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# *G20-UN Relationship in Global Climate Governance*

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# *Presentation Overview*

- History of G7/G20/UN climate governance
- G7/G20 climate governance
- UN climate governance
- G20 accountability and performance
- Prospects for climate change at Hangzhou
- Policy recommendations

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# Overview

- December 2015 ~ 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties convened in Paris
- Governments sought a legally binding agreement, concrete commitments and essential finance contributions
- State of the earth's climate described by French President Hollande as "*this century's major challenge*"

# *G7 Climate Governance*

- in 1979, G7 leaders in Tokyo noted the need to:

*“expand alternative sources of energy, especially those which help to prevent further pollution, particularly increases of carbon dioxide and sulphur oxides in the atmosphere”*

# *G7 Climate Governance*

- G7 has led climate governance in ways other international environmental institutions have largely failed to do
- Climate protection remains at forefront of G7's policy objectives, alongside economic, health, energy and security goals

# *G20 Climate Governance*

- First leaders' level summit held in Washington, September 2008
- Summit held in direct response to the financial crisis
- Only passing reference made to energy security and climate change

# *G20 Climate Governance*

- G20 Leaders met twice in 2009
  - London and Pittsburgh
- Divide created between G20 members who felt the G20's focus should remain purely economic and climate change should be responsibility of UN
- First climate commitments made in London

## *Toronto and Seoul G20, 2010*

- Focus for Toronto and Seoul summits was the *“Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth”*
- Lack of environment, energy and climate connection
- Toronto and Seoul heavily criticized for failing to address climate change in any meaningful way



## *Cannes G20, 2011*

- Eight commitments made on climate at Cannes
- Considerable focus on energy markets, promoting efficiency and sustainability
- Leaders promised to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies for all G20 countries and tasked ministers to produce a follow-up report
- No firm emissions reductions targets set

## *Los Cabos G20, 2012*

- Promoting sustainable development, green growth and the fight against climate change were key priorities at Los Cabos
- President Calderon noted a “*terrible climate change problem....that relates to the viability of our civilization’s whole model as we look ahead to the end of this century*”

# *Los Cabos G20, 2012*

- 11 of 95 commitments made on climate change
  - the most by the G20 to date
- Creation of a G20 study group on climate finance with a promise to report back to ministers on progress made
- G20 promised to voluntarily self-report on their individual green growth policies
- Proof positive of the G20's commitment to transparency and accountability

# *St. Petersburg G20, 2013*

- Russia endorsed the “*energy-growth*” connection for their G20 summit
- Creation of *Energy Sustainability Working Group*, which included experts across all G20 countries
- 25 specific commitments made on energy security and climate change
- Promise to produce their 2<sup>nd</sup> accountability on “*inclusive green growth*”

## *Brisbane G20, 2014*

- In Australia, leaders encouraged the G20 to finalize their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) by the first quarter of 2015
- Their “*Action Plan for Voluntary Collaboration on Energy Efficiency*” included new work on vehicle emission performance, industrial processes and greening electricity generation

## *Antalya G20, 2015*

- Leaders in Turkey tasked their G20 energy ministers to report back in 2016 on the implementation of their Brisbane climate commitments
- They reaffirmed their promise to reach an agreement in Paris that reflects common but differentiated responsibilities
- They commended themselves for submitting their INDCs prior to COP 21

# *UN Climate Governance*

- Inability of the UN to:
  - produce commitments necessary to meet the 2 degree goal at Paris
  - comply with climate change commitments made at UN summits
  - adopt climate-health, conflict, peace and security connections
- 31-page Paris Agreement made only one brief reference to health and only one to security

# *G7 and G20 Accountability*

- G7 has made close to 400 climate commitments since 1979
  - compliance has averaged around 75% over time
- G20 has made 51 climate and energy commitments since 2008
  - compliance has averaged around 68%
- Highest complying countries on G20 climate change are the UK, Germany and Australia
  - the lowest being Russia, Saudi Arabia and Turkey



# *G20 Accountability*

- Commitments with climate issues have varied since the G20's inception
- Earlier summits performed poorly on climate change
- Commitments increased by 2010, peaking in 2013 at St. Petersburg
- Commitments decreased since then with only three made in Turkey in 2015

# *G20 Performance*

- G20's performance on climate is strongly improved by:
  - international law
  - iteration
  - ministerial meeting set-up
  - same-year UNFCCC summit

# *Prospects for Hangzhou*

- Key theme for Hangzhou is *“breaking a new path for growth”*
- Climate Change is one of 10 top priorities identified by Chinese Foreign Ministry
- China is encouraging domestic ratification of the Paris Agreement by its G20 partners

# *Policy Recommendations*

- G20 need to move in the same direction that has yielded them the greatest success to date
- G20 must exert leadership through initiation, leadership, inclusion and collective support of global climate governance initiatives
- G20 have to place climate protection at the apex of their economic, health, development and security agendas

# *Questions?*



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