



Comprehensive International Law of Sustainable Energy: The Contribution of Law to Sustainable Development

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- Do we need to develop a law of sustainable energy (SE)?
- If yes, it's time to move it from the periphery to the centre of the legal debate on sustainable development
- SE is critical for three principal reasons, which are interlinked:
 - to mitigate climate change and protect the environment
 - to improve energy security;
 - to encourage economic development





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- Legal management regime should demonstrate how law can address SE issues, and the next stage will be for decision-makers and interested parties to take action.
- Such challenges primarily require a global solution, and therefore it must be international law, as implemented through national laws and policies, that takes its place at the forefront of developments in the sustainable energy field and might be the focus of the UN activities.





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- There have been international legal developments in finding global solutions to discrete parts of the overall problem of energy supply and consumption, but to date they have been *ad hoc* and fragmented:
 - 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution
 - 1986 Conventions on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident
 - 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
 - United Nations Framework on Climate Change and its associated Kyoto Protocol





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- **the pivotal role of energy in achieving sustainable development has been largely ignored due to the powerful conflicting vested interests in the international community**
- **to date the legal regulation of energy production and consumption has remained primarily within the domestic jurisdiction of countries and has not assumed an international character**
- **a strategy to provide part of the solution through law will be more likely to meet with a positive response from stakeholders**
- **law is essential to ensure that investment takes place to promote SE**





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The creation of a common, sustainable energy future requires means of achieving it from a legal perspective by developing a new field of law – the law of sustainable energy





Thank you for your attention!

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