

## 6<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change | *Realizing our Green Future: The Road to Low Emissions*

### Addressing the commitments made in the environmental mandates adopted at the IX Summit of the Americas



Recognizing that net anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions have continually risen in all major sectors and that unsustainable inequitable development models are increasing the exposure of ecosystems and humans to climate hazards, the [6<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change \(PNCC\)](#) focused on analyzing legislative initiatives that can be implemented to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, particularly in the sectors with the highest emissions: energy, transportation, and agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU).

The 6<sup>th</sup> Gathering was organized in two meetings, the [Interparliamentary Dialogue](#) and the [Plenary Session](#), which culminated with the adoption of a [declaration](#). To ensure an inclusive lens within the conversation, the Gathering's methodology was consulted with women's organizations and dialogues featured multistakeholder perspectives from parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, civil society organizations, youth representatives, entrepreneurs, academia, and international organizations.

Taking into consideration the work of the PNCC to foster knowledge exchange and encourage parliamentary climate action, as well as the [mandate](#) adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the IX Summit of the Americas to promote parliamentary participation as an integral part of the Summits of the Americas process through ParlAmericas, the following document briefly details the manner in which the 6<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the ParlAmericas PNCC: *Realizing our Green Future: The Road to Low Emissions* integrated within its themes and the declaration, the commitments of the mandates: [Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable and Just Energy Transition](#) and [Our Sustainable Green Future](#).

## OUR SUSTAINABLE GREEN FUTURE

**Commitment 1: "To advance the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forest and Land Use, national deforestation and conservation commitments, and regional efforts to halt and reverse deforestation and conserve, sustainably manage, and use ecosystems."**

- ✓ The Plenary Session of the 6<sup>th</sup> PNCC Gathering examined the state of land-use and the strategies that parliaments can employ to encourage sustainable agriculture; halt deforestation to help achieve the "Glasgow Leader's Declaration on Forests and Land use," and stop the desertification of land, as mandated in the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#).

**Commitment 1a: “Work, with the support of regional and subregional organizations, to stimulate sustainable development and promote equal opportunity for populations affected by climate change, including Indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting, preserving, and maintaining knowledge, innovations, and practices embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, subject to domestic legislation.”**

- ✓ The 6<sup>th</sup> Gathering incorporated a multisectoral, gender, and intersectional perspective in all its themes, addressing the way policies and budgets could respond to principles of equity and sustainability. It considered the particularities related to energy use and demand, means of transport and technology, and AFOLU, in compliance with the rights and traditional knowledge of Indigenous peoples, farmers and local communities, in accordance with national legislation and international instruments. Additionally, the Gathering ensured a balanced participation from Latin America and the Caribbean, allowing for an understanding of the differential impacts in the sub-regions.

**Commitment 1c: “Adopt, as appropriate, national initiatives to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation, which includes the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems, implementing more ambitious actions in keeping with science and the goal of pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels.”**

- ✓ The 6<sup>th</sup> Gathering’s theme of “Realizing our Green Future: The Road to Low Emissions” focused on how legislators, through their legislative, budgetary, and oversight roles, can help promote the reduction of emissions in the three highest emitting sectors (energy, transportation, and AFOLU) to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

**Commitment 2a: “Promote policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen the adaptation and resilience of the agricultural sector to climate change, and enhance food security, as well as the development of sustainable agricultural practices that prioritize the health and wellbeing of local communities and stakeholders.”**

- ✓ The Plenary Session examined the legislative actions that support alternative climate-smart and gender-sensitive agricultural models that reduce carbon and methane emissions to improve food security levels, restore degraded lands and soil health, and build socially inclusive and sustainable economies.
- ✓ It also explored the role of the legislative branch in achieving [target 5a of the Sustainable Development Goals](#), by supporting the promotion of women's access to land ownership, as well as improving rural livelihoods and smallholder family farming.

**Commitment 2b/4a: “Seek to increase aggregate public investment in agricultural innovation for climate-smart agriculture and food systems over the next five years, including with the support of the private sector and multilateral mechanisms; Continue to scale up and enhance finance and investments in climate action from a wide variety of sources and to work towards enhancing capacity to access and benefit from these investments and finance flows, particularly by the most vulnerable countries.”**

- ✓ The 6th Gathering, in particular the Plenary Session, examined the opportunities for parliamentary action to scale up climate investments, including through the development of regulatory frameworks to attract domestic and international investment, integrating climate plans into national budgets and post COVID-19 economic recovery plans. It also explored the manner in which parliaments can help obtain funds from international climate finance organizations and then channel these resources to communities.

**Commitment 4f: “Enhance environmental education, through research and active and inclusive participation from all stakeholders to build capacities for climate change adaptation and mitigation for current and future generations, including youth, indigenous peoples, persons of African descent, civil society, women’s organizations, the private sector, policymakers, practitioners, and persons working in related industries.”**

- ✓ The 6<sup>th</sup> Gathering’s dialogues incorporated intersectional and multi-stakeholder perspectives. Parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, civil society organizations, women's organizations, youth representatives, entrepreneurs, academia, international organizations, and parliamentary institutions provided diverse perspectives of the different opportunities and challenges faced when reducing emissions and how to ensure that these actions do not leave anyone behind. Additionally, to ensure the Gathering was reflective of the current needs of women and girls within each of the topics being addressed, the methodology for the gathering was enriched with the inputs and insights of women's organizations working on the climate agenda in the Americas and the Caribbean.
- ✓ The sessions raised awareness on the need to promote spaces for youth, especially young women and girls, to participate substantively in decision-making to address the effects of climate change and environmental protection. They also examined the promotion of education for women and girls to pursue STEM careers, such as capacity building programs that include scholarships.

