2016: Making it Happen

Track 0 wishes you all a Happy New Year. The adoption of the Paris Agreement has strengthened our resolve to build stronger networks and collaborations to ensure that we stay below the internationally agreed goal of staying well below 2°C/1.5°C set out in the Paris Agreement. We know this requires a global phase out of greenhouse gases and catalyzes action towards getting to zero on the ground.

With our New Year resolution set, here is our first newsletter of 2016 to update you on events and the work of Track 0 at the start of this year.

1. Track 0 CEO Farhana Yamin featured in Vogue and Origin magazines
2. Track 0 CEO Farhana Yamin speaking on the Paris Agreement
3. Track 0 supporting Zero Practitioners Workshops in the MENA Region

We invite you to read on to learn about Track 0’s work in early 2016.

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The important role played by women in delivering an ambitious climate deal in Paris is now becoming clear as discussed in a recent article in the Huffington Post. In December 2015 Vogue featured 13 inspiring women fighting for an ambitious Paris. Track 0 Founder and CEO Farhana Yamin was one of the thirteen chosen by other women as climate warriors. She was interviewed by model and climate activist Cameron Russell. In a powerfully curated video, ‘If someone were saving your life, wouldn’t you want to know who she was?’ the 13 women give their take on what is at stake in a world with runaway climate change.

On the tails of Vogue, online magazine Origin ran an article on the ‘Climate changers: 30+ top thinkers and do-ers on climate change’, which you can read here, featuring Farhana Yamin as Track 0 Founder and CEO alongside economist Jeffrey Sachs, WWF President and CEO Carter Roberts, French climate envoy Laurence Tubiana and many more.
Track 0 CEO Farhana Yamin Speaking on the Paris Agreement

Farhana Yamin described how she worked to support the Marshall Islands Foreign Minister and other vulnerable countries create a powerful coalition to enshrine high ambition in the Paris Agreement. The first opportunity came at the Dartmouth Park Talks where she shared the stage with the former UK Labour Leader and Minister for Energy and Climate Change Ed Miliband MP speaking on a combination of policy analysis, stories and opinion on what happened at COP21 and how to translate the Paris Agreement into the domestic sphere.

She also described the significance of the Paris Agreement at two events in January: the Cambridge University and Climate Policy day of discussions on ‘What now? Climate change and energy after Paris’ on January 22nd, and the Arthur Watts Public International Law Seminar hosted by the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) on January 27th.
The first event, convened by the Centre for Rising Powers, the Cambridge Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance (C-EENRG), the Energy Policy Research Group (EPRG) at Cambridge Judge Business School, and the Department of Politics and International Studies, Cambridge, in association with Climate Policy, hosted a day of expert opinion and discussion on ‘What now? Climate change and energy after Paris’ at Selwyn College at which Farhana Yamin spoke on the panel ‘Are we any closer to avoiding dangerous climate change? An assessment of the Paris outcome’.

The BIICL Seminar convened a panel of legal advisors who played key roles in the Paris Negotiations, under the chairmanship of Lord Carnwath, Justice of the Supreme Court. Speaking from a variety of perspectives – the EU, the UK and Small Islands States – they discussed the work that remains to be done by governments to make the agreement fully effective, and Farhana Yamin spoke on her role in the lead-up to, and in Paris.

Jacob Werksman, Lord Carnwath, Caroline Ross, Farhana Yamin, Jill Barrett and Kate Cook

Fostering Connections in the MENA Region

Under the banner of the Zero Practitioners Network - which Track 0 recommended be established in our 2015 report ‘Who’s Getting Ready for Zero?’ - Isabel Bottoms has been providing support to increase collaborations across the north Africa and Levant region exploring opportunities to build a toolkit for creating zero emission decarbonisation and development scenarios. This builds on her previous work for Heinrich Boll Foundation and the Egyptian Centre for Economic and Social Rights which are soon to publish ‘80GW of Change: 7 Pathways Towards An Equitable Electricity Sector for Egypt’.

Thanks for reading!

Farhana, Isabel and Ana