

IALS INSTITUTE OF
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WFD



Advancing legislative success

Course on post-legislative scrutiny in the context
of the climate and environmental emergency



Parliaments make and change laws. They also have a role in checking the implementation of laws and evaluating whether they achieve their intended outcomes. Implementation of legislation is complex and does not happen automatically. What is more, parliaments and elected representatives often have little information on what happens after a law is adopted. So, parliaments need mechanisms for effective ex-post evaluation of legislation.

The systematic process of monitoring whether the laws parliament has passed are implemented as intended and evaluating if the laws have the expected impact is called post-legislative scrutiny (PLS). When conducted properly, PLS can reveal achievements and errors in the design of legislation, gaps in implementation and enforcement, and the positive and negative impacts that hinder or contribute to achieve policy goals, service delivery for citizens as well as rule of law and democratic governance.

Legislative oversight (in the form of PLS) is a key parliamentary function particularly in areas of critical importance, such as climate change and environmental emergencies.

The first global stocktake of climate action in December 2023 revealed important implementation gaps in the climate commitments of countries, putting the world on track to miss the objective of limiting global warming below the safer threshold of +1.5 to 2 C, according to the Paris Agreement of 2015.

Parliaments are a key part of the national mechanism to implement multilateral climate and environmental objectives. PLS offers Parliaments a tool to:

- Scrutinise the quality of the legislation aimed at delivering climate change of environmental commitments.
- Monitor progress in national commitments signed off by governments in the framework of global multilateral processes.
- scrutinise the results and impact of climate change and environmental legislation in relation to the Rio Conventions and its instruments.
- Inform future planning on policy and legal instruments required to implement international commitments.

2024 is an important year for climate change targets and PLS on climate legislation will be vital to identify, understand and address the implementation gap in climate action and set realistic goals for the future.

As governments plan their second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, due in November 2024, PLS on climate legislation can inform the process and the assessment of the legal instruments required to deliver the NDCs, across various policy areas including agriculture, water and sanitation, infrastructure, energy, trade, taxation, transport, public health, etc.

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of the University of London (IALS-UoL) and **Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)** are happy to announce that registrations are now open for the 2024 *Course on Post-Legislative Scrutiny in the context of the Climate and Environmental Emergency*.

“ We, parliamentarians, gathered at the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) (...) encourage parliaments to establish mechanisms for continuous, forward-looking and evidence-informed monitoring and reporting on the progress of climate-related legislation and policies, ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of climate commitments. ”

IPU: Parliamentary Meeting at COP28,
Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 6 December 2023.

Objectives of the course

The *Course on Post-Legislative Scrutiny in the context of the Climate and Environmental Emergency* offers an in-depth exploration of the theory and practice of PLS as an oversight tool. The course adopts a holistic outlook that places PLS in the legislative cycle and delves into the practice of PLS piloting and innovations over the last few years. For 2024, this holistic approach to PLS will also have a thematic focus on environment and climate change.

Target audiences

- Members of Parliaments, researchers, and committee staff of parliaments worldwide, particularly of committees leading on environmental and climate policy.
- Parliamentary development practitioners
- Legal, legislative, and governance experts, including on environment and climate policy.
- Civil society members
- Academics and researchers from universities.

Delivery of the course

The course will be delivered online using synchronous and a-synchronous methods.

The course will include online presentations, question and answer sessions, individual and group assignments, and presentations from participants.

Participants will have access to a dedicated virtual learning environment where course materials will be available. Participants will receive an extensive Course Manual.

The course will be offered in the English language. All lectures and course materials will be in English.

Following the Course, participants will be invited to join the Global Community of Practice on PLS.

Content of the course

- Introduction to PLS.
- PLS in context of the law-making process and executive-legislative relations.
- PLS within the parliamentary system; environmental and climate PLS within the parliamentary system.
- Triggers for PLS.
- Parliamentary innovations on PLS.
- Consultation, public engagement, and data collection in the context of PLS; case studies in the field of climate and environmental PLS.
- Thematic approaches to PLS, including PLS of climate and environment legislation, gender sensitive PLS.
- Environment and climate PLS case studies.
- PLS and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- PLS as a tool for civil society organisations.



Timing of the course

The *Course on Post-Legislative Scrutiny in the context of the Climate and Environmental Emergency* will take place online during September 2024. It will be delivered every Monday and Friday of the month, on the following dates: 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30 September 2024. Each session will be half-day (9.00 – 11.30 AM, UK time).

Certificate

Participants who follow the entire course will receive a certificate from the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of the University of London.

Registration and fees

Standard Fee:

- Full Fee: £650.
- Early Bird Fee (until 15 July 2024): £550.

Reduced fee:

For participants from Official Development Assistance (ODA)-recipients and staff of WFD, FCDO, the Westminster Parliament, and the devolved assemblies in the UK.

- Reduced fee: £450.
- Early bird reduced fee (until 15 July 2024): £375.

Register now:

bit.ly/PLSCourse2024

Front cover image: NASA's three-dimensional portrait of methane, the world's second-largest contributor to greenhouse warming.

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Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) is the UK public body dedicated to supporting democracy around the world. Operating internationally, WFD works with parliaments, political parties, and civil society groups as well as on elections to help make political systems fairer, more inclusive and accountable.



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