



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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# 138<sup>th</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

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## Reports on recent IPU specialized meetings

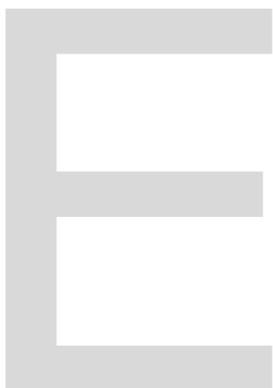
### (a) Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference

Bonn, 12 November 2017

The IPU, the Parliament of Fiji and the German Bundestag organized a Parliamentary Meeting at the twenty-third Conference of the Parties (COP23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn. The meeting was attended by close to 250 delegates from more than 50 countries. They heard from some of the key figures in climate change negotiations and climate science, including the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Ms. Patricia Espinosa, and the COP23 President, Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama of Fiji. The IPU President, Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, and the Secretary General, Mr. Martin Chungong, participated in the meeting.

Participants discussed the low-carbon economy concept, climate change science and climate-induced migration. During the meeting parliamentarians showcased examples of their work on climate change at the national and regional level. In this context, the participants pointed out the usefulness of the Rabat Declaration on *Climate and sustainable development, from agreements to action*, adopted by African Parliaments in October 2017.

At the end of the meeting parliamentarians adopted a forward-looking outcome document for their future action on climate change. The outcome document reiterates parliamentarians' commitment to tackling climate change and ensuring that the increase in the global average temperature is kept well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Parliamentarians pledged to bring national fiscal and investment policies in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement and to strengthen their respective national capacity to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. They underscored the particular vulnerability of Small Island Developing States to climate change and its consequences.



#IPU138



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Deutscher Bundestag

## PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

*Bonn, 12 November 2017*

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliament of Fiji  
and the German Parliament

### Outcome document

**Adopted by consensus on 12 November 2017**

1. We, parliamentarians from around the world, gathered in Bonn under the presidency of Fiji at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP23), note with concern the fact that, for three years in a row, the global average temperatures have been the highest on record and observe with great concern and sympathy the fact that large parts of the world are already today suffering massively from the impacts of global warming in the form of extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and hurricanes.
2. The Paris Agreement is an agenda for transformations in the real economy and the financial industry and it therefore represents a milestone in climate protection. For the first time, almost all states on the planet have defined national contributions for combating climate change through taking actions to achieve the objectives of these contributions. At the same time, the Agreement provides for support in the form of finance, capacity-building measures, technology transfer and development for countries with lower capacities so that they can implement mitigation and adaptation actions.
3. We welcome the fact that, the international community reaffirmed its commitment to mobilise US\$ 100 billion per year by 2020 to support international climate protection measures.
4. Climate change and its impact is an existential threat for humanity and we reaffirm our determination to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts in our national and regional parliaments to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. To this end, we will also use available instruments to strengthen relevant dialogues within society and to set in motion the needed stakeholder processes. We are committed to ensuring that the capacity to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change is increased and that climate resilience is fostered. In addition, we intend to help ensure that our fiscal and investment policies are in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement, thus helping to ensure that financial flows are consistent with greenhouse gas-neutral development.

5. The rapid ratification of the Paris Agreement and its accelerated entry into force in the year after its adoption, on 4 November 2016, underlines its importance and demonstrates the determination of the international community to effectively combat climate change. We welcome this and encourage all states which have not yet ratified the Agreement to do so, to undertake concrete mitigation measures before 2020 and to formulate their nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Furthermore, we welcome the fact that several states have already presented their long-term strategies on climate-neutral development and we encourage all states to develop long-term strategies and to submit them before 2020, as agreed in Paris. Announcements such as those made by the Climate Vulnerable Forum of their intention to switch to 100 per cent renewable energies by 2050 at the latest, or the fact that many countries have already presented their NDCs, demonstrate that the international community is committed to the path on which it has embarked.

6. We also view the Paris Agreement as part of a series of successful international actions and conferences such as the adoption of the 2015 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2015 Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the UN Sustainable Development Summit 2015 and the adopted 2030 Agenda, the 2016 UN Habitat III Conference, the 2016 UN Biodiversity Conference, and the 2017 UN Ocean Conference. We see this as a clear signal from the international community of its commitment to address the major global challenges and take corresponding action. In addition, we welcome the engagement of the many governmental and non-governmental stakeholders that, along with the newly established partnerships such as the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action and the NDC Partnership, demonstrate a broad-based willingness to take action.

7. The path embarked on in Paris was successfully carried forward at the 2016 Marrakech Climate Change Conference. A clear political signal on the implementation of the Paris Agreement was sent and the course set for the further development of the Agreement. The next step that must be taken now in Bonn is to create the foundations for the adoption of a robust rulebook at the 2018 COP24. In addition, it is important to develop a design on an initial stocktaking of mitigation ambition (Facilitative Dialogue 2018) and to identify concrete opportunities for an increase in ambition.

8. All states are called upon to update their initial 2020 NDCs or communicate new ones to achieve the objectives of the Agreement. We will work within our parliaments, against the background of the Facilitative Dialogue 2018, to ensure that future investments are shaped to achieve the climate goals.

9. As the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year are still far too high and as the gap between the reductions needed and the national pledges made in Paris is alarming, developed country Parties should undertake economy-wide absolute emission reduction and developing country Parties should continue enhancing their mitigation efforts in line with the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in different national circumstances. They are encouraged to move over time towards economy-wide emission reduction and limitation targets. The right groundwork thus now needs to be laid in all areas to trigger timely structural change and end subsidies for climate-damaging fossil fuels. National implementation must pay sufficient attention to industry, agriculture, the transport sector, the heating and cooling sectors, and forests and green infrastructure. It is particularly important for concrete measures to be taken soon so that the mitigation goals set in Paris can be achieved by the second half of this century.

10. The fact that renewable energies are already today cheaper than fossil energy sources in large parts of the world also makes ending the use of climate-damaging energies economically attractive. The worldwide expansion of renewable energies and greater energy efficiency also contribute significantly to creating green jobs and fighting poverty. It is against this background in particular, that we encourage all states of the world to review their NDCs and to adapt them accordingly.

11. We parliamentarians from across the world view the Climate Change Conference in Bonn presided by Fiji as an important milestone in implementing the Paris Agreement and hereby express our desire to pay particular attention to the interests of the most vulnerable states.