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Regional Seminar for Parliaments of the Caribbean

Accelerating parliamentary action on climate change for a resilient and sustainable region

Organized jointly by the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

27–29 May 2024, Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago)

PROGRAMME

Sunday, 26 May 2024

ALL DAY: Arrival of delegates - Registration of delegates at the designated hotels

Monday, 27 May 2024

09:30 Delegates depart the hotels for the Red House

09:45–10:20 Registration continues at the Parliament (Wahid Ali Conference Room, Level 2, Cabildo Building)

10:20–10:50 **Opening session**

Introductions: Programme coordinator: Ms. Sharla Elcock, Legal Officer II, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

National anthem of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Welcoming remarks by the IPU: Ms. Kareen Jabre, Director, Division of Programmes, IPU

Welcoming remarks by Sen. the Hon. Nigel de Freitas, President of the Senate, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Introductions to the Seminar: Programme coordinator

10:50–13:05 **Session I : The state of climate change impacts in the Caribbean, and making loss and damage and climate finance a reality to support the achievement of climate and sustainable development goals**

This session will provide an overview of the state of climate change in the Caribbean. It will highlight the key impacts of climate change on sustainable development in the region, and the ongoing efforts at the national and regional level to address the phenomenon while taking into account related economic and social impacts. The session will also discuss how climate finance and funding for loss and damage can be scaled-up to meet the needs of small Island developing States (SIDS), including those in the Caribbean, that are on the frontlines of climate change.

11:30–11:45 *The panellist presentations will be followed by a brief interactive discussion. Digital tools will be used to increase interaction and knowledge-sharing among participants.*

11:45–12:25	<p>Break-out sessions <i>The break-out sessions will comprise 4 groups of delegates who will be allotted 40 minutes of discussion, with group reports to be generated and presented.</i></p>
12:25–13:05	<p>Presentation of reports and Question & Answer session <i>Each group will be allotted 8 minutes to present their respective report and answer any questions received.</i></p>
13:05–13:15	Group photo with delegates
13:15–14:35	Lunch break: Members' Dining Room – Red House
14:35–16:50	<p>Session II: People on the move: Addressing climate-induced migration and displacement</p> <p>Forced migration and displacement resulting from disasters are among the most devastating consequences of climate change. This session will explore migration and displacement trends linked to climate change in the region, especially in relation to increasing climate-related disasters and sea-level rise. It will discuss how parliaments can use their powers to address the root causes of climate-induced migration and displacement, while also ensuring protection for those who have already migrated or been displaced due to climate change and disasters. Special attention will also be given to the needs and specificities of those who are in particularly vulnerable situations. Parliaments will have the opportunity to share promising practices on addressing mobility and climate issues, inclusive of displacement management.</p>
15:15–15:30	<p><i>The panellist presentations will be followed by a brief interactive discussion. Digital tools will be used to increase interaction and knowledge-sharing among participants</i></p>
15:30–16:10	<p>Break-out sessions <i>The break-out sessions will comprise 4 groups of delegates who will be allotted 40 minutes of discussion, with group reports to be generated and presented.</i></p>
16:10–16:50	<p>Presentation of reports and Question & Answer session <i>Each group will be allotted 8 minutes to present their respective report and answer any questions received.</i></p>
17:00–18:30	<p>Welcome reception hosted by Presiding Officers of the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago – Red House Rotunda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sen. the Hon. Nigel de Freitas, President of the Senate • The Hon. Bridgid Annisette-George, Speaker of the House of Representatives
18:30	Delegates depart the Parliament for their hotels

Tuesday, 28 May 2024

09:30	Delegates depart the hotels for the Red House
10:00–10:15	Summary of Day 1: Insights and outcomes
10:15–12:10	<p>Session III: Use of statistical data and scientific evidence to inform climate change decisions</p> <p>Statistics play a crucial role in dealing with disasters, from preparation to recovery to reporting. The need for timely and accurate data is especially significant in light of the increasing frequency and severity of climate change-related extreme weather events. However, the data needed for effective disaster risk reduction is not always readily available. It is therefore important to strengthen the role of</p>

official statistics as they provide key data relevant to all phases of disaster risk management. This session will discuss the importance of statistical data to inform climate change decisions.

10:45–11:00

The panellist presentations will be followed by a brief interactive discussion.

Digital tools will be used to increase interaction and knowledge-sharing among participants

11:00–11:30

Break-out sessions

The break-out sessions will comprise 4 groups of delegates who will be allotted 30 minutes of discussion, with group reports to be generated and presented.

