

RINGO Statement, GST 1.3 Roundtable 4 (on intersections)
Saturday, June 10, 15-18h, Chamber Hall
(by RINGO nominee to RT4, Tracy Bach, Visiting Professor, Washington University in St. Louis)

As an individual member of RINGO nominated to attend this roundtable, I want to offer reflections on three of the emerging messages in the co-facilitators summary from GST 1.2 and reactions to them at this roundtable.

On finding 1 and the language about the UNFCCC setting norms that drive policy, I appreciate India's point about labeling the UNFCCC as a process and not a treaty. In addition to the impact that the Convention, Protocol, and Paris Agreement has had on law made by national legislatures and executive branches, I want to stress their important impact on national and international litigation. A notable example is the use of NDCs and IPCC findings as norms or standards for measuring national government duties in Urgenda decision. There are many more.

On finding 4 about NPS's added value, I want to point to RINGO's opening statement, which listed ways that NPS have contributed to the GST via submissions, posters, and round table statements and world café conversation that offer research-based findings and case study examples. RINGO members have produced and published a deep literature that emphasizes theories of change, research and analysis of past treaty performance and recommendations for improvement going forward, and specific ideas for how the GST 1 output can have the most impact on NDC revision by 2025 and international cooperation.

On finding 5 about the need to plan for temporary overshoot, I am struck that LDCs and Australia were the only Party interventions in this roundtable that spoke in favor of planning for it, while all others either spoke against it or did not address it. Given the IPCC AR6 findings on likelihood of overshoot in scenarios, there is a need to account for them when making policy. This hesitancy to do so felt similar to pre Paris hesitancy to acknowledge need for adaptation, given concern that doing so might lower sense of urgency for mitigation.

As always, I and all members of the RINGO constituency thank the Parties for actively engaging with NPS in these GST1 roundtables, recognizing our added value to the process.