

#### **THEME**

Fostering Climate Action in the Americas and the Caribbean: The Role of Parliaments within the Climate Agenda

#### DATE

October 4-5, 2018

#### **LOCATION**

Panama City, Panama

#### **PARTICIPANTS**

More than 70 parliamentarians, civil society and international organizations representatives from 22 countries and autonomous territories

This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 10,11 and 13









# 3<sup>rd</sup> Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change

#### #ParlAmericasCC

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change was co-hosted by ParlAmericas and Parlatino in Panama City, Panama. The theme of this year's gathering was "Fostering Climate Action in the Americas and the Caribbean: The Role of Parliaments within the Climate Agenda," demonstrating that it is through collaborative effort between **all stakeholders** that climate action can be made more ambitious and effective. Throughout the working sessions and interactive activities, the dialogue allowed participants and subject experts to assess the current status of international climate negotiations and the progress towards fulfilling the commitments of the <u>Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)</u>. It also addressed relevant climate mitigation and adaptation issues, focusing on the socio-economic factors of transitioning to a sustainable and resilient society, loss and damage and carbon pricing mechanisms.



The materials from each of the Gathering's sessions are available on ParlAmericas' website. Recommended readings on the topics covered in the sessions are also available.

#### **DAY 1: INAUGURAL CEREMONY**

The gathering was opened by the Honourable Rolando González Patricio, Member of the National Assembly (Cuba) and Secretary of Commissions of Parlatino. Remarks were also made by the Honourable Robert Nault, Member of Parliament (Canada), President of ParlAmericas and the Honourable Javier Ortega, Member of the National Assembly (Panama), President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change. The inauguration was web-streamed and is available to watch via ParlAmericas' YouTube Channel.

"It's essential to integrate ourselves, the sectors, our knowledge, and efforts within our countries. Without that we cannot confront and accomplish the most significant goals. As parliamentarians we can do a lot, or at least more than what we have tried. It is imperative to continue the path of awareness-raising, consolidate the path that proposes standards that implicate concrete policies, approve the necessary budgets to invest, not spend, but invest in our programs to face and adapt and of course we have political and moral commitment to oversee policies."



Member of the National Assembly ROLANDO GONZÁLEZ (Cuba), Secretary of Commissions of Parlatino



Member of Parliament the Hon.

ROBERT NAULT (Canada),

President of ParlAmericas

"Climate change impacts are not gender neutral and they can affect populations and individuals differently. There are underlying societal factors that drive individuals to be more exposed and vulnerable to climate effects. There is a need to understand the needs of these individuals and to consult them in the process of developing legislation, determine budget allocations and implement political oversight that addresses climate change and disaster risk."

"We know, in addition, that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and important civil society organizations will sustain a dialogue to review the state of the climate negotiations and the key role that parliaments have in fulfilling national goals. And from the ParlAmericas' Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, we are not outside of this calling."



Member of the National Assembly **JAVIER ORTEGA** (Panama), President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change



# Parliamentary Contribution to the Talanoa Dialogue

The gathering aimed to contribute to the Talanoa Dialogue, a mechanism that was launched in the last conference of parties (COP 23) last year in Bonn, by the Fiji presidency to discuss and evaluate the progress that has been made to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. The dialogue hopes to inspire greater ambitious climate action by all stakeholders and garner evidence for the political phase that will take place at COP24 in December in Katowice, Poland. A video was recorded during the gathering to present the parliamentarians perspective to the Talanoa Dialogue. The Parliamentarian Contribution to the Talanoa Dialogue by ParlAmericas was submitted as an input to the political phase of the Talanoa Dialogue.



### SESSION 1: INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION AND THE ROLE OF LEGISLATURES

This session was moderated by Julio César Longo Maldonado, Member of Congress (Guatemala) and President of the Parlatino committee on Environment and Tourism. Its objective was to explore and familiarize participants with the status of the international climate talks, the Talanoa Dialogue, and the progress made with the Paris Agreement goals and mandates. It especially focused on the Nationally Determined Contributions and how parliaments can help expand, newly introduce and further support climate actions to raise their ambition within the NDCs as nations prepare for their update in 2020.

