

## DECLARATION

3<sup>rd</sup> Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change  
***Fostering Climate Action in the Americas and the Caribbean:  
The Role of Parliaments within the Climate Agenda***  
Panama City, Panama | October 4-5, 2018

We, parliamentarians representing 22 countries and autonomous territories of the Americas and the Caribbean, gathered in Panama City, Panama, from October 4 to 5, 2018, on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, ***Fostering Climate Action in the Americas and the Caribbean: The Role of Parliaments within the Climate Agenda***. 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.

Throughout the gathering, we shared valuable experiences and knowledge regarding parliamentary initiatives that contribute to effective climate action. Our dialogue allowed us to assess the current status of international climate negotiations and the progress towards fulfilling the commitments in our countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). We furthermore identified gaps in which climate ambition could be raised. Finally, we affirm our dedication to the promotion of legislative agendas that contribute to the ambition-raising objectives of the Talanoa Dialogue, with a view to updating the NDCs in 2020 to achieve the climate change adaptation and mitigation goals of the Paris Agreement.

In view of the above and,

### ***Recognizing:***

That climate change is a pressing global challenge, and that its impacts pose unprecedented stakes to the environmental, social, and economic systems of the countries of our hemisphere and the world;

That climate change affects countries disproportionately and that its impacts are likewise experienced disproportionately by poor and vulnerable sectors of the population, including women, Indigenous communities and other underrepresented and traditionally marginalized groups;

That global climate actions require common targets and goals but should respect differentiated responsibilities as mandated by the Paris Agreement;

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 the Nationally Determined Contributions are our countries' long-term pledges to reduce national emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change, and achieve the long-term goals of the Paris

Agreement, limiting Nationally Determined Contributions global warming and setting the world on a trajectory of sustainable development;

That countries are taking individual and collective global climate actions for limiting global temperature increase to 1.5°C, but that more ambitious and greater efforts need to be made in order to combat climate change and its associated impacts and effects;

That climate change impacts are shaped by complex combinations of natural, socio-cultural, economic, and political factors, leading to outcomes beyond adaptation and loss and damage capacities such as, climate-related migration and forced displacements, and that this situation demands collaborative and innovative solutions;

That climate change and disaster risk are not isolated phenomena; and therefore, climate adaptation and disaster risk management should be addressed together in legislative and policy responses;

That market-based instruments such as carbon pricing can effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help meet national emissions targets;

That the transition to a sustainable and climate resilient society will take great effort, but will generate many socio-economic benefits, such as stronger economies, improved human and environmental health, reduced inequalities, and enhanced innovation; and that parliamentarians have an important role to play in the development of regulatory and legislative frameworks to facilitate this transition;

That parliaments and national and local governments should collaborate with international organizations, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders, to develop and implement common strategies aimed at and raising ambition and achieving climate action goals.

**We commit to:**

1. 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.
2. Working alongside our national governments, civil society organizations, academia and communities to share scientific information and climate data and use this knowledge to develop and implement effective climate actions.
3. Engaging in horizontal dialogue with political stakeholders and climate experts in order to promote knowledge exchanges and to better understand each other's perspectives, roles, and responsibilities, increasing effective climate governance and establish collaborative working partnerships.

4. Reviewing our countries' Nationally Determined Contributions to identify opportunities to raise and expand ambition, including legislative actions, to help meet the temperature targets and avoid further loss and damage.
5. Promoting gender mainstreaming in parliamentary work on climate action, and building understanding about the differentiated vulnerabilities and associated disaster risk experienced by individuals.
6. Promoting the participation of diverse groups in climate-related decision-making processes so that the particular needs of women, men, and traditionally marginalized groups are taken into consideration.
7. 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.
8. Reviewing, adopting, and supporting disaster-risk reduction and climate adaptation strategies and plans to reduce climate-related risks and improve resiliency.
9. 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.
10. Strengthening inter-parliamentary and inter-governmental cooperation and the exchange of good practices and tools related to the fight against climate change in the hemisphere.

*Adopted in Panama City, Panama, October 5, 2018*