

The Consequences of Country's Withdrawal from Climate Change Agreements: Implications for Carbon Emissions Reduction

Kola O. Odeku, Alice Maveneke and Raligilia Happy Konanani

School of Law, Faculty of Management and Law, University of Limpopo, South Africa

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ABSTRACT At the end of the recently held UN climate change conference in Durban, South Africa in 2011, a number of key and important issues on global warming were discussed including an agreement to negotiate a new and more inclusive legally binding treaty and the establishment of a Green Climate Fund. Surprisingly, with regard to the existing agreements, some countries have pulled out and also decided not to be bound by subsequent agreements. It is against this backdrop that this article examines the consequences of some countries pulling out of the existing agreements aimed at protecting the environment and reducing the countries' carbon footprints. The article looks at the existing international legal framework mainly the Kyoto Protocol which has been ratified by about 192 countries and the legal regimes of the countries that have pulled out or refused to be legally bound by any agreement pertaining to reduction of carbon footprints. It examines the consequences such withdrawal will have on the set targets of reducing the global emissions by half in 2050.