



# 123<sup>rd</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION AND RELATED MEETINGS

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Committee on UN Affairs  
Item 5

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## STATE OF PLAY IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING SESSION OF THE UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

### Pre-draft of the Outcome Document of the Parliamentary Meeting in Cancún submitted by the Mexican Congress

*The Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP16/CMP6) will take place on 6 December 2010, in Hotel Omni in Cancún (Mexico). The Meeting is expected to adopt an outcome document, to be transmitted to the UN Conference. The Mexican Congress, as the host of the Parliamentary Meeting in Cancún, has prepared a pre-draft of the outcome document, reproduced below. The IPU Members are invited to study the pre-draft and provide comments and observations on its form and content when the corresponding agenda item is dealt with by the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs during its meeting in Geneva. A revised version of the draft will be posted on the IPU website after the 123<sup>rd</sup> Assembly.*

## DECLARATION OF THE WORLD'S PARLIAMENTARIANS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

As parliamentarians from 155 countries gathered in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2010 to take part in COP16, we express our most energetic dissatisfaction with the breakdown in negotiations that should have led to binding commitments to avoid the ecological catastrophe now taking place.

We appeal to the governments of all nations to responsibly fulfill their duties to their respective peoples. We call on the organizations of society to intensify their actions and proposals and urge national congresses to contribute decisively to solving the major problems that endanger the survival of our species.

We call for the identification of multilateral mechanisms and instruments within the United Nations framework to stop global climate change based on an agreement recognizing the interdependence between countries and the different role that each has played in generating climate change; we urge solidarity across the generations and shared responsibility among public, private and social actors.

Climate change is a scientific fact, and resolving it a mandate of the human conscience. Climate change has resulted from decisions taken by the dominant powers, under government auspices, many years ago. It is part of a systemic crisis that has erupted in the financial sector but that encompasses the full range of economic, social and ecological phenomena. The problem will require radical and coordinated solutions.

The vulnerability of many countries and regions stems from their inequality, characterized by an excessive concentration of income, the diminished regulatory capacity of States, and the predatory acts of a market economy. What is required is a universal model for sustainable development, unlike anything now in place.

The "new pact with nature" should be the expression of a political and economic consensus founded on international equity, putting an end to the arms race, the over-exploitation of natural resources and the degradation of workers.

The United Nations must be thoroughly renovated to meet new challenges with the efficiency required by this multipolar era. Collective security should not be confined to the control of armed conflict; it must flow from a binding system that can ensure global security and a decent life for future generations.

Climate change calls for the emergence of a global citizenry, exercising its rights through the procedures of participatory democracy and regaining its sovereignty over political processes. As parliamentarians we must exercise our constitutional authority in support of decisions favouring the development of our nations and where necessary filling the gaps left by government failings.

We consider that addressing the complex phenomenon of climate change is the responsibility not only of our executive branches but also of our congresses, local authorities and all actors in society. We believe that international cooperation is fundamental to achieving a balanced and ambitious COP 16 agreement. It is therefore essential that parliaments take firm positions conducive to a global agreement in the following terms:

- Parliamentary participation in the promotion of systemic, comprehensive legislation sufficient to enable countries to transition toward a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a reduction in the vulnerability of natural and human systems.
- The climate change legislation formulated by congresses should include:
  - o The jointly responsible and coordinated participation of all levels of government in the prevention and solution of problems.
  - o The development of gender-focused programmes and incentives for taking appropriate measures to adapt to and mitigate climate change.
  - o Access to information and effective social participation in the development of public policies.
  - o The development of new strategic instruments, such as risk mapping, emission registers, early alert systems, and their integration with existing management mechanisms.
  - o A commitment to regular reporting in the form of "National Communications".

- A commitment from IPU to conduct global meetings of parliamentarians, at least once a year, to share agendas and define work programmes in support of governmental negotiations, analyze successful experiences and evaluate progress in the area of climate change.

We urge the Ministers responsible for taking decisions within COP 16 to reach the agreements expected by the international community. This means adopting, before the end of 2011, a binding, fair and ambitious agreement based on the Millennium Development Goals, cooperation and synergy with the secretariats of other conventions and "shared but differentiated responsibilities" among the countries.

We therefore call on COP 16 and the executive branches of all countries to work toward a global consensus on the following issues:

- Timely and due fulfillment of their contribution commitments within the COP framework to ensure effective short-, medium- and long-term financing consistent with the Parties' obligations.
- Support for creation of the Green Fund for mitigation projects, programmes and activities, including the reduction of emissions resulting from deforestation, adaptation, capacity building, and the development and transfer of technology.
- The creation of innovative financing mechanisms based on the principles of equity and efficiency and with measurable verifiable actions. International financing should support the allocation of resources to effective climate change mitigation and adaptation activities as well as energy, environmental and food security. Country financing should be additional to development assistance currently being provided.
- Groundwork for the establishment of a global tax on fossil fuel consumption, to encourage the development of technological innovation and investment in renewable energy sources.
- The implementation of public policies on a comprehensive, equitable, sustainable basis, including legal and fiscal measures to incentivize research and participation by all sectors in the development of adaptation and mitigation activities at local, national, regional and global levels.
- The development of education, science and technology conducive to the emergence of a knowledge society with sustainable patterns of production and consumption, giving priority to the development of new communication, information, monitoring, reporting and verification systems.
- The assignment of higher priority to the development and effective application 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.
- 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. We demand activation of the 2011 REDD+ programme (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), the approval

of minimum operating rules for the REDD+ mechanism and the definition of financing mechanisms.

- The encouragement of all countries to put in place national low carbon growth plans and national energy transition programmes with the aim of significantly reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, but without compromising their right to development. Priority should be given to startup activities for clean and renewable alternative technologies according to national circumstances and priorities.

We must undertake to reshape our era. It is time to move from good intentions to decisive action. Let us do everything possible to ensure that COP 16 will be the start of a new approach to multilateral governance and will establish the basis for strengthening the UN capacity to address the urgent priorities of global security and integral human development.

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