Carlos Ruiz-Garvia, Team Lead of the **UNFCCC** Collaboration Center for Latin America and the Caribbean, presented the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and the current programmes and organizations that are available to help implement them. Mr. Ruiz-Garvia affirmed that current climate policies and business as usual will lead to a catastrophic 2.8°C temperature increase. In addition to mitigation, adaptation efforts in the Latin American and Caribbean region are essential, noting how 94% of the NDCs from these regions included adaptation, but for these efforts to come to fruition there is a need for more financial, technological, and capacity building assistance.

Ana Belén Marín, Member of the National Assembly (Ecuador), Vice President - South America, Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, presented the NDC summary cards tool that was created by ParlAmericas to summarize climate impacts, priority objectives, identified areas of parliamentary action and mitigation and adaptation commitments that were found in the respective country's NDCs. Ms. Marín used her own country, Ecuador, to illustrate what commitments could be pursued to raise climate ambition and actions.

Following the presentations, participants familiarized themselves with their country's NDC commitments and exchanged on strategies to support the commitments laid out in the NDCs. They also suggested concrete actions they could undertake to support or raise climate ambition within their legislative, and budget allocation functions.



"It is necessary to define within our laws/legislation an important term called climate migration, because climate migration is affecting us greatly... this concept could be a commitment we all make and of all countries. If in our legislatures this term or this concept is not found, we must work towards identifying climate migration within our legislatures because this opens borders but it similarly opens minds."



Member of the National Assembly ANA BELÉN MARÍN (Ecuador), Vice President - South America, Parliamentary Network on Climate Change





"We need to increase ambition; there is a sense of urgency for implementing the Paris Agreement. Parliamentarians play a very important role in enhancing the legal framework but also a crucial role in overseeing the implementation of the NDCS in their country's and also an important role in innovation such as the result of the Talanoa Dialogue."



CARLOS RUIZ-GARVIA, Team Lead, Regional Center of Collaboration - Latin America and Caribbean, UNFCCC









The activity was followed by an animated discussion amongst participants, exchanging good practices and addressing underlying questions. The following key points were raised in the dialogue amongst participants:

- Tools and resources available to engage civil society, activists, and indigenous groups in the climate agenda
- The need to strengthen technological capacities and knowledge in nations to fully fulfill the goals of the Paris Agreement
- The existing differences between nations and their ability to mitigate/adapt and their responsibility to act
- The role of micro-territories and cities to enhance climate action
- The importance of including legislators in the COP negotiations to ensure the voice of the constituencies be represented





# SESSION 2: THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF LIMITING GLOBAL TEMPERATURE INCREASE TO 1.5 DEGREES

The second session was moderated by the Honourable **Andy Daniel**, Speaker of the National Assembly (Saint Lucia), Vice President – Caribbean, Parliamentary Network on Climate Change. The objective of this session was to identify and understand the differential impact that climate change can have on individuals and the resulting vulnerabilities. It also explored how the transition towards a sustainable and resilient society and an intersectional decision making process could simultaneously ameliorate many of the socio-economic concerns, and fulfill the sustainable development goals. The session was initiated with a <u>video</u> from the <u>1.5 to stay alive campaign</u> that Speaker Daniel shared, showcasing the importance/necessity of limiting the increase of global temperatures to 1.5°C, from a Caribbean perspective.



#### IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the <u>Intergovernmental Panel on</u> <u>Climate Change</u> launched a <u>special report</u> on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty.



