Introduction to the Special Issue on the Paris Rulebook

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The UNFCCC/CMA conference in November-December 2018 (COP 24/CMA 1.3) adopted several decisions that have made the Paris Agreement operational.¹ The decisions relate to the Agreement's articles on NDC content and process, climate finance, the Transparency Framework, the Global Stocktake, and the committee tasked with facilitating implementation and promoting compliance (Articles 4, 9, 13, 14, and 15 of the treaty, respectively). There was no decision on the important emission-trading mechanisms (Article 6) or on certain lesser matters that were under negotiation,² so the "Paris Rulebook" is still partially incomplete.

Nevertheless, enough rules were agreed upon at the end of last year to make possible the scholarly analysis presented in this special issue. The issue came together as a result of a unique collaboration. It consists of articles written shortly after the close of COP 24/CMA 1.3. Drafts of the papers were circulated among the authors and then presented and critiqued at a workshop hosted by the Asia-Pacific Centre of Environmental Law at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, on 24–25 January 2019. The workshop was open to all, and it benefitted from the attendance of Singapore-based scholars, NGO representatives, government officials, and others, whose input to the peer-review process was highly appreciated.

1 See <<https://unfccc.int/katowice>> for the decision text.

2 See e.g. CMA (Paris Agreement), *Decision 6/CMA.1, Common Time Frames for Nationally Determined Contributions Referred to in Article 4, Paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement* (2018).

Agreement on a first cut of the Rulebook is certainly an event worth marking with a special issue of *Climate Law*. The Earth's climate being in ever greater danger, the Rulebook could not have come too soon. Now, we must decide how coherent and effective these new rules are. An informed assessment of their value must of course await their practical application, and that will take a few years. At this early stage, a technical legal analysis is the most that can be carried out. Let us also recall that the Rulebook is due to be expanded at CMA 2 at the end of 2019, when more technical analysis will fall due.

The articles in this collection identify and grapple with a range of key legal issues related to the Paris Rulebook. We hope that they will serve as a springboard for further discussion and debate.