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## ACCELERATING THE CLEAN, SUSTAINABLE, RENEWABLE AND JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

**Commitment 4: “Recall that the Glasgow Climate Pact calls upon Parties to accelerate the development, deployment, and dissemination of technologies, and the adoption of policies to transition towards low-emission energy systems, including by rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation and energy efficiency measures, including accelerating efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards a just transition.”**

- ✓ The Gathering’s Interparliamentary Dialogue explored the opportunities available for the region to advance its transition to renewable energies, as well as how parliaments can support those efforts, help close the gaps in access to quality and affordable electricity, and promote the economic empowerment of women and marginalized communities. It also called for the adoption of policies to fulfill the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#) and ensure a just transition.

**Commitment 5: “Work towards implementing 2030 emission mitigation targets and develop, as far as possible, country-level roadmaps to accelerate the process of energy transition toward a low carbon economy, in line with nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement, in a timeline consistent with a pathway toward the objectives set forth in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement.”**

- ✓ The 6<sup>th</sup> Gathering encouraged parliaments to advocate for the reduction of GHG emissions, increase the ambition of their country's NDC, and hold governments accountable on its implementation. Stakeholders agreed on the relevance of better-aligning national policies with international/regional mechanisms and agreements such as the [Paris Agreement](#), the [2030 Sustainable Development Agenda](#), the [Escazú Agreement](#), the [Sendai Framework](#), the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#), the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#), the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#), as well as the various [outcomes from COP26](#).

**Commitment 6: “Share best practices on inclusive and equitable energy-efficient transportation infrastructure and urban designs.”**

- ✓ One of the focuses of the Interparliamentary dialogue was improving public transit and advancing electromobility targets. Parliamentarians discussed the need to develop legislative initiatives that include tax incentives to promote the use of zero-emission vehicles by ensuring their affordability, as well as support and monitor the necessary investments in charging and decarbonization infrastructure for electricity

generation. The dialogue noted the need to ensure that legislation and related public policies are designed in an inclusive manner, in conjunction with traditionally marginalized groups, and do not exacerbate inequalities.

- ✓ Moreover, the dialogue demonstrated the importance for parliamentary budget debates to consider investment items in sustainable public transit and active modes of transport that include the necessary infrastructure, so as to ensure that all people have access to safe, reliable, affordable, connected, and accessible mobility whose design meaningfully and systematically takes into account gender considerations and the differentiated needs of women, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.

**Commitment 7: “Support and promote cooperation to increase the share of all forms and types of renewable energy in the countries of the Americas, according to their national strategies, including wind, solar, offshore wind, bioenergy, geothermal, hydroelectricity, and other low-carbon emissions energy, particularly in the electric, industrial, transportation, and housing sectors, along with carbon capture, storage, and removal technologies, and emission abatement mechanisms, as well as low carbon hydrogen that may contribute to achieving net zero emissions by 2050.”**

- ✓ The Interparliamentary Dialogue explored the opportunities available for the region to advance its transition to renewable energies and how parliaments can support those efforts and help close the gaps in access to quality and affordable electricity. Considering women represent only 32% of the workforce in the renewable energy sector, parliamentarians were called upon to ensure that gender and intersectional approaches be considered in the design of strategies for a just and inclusive energy transition in order to foster women's participation in the green economy and facilitate their access to job opportunities in sustainable sectors.

**Commitment 14: “Create favorable and fair conditions for the participation of public and private capital, both domestic and foreign, and multilateral organizations in the development of new, clean, and renewable energy sources, as well as the promotion of knowledge sharing in matters of energy efficiency and disruptive technologies that enable mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, such as the incorporation of the use of sustainable biofuels, and of low-carbon hydrogen and electric mobility.”**

- ✓ The 6<sup>th</sup> Gathering highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and provided a space for parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, representatives of civil society, youth organizations, and subject-matter experts to dialogue and share good practices to promote: the transition towards renewable energy and making it more accessible; electromobility and improving public and active modes of transit; and climate-smart and gender-sensitive agricultural models that reduce emissions and build resilience.

**Commitment 15: “Work towards developing just and inclusive energy transition strategies with a gender perspective that take into account specific geographic circumstances in the region, in particular the vulnerable situation of small island developing states, which face economic and environmental resilience challenges, in addition to technical limitations to interconnecting their energy infrastructures.”**

- ✓ The 6<sup>th</sup> Gathering incorporated good climate governance principles, inviting state and non-state actors, such as civil society organizations, women, youth, persons with disabilities, workers, Indigenous peoples and local communities as well as the private sector, to jointly identify actions to tackle the climate crisis and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in observance of human rights and taking into account equity, gender equality, the eradication of poverty, as well as the differential impacts of how climate change affects certain populations.
- ✓ Similarly, in compliance with the [agreements](#) reached in the framework of the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Gathering provided strategies to ensure gender approaches are incorporated in a cross-cutting manner in the development, review and implementation of policies, laws and programs on climate change adaptation and mitigation.



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