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gLAWcal Comment #264

**CLIMATE CHANGE IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM,
WITH INDIVIDUALIZED SOLUTIONS**

Based on

**Francesco Sindico and Julie Gibson
“Soft, Complex and Fragmented Inter-
national Climate Change Practice: What
Implications for International Trade
Law?”**



gLAWcal
Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development



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A gLAWcal comment on Francesco Sindico and Julie Gibson "Soft, Complex and Fragmented International Climate Change Practice: What Implications for International Trade Law?" in Paolo Davide Farah and Elena Cima (Eds.) *China's Influence on Non-Trade Concerns in International Economic Law*

This chapter opens with the mantra that climate change is a global problem, but needs individualized, national-level strategies for combating it. The chapter provides two main analyses, and spells them out clearly to the reader. Simply, there is the difference in public policy between soft vs. hard commitments when it comes to climate change. Too often are the soft commitments made in lieu of the more difficult to achieve, but the more effective hard commitments. These soft commitments generally have less legal enforcement, and instead are hinged primarily on voluntary acceptance of the provisions, allowing easy revocation of the provisions when it becomes politically or economical-

ly too difficult to continue abiding by the provisions. Instead, what the author suggests is the only effective method of producing changes in behavior by the nation or the corporation is to mandate hard commitments, or no commitments at all. In essence the very system of fragmented, and complex sets of soft commitments produce real harm in the efforts to combat climate change because they make a nation or an advocacy organization feel as if real change has been accomplished. Yet, it could be very quickly undone without any repercussions. The defragmentation of the frameworks surrounding global efforts to combat climate change could also be a source for strengthening the efforts already present at the national-level. All in all, there needs to be a greater internationally focused effort to produce this real change.

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The gLAWcal comments are insight and short analytical pieces written by the gLAWcal team. The gLAWcal comments are based on, and inspired by, the books and chapters published within one of the [gLAWcal book series](#) published by Routledge Publishing (New York/London).

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OUR MISSION

To collaborate with Government, Civil society and business community to balance the excess of globalization with Non Trade Concerns.

OUR GOALS

To influence policymakers, to raise awareness over Non Trade Concerns, to encourage stakeholder participation, and to disseminate gLAWcal's publication results.



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