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Henry H. Oberschelp Professor of Law and Director,
Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute
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Climate Change Conference

On October 30, 2008, Washington University Law’s Whitney R. Harris World Law Initiative convened the conference International Climate Change: Post-Kyoto Challenges. Participants included:

PAUL HARNER, Washington University in Saint Louis; Solidarity and Quinetes Jeni Professor, Department of Energy, Environmental & Chemical Engineering; DANIEL BODANSKY, PRATIM BISWAS & Chemical Engineering; HEIDI VON REIS, Mental Clinic.

Key Principles Emerging from the Conference

- A fair-reaching international scientific consensus stresses that human activity is significantly driving climate change and that deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions must occur.
- Energy policy should promote clean energy generation, energy conservation, and efficiency improvements; the development of sustainable energy sources that are environmentally benign throughout their life cycle, and alternative energy sources.
- An arm’s length of greenhouse gases, and as political and economic leaders, both the United States and China should take domestic, as well as international, action to address climate change.
- A partnership between the United States, China, and the rest of the world is critical.

Project Status

- Spring 2009, under the direction of Professor Luis Nadjar, The Washington University Law’s Whitney R. Harris World Law Initiative funded a project upon a joint project to study the need for a comprehensive convention on crimes against humanity, analyze the necessary elements of such a convention, and draft a proposed treaty, as follows:

1. Project Summary

   1.1. Preparation of the project and methodological development, including formation of the project Steering Committee; preparation of a research paper on the project.

2. Project Status

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The United States to address climate change is a major obstacle to meaningful and necessary action, and should be overcome.

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FAST FACTS

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- Number of countries represented among our graduates: 69
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(cover, Mary Butkus photo) Some 58 renowned scholars and practitioners gathered at Washington University in historic Ridgley Hall for the April 2009 Experts’ Meeting of the Crimes Against Humanity Initiative. Ridgley Hall was the site of the 1904 Inter-Parliamentary Union resolution calling for the 1907 Hague Peace Conference.
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