International Conference on Climate Change Adaptation: Policy, Practice and Legislation

Day 3: Legislation Day

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What is GLOBE International?

✧ A network of cross-party legislators in more than 30 countries (and growing fast)

✧ Provides a forum for legislators to showcase progress, share good practice on legislation and scrutiny, and learn lessons from experience

✧ Currently working on climate change, tropical forests, natural capital and oceans

✧ Presidency of GLOBE International rotates; currently with UK parliament

✧ Lord Deben is President of GLOBE International (also Chair of the UK’s Statutory Committee on Climate Change)
The Importance of Legislation on Climate Change

"Domestic legislation on climate is the absolutely critical, essential, linchpin between action at the national level and international agreements. It is absolutely at the centre."

"...nothing is going to be agreed internationally, until enough is legislated domestically."

Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, speaking at the first GLOBE Climate Legislation Summit in London, 14 January 2013.
The 3rd Edition: An inventory of climate change legislation in 33 countries
What are the highlights of the study?

- There was **legislative progress** in 18 of the 33 study countries in 2012 alone

- Progress was particularly strong in **emerging and developing countries**
  - the non-Annex 1 countries of the UNFCCC

- In total, there are **just under 300 pieces of legislation** at the national level
  - but numbers alone are not a reliable indicator of coverage

- 31 of the 33 countries have what we call a **flagship law** on climate change
  - a broad, unifying law to guide climate change policy
How does progress in 2012 compare?
What do climate change laws cover?

- **Energy efficiency** (covered in 31 countries) is seen as a “win-win” policy everywhere.

- **Energy supply** (covered in 32 countries) includes the promotion of renewable energy, smart grids and sometimes nuclear.

- **Adaptation** (covered in 28 countries) is particularly important in many developing countries.

- **Green growth** is a motivating factor for many countries and explicitly promoted in Ethiopia and South Korea, among others.
What are the lessons for legislators?

• Practically all countries are taking climate action, often motivated by national interest. It is a myth that “my country is the only one doing this.”

• Legislators can learn from the experience of other countries. Climate change legislation is often complex.

• Domestic action and international commitments complement each other. One reinforces the other. But domestic action is not yet sufficient to meet international climate objectives.