



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
114th Assembly and related meetings
Nairobi, 4 to 12 May 2006



Second Standing Committee
Sustainable Development,
Finance and Trade

C-II/114/DR-rev
24 March 2006

**THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
AND IN COMBATING GLOBAL DEGRADATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

***Revised preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs
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The 114th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

(1) *Recalling* the following agreements and instruments:

- The Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972);
- The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979);
- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982);
- The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992);
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (1992);
- The Energy Charter Treaty (1994);
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1992) and its Kyoto Protocol (1997);
- The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2001);
- The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) (2002);
- The Monterrey Consensus adopted by the International Conference on Financing for Development (2003),

(2) *Further recalling* the following reports and events:

- Reports to the Club of Rome, *Limits to Growth* (1972) and *No Limits to Learning* (1979);
- The report entitled *Our Common Future* of the World Commission on Environment and Development (1987);
- The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (2000);
- The United Nations Global Compact (2000);
- The Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2001);
- The Report of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) entitled *Natural Selection: Evolving Choices for Renewable Energy Technology and Policy* (2003);

- The Parliamentary Declaration entitled *Toward Sustainability: Implementing Agenda 21*, adopted by consensus at the Parliamentary Meeting held on the occasion of the 2002 WSSD;
- The final report of the United Nations Millennium Project *Investing in Development* (2005);
- The support for the Earth Charter expressed at the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2003);
- The adoption by the IUCN World Conservation Congress of a resolution endorsing the Earth Charter (2004);
- The Ministerial Conference on the 3R initiative (2005);
- The eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP11) and the first meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP1) (2005);
- The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) (2006),

(3) *Especially recalling* the following IPU statement, declaration, and resolutions:

- The Statement adopted by the 87th Inter-Parliamentary Conference entitled *Environment and Development: The views of parliamentarians on the main directions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and its prospects* (Yaoundé, 1992);
- The Declaration adopted by the 97th Inter-Parliamentary Conference entitled *Measures required to change consumption and production patterns with a view to sustainable development* (Seoul, 1997);
- The Resolution adopted by the 107th Inter-Parliamentary Conference entitled *Ten years after Rio: Global degradation of the environment and parliamentary support for the Kyoto Protocol* (Marrakech, 2002); and
- The Resolution adopted by the 111th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union entitled *The role of parliaments in preserving biodiversity* (Geneva, 2004),

(4) *Recognizing* that global environmental problems pose a common threat to all humanity, and that our wisdom and actions are now being tested from the perspective of human security,

(5) *Also recognizing* that the transition to a fossil fuel-free civilization, the attainment of a low-carbon hydrogen society and the establishment of a sustainable society are globally agreed upon objectives,

(6) *Acknowledging* the need for partnerships and agreements among all stakeholders, including government, civil society and business; and *recognizing* the Earth Charter, the result of such partnerships, as a framework for achieving sustainable development,

(7) *Recognizing*, on the other hand, that it has become urgent to resolve the mismatch between sustainable development and the negative aspect of globalization, which is marked by a vicious cycle of environmental degradation triggered by unsustainable production and consumption patterns of developed nations and poverty in developing countries,

(8) *Also recognizing* the importance, in establishing a sustainable society, of the role of education and learning, which have an impact on the awareness, lifestyle and work ethic of individuals,

(9) *Noting* the launch in 2005 of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD), involving all actors and all levels of the national education systems, UNESCO's International Implementation Scheme for the UNDESD and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's regional Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development and its associated implementation scheme,

(10) *Anticipating* that "humanitarian competition" unfolds with time, directing attention to the win-win approach that is essential in solving the global environmental threat to humans,

(11) *Recalling* Principle 7 in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which sets out the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities among States, and acknowledges the particular responsibility of developed nations as a result of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command,

(12) *Also noting* that the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey reaffirmed that the target for the provision of official development assistance (ODA) of 0.7% of developed countries' gross national product (GNP); and *recognizing* the need to study new approaches including the currency transaction tax (CTT), in order to create new financial resources,

(13) *Congratulating* Ms. Wangari Muta Maathai on winning the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize and *agreeing* with her actions and message that *mottainai* (too precious to waste) should be made into a global campaign,

(14) *Recognizing* the need to establish a sound material-cycle society with the 3R principle; and *anticipating* that in the future, society should shift to a leasing model, that can greatly contribute to the reduction of environmental stress,

(15) *Acknowledging* the significance of the precautionary approach advocated in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the objective of climate stabilization clauses of the UNFCCC, and the fact that scientific uncertainty concerning the causes of global warming can no longer be an excuse for not taking any action,

(16) *Respecting* the UNEP publication *Natural Selection: Evolving Choices for Renewable Energy Technology and Policy*, and *anticipating* the potential of a hydrogen economy in the future,

1. *Proposes* to establish a global environmental governance system in which various actors including NGOs participate, to strengthen the functions of UNEP and other international environmental organizations that will lead this system, and to foster multilevel environmental partnerships among various actors; and, in parallel, *demands* that international economic institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the World Bank (WB), which have a major influence on economic structural adjustment in developing countries, endeavour to establish policies that focus on redressing inequality and promoting sustainable development;
2. *Encourages* parliaments to respect the philosophy behind the win-win approach in anticipation of an era of humanitarian competition and to lead their governments

to carry out awareness reformation at the national level, for example placing a high value on the accomplishment of the United Nations MDGs;

3. *Calls for*, in the framework of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, strengthened country commitments under Annex 1; and *further calls upon* the international community to devise, according to the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and the precautionary approach, fair and innovative mechanisms under the UNFCCC to deal with a possible increase in carbon dioxide emissions from developing countries;
4. *Calls upon* governments and States that have not acceded to the Kyoto Protocol, such as the United States of America, to join the international framework in order to make measures for the prevention of global warming effective;
5. *Calls for* the promotion of the use of renewable energies and more vigorous energy conservation and for the fostering of the development and diffusion of technologies such as biomass, and *calls upon* governments and public international financial institutions to promote the introduction of renewable energies that are appropriate for the geographical and natural conditions of each region;
6. *Recognizes* such international efforts as the Energy Charter Treaty and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), as well as the role played by the International Energy Agency (IEA), as positive steps in the direction of improving energy efficiency and cooperation;
7. *Calls upon* governments and parliaments, with due regard for national circumstances, to clearly identify extended producer responsibility (EPR) in their domestic legislation, and to respect the philosophy of the Ministerial Conference on the 3R initiative, in order to promote the development of a sound material-cycle society;
8. *Encourages* parliamentarians of each State to make positive efforts towards education for sustainable development, and to serve as role models of global citizens, who will be the foundation of a sustainable future;
9. *Calls upon* governments to create UNDESD implementation schemes, and to steadily carry out the necessary policies, identified with the next 10 years in mind, including the designing of a system for the periodic monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the UNDESD, in cooperation with international organizations, businesses and NGOs;
10. *Calls upon* governments and parliaments, based on the climate stabilization clauses of the UNFCCC, to recognize the need for land formation/development strategies using the back-casting approach (target year 2050), for actions to greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for the sharing of best practices, and to carry out applied studies/research activities such as scenario analysis;
11. *Encourages* parliaments, for the above initiatives to be carried out, to draw up the necessary legislation, to review a menu of policy options, including ecological tax reform, and to propose such policies to governments.