



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.



## Joint Inter Parliamentary Union – Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments webinar: Greener parliaments: The role of parliamentary administrations?

Thursday, 5 October 2023

We will be conducting the same webinar twice: 10:00 – 11:00 CEST and 16:00 – 17:00 CEST

### Concept note

#### Background

It is widely accepted that climate change is the greatest single threat facing the planet. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), it will be impossible to limit global warming to 1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius in line with the targets of the 2015 Paris Agreement, without immediate cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. The most recent IPCC report also confirms that, while climate change is already causing irreversible damage, the worst effects are still to come unless bold and aggressive measures are adopted now<sup>1</sup>.

Increased efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change require the support, collaboration and active contribution of all stakeholders, in particular parliaments. While principally they can contribute to the climate agenda via their core functions, parliaments and all of those working within them can also reduce their own environmental impact as well as that of their institutions. By taking the lead and setting an example, they can support national climate action by defining strategies and implementing initiatives to reduce emissions and improve the sustainability of their activities.

In March 2023, the IPU Secretariat launched the [Parliaments for the Planet Campaign](#) with the aim of fostering environmentally conscious practices within parliaments worldwide and supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement. As part of the campaign, the IPU identified [10 key actions](#) parliaments and parliamentarians can adopt to promote sustainability within parliamentary practices. These actions cover three categories: institutionalizing the greening of parliament, greening the way parliaments and their members work, and leading and fostering a culture of sustainable change.

#### Objectives

This concept note relates to a collaborative webinar hosted by the IPU and the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments. The aim of this webinar is to promote and advance the institutionalization and implementation of environmentally sustainable practices in parliaments worldwide.

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<sup>1</sup> See IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report (2023) <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/>

The webinar will be held twice on the same day to accommodate participants in all time zones, with each webinar consisting of two parts.

Part 1 ***Greener Parliaments: Getting started. Institutionalizing climate action within parliament*** sets the groundwork for understanding the cultural and institutional aspects of climate action within parliaments. It relates to points 1-3 and 8-10 of the 10 actions for greener parliaments and will aim to address the following key questions:

- Where do parliaments start with building a framework and culture for sustainability and climate action and what are the key steps that must be taken to achieve this?
- What are the factors/conditions that play a role in enhancing the institutionalization of climate action in parliament?
- How do you change mindsets to foster a greater commitment to environmental sustainability within parliamentary culture?
- What are the challenges and how can they be overcome?
- What are the different roles and responsibilities of parliamentary administrations in driving climate action?

Part 2 ***Greener parliaments: Implementing climate action measures*** delves into the specific actions and initiatives that parliaments can take to become greener and more sustainable. The webinar relates to points 1 and 4-7 of the 10 actions for greener parliaments and will aim to address the following key questions:

- What are parliaments doing to improve their environmental performance in terms of protecting the environment and preventing pollution?
- Are parliaments able to measure their carbon footprint? What measures have been taken to reduce it?
- How are the activities defined and prioritized? What are the opportunities and how do they address the challenges?

## **Participants**

This event primarily targets Secretaries General of parliaments

## **Languages**

We will be conducting the same webinar twice, once in the morning (AM) and once in the afternoon (PM) (CEST), to accommodate participants in different time zones. The primary language of both webinars will be English, and simultaneous interpretation services will be provided in French for both sessions. Furthermore, Arabic interpretation will be available exclusively during the morning (AM) webinar, while Spanish interpretation will be available exclusively during the afternoon (PM) webinar.

## **Platform and registration**

This virtual event will be organized on Zoom. Registration can be completed here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMuf-6spjkrH90Q8MRmxq5JkKzDkevmr6D7>