11:30–12:10

Presentation of reports and Question & Answer session

Each group will be allotted 8 minutes to present their respective report and answer any questions received.

12:10–13:25

Lunch break: Members' Dining Room – Red House

13:25–15:20

Session IV : Ensuring health for all across the Caribbean in the face of climate change

The effects of climate change, including increased temperatures, more extreme weather events and flooding, have detrimental direct and indirect impacts on health. As climate change intensifies, disease patterns and human health will be increasingly impacted and health systems will be put under growing pressure, particularly in highly vulnerable island nations. This session will provide a platform for discussing the key health challenges emerging in the Caribbean region due to climate change, and identify opportunities for parliaments to ensure positive health outcomes, including by strengthening health legislation, supporting funding for resilient health systems, and ensuring equitable access to quality health services.

13:55–14:10

The panellist presentations will be followed by a brief interactive discussion.

Digital tools will be used to increase interaction and knowledge-sharing among participants

14:10–14:40

Break-out sessions

The break-out sessions will comprise 4 groups of delegates who will be allotted 30 minutes of discussion, with group reports to be generated and presented.

14:40–15:20

Presentation of reports and Question & Answer session

Each group will be allotted 8 minutes to present their respective report and answer any questions received.

15:20–15:35

Tea break

15:35–17:30

Session V: Climate change and technology: The potential of artificial intelligence to tackle the climate crisis

New technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), are gaining traction as a possible solution to help address the climate crisis and enable progress towards the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This session will discuss how safe, secure and trustworthy AI can be used to support climate action, including by better predicting weather patterns, processing large amounts of data related to climate change, and monitoring climate-related consequences such as sea-level rise. It will also explore possible negative impacts of AI in the context of climate change, including the potential for greater misinformation on the climate crisis, an increasing demand for energy to power AI systems and a growing digital divide within and across countries. Participants will discuss the role of parliaments in ensuring the deployment of responsible AI to address climate change, and identify options for more equitable and inclusive technologies that benefit people most vulnerable to climate change.

16:05–16:20

The panellist presentations will be followed by a brief interactive discussion.

Digital tools will be used to increase interaction and knowledge-sharing among participants

16:20–16:50	Break-out sessions <i>The break-out sessions will comprise 4 groups of delegates who will be allotted 30 minutes of discussion, with group reports to be generated and presented.</i>
16:50–17:30	Presentation of reports and Question & Answer session <i>Each group will be allotted 8 minutes to present their respective report and answer any questions received.</i>
17:30	Delegates depart the Parliament for their hotels.

Wednesday, 29 May 2024

10:00	Delegates depart hotels
10:30–11:00	Summary of Day 2: Insights and outcomes
11:00–11:45	Session VI: Opportunities for knowledge-sharing and innovation on climate solutions among islands - embracing island leadership Parliaments will hear about ongoing initiatives, through the Blue Planet Alliance Fellowship , for island-island learning on climate action, particularly in relation to accelerating the clean energy transition from an island perspective. Climate tools spotlight: Strengthening legislation and oversight for effective climate action A short presentation of essential climate tools that can support parliaments in advancing legislative and oversight efforts on climate will be given.
11:45–12:45	Lunch break: Members' Dining Room - Red House
12:45–15:00	Session VII: Building a climate-resilient and prosperous Caribbean: Boosting adaptation efforts and ensuring livelihood security Building on the insights from Day 1, this session will include a deeper discussion on how parliaments in the region can advance adaptation efforts to build resilience and ensure economic and social well-being despite growing climate impacts and climate-related disasters. Particular attention will be paid to promoting livelihood security amongst coastal populations. Participants will share national efforts of parliaments to promote inclusive and resilient livelihoods that address the needs of frontline communities.
13:25–13:40	The panellist presentations will be followed by a brief interactive discussion. <i>Digital tools will be used to increase interaction and knowledge-sharing among participants</i>
13:40–14:20	Break-out sessions <i>The break-out sessions will comprise 4 groups of delegates who will be allotted 40 minutes of discussion, with group reports to be generated and presented.</i>
14:20–15:00	Presentation of reports and Question & Answer session <i>Each group will be allotted 8 minutes to present their respective report and answer any questions received.</i>
15:00–16:00	Closing session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round of final reflections from national delegations • Presentation of the seminar conclusions • Online evaluation survey • Closing remarks: Hon. Bridgid Annisette-George, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Trinidad and Tobago
16:00	Return to hotels