Dr. Gian Carlo Delgado Ramos, member of IPCC-Cities and Research Centre on Sciences and Humanities at The National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM in Spanish), presented an overview of the IPCC Fifth Assessments Report, explaining the current local climate impacts, and giving a preview of the IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, ultimately stating that global temperatures will increase beyond 2°C if political action is not made more ambitious. Dr. Delgado noted that 80% of Latin America is urbanized and will grow by 66%, justifying the need to include and collaborate with cities in national climate and development plans, such as the NDCs, to mitigate/adapt to climate change, reduce disaster risk and fulfill the sustainable development goals. He ultimately stated the role of cities as drivers of climate change through their development but also as potential engines of change to a more sustainable and resilient pathways.

Nidya Pesántez, Programme Specialist, UN WOMEN Ecuador, presented the social and economic dimensions of climate action from a gender and inclusive perspective and how reducing inequalities can help achieve the Paris Agreement goals and create a more sustainable and just life for all. She highlighted the gaps in legal frameworks, in which a gender perspective is not included or there are existing barriers for women to participate/work in certain fields, such as science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), and take-up leadership positions. Ms. Pesántez discussed how a gender approach goes beyond asking for women equality but it looks at the interrelations of men and women within the most vulnerable populations and how these produce inequalities. She also highlights the Gender Action Plan that was established in COP23 and the 2030 Agenda as indispensable



A robust and engaged dialogue allowed parliamentarians to share their thoughts and experiences, addressing the following key topic points:

- The need to include indigenous voices, work together as individuals, and to undertake climate actions.
- The need to consider the differential needs (such as the need to provide water for hygiene and menstrual products after disasters occur), contributions, and adaptive capacities of women and men, and their inclusion in the creation of public policies.
- The need to consider how social structures and norms can affect a women's ability to

- process, and the need to the type of position that a women holds within political work.
- Financial and technological support required to enable countries, especially those most vulnerable, to harness renewable energy, implement disaster prevention legislation, disaster rebuilding efforts, and to develop models, risk areas maps and future risk scenarios.

participate in the political disaggregate data according to

**GIAN CARLO DELGADO**, Member of the Working Group II, IPCC - Cities

"Legislative efforts [are necessary] at a national scale to explore the communication gaps within the three levels of government, to ground legislative actions and enable concrete actions that transform the urban space at a local scale because we're a highly vulnerable region."





"The parliaments of the region have an essential role in updating standards. because one of the factors of sustainability passes through the frameworks and the legal agreements of co-existence that are present within each country. The standards are just that, it tells us how we should co-exist amongst each other within the country. Facing these diverse topics, parliaments should establish guides of conduct and relations with other humans and now with the rest of species. From a gender perspective and equality, the effect of climate change is the same but the impact that individuals receive is different"



NIDYA PESÁNTEZ, Programme Specialist, UN Women Ecuador



Member of the Chamber of **Deputies LIDIA PATTY MULLISACA** (Bolivia)

"It's important, if we don't defend climate change, we are against ourselves. We are not building but rather destroying. We should all come to an agreement, all the countries to change climate change, we need to work together. [As parliamentarians] we need to provide continuity and disseminate in our bases and organizations, as men and women [these themes]."



#### SESSION 3: LOSS AND DAMAGE IN THE AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN: BEYOND ADAPTATION

The session was moderated by **François Choquette**, Member of Parliament (Canada). It was structured to give participants a comprehensive understanding of the concept of loss and damage, disaster risk reduction and the key issues that are present within the hemisphere.

**Raúl Salazar,** Chief of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Secretariat for the Americas <u>presented</u> the importance of establishing and enforcing national disaster risk reduction mechanisms and plans. Mr. Salazar communicated the four priorities for Action

within the Sendai Framework and how these must be integrated with climate mitigation and adaptation scenarios/plans, as well as be intersectorial, in order for disaster plans to be truly effective and robust. He explained that climate change will add \$1.5 billion USD to the overall wind damage cost in the Caribbean by 2050. He highlighted the socio-economic factors that affect and are affected by the impacts of disasters and by relation, the different vulnerabilities that countries and individuals face. He also mentioned the opportunity for 'resilient investment' in urban areas, as 60% of area to be urbanized by 2030

remains to be built. Ultimately, concluding that disaster risk management should be a multistakeholder endeavor, in which legislators work with cities, government, the private sector and civil society to come up with climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction solutions together.

