



## 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*



PM-COP16/Inf.1  
1 November 2010

### INFORMATION DOCUMENT

*Submitted by the Mexican Senate\**

#### INTERNATIONAL ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE: THE ROAD TO COP16/CMP6, CANCÚN, MEXICO

#### Background

This document is largely the fruit of deliberations during the Forum held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in May 2010, attended by municipal officials and leaders, local and federal legislators, university representatives, academics, civil society organizations, youth, women, and other participants. The document was enriched by contributions elicited from members of the Senate Special Committee on Climate Change, who circulated it for review by the Senators and parliamentary groups.

The purpose of this document is to propose to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) a basic agenda for parliamentarians from throughout the world, meeting on 6 December, in Cancún, in conjunction with the Conference of the Parties (COP16) to discuss, analyze and possibly adopt decisions contributing to the conclusion of an appropriate agreement to avoid climate change and its effects. It is also suggested that the IPU play a special part in the High Level COP Meeting, explaining to all countries the vision, commitment, and dedication of parliamentarians, including the Mexican Congress, among others, to successful negotiation of the necessary agreements.

Upon the conclusion of the entire consultation process, this is the document we propose to the IPU as a contribution to the positions to be taken by parliamentarians vis-à-vis the COP and the international community:

#### I. COMMITMENT OF THE IPU

Climate change has been identified as the greatest threat to global ecosystems and human development. Scientific evidence from around the world, as established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Stern Report on the economics of climate change, has revealed the seriousness and gravity of this problem. What is required to meet this challenge is a transition toward economies not dependent on energy derived from fossil fuels or on the exploitation of natural resources that generate atmospheric emissions of compounds that produce a greenhouse effect. It has also been shown that the increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere resulting from human activity are contributing to global warming, which calls for urgent adaptation measures and policies, according to the various degrees of vulnerability to climate change observed in different regions and communities.

---

\* On 5 October 2010, the Special Senate Committee on Climate Change presented to the Senate of the Republic the present position paper, accompanied by a corresponding draft resolution.

Accordingly, we, as parliamentarians from around the world, mindful of our responsibility to constituents to confront the challenge imposed by climate change, propose the following:

1. The development of effective and efficient legal frameworks to address climate change, including the responsible participation of all levels of government and society, to provide systemic and comprehensive legislation promoting the transition by all countries toward a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and in the vulnerability of natural and human systems.
2. Inclusion of the following in the climate change legislation of each country:
  - (a) A commitment to prepare and submit national communications and inventories, using IPCC methodologies, according to a defined timetable.
  - (b) The establishment and design of strategies, programmes and incentives for the adoption of appropriate measures to adapt to and mitigate climate change and the approval of budgets and fiscal policies conducive to their effective application.
  - (c) The development of risk atlases and their linkage with existing management tools.
  - (d) Support for research on climate change with the participation of universities, local research centres and potentially affected parties.
3. The organization, at least once a year, of a global meeting of parliamentarians to share agendas, successful experiences, points of view and concerns about climate change; define a work programme that contributes to progress in the international negotiations; and, as the case may be, evaluate progress.

## **II. APPEALS TO COP/CMP**

We urge the officials responsible for taking decisions within COP16/CMP6 to reach the agreements expected by the international community. This means adopting, before the end of 2011, a binding, fair and ambitious agreement based consistently on a principle accepted by the Parties – "shared but differentiated responsibilities" – as well as on the Millennium Development Goals, and taking the following provisions into account:

- (a) Budget and financing
4. Timely and due fulfilment of their contribution commitments within the COP15 framework to ensure effective short-, medium- and long-term financing consistent with the Parties' obligations.
5. Groundwork for the establishment of a global tax, to be applied by each of the Parties, on fossil fuel consumption, in order to promote development, technological innovation and investment in renewable energy sources.
6. Support for creation of an international Green Fund, or other models of financial support with resources from developed countries, for mitigation and adaptation projects, programmes, policies and other activities, including the reduction of emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation, capacity building, and the development and transfer of technology.

7. The creation of innovative and predictable financing mechanisms based on the principles of efficiency and effectiveness, with measurable, reportable and verifiable actions. International financing should be additional to that currently being provided to countries for development within the United Nations framework.

8. The assignment of priority, in allocating international resources, to the development of effective mitigation and adaptation measures that guarantee energy, environmental and food security in particular.

(b) Mitigation and adaptation

9. The establishment of binding targets for the mitigation of emissions so as to avoid an increase of more than 2 degrees Celsius in the planet's temperature.

10. Capacity building conducive to the emergence of a knowledge society with sustainable patterns of production and consumption, through the development and implementation of concrete objectives and targets to be evaluated regularly using monitoring, reporting and verification systems.

