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Governing Climate Change
Conference on Strengthening Global Summitry:
Accountability for Effectiveness in the
G8, G20 and BRICS

Ella Kokotsis, Ph.D
Director of Accountability
G8 and G20 Research Group
Moscow, Russia
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Presentation Overview

- Historical context
- Accountability in climate governance
- Gleneagles ~ 2005
- Proactivity: 2005 ~ 2009
- Inclusivity: 2009 ~ 2013
- Since Lough Erne ~ 2013
- Challenges confronted by world leaders

Historical Context

- March 31st, ~ release of the IPCC's most compelling evidence on climate change
- Yet 35 years ago, G7 noted in Tokyo the need to *“expand alternative sources of energy, especially those which help to prevent further pollution, particularly increases of carbon dioxide and sulphur oxides in the atmosphere”*

Historical Context

- Since 1979, G7/G8 have produced over 400 commitments on issues related to energy and climate governance
- The G8's leadership has been unevenly exerted, with clear surges in the G8's governance of climate issues from 1975-1980, 1987–1992, and again from 2005–2009, and with notable dips in between

Historical Context

- The G8 is credited with leading climate governance in ways other international environmental institutions have largely failed to do
- Since 1975, the G8 has put climate protection at the forefront of its policy objectives, alongside economic, health, energy and security goals

Accountability in Climate Governance

- Beyond reaching commitments, has the G8 kept its climate commitments?
- Accountability is key, as it demonstrates both the summit's *legitimacy* and *credibility* as an effective centre of global climate governance
- 67 commitments assessed between 1985-2012, with compliance average of 46%

Gleneagles ~ 2005

- 2005 Gleneagles summit was a pivotal point as Tony Blair made climate change one his summit's key priorities
- Gleneagles marked the emergence of a new consensus on both the importance and urgency of the effects of a changing climate on energy, health, security and the global economy

Proactivity: 2005 ~ 2009

- G8 became more proactive in the development of global climate regimes
- Global leaders began to embrace the world's largest polluters – like China - in more inclusive, burden-sharing ways
- They put in place comprehensive and inclusive initiatives to institutionalize the process of consolidating global climate mitigation initiatives

Inclusivity: 2009 ~ 2013

- Since 2009, the G8's success was most evident in effectively recognizing the need to be more inclusive on climate governance issues and decisions
- The G8 formed the core of new informal plurilateral institutions, including the Major Economies Forum (MEF) and G20

Since Lough Erne ~ 2013

- At Lough Erne, the G8 noted they would pursue “*ambitious and transparent actions on climate change*” through various international fora
- G8 recognized that climate change is “*a contributing factor in increased economic and security risks globally*”
- G8 reiterated their commitment to jointly mobilize \$100 billion of climate finance per year by 2020 through a “*wide variety of sources*”

Challenges Confronted by World Leaders

- Climate challenges are vast and complicated
- Can world leaders comprehend the complex characteristics of the climate debate and act in a concerted and comprehensive manner?
- Leadership is needed through initiation, inclusion and accountability on global climate governance
- World leaders need to place climate change at the apex of their political agendas

Questions?



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