



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

+41 22 919 41 11
+41 22 919 41 60
postbox@ipu.org

Chemin du Pommier 5
Case postale 330
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva – Switzerland
www.ipu.org

Office of the
Secretary General

Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21/CMP11)

Advance Information Note

Geneva, 17 June 2015

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 11th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, commonly known as COP21/CMP11, will take place in Paris, France, from 30 November to 11 December 2015. The annual sessions of the United Nations Climate Change Conference attract thousands of participants from government, parliament, business, academia, the scientific community and non-governmental organizations.

The IPU has taken the lead in mobilizing parliaments to take an active part in this process. The forthcoming UNFCCC session in Paris will be of special importance because it is expected to culminate in the adoption of a global, legally binding agreement to tackle climate change. The governing bodies of the IPU have decided to organize a Parliamentary Meeting in Paris, in line with the positive experiences of similar events organized by the IPU in conjunction with UNFCCC sessions in Copenhagen (2009), Cancún (2010), Durban (2011) and Lima (2014).

I am pleased to inform you that the IPU and the French Parliament have already embarked on the practical preparations for the **Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of COP21/CMP11**, which will be held on **5 and 6 December 2015**, on the premises of the National Assembly and the Senate respectively.

The Meeting will be held with a view to providing parliamentarians with an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the main issues and orientations of COP21/CMP11, interact with government negotiators directly involved in the Conference decision-making process, gain better knowledge of the recommendations adopted by the IPU with regard to parliamentary action on climate change, and exchange views on parliamentary follow-up to the Climate Change Conference in Paris.

As on past occasions, the Meeting is intended for parliamentarians who will be present in Paris for the UNFCCC session as members of official national delegations or in any other capacity, such as observers representing civil society organizations. To ensure the success of the Meeting, it is of paramount importance to ensure that each parliament nominate MPs who are directly involved in activities dealing with environmental protection and climate change.

In the run-up to the Parliamentary Meeting in Paris, the IPU intends to make the most of its forthcoming 133rd Assembly (Geneva, 17-21 October 2015) to hold broad consultations on the content of a possible outcome document of the Meeting. A pre-draft of this document, to be prepared by the French Parliament, will be discussed at the session of the IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade.

Likewise, the IPU Secretariat is currently working on a draft of the Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change, which is meant to accompany the intergovernmental agreement to be adopted in Paris and should serve as a policy directive offering a medium- to long-term vision of IPU objectives and priorities in the field of climate change and related areas of sustainable development. We expect the draft Plan to be ready in time for the Parliamentary Meeting in Paris, with a view to its formal endorsement by the Governing Council of the IPU at its 198th session in Zambia next March.

The programme of the Parliamentary Meeting in Paris and relevant practical information, including the registration form, will be circulated to all parliaments closer to the date. It is recommended, whenever possible, that delegates to the Parliamentary Meeting travel to Paris as members of official national delegations to COP21/CMP11. This is by far the easiest way to ensure that their transportation, visa, and accommodation needs are dealt with in a centralized way. More importantly, they will then be automatically accredited to the UN Climate Change Conference and receive ID badges allowing them unrestricted access to COP21/CMP11 premises. We therefore urge you to contact your country's relevant ministry without delay.

We must stress that the IPU and the French Parliament are not in a position to facilitate accreditation to the UN Climate Change Conference and cannot provide visa assistance for entry into France. These matters should be dealt with by each delegation individually, as part of the overall COP21/CMP11 accreditation procedure.

Should your delegates require assistance with finding hotel accommodation in Paris in relative proximity to the National Assembly and the Senate, we advise you to make use of an on-line booking facility provided by the French Parliament (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/cop21/hotels.htm>). It is a useful tool for booking rooms at a preferential rate in the period from 3 to 7 December.

I avail myself of this opportunity to inform you about two important initiatives with a direct bearing on the Parliamentary Meeting in Paris. The 2015 edition of the *Global Climate Legislation Study* was released to the general public at the beginning of June. It is a unique source of authoritative information on the state of play in national legislation on climate-related questions. Prepared by the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment (the London School of Economics and Political Science) with the support of the IPU and GLOBE International, the Study covers 98 countries plus the European Union, which together account for 93 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. The Study is now available online (<http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/publication/2015-global-climate-legislation-study/>). We invite your delegates to make good use of it in preparation for the meeting in Paris.

Similarly, in April 2015 a group of leading scientists published an "*Earth Statement*", which clarifies, in the form of eight essential elements, what the international climate agreement in Paris should achieve in order to provide the world with a good chance of avoiding dangerous climate change. The IPU President, Mr. Saber Chowdhury, was among the first to have supported the *Earth Statement*. Parliamentarians are invited to follow his example by supporting the Statement online (<http://earthstatement.org/>).

The Parliamentary Meeting in Paris will provide multiple opportunities for more actions of this nature. We count on the participation of members of your Parliament in the forthcoming events in Paris.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Chungong
Secretary General