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Preliminary draft outcome document of the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21/CMP11)

Prepared by the Rapporteur of the Meeting, Senator Hervé Maurey (France)

The Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21/CMP11) will take place in Paris (France) on 5 and 6 December 2015. The Meeting is expected to adopt an outcome document. The Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Meeting in Paris, Senator Hervé Maurey, appointed by the host Parliament, has prepared a pre-draft of the outcome document, as presented below. The IPU Members are invited to study the pre-draft and provide comments and observations on its form and content in advance of and during the session of the IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, which will take place in Geneva on 19 October 2015, in the framework of the 133rd IPU Assembly. A revised preliminary draft will be prepared after the Assembly and posted on the IPU website for formal amendments with a deadline of 15 November 2015. The final revised draft will be submitted for adoption at the conclusion of the Meeting in Paris.

1. We, parliamentarians from around the world, gathered in Paris on the occasion of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) and the 11th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP11), forcefully reaffirm our concern over the consequences of climate disruption and our determination to take account of it in our national laws.
2. Caused by human activity, climate disruption is now documented beyond dispute by solid global and interdisciplinary scientific work. This scientific consensus on the existence of climatic warming (according to the latest IPCC report the 10 hottest years since 1850 have all occurred after 1998, and the increase in the average world temperature could be as high as 4.8°C by the end of the century); on a rise in sea levels (by up to 1 metre by 2100, which would affect one of every 10 inhabitants on earth, i.e. 600 to 700 million people); and on an increase in extreme weather events (droughts as well as more frequent and intense rainfall and an expansion of desert zones). Climate disruption thus appears to represent a serious threat to the planet.

3. The impact of climatic warming is felt throughout the world. It is a global problem with major environmental, economic, social and political repercussions. It is a serious threat to access to water, food security, public health and biodiversity that could cause extensive forced migrations (between 50 and 150 million inhabitants will be displaced between now and the end of the century) that would threaten peace in the world.

4. The current trends will produce temperature increases well above the acceptable 2°C between now and the end of the century. The acceleration of phenomena and of deterioration and change calls for courageous decisions by governments, parliaments and the international community, which must come together to confront one of the gravest threats known to the planet and to humanity.

5. In this context we reaffirm the urgency of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and limiting the increase in average world temperature to less than 2°C relative to preindustrial levels, in line with the fundamental objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and as agreed by governments in the Copenhagen Accord of 18 December 2009.

6. We reiterate our belief that the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities are fundamental for multilateral action to address climate change and should be incorporated into the Paris Accord.

7. We consider it imperative that the Paris Accord be an accord by all and for all, a durable and dynamic accord to fight effectively and accelerate action against climate disruption over the coming decades. This agreement must take into account the needs and capacity of developing countries, facilitate the transformation of development trajectories in order to remain under the 2°C limit and help each country deal with the impact of climate change.

8. To that end, the accord should cover the issues of adaptation, mitigation and means of implementation (financing, technology, capacity building) out of a concern for true transparency in the activities conducted by the countries.

9. The priority objective of adaptation should be to reduce vulnerability, in particular among countries most negatively affected by climate change, and especially the island developing States, including certain Pacific atolls, the countries of Africa, the least developed countries, and certain large megalopolises in coastal areas.

10. The interests of future generations justify the promotion of ambitious mitigation measures, in favour of sustainable and diversified agriculture, renewable, non-carbon emitting forms of energy, better energy efficiency, more effective management of forest and marine resources and the organization of access to water for all.

11. The financial provisions of the accord should give priority to the financing of transition to low-carbon economies. We emphasize the need to intensify the mobilization of financial resources to achieve the objective fixed at Copenhagen of collecting \$100 billion in public and private funds by the year 2020. Part of the response to this objective lies in the success of the Green Fund, whose creation was decided in Copenhagen, to serve as the main multilateral fund for the financing of this transition in developing countries. This fund needs to rapidly secure effective project financing while adhering to the principles of equity, transparency, and effectiveness.

12. Transfers of technology, knowledge, and good practices, and support for capacity building in developing countries are essential elements for climate change adaptation and mitigation. They should be the subject of concrete and measurable commitments.

13. We observe a troubling discrepancy between the global objectives for reduced greenhouse gas emissions and limited increases in average temperature on the one hand, and the national commitments undertaken to achieve those objectives on the other. We therefore reaffirm the importance of national contributions and commitments by every country to help achieve the global objectives. We undertake to exercise the greatest vigilance in finalizing and applying these

contributions in each of our countries to achieve the development of clear and ambitious national legislation on climate and to urge governments to adapt that legislation based on the results obtained.

14. We support the approach of a solutions agenda to help strengthen the ambitions of all countries by offering solutions to be included as part of a low-carbon development strategy compatible with the 2°C objective, thanks to specific and broad initiatives on the part of nongovernmental actors added to the commitments undertaken by States. We consider it necessary for all governments and civil society actors (enterprises, local communities and NGOs) to support and strengthen this agenda for action, which is intended to put in place immediate measures without awaiting the entry into force of the Paris Accord in 2020. Partnerships with stakeholders, and particularly local authorities, economic actors and NGOs, should be sought out and encouraged.

15. The proliferation of territorial measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is a major issue on the climate front. We support the commitments undertaken by local communities in the fight against climate disruption. The first to be impacted by the consequences of such disruption, the territories are and should be essential actors in transitioning towards a carbon-free economic model. Parliaments need to encourage and facilitate that effort.

16. In encouraging developers and initiators to accelerate their work we express the wish that the Paris Conference and subsequent meetings will help to generate momentum for the process and convey the message of economic and social opportunities as part of the fight against climate disruption. The Paris Accord, like those to follow, must not be confined to global burden-sharing but lead to real and concerted solutions.

17. The fight against climate disruption cannot be an obstacle to development. The two challenges must be met together. The Paris Accord must be fully consistent with the sustainable development goals to be adopted in New York in September 2015.

18. The search for innovative solutions in all areas – adaptation, mitigation, financing – will be encouraged by parliaments. Among other activities, parliaments undertake to draw particular attention to the establishment of a carbon credit regime, among other relevant measures.

19. Parliamentarians have an essential role to play in contributing to the success of policies to combat climate disruption. They share part of the responsibility for their effective implementation. In developing, adopting and modifying legislation, in approving national budgets and in holding governments to account, they are a key part of the process for putting international agreements effectively in place. We therefore undertake to exercise our powers and responsibilities with the greatest vigour in the global fight against climate disruption.

20. We wish for contacts between parliaments to be a means of strengthening the parliamentary capacity for the implementation and monitoring of climate legislation and the dissemination of good practices. We shall ensure that questions related to climate disruption are systematically included on the agenda of inter-parliamentary meetings. The 22nd Conference of Parties to be held in Morocco in 2016 will provide an opportunity to take stock of the mobilizing role of parliaments in the fight against climate disruption.

21. We request that our commitments, as set forth in this document, be attached to the Final Acts of the Paris Conference.