Low-carbon future: A case for concerted action by national and local authorities

Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the UN Climate Change Conference Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Congress of the Republic of Peru Lima (Peru), 8 December 2014

Dr. Alina Averchenkova

Co-Head Policy
Grantham Research Institute for Climate Change and the Environment
London School of Economics

<u>a.averchenkova@lse.ac.uk</u> <u>www.lse.ac.uk/granthamInstitute/</u>





Case for action: Dangers of delay

- Necessary emissions path for 50-50 chance of 2°C:
 - under 35Gt in 2030; under 20Gt in 2050; zero by end century
- High-carbon infrastructure & capital investment lead to technological "lock-in" for decades
 - 80% of energy-related CO₂ by 2035 under 450ppm scenario, are already locked-in (IEA, WEO, 2011).
- Strong action in all regions of world, in all economic sectors is required
 - zero emissions from electricity around mid-century
 - negative in major sectors well before end of century







Case for action: Local benefits

- Next decades embody coincidence of (i) global structural transformation (urbanisation, energy systems, land use) and (ii) need for transition to low-carbon
- Around \$90 trillion of infrastructure investment over 15 years is required for transformation. Going low carbon costs only a few trillion more
- Could stimulate dynamic, innovative and creative growth
- Most of necessary investment is in national interest, even without valuing emissions reductions
- Benefits include improved energy security, resource efficiency, fiscal innovation, local pollution & health, etc.

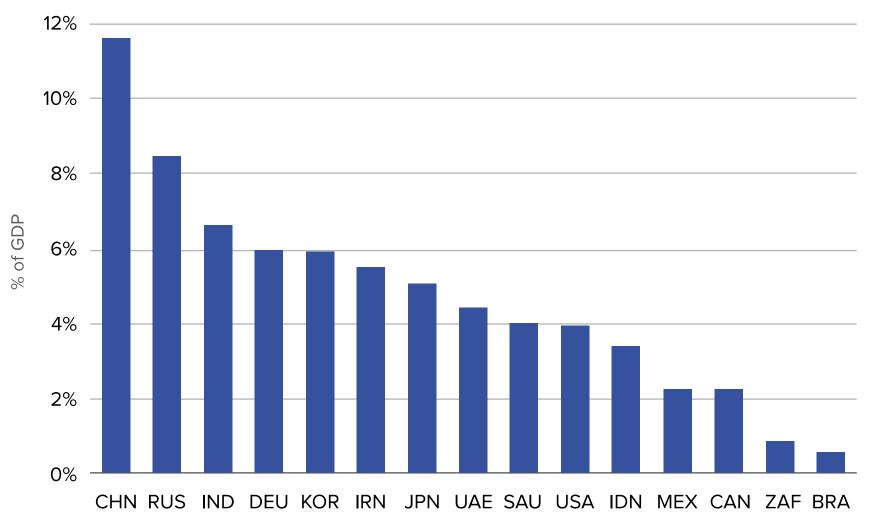
Source: "Better Growth, Better Climate": report of Global Commission, September 2014





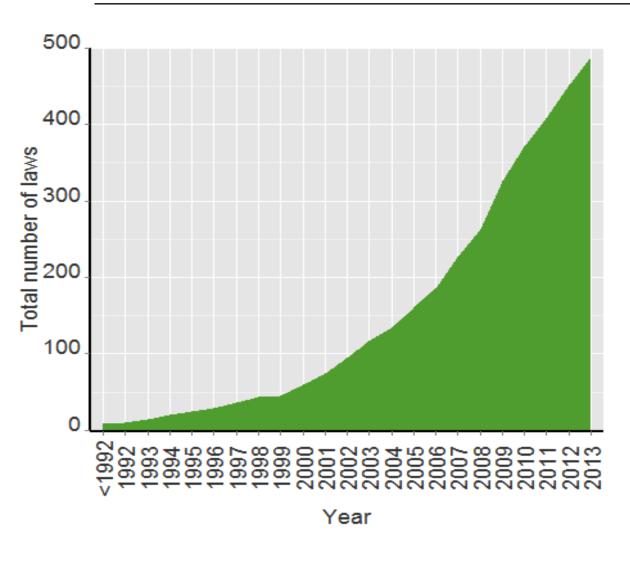


Value of the premature deaths from PM2.5 air pollution



Source: NCE estimate, based on WHO mortality data

Stock of climate-related laws: Legislative activity is growing



- 4th GLOBE Climate Legislation Study, 2014
 - •487 climate-related laws in 66 study countries
 - Flagship legislation in 2013 in 8 countries

