



Event Name: Parliamentary Meeting On The Occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference

Organizers: Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliament of Fiji and the German Parliament

Date/Time: 12 November

Location: COP 23 – University of Bonn

Expectation: Remarks (~8-10 minutes)

Context:

- ES remarks at Special briefing – Taking the Paris Agreement Forward
- Input: From oversight, emphasize what parliaments do. Please refer to speech from last year at COP22. Elaborate on the idea of parliaments working at national level. Raise visibility on the issue and awareness that people need to be compliance with rules.

Audience:

- Parliamentarians
- COP 23 attendees – negotiators, delegates, experts

Proposed Narrative:

Mr. Secretary General, Martin Chungong,
Honorable parliamentarians,

Last year, I attended this gathering following a major milestone – the Paris Agreement had just entered into force.

One year later, as of today, 169 nations have ratified the agreement. This would not be possible without you and your efforts.

Ladies and gentlemen,



This conference is taking place in a context that underlines the need for urgent action.

Extreme weather events are affecting every continent on the planet. People are suffering. Lives and livelihoods have been lost.

These impacts are now more common in more places than ever before.

When our UN Secretary-General António Guterres saw the damage in the Caribbean firsthand, he said we have “a collective responsibility... to stop this suicidal development.”

The message is clear. We no longer have the luxury of time. We have to act now.

The World Meteorological Organization shows that CO₂ concentrations in our atmosphere are rising at an alarming rate – and 2017 is likely one of the top-three hottest years.

And the latest from UN Environment is that current climate commitments fall far short of our global goals.

Never before has humanity seen a challenge like this.

We must transform all aspects of development – energy, finance, transport, urban planning and land management. We must plan for inevitable impacts.



This is the vision outlined in the Paris Agreement and Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is a deep transformation – and one that has to happen quickly.

So, it is a challenge... but it is a challenge we should welcome. Because at the same time, acting on climate change will open opportunity across the world.

This is why Bonn must be a launch pad towards the next, higher level of ambition by all nations.

To be that launch pad... we need action by all.

Every level of society, every community, and every sector of every economy must be involved. We need all of you to take the Paris Agreement forward.

Regional and city governments are sharing how they are getting on the path to sustainable development. Businesses and investors are showing the world their ambitious actions.

Young people, indigenous people and people from all walks of life are here in solidarity and support of higher ambition... And they are speaking out on behalf of the planet that sustains us all.

Parliamentarians play a crucial role in accelerating that action – moving us further, faster, together.



Parliamentarians turn national climate action plans into concrete action.

You put in place the legal and governance framework. The foundation for transforming development in all the areas I mentioned before – and many more.

As Paris Agreement implementation now shifts to the country level... You can accelerate action.

Policies you put in place to incentivize for example renewable energy, energy efficiency or sustainable transportation reduce the emissions that drive risk.

Investing that little extra up front for resilient infrastructure protects people when extreme weather hits – and helps get the economy up and running more quickly afterwards.

Sustainable management of your country's natural capital – forests and soils and coastal ecosystems – helps absorb emissions. It also improves food and water security, and provides good jobs.

These steps close the gap between our ambition and our goals – and puts us on course to the transformation that achieves our climate and sustainability goals.

This in turn protects our planet and improve the lives of billions of people today – and the generations that will come tomorrow.



Ladies and gentlemen, this is what we are working towards. A better future where every community can thrive on a healthy planet.

Together, we can deliver this secure, sustainable future to the citizens we serve.

We can turn the vision of Paris into every country's reality.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing your continued contributions to our climate-resilient future.