

# AGENDA

## The Role of International Climate Change Policy in Addressing Disruptive Economic, Technological, and Social Change

59th Strategy for Peace Conference  
October 17–19, 2018  
Airlie Center, Warrenton, Virginia USA

The rapid decarbonization required to meet the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement will occur in a period of disruptive economic, technological, and social and political change. Climate action is only one of many factors that drive this change, yet in many ways is intertwined with them. Automation, for example, presents opportunities to reduce energy consumption, yet is seen as potentially displacing jobs and deepening inequality. If policymakers cannot address worries about these consequences, backlash could lead to political crises both within countries and globally.

This roundtable will examine the role of climate policy amid disruptive change. How can climate policy play a positive role? Where can accelerated climate action alleviate or address the feared negative effects of disruptive change? As with decarbonization, disruptive change is accelerating, and the questions it poses need urgent attention.

More specifically, this roundtable will identify critical disruptions and themes such as automation, inequality, and populism. It will examine changes in government, business, and civil society. Participants will compare examples of changes that are already occurring, from transitions away from coal to the automation and electrification of vehicles. The roundtable will surface solutions and explore the potential positive spillover effects of climate action or how the Paris Agreement can temper rather than inflame these challenges. Roundtable participants will make recommendations for the wide range of stakeholders involved in climate action—advocates, researchers, funders, cities, states and regions, businesses, countries, and intergovernmental organizations.

Roundtable Organizer: **Rei Tang**, Program Officer, The Stanley Foundation

### Wednesday, October 17

5:00 - 7:30 p.m. **Reception and Dinner**

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. **Session 1: Introductions and Overview of Challenges Facing Climate Change and International Politics**

What challenging trends are actors facing in climate change and international politics, including disruptive technology, economic transformation, political upheaval, and societal reconfiguration? How are these trends related and which are various actors responsible for addressing? How are these trends changing policy frameworks and tools, including at the international level? What are the worst- and best-case scenarios and which are most likely? Can these trends derail climate policy and can climate policy respond?

Jason Blackstock, University College London

Betony Jones, Inclusive Economics

Lew Daly, Demos

## Thursday, October 18

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. **Breakfast**

9:00 - 12:00 p.m. **Session 2: Strengths and Shortfalls of the Paris Agreement and the Real Economy**

The Paris Agreement and transition in the “real economy” are driving international climate change policy today. From the top-down, the basic framework of the Paris Agreement sets a temperature goal of 1.5°C and calls on all countries to pledge and review climate action, increasing their pledges over time.

The real economy consists of sectoral approaches to climate action that lead to decarbonization—including, for example, phasing out fossil fuels, renewable energy deployment, carbon taxes or pricing, electrifying households and vehicles, building or reconfiguring infrastructure, circular economy strategies, transforming food systems, protecting forests, and sustainable agriculture. The real economy change is driven by national and subnational policy direction; public and private sector investment; and civil society advocacy and mobilization.

How is this overall approach to transition working? In the face of challenging technological, political, and economic trends in Session 1, what are the limitations of the Paris Agreement framework and the real economy? Where are there gaps? Is there underexplored or underserved potential?

David Levai, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

Laurence Delina, Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future, Boston University

Nora Lohle, Heinrich Boell Foundation

### **Break**

### **Session 3: The Current State of Play and Responses in Key Geographies**

Having taken a global view of challenging technological, political, social, and economic trends, how are these challenges manifesting in countries or regions such as the United States, China, the European Union, and India? How are these countries and regions either driving these trends or responding to them? What weaknesses have been exposed in the various approaches to climate policy these major economies have taken? What are they doing well in response to the challenges? What are some critical gaps? From Green New Deals to New Social Contracts, or even Mid-Century Strategies, what creative policy frameworks and tools are emerging? Are there key international or transnational connections?

Claire Healy, E3G

Yiting Wang, WWF

Kartikeya Singh, Center for Strategic and International Studies

Greg Carlock, World Resources Institute

Heidi Garrett-Peltier, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

- 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. **Lunch**  
2:00 - 5:00 p.m. **Session 4: Converging and Diverging International Institutions and Climate Change**

Looking at the broader international system, what is the interplay between international policymaking and these technological, political, social, and economic trends? How are international institutions aligned or misaligned with the Paris Agreement or the Sustainable Development Goals? How can international climate change policy better align with these changes in global governance or respond to global governance divergences? How are, for example, international financial and trade institutions shaping the future of these trends? What is the role of new institutions from emerging powers, such as BRICS or the Belt and Road Initiative? How can climate action in the real economy shape the direction of multilateralism and international institutions?

Gabriela Iacobuta, German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut fuer Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

Lorenzo Formenti, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Louise Van Schaik, Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael

#### **Break**

Taking in the day's set of discussions, participants will identify major themes that they have heard. These themes are meant to highlight common observations; policy frameworks and tools; and major gaps.

- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. **PechaKucha**  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. **Dinner**

### **Friday, October 19**

- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. **Breakfast**  
9:00 - 12:00 p.m. **Session 5: What's Next for Climate Change and Multilateralism?**

Based on the previous days' discussion, what visions of international climate change policy have emerged? Are there policy frameworks and tools that need to be further developed? What gaps are there in international climate change policy? What are the implications for what is next regarding the Paris Agreement, the UNFCCC, or the broader UN system? As international institutions interact with disruptive technological, political, social, and economic change, how can they respond to bring about a just and green global economy?

#### **Break and Evaluation**

#### **Session 6: Wrap Up and Next Steps—Setting Objectives and Collaboration Opportunities**

Participants will set objectives for policy analysis, outreach, and change looking towards 2020. As the implementation of the Paris Agreement takes its course, how can stakeholders stay ahead of disruptive technological, political, social, and economic change? What are major areas of work that need to be addressed? What platforms and processes are available or needed for coordinating efforts?

The roundtable will end with final thoughts and actions for participants to take forward, particularly with a view toward the international political calendar as well as dialogue opportunities in the coming months. Participants can also raise questions for future dialogues.

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. **Lunch**