

Honorable Chair, Fellow Parliamentarians, Ladies and gentlemen here at the 144th Assembly of the IPU

Coming from a country with a Delta, The Netherlands realizes what the effects can be of global warming to our country and to all of our countries.

Since the Paris Agreement a lot has happened and still a lot needs to be done.

As a member of the Twelve plus group I have been active in the Standing committee on Sustainable Development.

Charing it now is a great honor for me and I would like to hear from the members how they see that we can act on the new IPU strategy

In this Strategy Climate Change has such a prominent role

Together with one of the other Standing Committee Presidents I am looking at more informal ways of exchanging information and how we can learn from the experiences good and bad from other parliaments

At the same time the meetings of IPU at the Conference of the Parties, will continue

As a member of Dutch parliament I have been one of the rapporteurs on Climate Change the last couple of years.

We aimed to increase the amount of CO2 reduction in Europe from 40% to 55%

Thanks to the pressure of many national parliaments in Europe and the European Parliament this goal of 55 CO2 reduction is

now agreed upon in Europe

The European Commission started The Green Deal

The Green Deal will be put into legislation

In the Netherlands we already have a Climate Law

The initiative for this Climate Law came from opposition parties in parliament and gradually gained the support of the coalition parties

Europe is responsible for 8 per cent of the Global CO2 emissions

In Europe we know we cannot make the change alone. We need each other to achieve the Paris Agreement

I call upon all nations to act accordingly

We only have one world

Many of the youth protested loud and clear on the streets of Europe and we invited them in Parliament to have an open dialogue

This is about their and our future

As The Netherlands did not do enough we need to step up our investments in clean energy, reducing CO2 and make our economy a circular economy

Value chains are global and international corporate social responsibility crosses our borders

We need to be clear as parliaments in what we ask from our

companies and not compete with each other at the cost of the workers.

The Netherlands will be investing 35 billion Euro's the coming years to reach the goals of the Paris agreement. We have made a National Agreement next to the Paris Agreement. 5 sectors contribute in reaching our goals. These are the Industry, the Energy sector, the Mobility sector, the housing and other buildings sector and the Agricultural sector.

This transformation is not a technical transformation, It will effect each and everyone of us in the way we use mobility, we warm or cool our homes, the way we work.

For our citizens it is really important what is happening in our neighbourhoods. Because in a way we are reshaping our living environment. This has a huge impact on us all. That is why we have so called Regional Energy Strategies. We try to make regional and local agreements on where to put Windmills or solar fields. We are practising with Climate deliberation panels to involve our citizens. It is not easy but it is necessary. We need to share the burden and the benefits equally

Instead of judging each other we should be helping each other.

We should make better monitoring agreements.

As Western countries we should deliver what we promised.

Our Parliament checks whether our ministers deliver or not. We have debates on climate change in our parliament regularly

These debates are on adaptation measures and mitigating plans

Together with our industry we want to make the change happen. We see the employees of the companies stepping up and that is a good sign. People want to work for companies that make a positive impact on our world today. Parliaments should give clear directions in norms that the companies should meet.

These norms need to exist worldwide otherwise the change will not happen. We urge our colleagues to join us and let's have an open discussion the coming year on how we can improve our efforts because we will make mistakes and things will go wrong but as we learn we will become stronger and resilient and change the world for the better.

All of us together we can be the change

The crisis in Ukraine makes very clear that sources of energy need to be diversified and they need to be more of the renewable kind. Dependency is never a good thing.

I wish all of us the wisdom and courage that we need so much

Thank you

Agnes Mulder