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Climate change – Let us not cross the line

Draft resolution submitted by the drafting committee

The 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Recalling* that the Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016,
- (2) *Acknowledging* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development draws a clear link between climate change and other critical areas of today's society, such as food security, the ocean, and other water resources,
- (3) *Recalling* that, as part of the Paris Agreement, the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) invited the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to prepare a special report in 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways,
- (4) *Noting* that the IPCC recently released its Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty,
- (5) *Also noting* the following projections of major concern in the IPCC report:
 - (a) Climate models project robust differences in regional climate characteristics between the present day and global warming of 1.5°C, and between 1.5°C and 2°C. These differences include increases in: mean temperature in most land and ocean regions (high confidence), hot extremes in most inhabited regions (high confidence), heavy precipitation in several regions (medium confidence), and the probability of drought and precipitation deficits in some regions (medium confidence).
 - (b) By 2100, global mean sea level rise is projected to be around 0.1 metre lower with global warming of 1.5°C compared to 2°C (medium confidence). A slower rate of sea level rise enables greater opportunities for adaptation in the human and ecological systems of small islands, low-lying coastal areas and deltas (medium confidence).
 - (c) On land, impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, including species loss and extinction, are projected to be lower at 1.5°C of global warming compared to 2°C.
 - (d) Limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C is projected to reduce increases in ocean temperature as well as associated increases in ocean acidity and decreases in ocean oxygen levels (high confidence). Consequently, limiting global warming to 1.5°C is projected to reduce risks to marine biodiversity, fisheries, and ecosystems, and their functions and services to humans, as illustrated by recent changes to the Arctic sea ice and warm water coral reef ecosystems (high confidence).
 - (e) Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C and increase further with 2°C,

(6) *Acknowledging* that the Report establishes that urgent and unprecedented changes are needed to reach the target, which is affordable and feasible despite being at the most ambitious end of the Paris Agreement pledge to keep temperatures between 1.5°C and 2°C,

(7) *Recognizing* that the small island developing States (SIDS) acknowledged that "climate change presents the single greatest threat to the livelihood, security and well-being of Pacific people"; and further recognized the importance placed on an "expanded concept of security inclusive of human security, humanitarian assistance, prioritizing environmental security, and regional cooperation in building resilience to disasters and climate change, including through regional cooperation and support",

(8) *Acknowledging* that many countries near sea level are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, notably droughts, floods and storms, due to high rates of poverty, financial and technological constraints as well as a heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture, despite many of these countries not being significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions,

(9) *Recognizing* the importance of immediate urgent action to combat climate change, and committed to sustained, high-level representation and collaboration in the lead up to, and at, the 24th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP24),

(10) *Cognizant of* the profound impact of climate change on the ocean and the fact that the global community cannot attempt to solve the crisis of one without considering the other, and while recognizing that ocean acidification has a specific target under Sustainable Development Goal 14.3, and that it must not lose sight of the fundamental climate change-related issues such as ocean warming, deoxygenation, coral bleaching and sea level rise which present a new set of challenges for the ocean,

(11) *Recalling* the relevant IPU resolutions on climate change and the Parliamentary action plan on climate change, endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 198th session in Zambia in 2016, which identifies key areas of action for legislators and makes recommendations about their delivery,

(12) *Also recalling* the SIDS parliamentary outcome document of their meeting held on 14 October 2017 in St. Petersburg on the occasion of the 137th IPU Assembly, which was subsequently made available to the participants of the Parliamentary Meeting in Bonn (COP23),

Therefore calls on the IPU Members to:

- (a) Recognize and decisively act on the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 C;
- (b) Support and lead the development of the Rule Book and Guidelines for implementing the Paris Agreement, including resource mobilization and simplifying procedures for accessing climate change funding, in order to build on the Talanoa Dialogue at the upcoming COP24;
- (c) Take a leadership role in combating climate change and strengthening their partnership with all countries to meet their ambition as set out in their nationally determined contributions;
- (d) Encourage their governments to achieve 100 per cent renewable energy targets; and
- (e) Strengthen oversight of national and international commitments, including government implementation of national legislation and enhance transparency, accountability and reporting of climate change.