



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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145th IPU Assembly

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145th IPU ASSEMBLY
2022 | Kigali, Rwanda

Workshop on climate change

Thursday, 13 October 2022, 15:00 - 16:30
Room MH3, ground floor, KCC

Concept note

Background

Climate change is the greatest single threat facing our planet. The impacts of the climate crisis are already manifesting themselves in many parts of the world, especially in developing countries, despite such countries having contributed the least to global greenhouse emissions. However, the most catastrophic consequences of climate change are yet to come, unless decisive measures are taken now. The longer that action is delayed, the more radical measures will need to be in the future.

Climate science is robust and clear. In the latest instalment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, scientists state that global greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest, and be reduced by 43% by 2030, if we want to keep the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach.¹ If these milestones are not achieved, the Paris Agreement will not be fulfilled. As a result, the climate crisis will continue to put societies, ecosystems and our economies at unprecedented risk. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the reduction of economic activities and global transport that shifted energy demands temporarily decreased global emissions. For this trend to be sustained, it is fundamental that countries include ambitious national climate commitments in their economic recovery strategies.²

Parliaments are uniquely positioned to generate political will to tackle the climate crisis and to enact the necessary targets and strategies. Parliaments have a key role in ensuring that international agreements on climate change, including the Paris Agreement, are translated into national-level legislation. Parliaments also have the important responsibility of scrutinizing governments' actions on climate change and ensuring they are held accountable. [The Nusa Dua Declaration](#), adopted at the 144th IPU Assembly in Indonesia, recognizes the critical role parliaments play in climate action. It highlights the urgent need for parliamentarians to support the transition to clean energy and boost climate finance before it is too late.

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/resources/press/press-release/>

² <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/other/2020-12/green-approaches-covid-19-recovery-policy-note-parliamentarians>

Countries must strive for net-zero emissions not just as an aspiration but as a concrete commitment. Citizens around the world are demanding stronger legislation that promotes the shift from highly-polluting fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, and safeguards the rights of future generations to a clean and healthy planet.

Parliaments, with their legislative and representation functions, must ensure that climate legislation is ambitious, effective and inclusive, ensuring that the needs of their constituents are met. There is a need to continually strengthen parliaments' capacity to take on a leading role on climate action, by reinforcing their power to hold government to account, to engage with a wide range of stakeholders and take all voices into account, to make evidence-informed decisions supported by the latest scientific research, and to provide a forum for public debate on the key issues surrounding climate change.

The IPU has made it a priority to support parliaments and parliamentarians in their efforts to tackle climate change. The IPU is working to mobilize parliaments politically around climate action, including through a number of climate-related resolutions,³ and help build the capacity of parliaments to effectively tackle the climate crisis, including through workshops and training courses. The IPU Strategy for 2022-2026 includes climate action as one of its key policy goals, and climate is being integrated across all work areas of the IPU.

The IPU also sees strong public engagement as an important factor for more effective action in response to sustainable development issues, including climate change. The IPU and United Nations Development Programme recently released the third [Global Parliamentary Report](#) which analyses the public engagement practices of parliaments across the world, including on climate change. It also provides practical guidance to parliaments on how to achieve greater public participation in decision-making through more participatory and inclusive institutions that are responsive to public concerns and expectations. Direct, open dialogues with the public will help ensure that parliaments are responsive to the needs of the community and that no one is left behind in climate action, particularly people on the frontlines of climate change.

Objectives

This workshop aims to facilitate an open and critical dialogue on climate change between parliamentarians from around the world. The event will provide an interactive platform for delegates to share national and regional experiences on recent climate action within their parliaments, including since the adoption of the Nusa Dua Declaration in March 2022, identify future parliamentary actions, and reflect on the obstacles and opportunities parliaments face in their legislative and budgetary responses to the climate crisis. It will encourage participants to discuss how they hold their governments accountable on climate action and how parliamentarians can engage with the public to strengthen the response to climate change.

In light of the forthcoming 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27), this workshop will also provide delegates with the opportunity to learn about the Parliamentary Meeting at COP27 that is being co-organized by the IPU and the Egyptian House of Representatives to take place on 13 November in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

The workshop will be informal and highly interactive. It will consist primarily of open discussion. Delegates will have the opportunity to answer questions directly posed by the Moderator. In order to maximize interaction, delegates are encouraged not to read pre-prepared statements, but to participate in a more lively and dynamic manner.

The Workshop will be jointly moderated by the Presidents of the IPU's Standing Committees on Sustainable Development, and on Democracy and Human Rights.

³ For example, *Addressing climate change* (2019), <https://www.ipu.org/file/8202/download>

Guiding questions

This workshop will allow an exchange between parliamentarians on the following questions in particular:

- How are you promoting public engagement and dialogues with citizens to support inclusive climate action?
- What concrete actions have you taken to close the climate finance gap and ensure there is adequate global funding for mitigation and adaptation activities, particularly in developing countries?
- How are you strengthening your oversight role to make sure government is held to account on Paris Agreement implementation and emissions reduction targets?
- What steps are you taking to promote greener practices at an institutional level within parliament itself? Have you supported the establishment of institutional mechanisms to reduce emissions and promote the sustainability of your parliament's operations?

At the end of the workshop, delegates are expected to have gained a clearer understanding of concrete actions that can be taken both in the short- and long-term to strengthen the parliamentary response to the climate crisis. The workshop is also expected to advance collaboration and dialogue among participating parliaments in preparation for the Parliamentary Meeting at COP27.

Modalities

The duration of the event will be 90 minutes. It is open to all delegates at the 145th IPU Assembly.

The languages of the workshop will be English, French, Spanish and Arabic.