestic laws
- National green growth and green economies
- CC and Sustainable Development and related sectoral policies (e.g. energy, transport, agriculture, forestry, etc.)
- Comprehensive CC and energy legislation
- CC strategies, carbon taxes or levies on emissions, etc.

Implementation will require:



- New institutions, legislation and policies
- Strengthening existing CC laws and regulations
- Integrating and incorporating related CC objectives into long-term socio-economic development plans
- Improvement of administration and performance evaluation of CC strategies and policies
- Some INDC or amendment of existing policies require parliamentary approval

Climate Change Legislation



- Over the past five years the number of climate laws has nearly doubled from 426 in 2009 to 804 at he end of 2014
- Nearly half of the study countries have emission reduction targets up to 2020, most of them formally anchored in laws or policies
- Over 75 % of global emissions are subject to an economy-wide emissions reduction target
- 8 out of 10 countries have renewable energy target, and 9 out of 10 have targets to promote low-carbon technologies

Challenges to the Implementation of the Paris Agreement at National Level

- What is the status and strength of the existing legal framework?
 i.e. primary statute, secondary regulations?
- New legislation or revision of existing legislation?
- The incorporation of the INDC contributions into domestic legislation will establish legal obligations for implementation. Will this give rise to enforceable rights?
- How can the commitments be enforced? By whom? e.g. Should there be penalty provisions to address failures or breaches of commitment to meet agreed targets?

Enforcement



Who is most effective?

- Legislature
- Administrative Agency
- Courts

Thank