

Declaration by SIDS Parliaments

We, the parliamentarians of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) which may be small in land mass but are large ocean states, gathered in St. Petersburg on the occasion of the IPU General Assembly on 14th October 2017;

1. **Are alarmed** by the increased frequency and greater impact of the extreme weather events – cyclones, typhoons, hurricanes, sea level rise, drought amongst others - as currently experienced in different regions of the world and their catastrophic impact on SIDS;
2. **Recognise** that climate change, including the negative effects of sea level rise, continuously lead to loss and damage and displacement of people, and as a whole threaten the processes that sustain life on our islands;
3. **Welcome** the current process of robust operationalisation of the Paris Agreement and hope its implementation will hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, but call on all national Parliaments to ensure that Governments take bolder measures to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels;
4. **Urge** all countries to act with urgency in pursuing the ambitions of the global goals set out in the Paris Agreement, including the mitigation and adaptation global goals and the means of implementation;
5. **Reaffirm** our responsibility to advance and strengthen the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable human development and climate change at local, national, regional and global levels while remaining committed to human rights and better governance with more effective, democratic and accountable institutions;
6. **Commit** to promote and support development and approval of ambitions, inclusive, gender responsive Nationally Determined Contributions, both in mitigation and adaptation, to monitor on a regular basis their implementation and **call** on all IPU members to ensure that Parliaments are active in promoting more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions;
7. **Strongly urge** all Parliaments to develop and approve national enabling legislation for rapid transition towards low carbon, climate resilient and gender responsive development in line with the Sustainable Development Goals; and
8. **Note** the challenges and complexity of accessing climate change funding and call on UNFCCC Secretariat to ensure that as the most vulnerable countries receive priority in accessing climate funds.

We parliamentarians from SIDS countries affirm that the Climate Change Conference in Bonn presided by Fiji will be an important milestone in implementing the Paris Agreement and hereby express our hope that decisions taken at COP23 will pay particular attention to the interests of the most vulnerable states.

Given the vulnerability of Small Islands Developing States with regards to climate change amongst other issues, SIDS parliaments will continue to organise and cooperate at future IPU Assemblies and events to ensure our voices are heard and we call on IPU to ensure that a platform for the views of SIDS is provided.