

## **Global Implications of a rapid clean energy transition: five general propositions and four suggestions for policy advocacy.**

Robert O. Keohane, February 22, 2023.

### *Five propositions:*

- 1) The principal political impetus for serious policy action on climate change comes from social movements and advocacy by political parties, leading to legislative and executive action in democracies.
- 2) The more dependent a decisional institution is on democratic politics and social movements, the more progressive it is likely to be on climate change.
- 3) Resistance to climate change measures comes from existentially threatened industries and public or elite concern about economic growth, so will be greatest in countries with FF industries and developing countries in general.
- 4) Established international organizations will tend to resist strong climate change action, since they are controlled by states and are somewhat insulated from democratic publics and social movements (e.g. Energy Charter Treaty).
- 5) Strongly progressive climate change action in some (mostly democratic) countries will generate discord at the international level, generating divisions within existing global organizations (e.g., WTO, World Bank, ISDS arrangements).

### *Implications for Policy Advocacy*

- 1) Regressive international organizations should be reformed, abolished, or crippled by the departure of formerly supportive states (Green).
- 2) NGO strategies should emphasize strengthening the “conveyor belts” linking voluntary action to state-supported and eventually mandatory social norms (Hale).
- 3) Institutions should be created that will help developing countries become part of renewable energy (RE) supply chains (Lewis). Little effect of Paris (Gard-Murray and Colgan) because Paris was weakly normative, not focused on infrastructure.
- 4) NGOs and INGOs should frame messages to increase the acceptance of RE projects in developing countries (Hadden).