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# The Fletcher School's Global Leaders Series

## *The Road to Paris*

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In the 2015 academic year, the Center for International Environment and Resource Policy (CIERP) at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy launched its Global Leaders Series, an ongoing platform to bring to campus the movers and shakers in energy, natural resources, and climate change as part of its Sustainable Development Diplomacy (SDD) program. The series, curated by Fletcher Professors of Practice Rachel Kyte and Patrick Verkooijen, both of the World Bank, features leading practitioners from government, NGOs, and the private sector to discuss how they are driving change in the field of environment and natural resource management, the challenges they face, and strategies to overcome them.

“The Road to Paris” marks the first installment of the series, and has served, in part, as inspiration for this edition of *The Forum*. While “The Road to Paris” references the UN-led process toward a global climate deal, the speaker series reminds us of the diversity of actors that are indispensable in the climate fight. From the classroom, to the C-suite, and to the halls of the UN, the climate agenda is shaped at all levels. Indeed, solutions to the climate threat will be found only when actors from these sectors come together within the broader sustainable development paradigm.

The series also teaches us that, while the road to sustainability is fraught with challenges, skeptics, and setbacks, a fundamental characteristic of climate leadership is the firm belief in positive outcomes. It is all too easy to relegate future generations to an unfortunate but seemingly irreversible climatic fate. But to the leaders of the cause, this is not an option. As Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever, contributor to this issue of *The Forum*, and the first keynote speaker of the Global Leaders Series, said in his recent address to Fletcher students, “It is too late to be a pessimist.” *f*