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Reports on recent IPU specialized meetings

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

Marrakech (Morocco), 13 November 2016

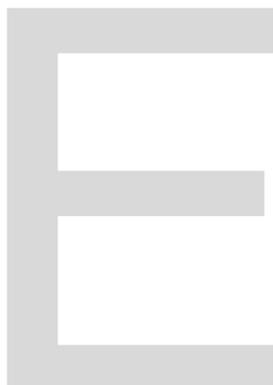
The IPU and the Parliament of Morocco organized a Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Marrakech (COP22). The meeting was attended by 300 delegates from more than 60 countries and five continents. They heard from some of the key figures in climate change negotiations and climate science, including the UNFCCC Executive Secretary.

The Parliamentary Meeting proved that parliamentarians are keenly aware of the imperative to take concrete action on climate change. In particular MPs know that they must legislate on the Nationally Determined Contributions, on transitioning to renewable energy and on technology transfer. What stands in the way in many countries is the capacity of parliaments to provide effective and specific contributions, help establish strategies and ensure those strategies are financed. Investing to build that capacity is a prerequisite for sound legislation and action.

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

The Meeting also showed that many parliamentarians find the language of climate change negotiations too technical and scientific. It seems difficult both to understand and translate into legislation and other measures. MPs also find this language difficult to explain to the citizens to whom they are accountable. In order to inspire strong social mobilization around climate change, parliamentarians and scientists need to work together to make the issues understandable to everybody everywhere.

At the end of the Meeting, parliamentarians adopted a forward-looking roadmap (see annex overleaf) for their future action on climate change. The roadmap also recognizes the strong contribution that IPU has made in combating climate change. The Organization looks forward to continuing that contribution.



#IPU136



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

Marrakech (Morocco), 13 November 2016

*Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union
and the Parliament of Morocco*



Outcome document

Adopted by consensus on 13 November 2016

We, parliamentarians from around the world, gathered in Marrakech during the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22) and the 12th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP12),

Welcoming the international community's growing awareness of the reality of climate change, its consequences and its potential human and economic costs,

Also welcoming the fact that, particularly throughout the different sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and those of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, such awareness has been accompanied by a strong mobilization of Heads of State and Government, parliaments, the private sector and civil society, which led to the conclusion of the Paris Agreement on 12 December 2015,

Reaffirming that the Paris Agreement, signed in New York on 22 April 2016 by 174 States – the largest ever number of signatories to an international agreement – and accompanied by 188 nationally determined contributions designed to go some way towards achieving the Agreement's ambitious goals, represents a strong, almost unanimous political commitment from the international community, as well as an undeniable victory for climate-change diplomacy,

Welcoming the entry into force on 4 November 2016 of the Paris Agreement, and *underscoring* that enhanced pre-2020 action is a sine qua non for setting into motion the main directions foreseen under this Agreement ,

Recognizing that to date, 105 countries have ratified the Paris Agreement; the onus is now on all States to strive to maintain the momentum triggered by the conclusion of that Agreement, just as it is on States that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession as soon as possible in order to enable implementation in all countries,

Recalling that, under Article 2 of the Paris Agreement, the main objectives fall under four main areas, namely: mitigating climate change, enhancing capacity for adaptation, channelling funds to respond to such challenges and reflecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

Underlining that meeting the Paris Agreement objectives, on the basis of mobilizing all public and private stakeholders at all levels, including locally, and in all sectors of the economy, including in agriculture and industry, is particularly contingent on the implementation of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (Agenda of solutions),

Also underlining that the objectives of the Paris Agreement, the SDGs and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, complement each other and are mutually reinforcing,

Welcoming the holding of the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22) and the 12th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP12) from 7 to 18 November in Marrakech in satisfactory conditions,

Also welcoming the fact that the Moroccan Presidency of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Marrakech has set the following four priorities for that event:

- Achieving nationally determined contributions,
- Mobilizing funding,
- Enhancing adaptation, and
- Technological development,

Confident that the work begun as part of the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition will continue and will be prioritized during and after COP22, and *recalling* that at this stage that one of the most important issues of that Conference is to consolidate the accountability and transparency mechanisms required to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement,

Welcoming in particular that a humanist aspect of the Paris Agreement will be given value through a new Summit of Conscience that will take place on the occasion of COP22, and that acknowledgement of gender equality takes on a crucial dimension vis-à-vis climate change and activities aimed at young people have become a priority,

Also welcoming the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution entitled *Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union*, with specific reference to paragraph 2 of that resolution,

Reaffirming the crucial role of parliaments in the implementation of the Paris Agreement objectives, and *recalling* that, in that regard, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) adopted at its 134th Assembly (19- 23 March 2016, Lusaka, Zambia) the Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change, which commits legislators to promoting the swift ratification of the Paris Agreement and guides them in their efforts to develop national legislation, guidelines and oversight mechanisms required for its effective implementation,

Also reaffirming the recommendation of several parliaments to promote the work of various parliamentary activities and meetings on climate change, in particular the parliamentary meetings held in conjunction with the UN Climate Change Conferences, in order to provide a more effective institutional dimension to these activities and meetings within the IPU,