This session motivated participants to share their actions in relation to disaster risk management/ preparation, encouraging a sharing of good practices and a dialogue around the issues raised during the presentation.

"Given the growing scale of [climate related] losses, disaster risk management should be high on the political agenda. But few governments give the same priority to disaster risk reduction (DRR) as in dealing with unemployment or fiscal stability. The HFA progress review shows that few countries are able to quantify their investments in DRR. It is clear that the strategy we have been pursuing up to now of addressing risk through standalone DRR projects is only nibbling at the edges of the problem."



RAÚL SALAZAR, Chief of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Secretariat for the Americas







"Law 2787 presents a national comprehensive risk management system. This law replaced a current regulation that had been established through a decree... This law proposes one of the issues that was discussed by the expert speaker and is in relation with the conferences of Hyogo and Sendai. Fundamentally establishing the protection of people, of the environment, and of communities as a principal objective of the mentioned."



Senator **SIGRID ELISABETH KUNATH**(Argentina )

#### **USEFUL TOOLS PRESENTED DURING SESSION 3:**

#### DesInventar Sendai Software

An open-source monitoring tool, which tracks the global progress of completing the Sendai Framework targets as well as a data collector and analysis tool. This tool could allow parliamentarians to better understand the disasters that occur in different areas, and can serve as a compilation of good practices and a comparison tool.

#### Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities

A scorecard that assesses, monitors, and reviews the progress and challenges of implementing the Sendai Framework within cities; a tool that could be used to assess the resiliency of a parliamentarian's constituency.

#### **PRIMERS**

The following ParlAmericas' tools were distributed at this meeting:

## Primer on the United Nations Climate Change Regime:

A description of the four main UN institutions that work towards the international climate change agenda



#### **Primer on Carbon Pricing:**

A description of greenhouse gases, its effect and the carbon pricing mechanisms available to help reach emission targets and mitigate climate change



#### **Climate Change Program:**

A description of the work ParlAmericas conducts in supporting action on climate change including the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change





# INTERACTIVE REPORT: PARLIAMENTARIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE CLIMATE AGENDA

This session was moderated by **Gladys López Bejerano**, Member of the National Assembly (Cuba). It permitted an interchange between parliamentarians and climate experts with the objective to have parliamentarians ask questions of the experts and learn about available resources, but also have the experts learn/ understand the experiences/roles of the parliamentarians within the climate agenda and how they can work together to help further actions on the specific topic.

There were four major themes that were discussed amongst each round table exchange:

- Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
- Closing the Gap Between National and Local Climate Action
- Gender and Climate Change
- Carbon Pricing



At the end of all the rounds of discussions between the experts and parliamentarians, a participant from each of the tables was asked to summarize and report back the key topics of the dialogue that occurred in the form of a short video.

The videos were then shown to all participants to allow everyone to learn what others discussed during the session. This innovative methodology allowed a more interactive experience for parliamentarians and civil society participants.









#### DAY<sub>2</sub>

#### SESSION 4: CARBON PRICING IN THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

The fourth session was moderated by **Norma Durango**, Senator (Argentina). This session examined carbon pricing mechanisms, their function and role in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, and how it can serve as a financial incentive to support the transition to clean energy and technology.

The Honourable Jennifer Simons, Speaker of the National Assembly (Suriname) and Vice president – South America, Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, presented a parliamentarian perspective on carbon pricing, outlining the opportunities that carbon pricing could present in achieving emission reductions, and moving towards a low-carbon world economy. Speaker Simons raised some key questions in regards to establishing a carbon unit price and its regulation, obtaining a regulated international climate fund, and the need for greater technical, financial and capacity support for those countries that don't have the necessary expertise to implement carbon mechanisms.

