

2016

BRINGING THE 2015 SUMMITS HOME: An action agenda for legislators

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

PARIS2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21·CMP11

PLANET 50-50 BY 2030
STEP IT UP
FOR GENDER EQUALITY

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT
13-16 JULY 2015 • ADDIS ABABA • ETHIOPIA
TIME FOR GLOBAL ACTION

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Discussion Paper

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BRINGING THE 2015 SUMMITS HOME:

An Action Agenda for Legislators

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This discussion paper is the result of a year-long collaboration between UNEP and GLOBE International to foster more integrated policymaking and legislative action on key sustainability challenges facing the global community. It focusses on the historic opportunity provided for this in 2015 through the convergence of four major multilateral processes on disaster risk management (Sendai), finance for development (Addis Ababa), sustainable development goals (New York) and climate change (Paris).

This spurred the adoption by GLOBE International of a major new approach to this interlinked agenda by legislators termed ‘Coherence and Convergence’ in policymaking for sustainable development. Partnership with UNEP’s Division for Environment Law and Conventions (DELIC) helped deepen these insights, and the theme of ‘Coherence and Convergence’ formed the focus of GLOBE International’s annual summit for legislators during COP21 in Paris in December 2015.

The purpose of the paper is to generate further discussion and insights into how greater attention to the linkages between these new agenda-setting multilateral frameworks can facilitate more efficient and effective implementation at all levels. The paper has been written by Malini Mehra, GLOBE International, with thanks to Sylvia Bankobeza, Senator Loren Legarda, Deputy Cheikhou Oumar Sy, Deputy Stella Bianchi, Senator Fernando Duque, Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki and Deputy Juan Carlos Villalonga for comments and contributions. Assistance is also gratefully acknowledged from Rafael Aybar, Matteo Favero, Innocent Onah, Mauricio Umana and Daniela Gomel from the GLOBE family.

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ABOUT GLOBE INTERNATIONAL

GLOBE International is the worldwide network of environmental legislators devoted to leadership on sustainable development and climate change. Established in 1989, GLOBE International's founders include prominent environmental champions such as Al Gore, John Kerry, Akiko Domoto and Nicolaï Vorontsov. GLOBE's strength lies in the cross-party nature of its members, who work across party lines in national parliaments to advance legislative action on sustainable development. All of GLOBE's members are serving members of national parliaments. Since 2016, membership has been extended to sub-national legislators working at the state or province level. Over its 25-year history, GLOBE members have been a driving force behind national legislation and international efforts on a range of sustainability issues, including climate change, forests, natural capital, gender and environment, development finance, etc. GLOBE International aisbl is registered in Belgium as an international non-profit charitable organisation. The organisation is run by an international board of directors, all of them serving members of parliament, chaired by Graham Stuart MP (Britain).

www.globelegislators.org

ABOUT UNEP

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

To accomplish this, UNEP works with a wide range of partners, including United Nations entities, international organizations, national governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society.

UNEP work encompasses:

- Assessing global, regional and national environmental conditions and trends
- Developing international and national environmental instruments
- Strengthening institutions for the wise management of the environment
- Facilitating the transfer of knowledge and technology for sustainable development
- Encouraging new partnerships and mind-sets within civil society and the private sector.

UNEP's global and cross-sectoral outlook is reflected in its organizational structure, its activities and its personnel. Being based in Africa gives UNEP a clear advantage in understanding the environmental issues facing the world's developing countries.

To ensure its global effectiveness UNEP supports six regional offices, plus a growing network of centres of excellence such as the Global Resource Information Database (GRID) centres and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). UNEP also has major offices in Geneva and Paris, where its Division of Technology, Industry and Economics is situated.

UNEP also hosts several environmental convention secretariats including the Ozone Secretariat and the Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund, CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, and a growing family of chemicals-related agreements, including the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and the recently negotiated Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

www.unep.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bringing the 2015 Summits home: an action agenda for legislators is a collaboration between GLOBE International, the worldwide network of environmental legislators, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It provides an overview of the cascade of significant multilateral agreements signed up to by the international community in 2015 and explains their relevance for legislators, and why parliamentary engagement is crucial to their success.

Covering disaster risk reduction, financing for development, gender, sustainable development and climate change, these global summits and processes of 2015 have charted a transformational course for human societies for the coming decades. Their significance cannot be over-estimated and the importance of parliaments to their implementation cannot be under-estimated.

As not all of these agreements are household names, awareness raising amongst legislators is the first task this paper sets itself. Explaining the background and key features of each major 2015 summit and process, it makes the case for a stronger role for legislators in ensuring that the outcomes of all these summits are implemented at a national level in an integrated and synergistic manner to ensure coherence and the desired impact.

The paper offers guidance on the Top 10 Things Legislators Can Do to bring the 2015 summits home, and illustrates action taken by legislators across the world to implement GLOBE's 'Coherence & Convergence' approach to the 2015 summits. These efforts show that parliaments have a critical role in translating the multilateral frameworks agreed into meaningful national legislation that is locally owned, enjoys public trust and can be implemented.

The paper holds that while implementation must be a collective effort engaging all stakeholders, it is the duty of parliaments to assure democratic accountability and oversight. Members of parliament should be at the heart of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) function demanded by this epic new generation of international agreements. The paper concludes that the active and informed engagement of legislators will be a crucial factor in the success of the 2015 agreements, and that parliaments everywhere must rise to this historic challenge and Bring the 2015 Summits home.

Chapter 1 The 2015 Summits

When historians look back at the 21st century, 2015 will stand out as a landmark year for the setting of global goals and a new narrative for a more sustainable future for humanity. 2015 will mark the dividing line between an old way of approaching development and a new way that recognizes biophysical limits to resource-fueled growth on a finite, shared planet with growing numbers, growing inequality and growing expectations.

2015 produced a remarkable set of global agreements which broke with past conventions to set universal and inter-connected goals on shared planetary responsibility for 190+ countries, intended to guide national priorities and action for the next 15 years to 2030.

This paper sets out the story behind the confluence of processes that led to the historic '2015 moment' resulting in major outcomes such as the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change. It makes the case for an integrated approach to implementation of these agreements and argues that proactive parliamentary engagement and leadership will be crucial to success.

2015 became an important year for international summitry more by default, than by design. In a fortuitous set of coincidences, the United Nations' summit calendar for 2015 saw a number of key landing points in some major intergovernmental processes. Whether it was disaster risk reduction in Sendai, Japan; or progress on the rights of women and girls as part of Beijing+20; or the Third Finance for Development conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; or the Sustainable Development Goals in New York; or the Twenty First Conference of the Parties of climate change in Paris,¹ each of these UN processes had a different history and background in international affairs. Yet

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