



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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150th IPU Assembly

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (5–9 April 2025)

Workshop

Reducing methane emissions: A critical pathway for addressing the climate crisis

Tuesday, 8 April 2025, 12:45–14:15

Concept note

Background

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are the most significant driver of climate change. Substantially reducing GHG emissions is the only way to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and address the climate crisis before it is too late. To date, most global efforts have focused on reducing the emissions of one GHG: carbon dioxide (CO₂). However, attention is being increasingly placed on another greenhouse gas, methane, which is also severely exacerbating climate change.

Methane is a powerful GHG that accounts for more than 30% of the planet's current warming.¹ It is also extremely potent, with a warming impact 86 times stronger than CO₂.² The majority of methane emissions come from human activities, including those related to energy, agriculture and waste. While it is currently a major contributor to climate change, methane's relatively short atmospheric lifetime means that reducing emissions of this gas can provide rapid climate benefits. It is therefore one of the quickest and most effective strategies for slowing global warming.

As 2024 was the hottest year on record, climate action must be accelerated. Countries around the world are coming together to seize all opportunities to halt the climate crisis, including by reducing methane emissions. The [Global Methane Pledge](#), launched at COP26, has been signed by nearly 160 countries, which have agreed to take voluntary action to contribute to a collective effort to reduce global methane emissions.

There is immense potential for parliaments to accelerate reductions in methane emissions in order to keep the globally agreed goals of the Paris Agreement alive. Recognizing the critical role that parliaments can play, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in partnership with the Andean Parliament and with the support of the [Global Methane Hub](#), is empowering parliaments to tackle methane as part of broader efforts to address climate change.

Objectives

This event will bring together experts and parliamentarians to explore how parliaments can take a leading role in climate action by supporting the reduction of methane emissions. Parliamentarians will have the opportunity to learn more about how methane is driving climate change and why reducing emissions of this gas is considered to be one of the fastest ways to address global warming. Aside from these climate benefits, parliamentarians will also be briefed on the positive impact that reducing methane emissions can have on human health, air quality and crops. The session will also cover options for reducing methane emissions while also ensuring the protection of livelihoods, especially those related to agriculture.

¹ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), "[Facts about Methane](#)".

² Climate & Clean Air Coalition, "[Methane](#)".

This event will also serve as a platform for parliaments from around the world to share experiences of, and knowledge on, reducing methane emissions. Time will be provided for an interactive discussion in which parliamentarians can highlight both challenges and opportunities for methane emissions reductions, and hear about best practices, including through legislative action.

Parliaments that are interested in receiving national capacity-building support on climate action, and in particular on reducing methane emissions, will also be able to express their needs in this event.

Guiding questions

The event will seek to promote parliamentary dialogue on the following questions in particular:

- What are the main knowledge gaps on methane within your parliament?
- What obstacles are preventing stronger parliamentary action on reducing methane emissions?
- Is your parliament taking any concrete steps to promote dialogue on methane, including in relevant committees?
- How are parliamentarians engaging their constituents, particularly those involved in agricultural activities, to discuss methane emissions?
- What are some successful examples of parliamentary action on addressing methane, including legislative initiatives?

Practical arrangements

This session will be open to all participants at the 150th IPU Assembly. Interpretation will be provided in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.