



PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Copenhagen, 16 December 2009

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Danish Folketing



Closing remarks by Mr. Steen Gade, MP Chairman of the Environment and Regional Planning Committee, Danish Parliament

It has indeed been a fruitful meeting and I realized that there has been a great deal of good will, eagerness and willingness among the parliamentarians participating in this meeting to combat climate change.

My remarks will focus on four subjects concerning climate change: problems, global actions, national actions and the role of parliaments.

First, regarding the problems, I noted that the scientific facts concerning climate change were broadly accepted. There was no discussion about the validity of the scientific facts. Furthermore, today's discussion clearly illustrates that climate change is a complex subject. Many issues were linked to climate change, including poverty, access to food, security, development, pollution and living conditions for the poor. The consequences of a rise in global temperatures were also debated. Several participants mentioned that the goal of limiting a global temperature rise to a maximum of 2 degrees Celsius was inadequate and that we needed to lower the rise to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Second, it was stressed that in order to deal with global climate change, we need to devise and employ global solutions. The participants also sent a strong message about the importance of adopting an ambitious, fair and legal binding agreement at the COP15 meeting. I also noted that several other global issues concerning climate change were highlighted, such as the establishment of climate funds, deforestation, technology and financing.

Third, during the debate the need for global and national actions to combat climate change was underscored. Parliamentarians around the world play a key role in putting climate change legislation into practice. It was also reaffirmed that good governance is absolutely necessary. I further noted the importance of a strong linkage between disaster-reduction plans and adaptation.

Fourth, participants expressed the view that the unique roles of parliaments around the world continue to be essential after the end of the COP15. This is especially important since many stressed the importance of following up decisions, success stories and sharing experiences after COP15. Furthermore, it was emphasized that the role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union ought to be strengthened in the future. The IPU could continue to focus on climate change issues and cooperate with other organizations such as GLOBE International. Lastly, there was a broad consensus for the IPU to continue addressing the United Nations in order to underscore the key role of parliamentarians in the ongoing climate change negotiations.

Thank you.