

## **Plan of Action: C. Carlarne**

It is widely recognized that conflicts over the causes, consequences of global climate change complicate efforts to formulate an effective system of international climate governance. What is less widely discussed, but equally critical to the international governance debate, is how climate change highlights fundamental disconnects within and between international environmental law and other fields of international law. Climate change provides a vehicle for identifying and beginning to address institutional gaps and linkages that have hitherto impeded attempts to develop synergistic systems of international environmental law and policy.

Issue and institutional fragmentation impede efforts to develop effective systems of supranational climate governance. I believe that overcoming the barriers created by fragmentation requires the international community to adopt a two-fold strategy of aggressively moving forward with plans to create an international environmental organization while simultaneously working to improve communication and cooperation among international institutions with overlapping mandates and/or complimentary objectives.

For my part, I am absolutely committed to research and teaching as an avenue to informing effecting and equitable climate change policy and international environmental governance systems through interdisciplinary dialogue and debate. However, as valuable as teaching and academic research are, my plan of action includes an essential third component – engagement with non-academic decision-makers in domestic and international forums.

**Research:** I have established a rich and evolving research and publication record in the field of domestic and international environmental policy. I have also published in interdisciplinary and science-based journals. In addition to producing scholarly publications, I have presented my work at academic conferences in the UK, Europe and North America at meetings focusing on geography, environmental law and socio-legal studies. My current research agenda encompasses research in the areas of comparative environmental law and policy (climate change policies), the development of effective systems of domestic and international environmental governance (climate change, sustainability, biodiversity, whaling and cultural and natural heritage), and the intersection and overlap of environmental policy with questions of ethics and environmental justice (role of NGOs in unravelling contexts, intra and inter-generational ethics questions in climate change policy-making and whaling diplomacy).

My current research agenda focuses on the evolution of climate change law and policy at local, regional, State and international levels. A key part of my research is analysing climate policy at the margins, e.g., the intersections between climate policy and human rights. My approach is comparative and interdisciplinary and seeks to bridge communication gaps between law, the social sciences and the physical sciences..

Following on from the Forum, I plan to continue publishing and participating in academic and mixed academic-public events as a means for effecting change through dissemination of ideas and encouragement of debate. While the “Ivory Tower” of academia cannot be where efforts to influence and improve governance system ends, it is an appropriate starting place for exchanging ideas and fleshing out alternative approaches. Specifically, I hope to come away from the Forum with new ideas about how to improve climate governance debates and whether and how to structure an international environmental organization. I would refine these ideas out by participating in academic conferences and panels and then publish papers proposing new approaches to improving climate and environmental governance systems in both legal and interdisciplinary publications. With ideas generated at the Forum, I am also hoping to develop a new project that explores developments in international environmental governance with a view towards suggesting how efforts to develop an international climate change regime highlights the pressing need to look more closely at how issue

fragmentation and compartmentalization in international law and policy interferes with attempts to identify and respond to linkages between international environmental policy and other areas of international policy, e.g., human rights, trade, law of the sea, biodiversity. In addition, I would hope to make new connections that would facilitate interdisciplinary projects examining the intersection between climate change, environmental quality, and human rights, particularly the human right to health and the impact of these intersections on efforts to structure systems of international environmental governance.

The work I propose to undertake following the forum would be additional to and separate from any work that I am currently undertaking. The quality and impact of this research can be evaluated based on (1) where it is accepted for publication; (2) the debate it generates within academic circles and beyond; (3) where and how the research filters into political debate; and (4) how it is shared with and supports the work of colleagues from the Forum in their individual efforts to advance governance systems.

**Teaching:** I embrace and feel fortunate to be a teacher. Good teaching spreads knowledge, sparks creative thought, and inspires innovation – both in the students and the instructor – especially in the context of a dynamic and rapidly evolving field, such as international environmental governance. I am lucky to teach law students as well as undergraduate and graduate environmental studies students. Given my past and on-going experiences in interdisciplinary teaching, research and supervision, I would embrace the opportunity to bring new environmental governance ideas back to my students. Being able to share emerging governance ideas with young people, including students posed to work in policy, science, and business spheres affords wonderful opportunities to disseminate ideas and outcomes generated at the Forum.

Following the Forum, I plan to create a new course (open to law and non-law students) in International Environmental Governance. I would use this course as a way to share ideas emerging from the Forum as well as to encourage students to generate and share new concepts and approaches. One component of this class would be requiring my students to find ways to engage with local NGOs, business, or governmental entities to share and exchange ideas on environmental governance goals and strategies; this could be through starting a new ‘social movement’ or student organization, writing letters to local businesses, submitting opinion pieces to local newspapers and magazines, or sitting in on legislative hearings or volunteering to serve on community or University committees. Permitting students to think about and debate these issues in the academic setting and then apply these ideas in a real world context will ensure that students engage with both theoretical and practical dimensions of structuring governance systems and would also encourage students to carry these ideas and lessons with them to their future work in a variety of public and private sectors.

The impact of this course can be evaluated based on (1) student reviews; (2) quality of student engagement with local and State civil society; and (3) where students find employment following graduation; and (4) whether and how students chose to disseminate environmental governance debates outside the classroom.

**Beyond Academia:** One of my primary goals and commitments as a Forum member will be to find new ways to personally engage in the international environmental law-making process. I plan to find at least one avenue for actively participating in existing MEA meetings and negotiations, focusing on the UNFCCC, CBD, or the IWC. It has always been my goal to become more integrated into international environmental governance decision-making circles. I view the Forum as an invaluable opportunity to make new contacts with up-and-coming and existing environmental governance leaders and, in so doing, to find discrete ways to actively participate in agenda-setting and policy-making activities. I see this type of engagement as imperative to furthering my goals of helping shape a more sustainable environmental governance system. I intend to identify at least two pathways for participating in MEA negotiations, either by providing information (e.g., briefs) to State parties or by working with an organization that has observer status in COP meetings.

The UN has recently confirmed that global environmental management systems are disarray in large part due to disorganization, inefficiency and poor coordination among existing international environmental institutions. Responding to this disarray in coordination with other Forum members is one of my primary objectives. For this reason, I plan to join with other Forum members to start a new initiative that will focus on encouraging inter-institutional communication beyond what already exists. This initiative would see Forum members with specializations in different areas of environmental protection – e.g., biodiversity, climate change, law of the sea – joining together to discuss where these regimes intersect and creating concrete recommendations outlining ways to improve coordination so as to maximize the capacity of existing international environmental institutions. These recommendations would be shared with MEA secretariats, NGOs, academics and others.

I have recently been elected to the Academic Panel for the Landmark Chambers Centre for Environmental Law. Following attendance at the Forum, I plan to propose organizing a special Panel on International Environmental Governance for the Chambers. Landmark Chambers Centre for Environmental Law brings together practicing lawyers, academics and governmental decision-makers. Thus, offering a Panel through Landmark Chambers provides excellent opportunities to disseminate and debate governance ideas with a mixed audience.

I also plan to work together with one or two other Forum attendees from other countries to organize an interdisciplinary conference focusing on the specific challenges climate change poses for international environmental governance. A primary goal of the conference would be bringing together academics with civil society and governmental leaders from the developed and developing worlds in order to ensure the most inclusive debate possible. I would seek external funding for this conference and would publicize it widely to raise the profile of the governance debate. The on-going proceedings would be made available on-line in order to reach the widest audience possible. The objective would be to publish the outcomes of the conference as a manuscript outlining discrete challenges and suggestions for improving global climate governance systems.