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**CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MODELS,
AND RENEWABLE ENERGIES**

***Preliminary draft resolution submitted by the co-Rapporteurs
Mr. Átila Lins (Brazil) and Mr. Hans-Joachim Fuchtel (Germany)***

The 120th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Considering* that climate change is a key human development issue for our generation and will impact directly on humankind's development prospects,
- (2) *Recalling* that people living today have the right to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature and that processes taking place today must not undermine the fulfilment of the development and environmental needs of present and future generations,
- (3) *Noting* that the protection of natural resources worldwide is a core concern of parliaments and governments worldwide,
- (4) *Aware* that modern economies are characterized by forms of energy-production technology which constitute the main sources of anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and that the effects of climate change are already observable, some of them having devastating implications,
- (5) *Recalling* that, in addition to the depletion of the ozone layer, the drastic increase worldwide in greenhouse gas emissions is regarded as the main cause of global warming,
- (6) *Considering* that the rapidly accelerated melting of the polar icecaps is a clarion call for immediate action,
- (7) *Noting* that the causes and effects of climate change are extremely uneven, that the difference in pollution intensity is clearly demonstrated by a comparison between developing, newly developed and industrialized nations and that particular importance therefore should therefore be attached to the principle of shared responsibility,
- (8) *Recalling* that the community of nations has been dealing since the late 1970s with climate change, its causes, consequences and necessary counter measures,
- (9) *Recalling* that the international community raised this issue at the First World Climate Conference (Geneva, 1979); the Vienna Conference on depletion of the ozone layer (1985); the International Conference in on the protection of the ozone layer (Montreal, 1987); the Toronto Conference on global warming (1988); via the establishment of the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988; the Second World Climate Conference (Geneva, 1990); the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), known as the Earth Summit; the first Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP1 - Berlin, 1995) and the third Conference of the Parties (COP3 - Kyoto, 1997); in the Kyoto Protocol and at the G8 summits and at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (Bali, 2007),

(10) *Mindful of* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992), which states that sustained economic progress and development are only possible if combined with environmental protection, and which established the principle of a global right to sustainable development,

(11) *Recalling* that the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC - 1992) agreed to reduce emissions of anthropogenic greenhouse gases, alone or through cooperation, to 1990 levels and to stabilize the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases at a level that would prevent any dangerous anthropogenic disruption of the climate system,

(12) *Welcoming* the fact that the G8 States, together with the States parties to the UNFCCC, have a shared vision of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions by at least half by 2050 (statement adopted at the G8 summit held in Hokkaido Toyako on 8 July 2008),

(13) *Aware* that these principles cannot be put into practice unless States throughout the world enter into a new and fair partnership involving governments, peoples and the key components of societies and unless the fight against poverty, an appropriate population policy, the reduction and elimination of unsustainable consumption and production practices, and the full involvement of the population in political decision-making are recognized as prerequisites of sustainable development,

(14) *Noting* that the third Conference of Parties held in Kyoto represents a milestone in the implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change since the Kyoto Protocol adopted there contains the first legally binding limitation and reduction obligations for industrialized countries,

(15) *Recalling* that, in the Kyoto Protocol, the States parties undertook to reduce their emissions of six greenhouse gases or groups of greenhouse gases to at least 5 per cent below 1990 levels by the year 2012,

(16) *Considering* that, in addition to cuts in their own emissions, States have three flexible mechanisms at their disposal to help them in the pursuit of this goal, namely: global trading of rights to emit greenhouse gases (emissions trading); the implementation of measures in developing countries within the framework of the Clean Development Mechanism(CDM); and project-based cooperation with other industrialized nations for the reduction of emissions, the cuts achieved being measurable against national reduction targets (joint implementation),

(17) *Recalling* the commitment made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of September 2000, which established the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and *emphasizing* the following goals: Goal 1: to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; Goal 7: to ensure environmental sustainability; and Goal 8: to develop a global partnership for development,

(18) *Considering* the final text of the agreements and commitments adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2002), known as the Monterrey Consensus, and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), which reaffirmed the MDGs and emphasized the role of all stakeholders in the process of development funding,