Alexis L. Leroy, founder and CEO of the ALLCOT Group, an organization member of the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA) that has established greenhouse gas emissions management tools and strategies, presented the fundamentals of what carbon pricing is, its basic structures, mechanisms and benefits, and how these mechanisms have evolved from the Kyoto Protocol to the Paris Agreement. He brought attention to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and the Paris Agreement Work Program (Paris rulebook) that will be completed at COP24, in Poland. Mr. Leroy explained how once carbon pricing is regulated and monitored, it can be used to set an economy-wide target to cut emissions, support the development of clean technology, decouple emissions from economic growth and be linked to other emission trading systems.

"There needs to be a harmonization within policies and laws to permit the inclusion and a strong commitment of the private sector. The private sector, as long as you give them a rigid perspective and framework is willing to invest, because the realities of the Paris Agreement are understood. The private sector needs two things, judicial leadership and security and capacitation"

**ALEXIS LEROY**, CEO, ALLCOT Group



"Robust oversight mechanisms and counting systems that are necessary for carbon pricing to work on a national level or in cooperation with international partners have to be established and parliaments will definitely have a role in the process"



The Hon. JENNIFER SIMONS (Suriname), President of the National Assembly and Vice-President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change





"In what manner, and according to the instruments of the Paris Agreement and of the internal implementation of these obligations by each state, can it be achieved that in the development of the internal legislations that have to do with the regulation of carbon pricing could greater specificity be generated, and in which manner, without going against development and competitiveness of countries and the functioning of industries? For example in the case of Colombia, civil society/people could be directly involved with forest conservation?"



Representative, **DAVID ERNESTO PULIDO NOVOA** (Colombia)

"Each country should be involved and have a tangible say in formulating carbon pricing and the formula such as arriving at an equitable and fair mechanism for calculating the pricing appropriately. I gathered that for our region we have not arrived at a formula for pricing, I believe there must be some kind of equitable way in arriving at that, so small islands do not continue to suffer on these kinds of regimes. We need to ensure that it is done appropriately because every little bit of cost, for a small country with a fragile economy creates economic social dislocation and by extension social dislocation and our small islands just cannot afford any more of that."



Deputy President of the Senate, Hon. MAURICIA THOMAS-FRANCIS (Saint Lucia)

The session inspired vivid discussion during the Q/A period, bringing up questions and key points. The following are the points raised in the dialogue amongst participants:

- The inclusion and integration of civil society within carbon pricing and sequestering carbon initiatives, and the need to capacitate them
- The difficulty in addressing and balancing the societal challenges with the environmental ones, and how they can be integrated and driven by climate action
- The importance of training parliamentarians on carbon pricing mechanisms to enable them to drive action on this topic
- The challenge of how smaller countries will be able to get the support necessary to enable the implementation of carbon pricing, and how they will participate in developing an equitable and fair price for carbon
- The use of a platform that communicates the success stories of the implementation of carbon pricing mechanisms



Senator **DIEUDONNE LUMA ÉTIENNE** (Haiti)

"Developing countries require greater support concerning availability of financial resources for climate-related issues. In the case of Haiti, marginalized communities use deforestation as a means to produce charcoal, a lucrative local commodity. Haitian women are highly vulnerable, as the profits from selling this good are needed to nourish their children. Women are faced with the having to choose between the survival of their children, and engaging in more sustainable and environmentally cleaner practices. There is a need for strategic development in smaller countries to address these challenges. Initiatives pertaining to technical training as well as access to financing could certainly benefit communities facing such dilemmas."





# TALANOA DIALOGUE: A POLITICAL MESSAGE FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

This final interactive session was moderated by **Patricia Chávez Noe**, Member of the Chamber of Deputies (Bolivia). It allowed parliamentarians to share their political perspective on the stocktaking questions of the Talanoa Dialogue through a <u>video</u> and photo statements that were submitted to the Talanoa Dialogue Online Platform, which is the main avenue for non-party members to contribute to the COP24 negotiations.























