

CALL FOR ACTION – PARLIAMENTARY DECLARATION

4th Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change
Advancing Climate Action through Legislation and Parliamentary Oversight
Paramaribo, Suriname | August 8-9, 2019

We, parliamentarians from 16 countries in the Americas and the Caribbean, have convened in Paramaribo, Suriname from August 8 to 9, 2019, on the occasion of the 4th Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change with the overarching theme of *Advancing Climate Action through Legislation and Parliamentary Oversight*. This network serves as an inter-parliamentary coordination body that facilitates the exchange and dissemination of good legislative practices related to climate change in the hemisphere.

The Gathering served as an opportunity for us parliamentarians, expert practitioners and civil society representatives to dialogue on concrete and effective legislative solutions to meet the urgency of climate change and contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. We recognize that climate change is currently impacting our societies as well as the environment and economy of our nations, and that the time to act is now. This is our call for action to fellow parliamentarians, political leaders, civil society and multilateral organizations, academia, and to all individuals in our hemisphere:

1. We call for all parliamentarians to actively support the work being currently done in their countries to update the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for 2020, and to influence the process in order to surpass the level of ambition of the past NDCs, to meet the Paris Agreement goals and mainstream conservation agendas in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals;
2. We call for all governments, legislatures, and political stakeholders to collaborate on climate change and sustainability issues, and to develop, implement and monitor integral and innovative solutions that are responsive to the differentiated needs of our societies;
3. We call for our governments to implement the Transparency Framework (adopted at COP24) and to improve practices and mechanisms to transparently measure and report progress on our countries' Nationally Determined Contributions, better involving parliaments in the process;
4. We call for governments to publish national data on climate emissions, mitigation and adaptation actions and public resources allocated for this purpose in an open format to strengthen parliamentary oversight and increase accountability, as well as foster collaboration and innovation across all sectors and levels to achieve progress towards meeting NDCs and the Paris agreement goals;
5. We call for parliamentarians to review our national climate change and environmental related legislation and policy frameworks, examining where new legislation or reforms are needed, and exchange good legislative practices within the hemisphere to help in the advancement of a just transition;
6. We call for parliamentarians to recognize the importance of climate science and scientific data, to examine the current and future environmental state of our countries, and to take evidence-based decisions and climate actions;
7. We call for parliamentarians to adopt innovative solutions to reduce and prevent further environmental degradation, including: the conservation and protection of biodiversity and forests, improving air and water quality and its protection from further contamination, increasing energy efficiency and reducing consumption, developing renewable energy sources, finding alternatives to single-use plastics, improving transportation emissions, as well as improving extractive and agricultural practices;

8. We call for parliamentarians to empower youth and recognize the value in their calls to action by ensuring that they are active partners in climate-related decision-making processes at national and international levels;
9. We call for parliamentarians and government stakeholders to strengthen education and public awareness on climate change issues;
10. We call for parliamentarians to set up effective climate governance structures that provide spaces for traditionally marginalized groups to play active roles in the development, implementation and monitoring of climate actions;
11. We call for governments and parliamentarians to recognize women as key stakeholders and improve their participation in all climate-related policy and decision-making processes;
12. We call for governments, parliamentarians and international organizations to recognize and respond to the differentiated risks and impacts climate change has on women, due to gender-based inequalities in access to assets and economic resources and socio-cultural norms;
13. We call for governments and parliamentarians to recognize the traditional ecological knowledge of Indigenous peoples and to value their contributions in the development and implementation of climate-related legal and policy frameworks;
14. We call for all countries to acknowledge that those nations least responsible for contributing to global carbon emissions are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change and therefore the notion of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities should be respected;
15. We call for those countries with the greatest global carbon emissions to acknowledge their capacity and additional responsibility to effectively reduce emissions within the next ten years in order to contribute to save the world from a climate catastrophe;
16. We call for parliamentarians to engage with the public and private sector to help bridge financial resources between institutions, governments and climate organizations as well as to provide oversight of financial flows;
17. We call for parliamentarians to value and support both market and non-market mechanisms to mitigate and adapt to climate change, understanding that climate problems are multifaceted and require comprehensive solutions;
18. We call for the private sector, academia and governments to collaborate in research, development and transfer of green and eco-friendly technologies that can contribute to reducing emissions and to improving adaptation and mitigation solutions;
19. We call for multilateral and hemispheric stakeholders and partners to enhance the participation of parliamentarians in all international climate change related negotiation processes, and to create spaces for continued dialogue and partnerships;
20. We call for governments and parliaments to engage in COP25 and its parliamentary meeting (Pre-COP to be held in Costa Rica from October 8 to 10 and COP to be held in Chile from December 2 to 13, 2019) as well as in their related activities, taking into account the call for greater ambition and the urgency of the implementation of climate actions and policies. Likewise, we call for the full involvement of parliamentarians as well as other non-state actors in the development of related regulatory and legislative frameworks.

Adopted in Paramaribo, Suriname, August 9, 2019