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Parliamentary contribution to the 2014 United Nations Climate Change Conference

Pre-draft of the Outcome Document of the Parliamentary Meeting in Lima submitted by the Rapporteur, Mr. Sergio Tejada Galindo (Peru)

The Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP20/CMP10) will take place on 8 December 2014 in Lima (Peru). The Meeting is expected to adopt an outcome document, which will be conveyed to the UN Conference. The Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Meeting in Lima, Mr. Sergio Tejada Galindo, appointed by the Congress of the Republic of Peru, as the host Parliament, has prepared a pre-draft of the outcome document, as presented 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 Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade during its meeting in Geneva. A revised version of the draft will be posted on the IPU website after the 131st Assembly.

1. We, parliamentarians from across the world, gathered in Lima (Peru), on the occasion of the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 10th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, express our concern that climate change continues to present a potentially irreversible threat to human society.

2. We recognize that the scientific evidence presented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicates that warming of the climate system is unequivocal: since the 1950s, many of the observed changes are unprecedented over decades to millennia. That the atmosphere and ocean have warmed, that the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, that sea level has risen, among other developments, are consequences of the increasing emission of greenhouse gases. It is therefore extremely important to work together to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere in accordance with the principal objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

3. We reaffirm the continuing necessity of efforts to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit the rise in global average temperatures to no more than 2°C above pre-industrialization levels, as agreed in COP16/CMP6, in Cancun.

4. We express our commitment to support the process that began in Durban with the objective of reaching a global agreement to contend with climate change, to be signed in Paris in 2015. A basic document for the agreement, appropriately reflecting the will, capacity and circumstances of the parties, in terms of specific commitments to address climate change, must therefore be the prepared during COP 20, in Lima.

5. We reaffirm our belief in the principles set out in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, equity and sustainable development should be incorporated into the basic document for the agreement.

6. We undertake to create the political space needed to facilitate the determination of national contributions, so that they can be communicated sufficiently in advance of the 21st Session of the Conference of Parties (during the first quarter of 2015), the aim being to make these contributions clear, transparent and understandable without undermining their legal character.

7. We note a troubling disconnect between the global commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and the objective of limiting the rise in global average temperatures to no more than 2°C above pre-industrialization levels. We therefore undertake to conduct the monitoring and develop the legal provisions needed to implement the policies and instruments for greenhouse gas mitigation, with special attention to the activities associated with industry, transport, energy, agriculture and changing soil use, so as to achieve the stated objective.

8. We recognize the importance of achieving balance between adaptation and mitigation. Support is also urgently needed for the implementation of adaptation plans in the countries most vulnerable to climate change. We call on governments to give high priority to monitoring risks and implementing measures to improve resilience in contending with the consequences of climate change. We also undertake to give greater attention to cross-border adaptation activities, such as those involved in water resource management.

9. We underscore that financing and technology transfers to developing countries are crucial to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Technological and financial resources must be managed transparently and efficiently to ensure equity among countries in the administration of climate finance and technology flows. We also underscore the need to accelerate fundraising for the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

10. We recognize the importance of environmental governance in the design, application and implementation of public environmental policies. Accordingly, we reaffirm our will to coordinate our efforts with other interested actors, and in particular local governments, civil society organizations and businesses, in the search for sustainable responses to climate change. We also consider it essential to develop an overall normative framework for the various monitoring, reporting and verification systems.

11. As parliamentarians from across the world we undertake to perform our national legislative role so as to respond to the challenge of climate change; and we recognize that our influence on the international negotiations is fundamental: without the backing of national legislation no international agreement will be credible or effective. Our active participation will therefore make it possible to establish the basis for legally effective results in 2015.