

# STUDY REVEALS RAPID ADVANCE OF NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE LAWS CREATING BASIS FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AGREEMENT

*UN and World Bank support partnership with the Global Legislators Organisation (GLOBE) to encourage development of national climate change laws*

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Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February, US Senate, Washington DC, 115 senior national legislators from 50 countries along with the heads of key United Nations Institutions, United Nations Climate Negotiations and the World Bank Group received the results of the most comprehensive analysis to date of the reach and depth of national climate changes laws in 66 of the world's countries. The Summit will be hosted in the US Senate Kennedy Caucus Room by Senator Edward Markey.

The Study covering countries responsible for 88% of global carbon emissions was co-authored by the Global Legislators Organisation (GLOBE) and the Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics (LSE). The Study sets out a series of politically significant findings that will have a direct bearing on success of the international negotiations. Legislators will also consider how national laws can be recognised within a 2015 international climate change agreement.

Responding to the Study, the Global Legislators Organisation is launching a major new international initiative, **The Partnership for Climate Legislation**, supported by the United Nations and the World Bank Group. The Partnership will help national legislators to develop and implement climate change laws. It will work across the 66 nations covered by the Study by sharing best legislative practice, provide detailed policy, analytical and legal capacity to cross party groups of legislators as they develop their own laws.

The GLOBE Climate Legislation Study findings show:

- Almost 500 national climate laws have been passed in the 66 countries covered by the Study. The 66 countries account for 88% of global emissions.
- 64 of 66 countries have progressed or are progressing significant climate and/or energy-related legislation.
- Much of the substantive progress on legislative activity on climate change in 2013 took place in emerging economies, including China and Mexico, which will provide the motor of global economic growth in coming decades.
- Whilst the legislative approach often differs (whether directly inspired by climate change, energy efficiency, energy security or competitiveness), national legislation is achieving similar results -- improved energy security, greater resource-efficiency and cleaner, lower carbon economic growth.

- While current national legislation does not yet add up to what needs to be done to avoid dangerous climate change, it is putting in place the mechanisms to measure, report and verify emissions, a pre-requisite for a credible global climate treaty.
- There is an urgent need for those countries that have not yet passed climate legislation to do so

**US Senator Edward Markey, said:** “Climate action is happening in legislatures around the globe because climate change is harming countries and their people around the globe. We need an international movement to pass climate legislation, and nowhere is that movement needed more than here in the United States. The GLOBE study show legislators around the world are taking active steps to develop significant national legislation and I urge colleagues here in the United States to acknowledge the movement and take action.”

**President of the Global Legislators Organisation, Rt Hon John Gummer, Lord Deben, said:**

“The message from the 4<sup>th</sup> GLOBE Climate Legislation Study is clear - more countries than ever before are passing credible and significant national climate change laws. This is changing the dynamics of the international response to climate change and poses a serious question to the international community about how we can recognise credible commitments made by governments within their national legislature. It is by implementing national legislation and regulations that the political conditions for a global agreement in 2015 will be created.”

“Understanding this message from the Study and embracing it in how major international processes and institutions work between now and Paris 2015 will be critical. We must see more countries develop their own national climate change laws so that when governments sit down in 2015 they will do so in very different political conditions to when they did in Copenhagen. The Partnership for Climate Legislation will support legislators across party political lines to advance climate change-related legislation. The Partnership will provide a combination of political, analytical and administrative capacity. It will also serve as a platform where legislators from across the world can meet, discuss common barriers, issues and successes and share information about best legislative practice.”

**Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Christiana Figueres said:** “It is no exaggeration to say that the clean revolution we need is being carried forward by legislation. Domestic legislation is critical because it is the linchpin between action on the ground and the international agreement. At the national level, it is clear that when countries enact clean energy policies, investment follows. At the international level, it is equally clear that domestic legislation opens the political space for international agreements and facilitates overall ambition.”

**World Bank Group Vice-President and Special Envoy Rachel Kyte said:** “2014 is the year we need to step up climate action. Legislators have a critical role to play in raising political ambition and ensuring that effective laws and regulations support low carbon and resilient development. For this reason, we’re pleased to support the new Partnership for Climate Legislation.”

**The President of the Mexican Congress, Hon. Ricardo Anaya Cortes said:** “With the support of GLOBE, Mexico has passed ambitious climate legislation. We are here today in the US Senate to share our experience, to build a global coalition of parliamentarians against the damaging effects of climate change and to challenge inaction.”

**UK Foreign Secretary Rt. Hon William Hague said:** “A global and legally binding deal on emissions reductions in the UNFCCC in 2015 is imperative. As we work towards that agreement, it is clear that domestic legislation has a key role to play in building consensus and cementing ambition, which is why GLOBE’s work is so important. The launch of GLOBE’s Partnership for Climate Legislation, with the backing of the UN and World Bank, is an important step towards sustaining this work for long term, which the UK Government wholeheartedly supports.”

