



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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United Nations
Climate Change



Workshop on Empowering parliamentarians to implement NDCs and advance the climate agenda at the national level

18 October 2024, 09:30-16:30, Salle Lausanne, International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)

Co-organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Concept note

Background and rationale

Climate change poses a significant threat to global ecosystems, economies and communities. The Paris Agreement sets the course for countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Effective implementation of these commitments is critical to limiting global temperature rise and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

The first [global stocktake](#) recognized the near-universal progress driven by the Paris Agreement on climate action. Despite this progress, the world is not on track to meet the Agreement's long-term temperature goal, achieve the necessary levels of resilience, or mobilize and align the required financial flows. The NDCs to be submitted in 2025, known as NDCs 3.0, will be informed by the outcomes of this first global stocktake. NDCs 3.0 must be more progressive and ambitious than the current NDCs. This upcoming submission may be the last opportunity to align the global emission trajectory with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C above pre-industrial level target, making it crucial for the future of the global response to climate change.

Parliamentarians play a crucial role in the NDC process. They can support the development of NDCs, oversee their implementation and hold their governments to account on these commitments. Parliamentarians are well-placed to ensure that these commitments are effectively translated into strong national legislation.

Objectives

This knowledge-sharing and learning event aims at equipping parliamentarians with the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively design climate change legislation and help devise measures to counter the devastating impact of climate change in their society and communities. In particular, the event will:

- **Sensitize** parliamentarians and parliamentary staff on the importance and urgency of implementing NDCs and the commitments under the UNFCCC.
- **Enhance understanding** of climate change legislation and how it can be utilized effectively to combat climate change.
- **Provide capacity-building** support through expert sessions conducted by the UNFCCC Secretariat and UNEP.
- **Familiarize parliamentarians** on the latest trends in climate action and legislation in preparation for COP29, including the Parliamentary Meeting.
- **Facilitate knowledge sharing** and best practices among participants to foster inter-parliamentary cooperation and collaboration.

Expected outcomes

The event seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

- Increased awareness and understanding among parliamentarians regarding the NDCs, their role in achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement and in dealing with the impacts of climate change.
- Greater knowledge among parliamentarians on climate change legislation and increased awareness of how they can support the implementation of such legislation.
- Increased opportunities for parliaments to develop regional and international networks and partnerships for collaborative climate action.
- Awareness of resources and tools available to parliamentarians to support the development of NDCs and the drafting, strengthening and implementation of climate legislation.

Proposed topics to be explored

To enhance participants' understanding of key concepts and issues related to NDCs and climate action, the event proposes to focus on the following topics:

- **Understanding NDCs and their role in achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement:** This includes an overview of the NDCs' current status, the introduction of NDCs 3.0, and insights from the first Global Stocktake (GST). It also encompasses the challenges faced in implementing NDCs, such as aligning financial flows and building resilience, as well as the opportunities for progress and increased ambition presented by the upcoming NDCs 3.0.
- **The Montevideo Environmental Law Programme:** Objectives, achievements and milestones, technical legal assistance ([UNEP-LEAP](#)), success stories, challenges and opportunities.
- **Climate change legislation:** Key components, drafting processes, legislative best practices, and successful case studies.
- **Presentation of the [Law and Climate Change Toolkit](#) as a tool to implement the NDCs:** Introduction, update and expansion undertaken in 2024, practical application, benefits and lessons learnt.
- **Role of parliamentarians in climate action:** Legislative advocacy (their role in increasing compliance with climate legislation and ensuring its resilience and sustainability), oversight and stakeholder engagement.
- **Regional and international cooperation:** Opportunities for collaboration and sharing best practices among regions and among countries with similar profiles.

Methodology

The event will utilize a mix of presentations, panel discussions, and group activities to ensure a dynamic and engaging learning experience. Experts from the IPU, the UNFCCC Secretariat and UNEP will provide in-depth insights and practical guidance. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in peer-to-peer learning and network with their counterparts from different regions.

Participants

The target audience for this event is parliamentarians and parliamentary staff (up to 40 participants). Priority will be given to selected parliaments from African countries and small island developing States.

If additional spots are available, other parliaments will be able to participate, however priority will be given to parliaments from developing countries.

English and French interpretation will be available.