(19) *Underscoring* that, according to the Human Development Report for 2007/2008, climate change is undermining international efforts to fight poverty and is hindering attempts to honour commitments to achieve the MDGs and that ensuring environmental sustainability is therefore a major factor in the elimination of poverty, one of the unanimously agreed goals of the international community,

(20) *Noting* that poor sectors of the population in developing countries are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change because of their limited capacity to adapt and that this gives them a particular claim on the solidarity and support of the industrialized nations,

(21) *Underscoring* the need to be aware of the fact that energy use is a prerequisite of economic and social progress, but that its uncontrolled use has a huge impact on the environment and hence on vital natural resources,

(22) *Aware* that the vast majority of humankind cannot live without electric power and liquid fuels and that approximately two billion people in the world have no access to electric power,

(23) *Considering* that there are stark imbalances even within societies with regard to people's capacity to cope with the ravages on the climate and that these are reflected especially in the precarious situation of women in developing countries, which is often a direct result of the link between the climate, the environment and the absence of security of supply,

(24) *Aware* that climate change threatens liberty and restricts people's freedom of choice by overturning the Enlightenment concept that human progress will necessarily lead to a future that is better than the present and the past,

(25) *Cognizant* that the industrialized nations and the countries with growing economies should honour their commitments to the fight against underdevelopment and poverty in accordance with the pledges made by the Members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),

(26) *Noting* that the increasing interdependence of producer, consumer and transit countries creates a need for dialogue in a spirit of cooperation, which will enable these countries to benefit fully from their mutual dependence and promote global energy security with due regard for the interests of all stakeholders (Kiev Declaration of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly - 2007),

(27) *Resolutely condemning* all efforts to use energy security and supply issues as a means of exerting political pressure,

(28) *Underscoring* that the nations of the world should create mechanisms for responding to crises and supply shortages, in other words an energy crisis-management system,

(29) *Considering* the outcome of the discussions that took place during the International Conference on Biofuels, held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 17 to 21 November 2008,

(30) *Considering* the Declaration of Sao Paulo signed by 20 parliamentarians from all continents present at the Special Session for Parliamentarians on Parliaments and Biofuels, held in the wings of the above-mentioned International Conference on Biofuels,

(31) *Aware* that, in view of the effects of climate change, which are already recognizable today, little time is left for effective action to reduce the volume of greenhouse gases,

1. *Calls on* the governments and parliaments of the world to recognize that all energy sources are essentially finite;
2. *Urges* governments to recognize that safeguarding natural resources in the spirit of the MDGs depends on both the creation of a global development partnership and a common commitment to a vigorous struggle against global poverty and hunger;
3. *Calls on* parliaments to understand that they bear a special responsibility for the preservation of vital natural resources on our planet;
4. *Calls for* the protection of the global climate, careful stewardship of valuable resources and worldwide sustainable development as key challenges of the 21st century that can only be met if industrialized, developing and newly developed countries act together;
5. *Urges* those States that have not already done so to sign and ratify the Kyoto Protocol;
6. *Encourages* the development of the emissions-trading system in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol, thereby providing an opportunity for non-signatory States to participate;
7. *Calls on* States to increase cost efficiency and flexibility in the pursuit of climate-related goals by means of a global emissions-trading system and extension of the project-based mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol;
8. *Encourages* developed countries to promote the transfer of technology to developing and newly developed countries in order to raise environmental, health and living standards in those countries and to coordinate the pursuit of environmental, economic and development objectives;
9. *Urges* States to step up implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) with a view to minimizing the cost of achieving the contractually agreed reduction targets while using the mechanism to promote the transfer of state-of-the-art technology to developing countries;
10. *Calls for* greater energy efficiency, particularly with regard to everyday appliances and devices, such as lighting, computers and televisions, with a view to further reducing energy consumption and, through energy savings and more efficient energy use, cutting emissions of greenhouse gases;

