

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE
2030 CORPORATE AGENDA FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

ADVANCES IN SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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SERIES EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

The issue of climate change is without doubt one of the greatest challenges facing humankind and the planet we inhabit in history. The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Summit provides us with a number of approaches that are required to reverse the catastrophic damages of climate change globally. These include acknowledging and taking action on the following (Washington Post, 2015):

- “Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above preindustrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.”
- “Reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that peaking will take longer for developing country parties, and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter.”
- “The importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.”

The Paris Climate Change deal also calls for nations to audit and reduce their emissions to the level of the “highest possible ambition.” Furthermore, a target of \$100 billion a year in climate-related financing by 2020 was agreed on by participant nations.

Nonetheless, in order for this agreement to succeed, the business sector must be held accountable for the pollution and destruction it has caused across the planet. One approach to this has been the 2030 Corporate Agenda for Sustainable Development. Building on the UN’s Millennium Development goals, the 2030 Corporate Agenda holds the global business sector responsible for the massive pollution it has caused in the search for ever-increasing profits. The Agenda sets out the way forward in its Preamble (United Nations, 2015):

This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet, and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom.

We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want to heal and secure our planet.

We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.

This volume of the *Advances in Sustainability and Environmental Justice Series* from Emerald Group Publishing contains an international set of case studies which examine regional responses to the 2030 Corporate Agenda. As Senior Editor of the Series, I am pleased to see the extent to which these contributions reflect on the best research across the globe on this most relevant of topics.

Since its inception as the *Advances in Ecopolitics Series* and now in its current format, the *Advances in Sustainability and Environmental Justice Series* has presented studies on a diverse range of environmental topics. These have included salient issues such as Corporate Social Responsibility, Sustainability since the 2008 economic recession, global environmental movements, environmental philosophy, and the UN Global Compact.

As the Founder and Series Editor, I am pleased to say we will continue to provide an outlet for high-end quality research on environmental issues and sustainability in future volumes. As we approach the landmark 20th Volume, this Series is now established as a global leader in its field. I would like to thank all contributors, editors, and the staff at Emerald for their contributions to this success.

Liam Leonard
Series Editor

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