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REPORTS ON RECENT IPU SPECIALIZED CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

**(e) PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE COP16/CMP6**

Cancún (Mexico), 6 December 2010

1. The climate change negotiations carried out under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are of paramount importance. Annual sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP) and meetings of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) attract tens of thousands of participants from governments, parliaments, businesses, academia, the scientific community and non-governmental organizations. The most recent session, COP16/CMP6, took place in Cancún, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010.
2. The IPU took the lead in mobilizing parliaments to take an active part in the process and encouraged them to attend the UN Climate Change Conference in Cancún as part of their national delegations. Together with the Mexican Congress and with the support of UNDP, the IPU organized a Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of COP16/CMP6. The Meeting took place on 6 December and was attended by some 270 participants from 31 countries and eight international organizations, including 145 members of parliament.
3. The inaugural session was addressed by the IPU President, Dr. T.-B. Gurirab, the President of the Mexican Congress, Mr. J.C. Ramírez Marín, and UNDP Director for Energy and Environment, Ms. V. Vandeweerd.
4. The COP16/CMP6 President, Mexican Foreign Affairs Secretary, Mrs. P. Espinosa, briefed legislators on the state of play in the inter-governmental talks. Her cautiously optimistic view of the chances that the UN Conference would adopt a substantive package of decisions proved to be well founded: the subsequent Cancún Agreements gave the multilateral system a much-needed injection of confidence and laid the groundwork for technology developments to help both industrialized and developing countries to deploy low-carbon energy.
5. The programme of the Parliamentary Meeting included a series of interactive panel discussions and keynote presentations that dealt with inter alia "Clean-energy growth as a new development paradigm", "Unlocking effective climate action nationally: do parliaments hold the keys?", and "International governance of climate finance".

6. Following the presentation of an oral report by the Meeting's Rapporteur, Mr. S. Gade, a member of the Danish Folketing, the participants adopted by consensus an outcome document setting out several recommendations for action by national parliaments and the IPU (see *Annex*).

7. At a special event held two days after the Parliamentary Meeting, the IPU President conveyed the text of the outcome document to the COP16/CMP6 President. "Our declaration is a call for climate action from members of parliament from around the world" said Dr. Gurirab. Referring to the UN decision to hold COP17/CMP7 in Durban, South Africa, in late 2011, he added that the IPU would "take the lead in organizing and integrating an ever stronger and more effective parliamentary contribution to this important UN process".

Recommendations

8. The Parliamentary Meeting in Cancún urged IPU Members to focus their climate-related work on adaptation strategies and intersectoral measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Elaboration of national climate-related budgets and implementing legislation should be based on the concept of solidarity across regions and generations and should include gender-focused programmes and incentives. Adequate attention should be devoted to new instruments such as vulnerability and risk mapping, emissions registers, disaster management and early warning systems. Members are invited to inform the IPU Secretariat of any practical measures they may take to follow up these recommendations.

9. As a further measure recommended by the Parliamentary Meeting in Cancún, IPU Members are invited to provide examples of best practices in terms of reducing the carbon footprint of parliamentary institutions.

10. The IPU as a whole should actively pursue its efforts to mobilize the parliamentary community around the issue of climate change. To this end, the IPU Secretary General is requested to carry out the necessary consultations with the Parliament of South Africa with a view to holding a Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the UN Climate Change Conference in Durban. In the meantime, IPU Members are invited to take timely steps in order to ensure that members of parliament are included in their country's official national delegation to COP17/CMP7.