#### **DECLARATION**

The final <u>declaration</u> was presented and read by the Honourable **Maya Fernández Allende**, President of the Chamber of Deputies (Chile). The discussion and adoption process was moderated by the Honourable **Robert Nault**, Member of Parliament (Canada), President of ParlAmericas.

The following are some of the commitments included in the declaration:

- Adopting legislation, regulatory frameworks, and practices that strengthen the efforts made to achieve the adaptation and mitigation commitments set out by our countries in the Nationally Determined Contributions and adopted in the Conference of the Parties.
- Promoting the participation of diverse groups in climaterelated decision-making processes so that the particular needs of women, men, and traditionally marginalized groups are taken into consideration.
- Cooperating with subnational governments and stakeholders to promote local climate actions and commitments, ensuring that legislation enacted at the national level considers and responds to local priorities, needs, and realities.
- Reviewing, adopting, and supporting disaster-risk reduction and climate adaptation strategies and plans to reduce climate-related risks and improve resiliency.
- Promoting collaboration, dialogue, and policy action on the issues of loss and damage, specifically addressing climate-related migration and forced displacements, and the development of national adaptation plans on this matter.

#### CLOSING

The event was concluded with closing remarks made by the Honourable **Robert Nault**, Member of Parliament (Canada), President of ParlAmericas and the Honourable **Elías Castillo**, Member of the National Assembly (Panama), President of Parlatino.

"In these efforts we have aimed to always convoke other entities that work in this topic, with the purpose to unite efforts and avoid duplications and gaps in realizing actions. The event that concludes today is an example of this effort of inter-institutional coordination. For that, we have also encouraged the subscription of cooperation agreements with the diverse organizations that are committed to the fundamental work of preserving the global and regional environment."



Member of the National Assembly Hon. ELÍAS CASTILLO (Panama), President of Parlatino



Member of Parliament the Hon. **ROBERT NAULT** (Canada), President of ParlAmericas "Our task is to ensure that addressing climate change is a priority. There is important work underway, but we must be diligent and insist on maintaining enabling environment for the development of solutions. We have a renewed mandate to utilize our parliamentary platforms and networks to promote strong provisions in our countries' National Determined Contributions when they are updated in 2020. We must do this with a view to making the NDCs sufficiently ambitious to meet our shared goal of limiting global temperature increases."

We invite parliamentarians to communicate all actions related to these and any other commitments made at ParlAmericas events. Progress will be recorded and presented at forthcoming meetings with all member parliaments.



#### PARLIAMENTS REPRESENTED







**ARUBA** 



**BARBADOS** 



**BOLIVIA** 



**CANADA** 







**PARTNERS** 



ntion on Climate Change











This gathering was made possible with the generous support of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.

**CHILE** 









HAITI

**PANAMA** 



**CUBA** 



**CURAÇAO** 



AND NEVIS

**ECUADOR** 



**GRENADA** 





SAINT LUCIA **SURINAME** 

**URUGUAY** 



Find ParlAmericas on iTunes and Google Play to listen to podcasts of some of the expert presentations, as well as presentations from past gatherings held across the hemisphere.



For more information related to the work of the PNCC, contact the ParlAmericas Climate Change Program: parlamericascc@parlamericas.org





ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY in the INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM



ParlAmericas fosters **OPEN PARLIAMENTS** by advancing the principles of transparency, accountability, citizen participation, ethics and probity



ParlAmericas is composed of the 35 **NATIONAL LEGISLATURES** from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean



ParlAmericas promotes policies and legislative measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of **CLIMATE CHANGE** 



ParlAmericas facilitates the exchange of parliamentary GOOD PRACTICES and promotes COOPERATIVE POLITICAL DIALOGUE



ParlAmericas works towards strengthening democracy and governance by accompanying **ELECTORAL PROCESSES** 



ParlAmericas mainstreams **GENDER EQUALITY** by advocating for women's political empowerment and the application of a gender lens in legislative work



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