#### **Confirmed Keynote Speakers include:**

Representing the United Nations Secretary General’s Office:

- UN Assistant Secretary-General, **Dr Robert Orr**

Representing the World Bank:

- World Bank Group President, **Dr Jim Yong Kim**
- World Bank Group Vice President and Special Envoy for Climate Change, **Rachel Kyte**

Representing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:

- UNFCCC Executive Secretary, **Christiana Figueres**

Representing the United Nations Environment Programmes:

- UNEP Executive Director, **Achim Steiner**

Representing the Congress of Mexico:

- President of Congress, **Hon. Ricardo Anaya Cortes**

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

##### **1. Top-line results of the new edition of the GLOBE Climate Legislation:**

*Key country highlights in the last 12 months include:*

- In 2013 there was substantive legislative progress in 8 countries<sup>1</sup> (passage of “flagship legislation”) and positive advances in a further 19 countries.
  - Americas: **Bolivia** passed its Framework Law on Mother Earth and Integral Development to Live Well; **El Salvador** adopted its National Climate Change Strategy; In **Ecuador**, Decree 1815 established the Intersectoral National Strategy for Climate Change; and in **Costa Rica** a draft General Law on Climate Change has been introduced and is expected to pass in 2014.
  - Asia-Pacific: **China** published its National Adaptation Plan and made progress in drafting its national climate change law; **Indonesia** extended its forest moratorium; **Kazakhstan** introduced a pilot emissions trading scheme; **Micronesia** passed its Climate Change Act in late 2013
  - Europe: **Poland** adopted its National Strategy for Adaptation and **Switzerland** overhauled its CO<sub>2</sub> Act to increase ambition
  - Middle East and North Africa: **Jordan** passed its National Climate Change Policy; and the **United Arab Emirates** launched a mandatory Energy Efficiency Standardization and Labelling Scheme.

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<sup>1</sup> Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Kenya, Micronesia, Mozambique, Nigeria and Switzerland

- **Sub-Saharan Africa: Kenya** adopted 2013-2017 Climate Change Action Plan; **Mozambique** adopted 2013-2025 National Strategy for Climate Change; **Tanzania** passed its National Strategy on REDD+; **Nigeria's** Legislative Council approved the adoption of a National Climate Change Policy and Response Strategy
- Two countries began processes to reverse legislation:
  - Following an election, the new **Australian** government has proposed to repeal aspects of the Clean Energy Act in 2014.
  - **Japan** announced a lowering of its ambition on climate change in response to its reduced reliance on nuclear energy after the tsunami and resulting accident at Fukushima.

## 2. Key information on the GLOBE Partnership for Climate Legislation (supported by the UN and the World Bank Group):

- The Partnership For Climate Legislation will support national legislators in 66 countries to share best practice and to develop and oversee the implementation of legislation on climate change, natural capital accounting and forests/REDD+. The Partnership directly responds to the demand from legislators for technical, policy and analytical capacity.
- Specific aims:
  - i. To share best legislative practice through the annual GLOBE Climate Legislation Study, national case studies and the convening of GLOBE Climate Legislation Summits.
  - ii. To provide a dedicated international process that supports legislators – on a demand-led basis - to develop and implement climate change legislation.
  - iii. To explore how commitments made in national legislation can be recognised within the architecture of an international climate change agreement.
  - iv. To develop a Climate Legislation Resolution to be agreed at the World Summit of Legislators and to be taken by legislators to their respective national parliaments.
  - v. To support legislators to obtain, use and exchange relevant climate data.
- Climate-related legislation and policies (including mitigation, adaptation and forests/REDD), once implemented, carry the potential to bring additional benefits including disaster risk reduction and resilience, new sources of income/livelihoods, sustainable energy access and positive effects on public health.
- Recognising that developing and passing laws is not sufficient in itself, the Partnership will support legislators to ensure they are equipped to effectively oversee the implementation of the law by national governments, including ensuring national budgets are consistent with climate goals, as well as assessing the impact of climate-related laws on the national economy and key sectors of society.

## 3. About the Global Legislators Organisation (GLOBE):

- GLOBE was established in 1989 by cross party legislators from the EU, Japan, Russia and the USA. Today GLOBE International is the world's largest organisation of legislators dedicated to advancing laws on climate change, forests/REDD+ and natural capital accounting<sup>2</sup>.
- Legislators from 86 countries have participated in GLOBE's dedicated policy initiatives and legislators from 40 countries work through formal national and regional chapters of the organization.

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<sup>2</sup> GLOBE's membership is open to sitting legislators only. As of 2014, legislators from 80 countries have supported GLOBE's work with members in 40 countries through national and regional chapters.

- With headquarters in Great Britain, offices in 8 countries and over 25 locally-recruited policy advisors across a global network, GLOBE is uniquely placed to support national legislators to develop and implement laws.

#### **4. For further information, please contact:**

Study results and policy:

Terry Townshend, Study Author and Policy Director, Mobile: +86 15011 289613 and +44 7900 912808. E-mail: [Terry.Townshend@globeinternational.org](mailto:Terry.Townshend@globeinternational.org)

Washington Summit:

Andrew Hammond, GLOBE Media Relations, Mobile: +44 7792926576. E-mail: [Andrew.Hammond@globeinternational.org](mailto:Andrew.Hammond@globeinternational.org)

Office of Senator Markey:

Eben Burnham-Snyder, Telephone +1 202 224 2742, Email [eben\\_bs@markey.senate.gov](mailto:eben_bs@markey.senate.gov)

[www.globeinternational.org](http://www.globeinternational.org)

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