11. The implementation of public policies based on the principles of equity comprehensiveness, and sustainability, including legal and fiscal measures to incentivize research and participation by all sectors in the development of effective adaptation and mitigation activities at local, national, regional and global levels – in such a way that does not place environmental, food and energy security at risk.

12. The development of national, regional and local vulnerability atlases, epidemiological risk atlases and early warning systems for meteorological events.

13. The strengthening of territorial regimes to safeguard human lives and the most vulnerable ecosystems, such as islands, coastal areas, arid zones, and regions prone to flooding or drought, channelling national and international investments toward infrastructure.

14. An appeal to all countries, according to their capacity and international support, to intensify mitigation measures in the forestry sector so as to reduce the emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation based on the conservation of biodiversity, the maintenance and expansion of carbon sinks and sustainable forest management. We also demand targeted activation of the REDD+ programme (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) in 2011 and hope that one of the agreements reached at COP16 will be the approval of minimum operating rules for the REDD+ mechanism and the definition of financing mechanisms.

15. The encouragement of all countries to put in place national low carbon growth plans and national energy transition programmes for the short, medium and long term, with the aim of sustaining economic growth at the national level, particularly in developing countries, by significantly reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. Priority should be given to the development and strengthening of mechanisms offering clean and renewable alternative technologies according to national circumstances and priorities.

16. The promotion of information and education on climate change issues.

### III. COMMITMENTS BY THE MEXICAN CONGRESS

The Mexican Congress commits to taking the actions listed below and hopes that the legislatures of other countries, as their specific characteristics and situations permit, will communicate similar commitments to the IPU. We trust that the IPU will inform COP16/CMP6 and the international community about these parliamentary commitments.

17. Support for the targets agreed to by the Mexican government during COP15 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% relative to the trend through 2030 and, by 2050, to achieve emission level 50% below those recorded in 2000, conditioned on the receipt of international financing and technology transfer.

18. Adjustments to our national legal framework as necessary to strengthen activities for the reduction of vulnerability, adaptation to climate change, mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, transition to the consumption of clean forms of energy, sustainable management, and the maintenance and expansion of carbon sinks, emphasizing the principles of equity, additionality, and comprehensiveness.

19. The development of legislative reforms, with financial and/or technical support from the relevant international agencies, to ensure that national education programmes, formal and informal, provide information, instruction and training on climate change and the adaptation and mitigation efforts planned or already underway.

20. Encouragement of the preparation and presentation of national communications and, as the case may be, reports to supplement those communications, to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in accordance with the timetable and content specified by the Conference of the Parties, or at least once every four years.

21. The national legislative reforms necessary to enable our country to transition toward an economy based on low consumption of fossil fuels. The promotion of competitive opportunities incentivizing governments and the private sector to seek efficient solutions to climate change. We also undertake to promote the inclusion of sustainability criteria for the construction of housing and housing developments, which could include the use of "environmentally friendly" technologies and materials.

22. The incorporation of provisions in national law to recognize the vulnerability and capacity to contend with climate change of small farmers, indigenous peoples, women and small communities in order to generate the conditions necessary for equitable access to climate change mitigation and adaptation resources, programmes and projects, and to draw on their knowledge and capacity in this area.

23. The allocation and approval of available budgetary resources, in accordance with national needs and based on available diagnostic assessment of the environmental and social costs of climate change, to be channelled to adaptation and mitigation activities.

24. The proposal of legislative measures to develop as quickly as possible national, regional and local vulnerability atlases; epidemiological risk atlases and territorial regimes with the aim of channelling future national and international investments and taking precautionary measures to help us safeguard the most vulnerable human lives and ecosystems, such as islands, coastal regions, arid zones and regions prone to flooding or drought.

25. Efforts to promote the strengthening and development of institutional and human capacity in the field of climatology as well as national early warning systems for meteorological events with the decisive cooperation and support of international agencies and academic and meteorological research institutions.

26. The construction and strengthening – with technical support from the international agencies, including the FAO, as well as international cooperation agencies – of reliable, effective and internationally standardized greenhouse gas information, measurement, reporting and verification systems. Efforts to promote the organized and active participation of all sectors of society to ensure impartiality and transparency in emissions reporting and the effective and timely use of financial resources.

27. The strengthening of mechanisms to finance research on the health risks associated with climate change, with a view to making the knowledge acquired accessible to the public, placing emphasis on the training of specialists qualified for the timely identification of health risks and the most effective interventions for confronting them, through the development of public policies appropriate for each sector.

We request that the Presidency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union transmit this resolution and parliamentary commitments to the governments and parliaments of the member states and to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.