



DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT

2nd Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change *Renewable Energies*

Panama City, Panama | August 3-4, 2017

We, parliamentarians from 23 countries and territories of the Americas and the Caribbean, met at the headquarters of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, PARLATINO, in Panama City, Panama, on August 3 and 4, 2017, on the occasion of the 2nd Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC), a joint initiative of ParlAmericas and PARLATINO that acts as an inter-parliamentary coordination body, to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of good legislative practices related to climate change in the hemisphere.

During this gathering, we shared experiences and perspectives on renewable energy integration and reaffirmed our commitment to advance in the strengthening of a legislative agenda that contributes to the achievement of the climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives adopted at the Paris Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2015.

Recognizing:

That climate change is one of the most pressing global challenges of our century, and that its impacts affect and exert pressure on the natural, social, and economic systems of the countries of our hemisphere and the world;

That the effects of climate change threaten the security and well-being of people and communities in the most vulnerable countries in the region, and particularly in Small Island Developing States;

That achieving the goal of limiting the temperature increase this century to less than 1.5°C does not eliminate the need to take adaptation measures of varying scales in the most vulnerable regions in the hemisphere;

That the fight against climate change requires coordinated and coherent cooperation by all social actors in accordance with their respective roles and capacities;

That during the Conference of the Parties COP22 in Marrakech in November 2016, the signatory countries proposed a common vision to accelerate action towards the achievement of the goals outlined in international climate change agreements;

That the Sustainable Development Goals, in conjunction with the Paris Agreement, provide a comprehensive guide to mobilize countries and other actors on a development trajectory with clear goals in favour of people, the planet, and prosperity to advance the commitments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

That climate change is a complex combination of natural, sociocultural, economic, and even political phenomena that requires investments in scientific research, technology, and local knowledge to facilitate decision-making and the development of optimal adaptation and mitigation strategies;

That climate change has a variety of socio-economic dimensions that differentially impact diverse social groups and necessitate the creation of climate policies that are gender-sensitive and take into consideration traditionally marginalized groups, such as Indigenous communities and those living in poverty;

That the transition to the use of renewable energy presents an opportunity for economic development and requires that legal frameworks be designed to promote its use;

That the role of parliaments is fundamental and imperative to the adequate implementation of the Paris Agreement and to realizing citizen will to take action against climate change;

We commit to:

1. Respond to the call made by governments at the COP22 in Marrakech to consider the fight against climate change as an urgent issue that requires the highest political commitment by undertaking concrete legislative action that strengthens efforts by governments and other actors to achieve the adaptation and mitigation commitments set out in the *Nationally Determined Contributions* (NDCs) adopted in the Conference of the Parties.
2. Strengthen through legislative activity the cooperation between diverse social and political actors towards the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and international climate change agreements adopted at the Conference of the Parties, as well as the Kyoto Accord on greenhouse gas emissions and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
3. Accelerate the necessary legislative reforms to incentivize the adoption of renewable energy in the public and private sectors, ensuring that the legal provisions seek to incentivize and facilitate a fair and broad distribution of the benefits derived from the transition to an inclusive and sustainable zero-emissions economy.

4. Design innovative legislative strategies that promote social alliances to take mitigation and adaptation actions that are gender-sensitive and consider traditionally marginalized groups like Indigenous communities and those living in poverty.
5. Seek to increase public budgetary allocations for scientific and technological research in order to develop technical capacity that allows for the optimal use of public and private resources for climate change mitigation and adaptation.
6. Strengthen follow-up and oversight mechanisms for governmental action to ensure the achievement, in time and form, of the commitments and goals outlined in climate change agreements, as well as guarantee access to information for continued improvement in climate action.
7. Encourage the use of scientific evidence by the parliamentarians of our legislatures as a resource to guide informed, coherent decision-making to concretely advance towards resilience and climate-compatible sustainable development.
8. Guarantee transparency and access to information for populations and civil society organizations on legislation, public spending, and scientific knowledge related to climate change.

We request that the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change develop a road map to guide parliamentary work on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the hemisphere.

Signed in Panama City, Panama, on August 4, 2017