



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT OBSERVER TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Second Committee

Agenda item 54:
Sustainable Development

Statement by Ambassador Anda Filip
Permanent Observer

United Nations
New York, 29 October 2007

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Chairperson,

I wish to focus my remarks today exclusively on the issue of climate change as the ultimate threat to the long-term sustainability of life on earth. The IPU took good note of the Stern Review, the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and several other such urgent warnings about global warming that have been issued this past year. And we have acted accordingly.

At the 116th Assembly of the InterParliamentary Union (IPU) last spring in Bali, the principal theme for debate was *Global warming: Ten years after Kyoto*. After a detailed presentation of the scientific basis for climate change by the former President of the World Meteorological Organization, delegations from over one hundred parliaments took the floor to recommend courses of action that they as legislative bodies can take to join the global effort to tackle climate change.

The IPU Assembly went on to adopt a political declaration on climate change. In the declaration, parliaments are called upon to do all they can to reinforce climate change policy and legislation and to enhance international cooperation on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities, with a view to achieving the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

They pledge to raise the issue of climate change in their respective parliaments, and address questions to ministers regarding their preparation for the critical 13th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the Third Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in December.

To mobilize support for the political declaration, we have addressed a personal letter to every Speaker of parliament in the world asking them to raise awareness within their parliaments of the urgent need for parliamentary debate and action. Parliaments are asked to build momentum and political support, across political party lines, for UN-led initiatives aimed at implementing an effective international response to climate change.

Parliaments are also encouraged to mainstream the issue of global warming into their agendas with a view to ensuring on-going attention and response, and delivering measurable progress in terms of good policies and legislation. Progress is sought in both mitigation and adaptation measures.

The IPU will encourage closer cooperation and networking between parliaments, their specialized committees that are tasked with debating and legislating on the questions relating to the environment and climate change (including parliamentary committees such as those on energy, industry, and the economy), and grass-roots organizations at the constituency level.

Information received on these efforts will provide the substance for a first report on parliamentary action that will be tabled at the next IPU Assembly.

Finally, in response to the call to international organizations by the United Nations Secretary-General to eliminate “wasteful practices”, the IPU has proceeded to map its own carbon footprint and is preparing to devise energy-saving solutions and targets for reduction. We have also begun to make provisions in the operating budget to purchase carbon offsets in order to help defray the environmental costs of official travel.

The IPU supports the full engagement by parliaments in mitigating climate change, both by exercising their responsibilities at the national level, as well as by participating in the international efforts aimed at finding and implementing viable solutions to this challenge.

Thank you.