

CLIMATE CHANGE AFTER THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Expert forum and public panel debate, 14 April 2016, University of Oslo, School of Law

The Paris Agreement, adopted by the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change on 12 December 2015 in Paris, has been hailed as a milestone in the global fight against climate change. It is supposed to set the world on a trajectory that keeps temperature increases well below 2 degrees Celsius, perhaps even to 1.5 degrees. How did this agreement come about and what does it actually entail to for states when committing to such a goal? How effective is it? And how fair? During the forum and panel debate, experts will discuss the Agreement, its making, content and its prospects with the audience.

Place: University of Oslo, Faculty of Law, Gamle festsal, Domus academica, Karl Johans gate, Oslo

Time: 3-6 pm

15.00-15.10	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Margit Tveiten, <i>Chair of the Norwegian Branch of the International Law Association/ Head of legal Department, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i></p>
15.10-15.30	<p>The Paris Agreement – whodunit?</p> <p>Aslak Brun, <i>Chief Negotiator and Head of Norway’s UNFCCC delegation, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and the Environment</i></p>
15.30-15.50	<p>“It’s all voluntary – of course we can commit to it!” - Do we need the Paris Agreement?</p> <p>The agreement has been celebrated as a “vindication of multilateralism”. What justifies its status as a treaty and what is its added value in the context of International Law?</p> <p>Professor Dr. Christina Voigt, <i>Chair of the research group “International Law and Governance” at the Faculty of law and legal advisor to Norway’s UNFCCC delegation</i></p>

16.00-16.20	<p>“A monument to differentiation”?</p> <p>One of the most difficult issues to resolve during the negotiations was the question of global effort-sharing? How does the Paris Agreement deal with differences in countries’ responsibility in causing climate change and their capabilities in addressing the problem?</p> <p>Steffen Kallbekken, <i>PhD, Cicero</i></p>
16.20-16.40	<p>From Paris to Washington – Will the US join?</p> <p>What does the agreement mean for US domestic (political and judicial) processes? Will it impact US climate policy – and, most importantly, will we see the US becoming a party?</p> <p>Professor Lawrence Watters</p>
16.40-17.00	<p>Break</p>
17.00-17.45	<p>Panel: Is the whole more than the sum of the parts? A critical debate on the Paris Agreement</p> <p>Chair: TBC</p> <p>Panel members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Bård Harstad, UiO (Department of Economics) • Johanne Sæter Hauge, Friends of the Earth • Professor Christina Voigt, UiO (Department of Law) • Professor Arild Underdal, UiO (Department of Political Sciences) <i>tbc</i> <p>Q&A</p>
17.45-18.00	<p>Reflections: Professor Dr. Christina Voigt, <i>UiO</i></p>

This event is organised by the research group “International Law and Governance” at the Faculty of Law, University of Oslo, in collaboration with the Norwegian Branch of the International Law Association.