



## DECLARATION

5<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change  
**Addressing Inequalities to Enable Climate Ambition: A Just Transition to Achieve the Paris Agreement**  
June 4, 15 and 25, 2021 | Virtual Sessions

We, parliamentarians from 22 countries<sup>1</sup> in the Americas and the Caribbean, met virtually on June 4, 15, and 25, 2021, with the support of the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Senate of Mexico, for the 5<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, entitled *Addressing Inequalities to Enable Climate Ambition: A Just Transition to Achieve the Paris Agreement*.

The meeting allowed participants to hold fruitful exchanges, which included a dialogue with representatives of civil society and youth organizations, on the importance of developing inclusive and democratic short- and long-term climate plans that incorporate intersectional<sup>2</sup>, intercultural and gender-based approaches to promote a just transition to zero-emission and resilient circular economies.

In this sense, a just transition, as a response to climate change and the necessary transformations required to mitigate and adapt to its effects, aims to plan and invest in the creation of environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive jobs, sectors and economies.

The dialogues revealed that as more than five years after the adoption of the Paris Agreement and in light of the public health and socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that efforts to increase the ambition of Nationally Determined Contributions are augmented and accelerated, include strategies to guarantee a just transition, and meet the goals to move towards sustainable economies that favour the well-being of people and communities, particularly those that have been historically marginalized and affected by systemic inequalities, as well as the protection of the environment.

Taking into account the above and,

### **RECOGNIZING:**

1. That, as established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), climate change constitutes a global emergency that crosses national borders, which is why coordinated solutions are

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<sup>1</sup> The countries convened were: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

<sup>2</sup> [Intersectionality is an analytical tool that recognizes that the experience of systemic inequalities is shaped by overlapping social factors such as gender, race, and class.](#)

needed at all levels including through international cooperation, to move towards economies with low greenhouse gas emissions, as described in the Paris Agreement.

2. That the fight against climate change implies a transformation away from current production and consumption models towards more sustainable, socially just development, that favours resilient, low carbon emission economies and promotes a just transition of the workforce towards decent, quality green jobs.
3. That climate science and scientific data are essential for informed decision-making and for the design of evidence-based national climate commitments to meet the Paris Agreement.
4. That there are international and regional agreements and mechanisms to guide climate action, including the [Paris Agreement](#), the [Gender Action Plan](#), the [Escazú Agreement](#), the [Sendai Framework](#), the [Silesia Declaration](#), the [2030 Agenda](#), the United Nations [Convention to Combat Desertification](#), the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#), as well as the [Conference of the Parties \(COP\)](#), which the twenty-sixth edition, to be held in November 2021, will be preceded by the Pre-COP26, that will feature a Youth Summit to elaborate concrete proposals on topics that affect the negotiation process for COP26.
5. That despite the efforts made by our countries to mitigate the effects of climate change, it is necessary to increase climate ambition and financing to meet the goals set forth in the Paris Agreement and prevent the global average temperature from exceeding the 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels, an occurrence that would have catastrophic consequences, according to warnings from the [IPCC Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C](#).
6. That as referenced in the Paris Agreement, climate action and the impacts of climate change are intrinsically linked to poverty eradication and equitable access to sustainable development.
7. That people who suffer from social, economic, ethnic, and gender inequalities are especially vulnerable to climate change, and that it is essential to incorporate intersectional, intercultural and gender approaches to prevent undesirable effects from the implementation of climate policies that may aggravate these inequalities.
8. That as referenced in the [Intergovernmental Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action](#), adopted at COP25, children and adolescents face heightened and specific risks due to climate change, and that their demands and proposals for urgent and immediate action to mitigate its effects should be reflected in the climate plans of our governments.
9. That the necessary transition to decouple emissions from economic growth is a process that requires the creation of new industries, new green and decent jobs, as well as new public and private investments to promote inclusive and resilient green economies.

10. That it is necessary for our governments' climate plans to incorporate policies for a just and democratic transition that establish the necessary conditions for transformations towards zero-emission economies, strengthen social protection systems, and ensure opportunities and quality jobs for formal and informal workers.
11. That the Action for Climate Empowerment approach, present in the Paris Agreement and in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, offers a comprehensive framework for education, training, social awareness, access to information, citizen participation, and international cooperation, which are fundamental aspects for empowering citizens in their commitment to climate action.
12. That, taking into account that most greenhouse gas emissions have historically originated in developed countries and that, consequently, the countries least responsible for contributing to climate change are being disproportionately affected by its impacts, it is necessary that the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities are respected and recognized.

***We commit to:***

1. Incorporate intersectional, intergenerational, intercultural and gender approaches into our legislative work to ensure that environmental and climate policies and plans are inclusive and respond to the multiple inequalities that affect the most vulnerable populations in a way that complies with the spirit of the 2030 Agenda of leaving no one behind and ensures that the costs and benefits associated with the policies are equitably shared.
2. Promote social dialogue between governments, companies, unions and workers so that they reach the necessary consensus to establish the national policies, plans and legislation required to ensure a fair, inclusive and democratic transition towards resilient and zero-emission economies.
3. Foster the development of comprehensive, decentralized policies for a just transition that addresses job loss in unsustainable sectors and the consequent effects on impacted communities and include training and education options, especially for informal workers and working women, offers adequate social protection measures, and safeguards the labour rights of the affected population.
4. Encourage the incorporation of the perspectives, needs, and traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants in climate plans and promote processes of dialogue and consultation in relation to the well-being of different traditionally marginalized and historically disadvantaged groups, such as those living in situations of poverty, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Persons, Afro-descendants, Indo-descendants and descendants of people under colonial servitude systems, members of the LGBTI community, and displaced persons and migrants, in the context of efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change.

5. Ensure follow-up and political oversight of the design and implementation of the binding commitments signed by our governments in the Paris Agreement and in the Nationally Determined Contributions, making certain that they have the necessary budget allocation and ensuring that they are ambitious, developed in a participatory manner, include plans for a just transition, and take into consideration the impacts on different population groups.
6. Urge our governments to undertake the necessary diplomatic initiatives to ensure that the collective goal set at COP21 by developed countries to mobilize \$100 billion annually is met to financially assist developing countries in meeting the mitigation and adaptation objectives of the Paris Agreement, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities referenced in its Article 2.
7. Promote the implementation of the [Action for Climate Empowerment](#) approach, fostering the creation of spaces for citizen participation in the discussion of issues related to the fight against the effects of climate change, ensuring legal frameworks for access to information on climate change, and urging our governments to strengthen education and public awareness on climate change and its effects.
8. Foster the integration of gender and human rights perspectives in climate plans and include just transition strategies that contain measures to raise labour standards for jobs in which women are often overrepresented, such as those in the care economy.
9. Foster the development of macroeconomic, industrial and labour policies that promote public and private investment in environmentally sustainable sectors and generate decent jobs throughout the production chain.
10. Urge our governments to incorporate sustainable development, circular economy, and just transition approaches into macroeconomic plans, growth policies, and post-COVID-19 recovery plans.
11. Emphasize the importance of establishing and strengthening institutional and technical capacities at the regional and local levels to drive efforts towards a just transition, with the understanding that decentralized responses that recognize the socio-economic particularities of local communities are required.
12. Encourage our governments to sign the [Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action](#) and implement the commitments therein, particularly with regard to establishing formal and periodic spaces for the participation of children and young people in decision-making processes related to climate, including their political participation through political parties and in legislative processes, and incorporate their perspectives and contributions in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and in the processes of updating the Nationally Determined Contributions.

Adopted on June 25, 2021