11. *Encourages* countries to emulate the Japanese top-runner programme and to work to ensure that the most energy-efficient appliance is used as the benchmark for all other appliances;
12. *Urges* governments to involve tradesmen, farmers and manufacturers in efficiency and energy-saving initiatives;
13. *Calls on* the relevant authorities to ensure that buildings to be constructed or renovated are designed so as to require less energy for heating and cooling and to use energy from renewable sources;
14. *Urges* governments to engage with the automobile industry, with which particular responsibility rests in this context, and urge it to build low-energy environment-friendly vehicles;
15. *Encourages* the automobile industry to promote the increased use of sustainable biofuels such as ethanol, recognizing the ever increasing importance of renewable energy sources in the context of an environmentally sustainable climate policy;
16. *Recommends* that it be made clear that the increased use of biofuels should not lead to excessive conversion of the natural landscape to arable land or cause environmental damage or restrict food production;
17. *Calls on* the parliaments of industrialized nations in particular to ensure that their governments contribute to the fight against global climate change and to the reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions by equipping and retrofitting buildings with electricity, heating and cooling systems fuelled by renewable energy and by modernizing building stocks and equipping them with energy-efficient technology;
18. *Urges* governments to support the global expansion of renewables (wind power, biomass and biogas, photovoltaics and solar energy, hydroelectricity and geothermal energy) as a major source of energy supply since renewables are the best means of promoting the diversification of resource use, helping to cut CO₂ emissions, contributing to energy self-sufficiency and security of supply, reducing dependence on fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal) and mineral resources (uranium), and helping to boost regional economies and safeguard jobs through reliance on local energy sources;
19. *Encourages* governments to support research on the development and promotion of renewable energy both nationally and internationally in the interest of humankind;
20. *Urges* governments to increase, through research and development, the ratio of renewables to conventional energy sources in the energy mix;
21. *Calls on* States to improve existing climate-protection technology through research and development in order to create more mechanisms for the fight against climate change;
22. *Encourages* States to take into account the following factors when choosing nuclear energy as an option for CO₂-free energy production: the finite nature of natural resources, including uranium; the highly complex and sensitive nature of this

technology, which can entail malfunctions with serious consequences; the impact of nuclear accidents on the environment and people's lives (e.g. Chernobyl); the unresolved problem of final disposal; and the fact that the long-term problems posed by climate change cannot be solved by nuclear technology alone;

23. *Urges* States to bear in mind that the separation and underground storage of carbon dioxide (carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology), which was developed to counteract the high emissions from coal and gas, may ultimately be no more than a transitional expedient;
24. *Encourages* States to recognize, nevertheless, that this technology can also make an important contribution to the fight against climate change, because it allows for the environment-friendly use of raw materials that are available in large quantities in various newly developed and developing countries;
25. *Calls on* States to give high priority to the development of energy-storage systems and alternative fuels and to intensify research efforts in the fields of hydrogen and other fuel cells;
26. *Urges* States to give serious consideration to the development of infrastructure, such as the so-called "hydrogen highways", for the use of hydrogen technology;
27. *Encourages* States to attach greater importance in the future to a multilateral response to the challenge of sustainable climate protection in the context of a "global domestic policy", a challenge that must commit nations to ensure that every political decision is governed by the need to preserve our planet's vital natural resources;
28. *Calls on* governments to pursue large-scale national and international public-awareness campaigns to highlight the need to combat climate change and the importance of renewable energy sources;
29. *Urges* the competent authorities to examine whether in Europe the links between gas and oil prices can be severed;
30. *Calls on* States to encourage the decentralization of solar electricity and heating plants to avoid the transmission losses that result from long supply lines;
31. *Urges* States to recognize that this applies in particular to the supply of electricity from solar plants in desert areas, which would make it possible to provide reasonably priced, reliable and sustainable electricity supplies in the desert areas of North Africa, for example, and to supply the countries of the Middle East and North Africa with drinking water from desalination plants; with the aid of such networks, the political struggle against climate change could receive fresh supranational impetus, and political tensions could be defused;
32. *Encourages* the establishment of an international centre of excellence in order to foster biofuel research and development;
33. *Also encourages* information exchange among Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union aimed at technological development and international cooperation in the area of biofuels.