



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



REGIONS OF
CLIMATE ACTION



USC Schwarzenegger Institute

AGREEMENT ON COMMON ACTION

Between:

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the world organization of parliaments. Founded in 1889, it has become a global forum for parliamentary dialogue, cooperation and action. It advances democracy and assists parliaments and parliamentarians throughout the world to fulfil their mandates. The IPU facilitates political parliamentary debate, dialogue and cooperation. It promotes and defends democracy and the rule of law. It develops standards, disseminates information on good practices and helps build parliamentary capacity and efficacy. It defends the human rights of members of parliament and promotes respect for universal values, norms and principles. It works in support of gender equality and the participation of women, minorities and indigenous peoples in political and public life. The IPU assists parliaments in coping with a growing international agenda and brings in a parliamentary dimension to the work of the United Nations and other multilateral institutions, including for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

The R20 – Regions of Climate Action was created in 2010 by the former Governor of California, Mr. Arnold Schwarzenegger, to tackle urgent environmental, economic, energy and health issues at the subnational level. R20 is a global operation in cooperation with the United Nations, a coalition of partners led by sub-national governments working to identify, prepare and finance bankable green infrastructure projects, delivering local economic and environmental benefits in the form of reduced energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions; strong local economies; improved public health; and new green jobs. Impartial and independent, mobilizing local and national governments, businesses and investors, R20 works the full-length of the project development value chain harnessing resources and aligning interests towards the shared objective of delivering bankable low-carbon projects.

The USC Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy is a California based institute committed to advancing post-partisanship, where leaders put people above political parties and work together to find the best ideas and solutions to benefit the people they serve. The Institute seeks to influence public policy and public debate in finding solutions to global challenges, including climate change.

The three Organizations mentioned above are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Parties".

I. Purpose

The purpose of the present Agreement is to create a platform for mutually beneficial and action-oriented partnership between the Parties with a view to stimulating effective parliamentary action on climate change.

II. Context

The Agreement is concluded in the context of global multi-stakeholder efforts to provide a coordinated response to climate change.

Within the United Nations system, three important processes are currently supplementing each other:

- The 2030 development agenda, adopted by Heads of State and Government at the United Nations Summit in September 2015 in New York, includes a stand-alone goal on "urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts".
- Negotiations carried out under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are expected to produce a new universal climate change agreement at the COP21/CMP11 session in Paris.
- An agreement known as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-30 was concluded in March 2015.

The IPU has elaborated its own Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change, to be formally adopted at the statutory IPU Assembly in Lusaka, in March 2016. The Plan is meant to ensure that legislative responses to the three United Nations processes are consistent and mutually reinforcing.

The R20 – Regions of Climate Action, which is a leader in generating a bottom-up movement through the mobilization of regional and local actors world-wide, organized the first World Summit of Regions for Climate in Paris in October 2014. The final Declaration of the Summit was signed by seven major networks of cities and regions representing over 3000 sub-nationals, as well as hundreds of private sector representatives.

III. Operating principles and action areas

The Parties undertake to consult with each other and establish as soon as possible a list of projects and initiatives relating to building the capacity of parliaments to undertake effective action on climate change during an initial period of five years (2016-2020).

In conformity with the IPU's Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change, particular attention will be devoted to projects and initiatives aimed at:

- Raising awareness among parliamentarians of the challenge of climate change and building cross-party support for addressing climate risks;
- Building the capacity of parliaments to undertake responsible climate-related legislative action, including through oversight of the implementation of international and national commitments relating to greenhouse gas emissions;
- Showcasing of good parliamentary practices in terms of climate-related legislation and oversight;
- Enhancing parliamentary contribution to relevant UN processes, including implementation of the 2030 development agenda, the UNFCCC, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- Supporting stronger links between legislators and relevant civil society organisations.

A roadmap and schedule of operations will be developed and approved by the Parties in order to implement projects and initiatives and ensure their follow-up. The related budgets and funding sources will be subject to agreement by the Parties.

The Parties will jointly carry out operational management of projects and initiatives in conformity with the present Agreement, making sure that such activities are consistent with the respective missions of the Parties.

As a first step, the Parties will develop a comprehensive professional development and capacity building program for parliamentarians with focus on practical modalities of the transition to the green economy and their translation into appropriate national and local legislations.

IV. Communication and events

The Parties agree to coordinate and exchange information on the communication they may undertake in connection with the present Agreement. To use the image or reputation of the other Party for communication purposes, each Party must obtain the prior consent of the Party concerned.

The Parties agree to communicate the purpose and scope of as well as activities undertaken under this Agreement among their respective members and partners. To this end, R20 is willing to provide its projects case studies and best practices to IPU members in order to promote replication and scaling up of those projects in other regions of the world.

The Parties undertake to further strengthen their collaboration through joint participation in international events, promotion of various joint activities and dissemination of relevant information during events related to climate change and the green economy.

V. Exchange of information and correspondence

All correspondence relating to the present Agreement must be in writing (post or e-mail) and addressed to the following representatives:

Focal point for the IPU:

Mr. Serguei Tchelnokov
Senior Advisor and Programme Manager
Inter-Parliamentary Union
5, chemin du Pommier
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex / Geneva, Switzerland
Tel. + 41 22 9194150
E-mail: postbox@ipu.org

Focal point for R20:

Mr. Christophe Nuttall
Executive Director of R20
48 chemin du Grand Montfleury
1290 Versoix / Genève, Switzerland
Tel. + 41 22 755 65 48
E-mail: cnuttall@regions20.org

Focal point for the USC Schwarzenegger Institute:

Mrs Bonnie Reisse
Global Director
USC Price
Lewis Hall 312
Los Angeles, California, 90 089 - 0626

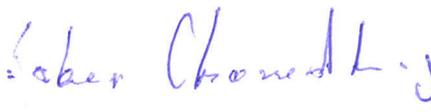
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Signed in Paris, France, on 5 December 2015.

For R20 and the USC Schwarzenegger
Institute for State and Global Policy


Mr. Arnold Schwarzenegger
Founding Chair, R20

For the Inter-Parliamentary Union


Mr. Saber H. Chowdhury
President, Inter-Parliamentary Union