Legal Implications of the Paris Agreement and Renewable Energy Integration

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The Paris Agreement

- Brings the global community to a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat global climate change

- More than 190 countries signed the Paris Agreement

- Cut greenhouse gas emissions and reduce & limit rise in global temperature to well below 2 degree Celsius this century
Mitigation Priorities

- Renewable energy targets, fuel economy and energy efficiency standards
- Grid modernisation
- Environmental and waste management, forest conservation, and
- Transportation
Existing Climate Change Policies & Legislation

The Synthesis report by the UNFCCC shows:

- Many (33%) of the INDCs are built on existing CC strategies, policies and legislation or facilitate the creation of new CC policies and legislation
- INDCs are backed up by existing domestic laws
- National green growth and green economies
- CC and Sustainable Development and related sectoral policies (e.g. energy, transport, agriculture, forestry, etc.)
- Comprehensive CC and energy legislation
- CC strategies, carbon taxes or levies on emissions, etc.
Implementation will require:

- New institutions, legislation and policies
- Strengthening existing CC laws and regulations
- Integrating and incorporating related CC objectives into long-term socio-economic development plans
- Improvement of administration and performance evaluation of CC strategies and policies
- Some INDC or amendment of existing policies require parliamentary approval
Climate Change Legislation

• Over the past five years the number of climate laws has nearly doubled from 426 in 2009 to 804 at the end of 2014

• Nearly half of the study countries have emission reduction targets up to 2020, most of them formally anchored in laws or policies

• Over 75 % of global emissions are subject to an economy-wide emissions reduction target

• 8 out of 10 countries have renewable energy target, and 9 out of 10 have targets to promote low-carbon technologies
Challenges to the Implementation of the Paris Agreement at National Level

• What is the status and strength of the existing legal framework? i.e. primary statute, secondary regulations?

• New legislation or revision of existing legislation?

• The incorporation of the INDC contributions into domestic legislation will establish legal obligations for implementation. Will this give rise to enforceable rights?

• How can the commitments be enforced? By whom? e.g. Should there be penalty provisions to address failures or breaches of commitment to meet agreed targets?
Enforcement

Who is most effective?
- Legislature
- Administrative Agency
- Courts