

DECLARATION

10th Gathering of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality: *Gender-Responsive Climate Action*

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago | May 22–24, 2018

We, parliamentarians representing 22 countries in the Americas and the Caribbean, gathered in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on May 22–24, 2018, for the **10th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality**.

During the working sessions, we analyzed the critical nexus between gender and climate change and the decisive role that parliaments play in ensuring that our countries adopt a gender-responsive approach to climate action and disaster risk reduction. Throughout the gathering, we exchanged valuable knowledge on good practices for gender mainstreaming in assessments and planning for a climate resilient future, with the understanding that threats and impacts are not gender-neutral and that women's empowerment is necessary for adaptation and the achievement of all sustainable development goals. We furthermore discussed the importance of gender-responsive budgeting as a mechanism to support equitable and efficient resource mobilizations benefiting all members of the population in accordance with their differentiated needs.

In view of the above and,

Recognizing:

That climate change poses a severe global threat to our future, and that responding to climate change requires immediate, concerted long-term planning and action in order to preserve development gains and to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including SDG 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;

That climate change and natural disasters are negatively impacting many areas of the Americas and the Caribbean, including ecosystems and all other systems that support life, human well-being and health, and social and economic stability; and that many countries in our region, including Small Island Developing States, face particular challenges in these regards;

That women and men are differently exposed to and affected by the risks and consequences of climate change due to gender-based inequalities in access to assets and economic resources, participation in all levels of policy and decision-making processes, and socio-cultural norms;

That developing and implementing effective and fair climate solutions requires governments and legislatures to effectively incorporate a wide range of actors, including civil society groups advocating for women's rights and diversity;

That systemic barriers can hinder the ability of women, Indigenous communities and other traditionally marginalized groups to fully contribute their knowledge and expertise to the planning and implementation of climate action at local, national and international levels;

That legislatures and individual parliamentarians – through their oversight, representative and lawmaking functions – play a vital role in shaping a development vision that connects the

inherent links between gender equality and environmental protection; and in ensuring that disaggregated data and gender-responsive budgeting are employed as tools in realizing this vision;

That international agreements and bodies support the coordination of relevant decision-making and should guide national action on climate change from a gender perspective, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its supreme decision-making body the Conference of the Parties (COP); the Paris Agreement to combat climate change and corresponding National Determined Contributions (NDCs); the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; and the UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan which should be employed to spur and oversee progress;

That building national capacity for gender-responsive climate change adaptation and emergency responses is essential in our region, and must be done through collaboration between all sectors and at all levels, and include public and private institutions, legislatures, and society at large;

That our changing climate creates new and complex health risks, which can be exacerbated for individuals or groups who are marginalized based on gender and other intersecting social and geographic factors, requiring stronger public health and integrated and resilient health systems;

That parliamentarians can help to foster the international and inter-sectoral cooperation needed to develop and implement inclusive solutions aimed at building climate resilience, and to strengthen diplomacy and cooperation in the region to promote dialogue and the exchange of best legislative practices that can contribute to the adoption of more gender-responsive legislative action.

We commit to:

1. Using our public platforms to raise awareness about gender differentials in climate change and the urgent need to reduce disaster risk, and to promote women's equal participation in climate change decision-making and negotiations and in emergency response planning.
2. Promoting gender mainstreaming in parliamentary work on climate action, and the development of national budgetary tools and policies to consider the different impacts of spending and taxation on women, men, and traditionally marginalized groups as relevant to national contexts.
3. Fostering a political environment that is conducive to gender-responsive implementation of international climate change agreements and action plans, supported by national-level policy frameworks and transparent and inclusive consultation processes.
4. Working alongside our governments, civil society, and communities to address the entrenched sources of gender inequality and poverty which limit the ability of women and traditionally marginalized groups to adapt and respond to climate change threats and impacts.

5. Advancing women's political participation as a mechanism to achieve gender equality and sustainable development.
6. Encouraging our governments and legislatures to conduct gender-sensitive national and subnational assessments on health risks associated with climate change to strengthen public sector responses to the specific vulnerabilities of different population groups.
7. Overseeing and accompanying the engagements of our governments with international agreements and tools related to gender-responsive policymaking on climate change, adaptation, resilience, and disaster risk reduction that are in the best interest of our respective countries.
8. Promoting collaboration between national and regional stakeholders such as local women's organizations, scientific bodies and academia, private sector and government agencies in order to find common solutions to climate change challenges and actions to address them.
9. Strengthening inter-parliamentary and inter-governmental cooperation and the exchange of best practices and tools related to incorporating a gender perspective in the fight against climate change.

Signed in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, May 24, 2018.