



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



United Nations
Climate Change

Strengthening parliamentary action at COP28: A virtual briefing and knowledge exchange for parliaments

Thursday, 25 May 2023, 13:00-14:30 CEST, Zoom

Concept note

Background

Climate change is currently the single greatest threat to our planet and humanity. March 2023 saw the release of the final instalment of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The AR6 Synthesis Report concludes that negative impacts from climate change are already more widespread and extreme than expected, and every increment of global warming will further intensify climate risks.¹ No country in the world will be untouched by the climate crisis, but developing countries are particularly vulnerable. By 2030, an estimated US\$ 127 billion per year will be needed by these countries alone to adapt to climate change.²

It is well-recognized that global emissions must be nearly halved by 2030 in order to keep the goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C alive.³ The Paris Agreement, an international and legally-binding climate change agreement, is key to making this goal a reality. It sets long-term goals to guide countries as they aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including through the submission of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Given that climate change does not recognize national political borders, international cooperation and dialogue are essential for effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. The annual United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COPs) offer an opportunity for all Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to come together to negotiate and agree on action to achieve the world's climate goals.

COP28, to be held in the United Arab Emirates in late 2023, is particularly unique as it will see the conclusion of the first ever “global stocktake” of the Paris Agreement. The first global stocktake is essential for assessing progress made, as well as gaps since the Agreement was adopted in 2015, and for identifying solutions both up to 2030 and beyond.

Parliaments, with their core legislative, oversight, budgetary and representation functions, are key to ensuring implementation of international climate change agreements at the national level. By holding their governments accountable, parliaments can help ensure that the Paris Agreement, including the NDCs,

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/>

² Ibid.

³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/resources/press/press-release/>

are translated into real action supported by appropriate budgets and legislation within their respective countries.

Objectives

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates will jointly host the Parliamentary Meeting at COP28 [date TBC]. In the lead-up to the Parliamentary Meeting and COP28 more generally, the IPU and the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat are co-organizing a virtual briefing and knowledge exchange for parliaments.

This event will provide participants with:

- A briefing on the latest scientific insights following the March 2023 release of the AR6 Synthesis Report and how this can inform the discussions at COP28.
- An overview of COP28, including the main topics expected to be addressed by Parties, as well as an introduction to the global stocktake process.

By raising the awareness of parliaments on the key climate science and on COP28, they will be able to play a stronger role in their countries' dialogues on climate change and be better equipped to raise national climate ambition going into the negotiations.

The meeting will allow time for a Q&A and interactive discussion between experts and parliamentarians.

Participants

This event is open to all parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, in particular those who are working on issues related to climate change, the environment and sustainable development.

Languages

The language of the event will be English with simultaneous French, Spanish and Arabic interpretation provided.

Platform and registration

This virtual event will be organized on Zoom. Registration can be completed [here](#):