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PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP24)

9 December 2018

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Polish Sejm

Preliminary draft outcome document

Prepared by the Meeting Rapporteur, Ms. Anna Paluch, member of the Polish Sejm

The Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP24) will take place on 9 December 2018. The Meeting is expected to adopt an outcome document. The Meeting Rapporteur, Ms. Anna Paluch, appointed by the Polish Sejm, has prepared a preliminary draft of the outcome document, as presented below. IPU Members are invited to examine the preliminary draft and provide comments and observations on its form and content by 16 November 2018 at the latest. Participants of the 139th IPU Assembly will also have an opportunity to discuss the preliminary draft outcome document during the session of the IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade. In view of the input provided through these channels, the Rapporteur will finalize the draft and the IPU will publish it on the IPU website ahead of the Parliamentary Meeting at COP24. The draft outcome document will be presented to the closing session of the Parliamentary Meeting with a view to adopting it by consensus.

We, parliamentarians from around the world associated in the Inter-Parliamentary Union, gathered at the session accompanying the COP24 conference in Katowice, hope that the ongoing negotiations will lead to the rapid and effective adoption of solutions enabling the practical implementation of the Paris Agreement, which will contribute to the achievement of the long-term goal of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Increasing climate change is one of the most complex environmental, social and economic problems the world is currently facing. It has the potential to become a threat to global development, prosperity and international peace in the decades to come. The consequences of climate change are already putting pressure on many communities in many parts of the world. We note with concern the increasing frequency of extreme weather phenomena, such as droughts, heat waves, hurricanes and floods. At the same time, we are calling for measures to monitor and report the impact of climate change on the environment, including forests, the oceans and the marine environment, so as to ensure the best possible protection of ecosystems that are key to ecological sustainability on a planetary scale.

The efforts made so far to stop global warming have not been sufficiently effective. Despite the adoption of the Climate Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, global annual greenhouse gas emissions have increased by around 50 per cent over the last two decades. We believe that it is urgent to curb and reverse this trend.

We recognize that the scientific knowledge accumulated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the causes, rate and possible impacts of climate change provides a basis for rapid and determined action to keep global temperature increases within safe limits. In line with the objective set out in the Paris Agreement, we stress that the permitted temperature increase must not exceed 2°C above pre-industrialization levels. To this end, global CO₂ emissions must be reduced and neutralized.

Despite technological progress, today's world still faces the challenge of satisfying basic needs. Millions of people live without secure access to water, food, energy and education. One of the biggest challenges is combating poverty and giving everyone the opportunity for sustainable development. The Paris Agreement is an opportunity for the peaceful, balanced development around the globe. Its full implementation is a shared responsibility of all states.

Bearing in mind that the essence of the Paris Agreement is the voluntary reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the long term, this objective cannot be achieved unless all signatories to the Agreement have adopted and implemented ambitious commitments on national greenhouse gas emission reduction programs. Such programs should be periodically reviewed to ensure that they are up to date and in line with current scientific knowledge.

The implementation of the Paris Agreement should ensure the low-carbon development of climate resilient economies in all countries. The Agreement provides that climate action should take account of the relationship between all elements of the climate system - the atmosphere, the geosphere, the hydrosphere and the biosphere - contributing to secure, sustainable energy supply for households and economic sectors, combating poverty, access to drinking water, eradicating hunger and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Paris Agreement does not set standards as to the national commitments of each signatory. Each party has the leeway to declare any target (including emission reductions, peak emissions, adaptation to climate change or forest removals) for freely chosen periods of time. It is therefore necessary to implement a system that ensures transparency and comparability of the declared contributions, monitoring of emissions and verification of the measures taken. The process of fine-tuning the details of this system (the so-called *Paris rulebook*) should be completed at the COP24 summit in Katowice. The Facilitative Dialogue, which will take place at COP24, will help the parties to prepare for and implement their national commitments (Nationally Determined Contributions).

We emphasize that the energy policy and economic policies must be consistent with the objectives of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Increasing policy efficiency and reducing energy consumption, as well as developing renewable energy sources, leading to a low-carbon economy, should be the main strategies for achieving these objectives. At the same time, it is necessary to develop tools and support programs for regions traditionally involved in the extraction and processing of fossil fuels, so as to enable them to undergo economic and social transformation in line with sustainable development.

The development and implementation of modern technologies, including in particular material and energy-saving technologies, is key to reducing emissions and countering climate change. We therefore call for more investment in research and development, more funding for demonstration projects, the development of international scientific cooperation and the creation of mechanisms for the transfer of innovative climate-friendly technologies.

We believe that accelerated climate change will increase vulnerability to extreme weather events, rising sea levels, the spread of diseases, and so on. Adaptation issues should therefore be an important element of climate policy. Effective and efficient adaptation is in the interest of all countries. International cooperation in this field can support national action, inter alia, through exchanges of experience, as well as through financial support to the poorest countries. At the same time, we are calling for greater efforts to be made to educate and raise awareness of the provisions of the Paris Agreement. Education plays a key role in shaping and promoting attitudes and behaviours that enable both industry and public authorities, as well as households, to address the challenges of climate change.

We also emphasize the role of parliamentarians in legislating and creating economic and social policies, which are important for creating a formal and legal framework enabling the creation of a low-carbon economy. We call for climate protection issues to be the subject of regular attention in national and regional parliaments and for work on these issues to be carried out with the involvement of all political groups and that it be kept clear of any political entanglements.