



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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IPU Speech

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High Level Segment
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Mr. Chairperson,

As legislators, overseers of government action and opinion leaders, members of parliament have very important responsibilities in ensuring implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Earlier this week, IPU and the Parliament of Morocco organized a Parliamentary Meeting at COP22. We were privileged to have with us 300 delegates from more than 60 countries and five continents. Some of them travelled a long way to attend this meeting but could not register for the COP itself. The IPU therefore urges the UNFCCC to find a mechanism to ensure stronger participation of parliamentarians in the future conferences. We are ready to work with you to help make this happen – a pledge we made to the UNFCCC Executive Secretary who we were privileged to have with us in our meeting.

The Parliamentary Meeting proved that there is strong awareness among parliamentarians everywhere about the need to take concrete action on climate change, in particular as it concerns legislating for the NDCs, transition to renewable energy and transfer of technologies. What stands in the way in many countries is the capacity of parliaments to provide effective and concrete contribution, help establish strategies and ensure their financing. Investing in building of this capacity is a key prerequisite for sound legislation and action.

Our meeting also showed that many parliamentarians find the language of climate change negotiations too technical and scientific, difficult to understand and translate into legislation and other measures. Equally important, they find this language difficult to explain to the citizens to whom they are accountable as their elected representatives. In order to inspire strong social mobilization around climate change, parliamentarians and scientists need to work together to make it understandable to everybody everywhere.

The Parliamentary Meeting underscored that climate change is also an issue of social justice and equality and that effective action needs to take into account the issues of discrimination and human rights. The parliamentarians paid special attention to the social and health impacts of climate change, in particular on women, children and adolescents as a vulnerable but often marginalized group. Laws and policies to combat climate change need to be inclusive of measures that specifically target these populations.

At the end of the meeting parliamentarians adopted a forward looking roadmap for their future action on climate change. This document also recognizes the strong role IPU has played in combating climate change and we look forward to providing continued contribution.