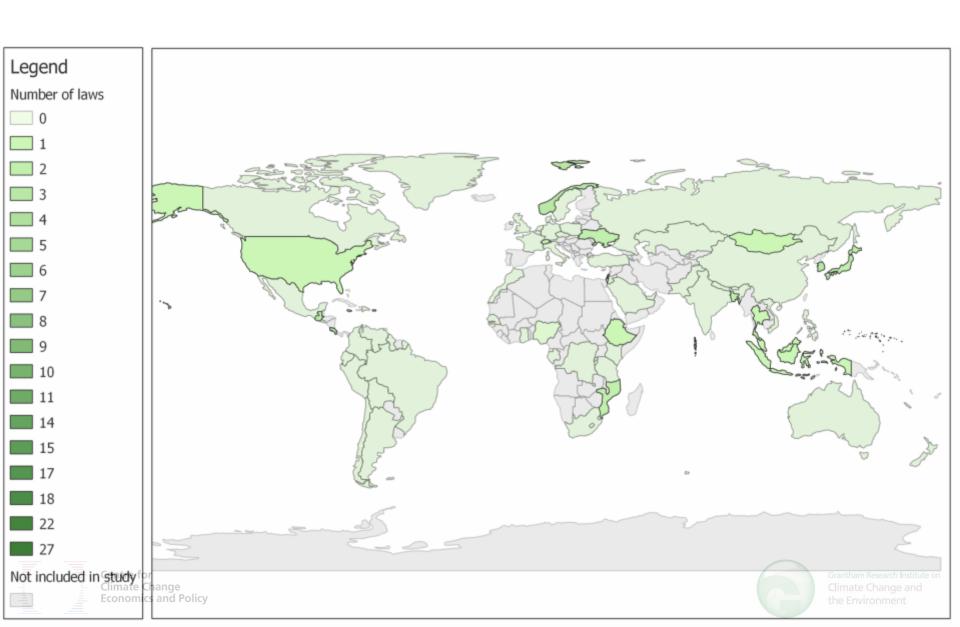




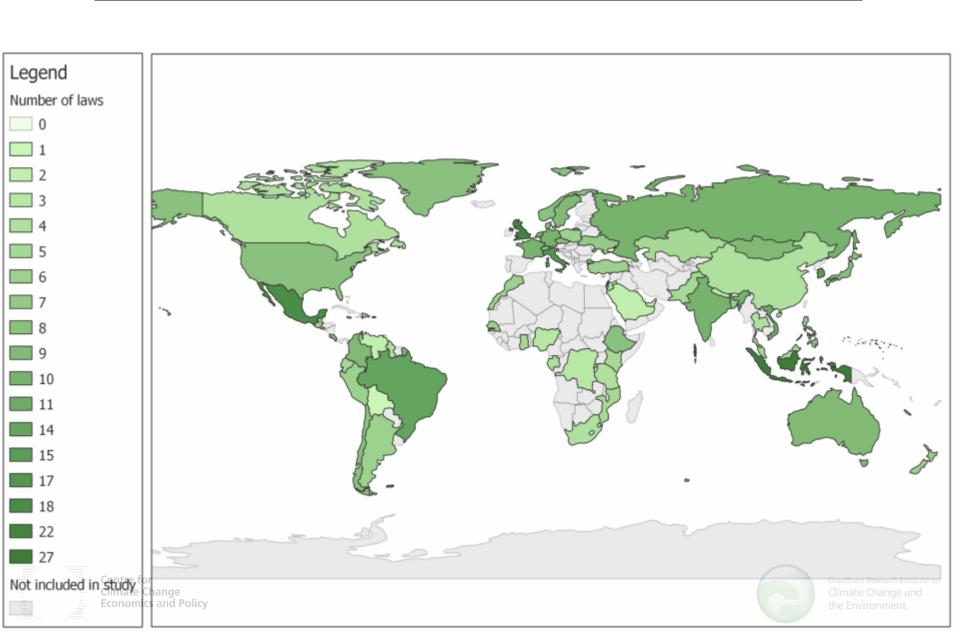




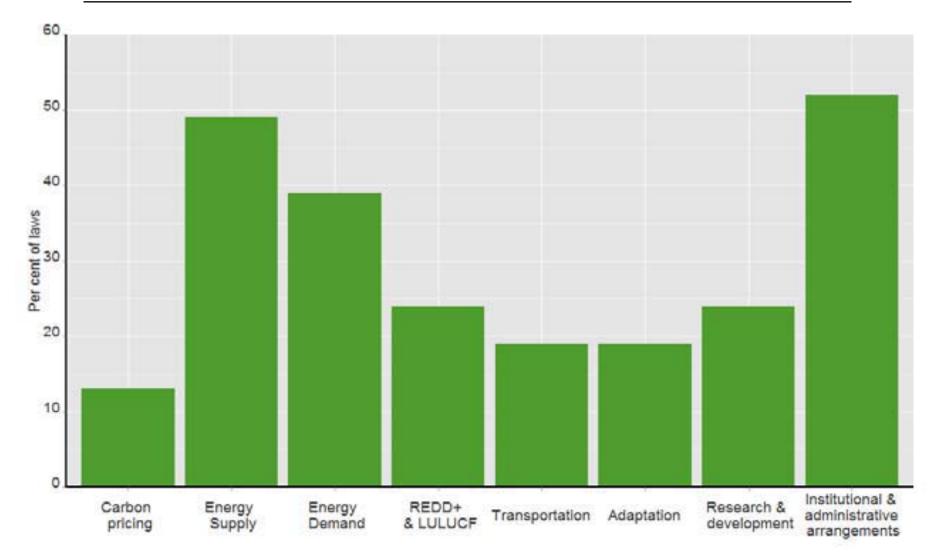
The Stock of Laws (1997)



The Stock of Laws (2013)



Key focus areas for legislation









2015 Global Climate Legislation Study

2015 Study expanded to cover 100 countries (spring 2015)

Algeria, Angola, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Grenada, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Kuwait, Libya, Madagascar, Myanmar, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu.

- Focus on elements of effective legislation
 - Information
 - Targets & Policies on mitigation and adaptation
 - Institutional arrangements
 - Finance





Challenges ahead for legislators

- Shift towards bottom-up framework driven by "nationally determined" actions
 - Changing role of national legislators vis-à-vis UNFCCC
- Ensuring consistency between international pledge and national policy & legislation: getting involved ahead of Paris
- Driving high ambition while balancing national interests, international objectives and equity considerations
 - Local benefits of climate action
 - Legislator's dialogue: consistency & comparability among national systems
- Making national legislation compatible with international MRV requirements and best practices
- Effectiveness of national actions and legislation are at the centre of success





Thank you

contact: a.averchenkova@lse.ac.uk

The 4th edition of the study is now available via The GLOBE App (search for "GLOBE Climate")





www.globeinternational.org