Principles for accountability for climate change agreements

Implementing Commitments

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Juridification*: The tendencies of law to engage in the process of «colonization of the life-world », whereby informal means of structuring relations and activities are increasingly replaced by more formal, law-like approaches.  

*Habermas

While juridification can be positive such as when notions of justice are imported into resolution of disputes, it can also lead to increasing bureaucratization and complexity, in which the individual is ultimately rendered less capable of protecting his or her own interests.
Sustainable governance starts from the premise that the State does not necessarily have a monopoly on governance approaches or activities—the instruments, institutions or resources...

An increasing number of imaginative approaches to voluntary governance with public-interest-oriented dimensions are springing up...

Kernaghan Webb: « Voluntary Codes: Where To From Here? »
(Voluntary Codes, Private Governance, the Public Interest and Innovation 2004 p. 384)
“Individuals are never more themselves, never more masters of their own fate, than when they recognize that they are a part of a greater whole from which they can draw inspiration and strength, and to which they can give inspiration and strength.”

PROCESSES LEADING TO INCREASED ACCOUNTABILITY

Thorough analysis of human nature and existing social structures and systems

(Confidence in human’s « propensity for good » despite evidence of greed, egotism, injustice and hate)

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Identification of the basic principles and values leading to the « Future we want »

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Underlying principles (material and spiritual) of existence

- Connectivity and cohesion (a power of attraction)

- Transference and transmutation (processes of change and augmentative power of growth)

- Finiteness (recognition of mortality and the existence of immortality)
Empathy becomes the thread that weaves an increasingly differentiated and individualized population into an integrated social tapestry, allowing the social organism to function as a whole.

Jeremy Rifkin
“Trustworthiness is the greatest portal leading unto the tranquility and security of people. In truth the stability of every affair hath depended and doth depend upon it.

All the domains of power, of grandeur and of wealth are illumined by its light.”

Tablets of Bahá’u’lláh, Tarázát
PROCESSES LEADING TO INCREASED ACCOUNTABILITY

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Ongoing investigation of the consequences of present habits and aspirations (scientific, social and personal)

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Constant process of social learning (in homes, schools, local communities as well as regionally and globally)

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1. Education can only help allay a threatening condition by addressing root causes.

2. Climate change education needs to happen within interdisciplinary frames.

3. There can be no ethical and adequately responsive climate change education without global climate justice education.

4. The educational response to climate change needs to be both local and global.

5. Wherever it takes place, climate change education needs to be a social and holistic learning process.

6. There is a need for educators to urgently and radically think through the implications of the invisibility and uncertainty of climate change...

David Selby and Fumiyo Kagawa (Education and Climate Change, Routledge 2010) p.241-243
“Broader visions of human purpose and prosperity are moving from the periphery to the center of public discourse.

It is becoming clear that the pathway to sustainability will be one of empowerment, collaboration and continual processes of questioning, learning and action in all regions of the world.”

(Baha’i International Community: Rethinking Prosperity)
PROCESSES LEADING TO INCREASED ACCOUNTABILITY

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Reflection on actions and promoting a willingness to adjust and change
(Voluntary codes of conduct and practice)

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Improved infrastructure which supports change
(preventative regulations, laws, penalties)
ISO-26000
Social Responsibility

• organizational ethics
  • ethical consumerism
• stakeholder involvement
• accountability
• transparency
Sustainable Governance: Environmental Protection in Canada
Sustainable Governance: Consumer Protection in Canada
Sustainable Governance:
Environmental Protection in Indonesia
PROCESSES LEADING TO INCREASED ACCOUNTABILITY

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Paradigm shift to a new culture of accountability

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New social norms and practices
« The world of sustainable governance is one in which normative rule development involves a complex interplay of domestic and international legal instruments, voluntary codes, and State and non-state actors. 

It is an interplay that harnesses the energies of markets, businesses, citizens, communities, non-governmental organizations, legislatures, intergovernmental organizations and the courts. »

Kernaghan Webb : « Voluntary Codes : Where To From Here ? » (Voluntary Codes, Private Governance, the Public Interest and Innovation 2004 p. 401 )
White busses Sachsenhausen
The secret camp Struthof
WHAT CAN BE DONE NOW BY US ALL

Self-scrutiny/honest evaluation of our own habits and aspirations
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Gain knowledge about systems and processes/consequences and alternatives
(use indicators analysis, educational channels, etc.)
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Collective discussions
(private/public, with relevant stakeholders)
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Individual actions and group initiatives
(Choice editing, boycotting products and services, re-using, sharing, etc.)
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WHAT CAN BE DONE NOW BY US ALL

Exercise social pressure
(through media, peers)

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Implement voluntary codes of conduct and practice
(CSR, whole school approaches, Local Agenda 21 initiatives, etc.)

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Use own positions of authority or through voting in people who are willing to put infrastructure and controls into action

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Raise children/educate them to respect and appreciate accountability and know how to contribute to it
(participatory global citizenship training, service to humanity)