



**STATE OF PLAY IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING SESSION
OF THE UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE**

**Pre-draft of the Outcome Document of the Parliamentary Meeting in Durban
submitted by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa**

The Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP17/CMP7) will take place on 5 December 2011 in Durban (South Africa). The Meeting is expected to adopt an outcome document, which will be conveyed to the UN Conference. The Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, as the host of the Parliamentary Meeting in Durban, has prepared a pre-draft of the outcome document, as presented below. The IPU Members are invited to study the pre-draft and provide comments and observations on its form and content when the corresponding agenda item is dealt with by the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs during its meeting in Bern. A revised version of the draft will be posted on the IPU website after the 125th Assembly.

1. We, parliamentarians from across the world, gathered in Durban, South Africa, on the occasion of the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 7th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, recognize that climate change continues to present a potentially irreversible threat to humanity and the planet, and must be addressed by all countries as a matter of urgency.
2. We reaffirm that climate change in its current form is one of the greatest challenges of our time, with projected impacts on soil degradation, food security, human and animal health and the supply of clean water, as well as heightened risks of floods, droughts and fires globally. All Parties must, therefore, work together to ensure long-term sustainable development, food and water security and limit the risks of natural disasters.
3. We recognize that global warming is supported by scientific evidence and that higher average temperatures are due largely to the increase in greenhouse gas emissions. We also recognize that deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions are required to limit the rise in global average temperatures to not more than 2°C above pre-industrialized levels. We therefore welcome the formal decision reached at COP16/CMP6 in Cancún to adopt

universally the long-term goal of a maximum temperature increase of 2°C on the understanding that this target will be reviewed by 2015 based on the latest scientific findings. We strongly urge all Parties to show the highest level of commitment possible.

4. We welcome the positive outcomes of the Cancún Agreement, which outlines the key steps necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help developing nations protect themselves from climate impacts and build a sustainable future. COP16 guarantees compliance with the formally recognized emission-reduction pledges for the post-2012 period submitted by developed countries at the Copenhagen Conference (COP15) and the requirement for them to implement low-carbon development strategies. In addition, COP16 required developed countries to scale up their reporting on emissions and on their actions to reduce emissions and provide financial support to developing countries. We view these achievements as a step towards restoring trust and hope among nations in the future.

5. We reaffirm our belief that in order to achieve a comprehensive and balanced outcome at COP17/CMP7, the Parties must continue to work within the framework agreed in Bali and the work programme agreed in Cancún. We take this opportunity to reiterate that the best forum for negotiations on climate change is provided by the multilateral process under UNFCCC auspices and that it is necessary to ensure that the interests of the most vulnerable countries are protected.

6. We reiterate our view that respecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities depends on the willingness of all Parties to undertake commitments in an appropriate and legally binding form. We reaffirm that we, as parliamentarians, will do all we can to enhance international cooperation with a view to achieving the objectives of the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the COP17 climate change agreements.

7. We note that the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol will end in 2012, and therefore state emphatically that a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is central to a comprehensive and balanced outcome in Durban.

8. We reaffirm the urgent need to support developing countries in their adaptation efforts, particularly small island developing States (SIDS), the least developed countries (LDCs) and Africa. We therefore emphasize the importance of obtaining a guaranteed balance between adaptation and mitigation, both being pivotal to the negotiations. We call on the Parties to prioritize capacity-building as a cross-cutting issue and give the matter their utmost attention.

9. We emphasize that the mobilization of financial resources is crucial to dealing with climate change and requires that governance issues and institutional arrangements be dealt with transparently and efficiently, ensuring accessibility and an equal footing for developed and developing countries in the governance and administration of climate funds.

10. We therefore call for the timely operationalization of all the institutions established under the Cancún Agreement, including the Adaptation Committee, the Technology Executive Committee, Centre and Network, the Registry, the Work Programme and Forum on the Response Measures, and the Green Climate Fund.

11. As Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, we reaffirm our commitment to work in partnership with other stakeholders, particularly civil society organizations and the business communities in seeking long-term sustainable solutions to global threats to the environment.

We therefore call on parliaments to continue to do all they can to ensure adoption and implementation of climate change policies and legislation.

12. We resolve to continue fostering a common understanding of the threat of climate change and of the action needed to avert dangerous human interference in the climate system.

13. We reiterate our commitment to assist our governments in implementing existing and future climate change agreements.

14. We call on the Parties to find lasting solutions and agree to an equitable and legally binding agreement at the Conference in Durban.

15. We appeal to the Inter-Parliamentary Union to share this document with multilateral forums, governments, civil society organizations and the business community so as to send a strong message that collaboration is essential in order to achieve a new climate change regime, charting the way for a cleaner, safer and better future.

16. We reaffirm our strong belief that parliaments should be granted observer status at the UNFCCC negotiations process. Convinced that this would go a long way to creating further opportunities to address climate change, we undertake to campaign for the attainment of this status.

17. We commit ourselves to enhancing our oversight of climate change negotiations and commitments and to advancing peer support to those parliaments that are less able to fulfill their oversight functions.