A lot has happened since Track 0’s last newsletter with 177 countries signing the 2015 Paris Agreement on 22 April marking a high point in international law. Track 0 has entered a growth period for the organisation focusing on the progressive implementation of the Paris Agreement in ways that enhance achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN in 2015. It’s an exciting time, please read on for the latest updates from us.

Track 0 CEO Farhana Yamin attended the 14th IUCNAEL Colloquium 2016, hosted by PluriCourts, at the University of Oslo this June. Over 300 lawyers from around the world convened on the subject of “The Environment in Court”. Farhana gave a plenary talk on “The Role of Lawyers in Speeding Up Climate Change Action pre-2020: 4 Suggestions to Shift Tracks and Create New Collaborations in Support of the Paris Agreement”. You can find her PowerPoint presentation here on the Track 0 website.

The link between Paris and the implementation of the SDGs is crucial for securing a prosperous future for all. Track 0 staff participated in the International Institute for Environment and Development’s (IIED’s) dialogue event on “Reimagining Development in the Least Developed Countries: What Role for the SDGs?”. Farhana took part in the Question Time panel that discussed “Where next for the SDGs?”. You can catch up on some of the key points made and watch IIED’s event video here. A series of blogs and interviews commissioned by IIED in advance of the dialogue event can be found here.

The devil is in the details. The Bonn session of the UNFCCC in May 2016 was an important opportunity to take stock of the detailed technical work needed to implement the Paris Agreement. Farhana attended the May session in her capacity as an expert on adaption issues. She facilitated the first ever Technical Expert Meeting on adaptation (TEM-A) with the discussion centred on “Reducing vulnerability and mainstreaming climate change adaptation”, particularly through the process of formulating and implementing national adaptation plans. The TEM process will continue in Marrakesh.

Track 0 continues to provide legal advice and strategy support to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) in the climate negotiations and to the 43 developed countries who work together in the Climate Vulnerable Forum. RMI brought together ministers representing 100 countries in the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) to collectively forge a high ambition deal in Paris. RMI reconvened the HAC in the margins of New York Paris Agreement signing ceremony on 22 April. Fiji, Palau and RMI were the first three countries to complete their national ratification processes of the Paris Agreement. Farhana provided support to these countries by attending the Micronesian Presidents’ Summit in February 2016 and continues in her role as climate advisor to President Hilda Heine to help the RMI play a leading role in the HAC.

Finally, Track 0 employed two new staff in June. Welcoming Will Ingram and Anna Cooke-Yarborough as Research Support Assistants. Track 0 is expanding to prepare for the post-Paris work on implementing the historic agreement and the SDGs, as well as exploring the development and enforcement of legislation, legal rules and norms that are Paris-compatible.

We will be back in touch soon with further developments and news of Track 0’s work. Please find out more at track0.org.

Thank you for reading, Farhana, Will, Ana and Anna

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