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

Cancún (Mexico), 6 December 2010

*Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the
Mexican Congress, with the support of UNDP*



OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Adopted by consensus on 6 December 2010

1. Climate change has been firmly placed among top issues on the global agenda. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, however, continue to rise dramatically, with climate impacts affecting millions of people worldwide, in particular in developing countries. The most vulnerable and the poorest are the first to be touched, along with the entire populations of small island and low-lying coastal countries.
2. Addressing the global threat of climate change is fundamental for ensuring long-term sustainable development, energy security, availability of food and water resources, and disaster risk reduction. Climate change knows no borders and affects populations indiscriminately, exacerbating problems related to social justice, equity and human rights, and jeopardizing achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Because of their highly complex nature, efforts to reduce emissions and remedy the consequences of climate change should be multilateral, cross-sectoral and involve a wide range of actors: from groups of countries to local communities, multinational corporations to small businesses, and political leaders to private citizens.
3. We, parliamentarians from all over the world, gathered in Cancún, Mexico, on the occasion of the 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 6th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP16/CMP6), express our grave concern over the fact that the intergovernmental negotiations on climate change have not yet led to a satisfactory outcome. The ultimate goal of the negotiating process remains the adoption of a legally binding and comprehensive new global agreement establishing a fair and effective international framework with the participation of all major economies that would set the world on the path towards global low-emissions and resilient development. Strengthening trust between countries and increasing the transparency and inclusiveness of the process are critical for its success.
4. Together with governments, local authorities, businesses and civil society actors, parliaments bear their own share of responsibility for identifying and effectively implementing a common response to the challenge of climate change. We are determined to stand up to our responsibility and provide the requisite leadership. Parliaments should exercise more vigorously their constitutional authority and press forward with national commitments by developed countries and actions by developing countries to minimize GHG emissions and strengthen mitigation and adaptation.
5. We are convinced that the multilateral path is a fair and effective route to resolve global problems. The United Nations, with its engagement across a wide range of sectors and its universal membership, remains the institution that has the scope, expertise and legitimacy to craft and implement, through multilateral frameworks, effective policies to address the strategic imperative of climate change. The recent adoption in Nagoya, Japan, of a historic new

protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity sets an inspirational example for climate change negotiators.

6. The "new global pact with nature" should be an expression of a worldwide political and economic consensus based on the fundamental concept of common but differentiated responsibilities. We urge all UNFCCC Parties gathered in Cancún to accelerate the momentum and build on the progress made in Copenhagen and subsequent negotiating sessions. We expect concrete results to be achieved, in particular in areas such as an agreement on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD-plus), a system for measuring, reporting on and verifying mitigation, short- and long-term finance and financial transparency, a more effective and flexible market mechanism, technology development and transfer, and an adaptation framework. We note and commend the good work carried out to that end by the various UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies and Working Groups.

7. We are committed to assisting our respective governments to implement existing and future climate change agreements with the aim of building green prosperity in each of our countries and globally. In this regard, we believe that the Copenhagen Accord did provide a framework for securing a possible future agreement. Its mentioning of emission reduction commitments and actions by both developed and developing countries was of particular significance, as was recognition of the need to stabilize GHG emissions at a level consistent with keeping increases in global temperature to below 2°C.

8. Deep cuts in global emissions are consistent with scientific knowledge and can be implemented without compromising the right to development. The eventual agreement should be based on the principles of accountability and transparency of national action plans, with regular reporting for verification. We consider it important for all countries to put in place national low-emissions growth plans and national energy transition programmes to achieve a significant reduction of per capita GHG emissions according to medium- and long-term reduction targets and in conformity with national circumstances and capabilities.

9. We note with concern that the Copenhagen Accord's financial commitment of US\$ 100 billion by 2020 has not yet been guaranteed within the ongoing negotiations. The establishment by the United Nations of a High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing is a welcome step in this direction and can help identify potential funding sources to support climate change action in developing countries, including through fast-track finance.

10. We urge our parliamentary colleagues around the world to take proactive action with regard to the elaboration and approval of national climate-related budgets and implementing legislation, taking into account inter alia issues such as intersectoral emissions reduction and adaptation strategies, gender-focused programmes and incentives, solidarity across the regions and generations, and the need to develop new instruments, including vulnerability and risk mapping, emissions registers, disaster management and early warning systems. We also urge parliamentarians to lead the way by reducing the carbon footprint of parliamentary institutions.

11. We call on the Inter-Parliamentary Union to pursue its efforts to mobilize the global parliamentary community around the issue of climate change. It is our common duty to help the world chart a course towards a low-emissions, safer, healthier, cleaner and more prosperous future for all.