



Workshop on Building Block Strategies for Global Climate Action

December 12-13, 2013

OVERVIEW

As a result of failures over many years to reach an encompassing international agreement to limit greenhouse gas emissions, there is increasing recognition of serious problems in basic design features of the sole global climate change architecture, the UNFCCC. This recognition has provoked calls over the past few years about bottom up strategies for climate. Yet, there has been little serious and sustained work on the necessary characteristics of bottom up regimes that will avoid the structural failings of the UNFCCC.

This workshop is designed to contribute to the work of building alternative, more diverse, less the centralized global climate architectures. It will consider three strategies for structuring bottom up regimes, which we call a “building block approach.” These strategies aim to build transnational regulatory regimes, involving (at least initially) a limited number of public and/or private actors to undertake activities, often for reasons other than achieving greenhouse gas reductions, but that will achieve significant greenhouse gas reductions as a co-benefit. These strategies aim to complement the UNFCCC rather than serve as a substitute.

AGENDA

The workshop is structured in two parts. The morning sessions will discuss and critically examine the incentive logics of these three strategies, their design features (e.g. size, membership, governance, links with other organizations) and circumstances needed for

their success. The afternoon will focus on particular examples of regimes based on such strategies, including existing regimes and experience with them, or potential/proposed regimes.

DAY 1: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2014

WELCOME AND DINNER (7:00-9:00 PM)

Gradisca Restaurant (126 W 13th St, New York, NY)

DAY 2: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014

COFFEE AND REGISTRATION (8:30-8:45 AM)

Furman Hall, 9th Floor, Pollack Colloquium Room, 245 Sullivan Street, New York, NY

OPENING SESSION (8:45-9:10 AM)

Welcome:

Richard Stewart, NYU Law

Michael Oppenheimer, Princeton University

Framing:

Robert Keohane, Princeton University

PANEL 1 (9:10-10:45 AM)

THOUGHTS ON “BUILDING BLOCKS”

Chair:

Robert Keohane, Princeton University

Panelists:

Dan Bodansky, Arizona State University – “Building Blocks”

Dan Cole, Indiana University – “Building Mutual Trust by ‘Building Blocks’”

Geoffrey Heal, Columbia University – “Tipping Points in Climate Negotiations”

COFFEE BREAK (10:45-11:00 AM)

PANEL 2 (11:00 AM-12:30 PM)

USING CLUBS FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION

Chair:

Richard Stewart, NYU Law

Panelists:

Scott Barrett, Columbia University – “BAU Plus”

Jessica Green, Case Western Reserve University – “From Measurement to Mitigation: the Role of Clubs and Pseudo-clubs”

Matthew Potoski, UC Santa Barbara – “Green clubs in Non-Governmental Climate Change Regimes”

Jennifer Morgan, World Resources Institute – “The German Renewables Club”

LUNCH (12:30-1:00 PM)

PANEL 3 (1:00-2:15 PM)
MARKET AND REGULATORY LINKAGE

Chair:

Michael Oppenheimer, Princeton University

Panelists:

Robert Stavins, Harvard University – “Linkage: A Promising Approach to Achieving the Goals of the Durban Platform”

Gilbert Metcalf, Tufts University – “Linking Policies When Tastes Differ: Global Climate Policy in a Heterogeneous World”

Nat Keohane and Annie Petsonk, Environmental Defense Fund – “Toward a General Agreement on Environmental Markets”

PANEL 4 (2:15-4:00 PM)
INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGE AND LEVERAGE

Chair:

Peter Ogden, Center for American Progress

Panelists:

Joe Aldy, Harvard University – “Loss and Damage in Practice: Lessons from Emergency Aid Programs and Ideas for Insurance-like Instruments”

Tom Hale, Oxford University – “Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform Bonds”

William Moomaw, Tufts University – “Utilizing Forest Agreements, REDD+ and the Convention to Combat Desertification to Accelerate Carbon Dioxide Removal by Forests and Grasslands”

Jake Werksman, European Commission – “HFCs, the Montreal Protocol and the CCAC”

COFFEE BREAK (4:00-4:15 PM)

PANEL 5 (4:15-5:00 PM)
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BUILDING BLOCK STRATEGIES AND THE UNFCCC

Chair:

Bryce Rudyk, NYU Law

Panelists:

Tom Heller and Barbara Buchner, Climate Policy Initiative – “The New Climate Economy Project and Shifting Finance from Brown to Green”

David Wei, Independent Diplomat – “The UNFCCC Workstream 2 Technical Process”

Michael Levi, Council on Foreign Relations – “Building Blocks and the UNFCCC: Avoiding Unnecessary Conflicts”

SUMMARY AND REFLECTIONS (5:00-5:30 PM)

Richard Stewart, Michael Oppenheimer and Bryce Rudyk