Recognizing the ongoing role of parliamentarians in strengthening the international response to climate change,

1. *Call* upon the States that have not yet done so to initiate a swift process of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession regarding the Paris Agreement [...], in order to begin enhanced pre-2020 action as soon as possible;
2. *Reaffirm* our resolve as legislators and representatives of our peoples to speed up ratification of the Paris Agreement, by drawing on our parliamentary procedures, as soon as possible and by the end of June 2018 at the latest;
3. *Consider* that, as the first session to follow on from the conclusion of the Paris Agreement, COP 22/CMP 12 in Marrakech must lay the foundations for the implementation of that Agreement by prioritizing the following actions in particular:
 - Delivering nationally determined contributions: encourage countries to review their nationally determined contributions on a voluntary basis and make them bolder to bring them in line with the target of containing global warming to below 2°C and feed them into appropriate public policy;

- Mobilizing funds: develop a process to incrementally mobilize funds in support of developing countries, and in that regard, to propose mechanisms to facilitate access to climate change funding and maximize the amounts allocated;
 - Enhancing adaptation: ensure that substantial efforts are made in terms of adaptation activities, through needs assessment, increased resource allocation and enhanced capacity-building;
 - Promoting measures to support economic growth in countries where climate change results in serious humanitarian crises, poverty and migration flows,
 - Technological development: develop a technology action plan, whose three main components will be the sharing of tried-and-tested technology, the emergence of ground-breaking technology and support for innovation through research and development
 - Pay particular attention to regions affected by climate change-induced migration flows;
4. *Urge* all parliaments and the IPU to implement the Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change, adopted at the 134th IPU Assembly in Lusaka;
 5. *Call upon* legislators to work in line with the Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change towards developing national legislation, guidelines and oversight mechanisms necessary for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement;
 6. *Reaffirm* our commitment to conduct, by the end of 2016, a systematic analysis of climate-related legislative work in our countries, so as to verify compliance with the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
 7. *Commit* to amending where necessary existing legislation and developing and adopting new laws designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions so as to help limit the global temperature rise to below 2°C and to strengthen the resilience of our national economies against the impacts of climate change;
 8. *Also commit* to supporting the inclusion into national climate change legislation of strict measures relating to accountability and transparency, as well as to deploying all parliamentary means at our disposal to ensure that our governments fulfil their obligations; and to this end, *commit* to:
 - Optimizing the effectiveness of relevant parliamentary committees;
 - Requiring that ministers responsible for climate change and disaster risk reduction report at least annually to parliament as part of a comprehensive parliamentary debate about the progress that the government has made towards achieving the goals stipulated by their national legislation and the requirements of their international obligations;
 - Organizing regular meetings between cross-party groups of parliamentarians and the minister responsible for climate change, in order to debate inter alia the national position, both before the United Nations negotiations take place, and once negotiations have been completed, and to discuss their results and consequences for national legislation and policy;
 - Strengthen participation, consultation and information access mechanisms as part of the decision-making process on environmental issues,
 - Ensuring that national legislation contains clear provisions for implementation and follow-up that draws on the full range of parliamentary procedures available;
 - Ensuring that an open public debate takes place on the establishment and periodic review of national targets concerning measures to mitigate the impact of climate change, and to facilitate adaptation and risk reduction;

- Promoting interaction between legislation and the policies related to such legislation, in order to ensure coherence and to avoid conflicting signals or incentives;
9. *Call on* the IPU to reaffirm its commitment to:
- Raising awareness among parliamentarians about the importance of climate change and encouraging all political groups to support measures designed to mitigate national-level climate change risks;
 - Promoting and facilitating the full use of legislative and oversight-related good practices;
 - Strengthening the linkages between parliamentarians and the United Nations, including by increasing levels of interaction between parliamentarians and senior officials in charge of United Nations processes, and by pressing for parliamentarians to have greater access to United Nations negotiations;
 - Contributing to the strengthening of ties between parliamentarians and relevant civil society organizations;
10. *Urge* the IPU to organize, with the host country of each COP session, a parliamentary meeting aimed at promoting exchanges and feedback on parliamentary action in the area of combating climate change; and *recommend* that the IPU examine the possibility of providing, during its two Assemblies every year, and particularly within the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, an opportunity to debate matters related to climate change, with a view to monitoring and following up implementation of the Paris Agreement;
11. *Advocate* for parliamentarians to be recognized by the United Nations as the tenth official stakeholder during negotiations on the implementation of the Paris Agreement;
12. *Recommend* effective activation of the Green Climate Fund, the United Nations financial mechanism linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), whose aim is to transfer funds from the most advanced countries to the most vulnerable developing countries that are seriously affected by climate change;
13. *Entrust* the IPU Secretary General with conveying the present outcome document of the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the UN Climate Change Conference at Marrakech to Member Parliaments, the President of COP22, the United Nations Secretary-General and other relevant organizations.