



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

+41 22 919 41 11  
+41 22 919 41 60  
postbox@ipu.org

Chemin du Pommier 5  
Case postale 330  
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva – Switzerland  
www.ipu.org

Office of the  
Secretary General

Geneva, 26 August 2015

## Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21/CMP11)

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

Two months ago, we sent you an advance information note announcing the holding of a Parliamentary Meeting in conjunction with this year's session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, due to take place in Paris, France, in December.

As you know, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is a multilateral platform providing Parties to the Convention with a permanent mechanism for conducting global negotiations on climate change. The Secretariat of the Convention organizes annual sessions on the ministerial level, known as the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP) and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP). These sessions attract thousands of participants from government, parliament, business, academia, the scientific community and non-governmental organizations. The session in Paris, COP21/CMP11, will take place from 30 November to 11 December 2015.

I am pleased to invite your Parliament to a two-day Parliamentary Meeting to be held in parallel with COP21/CMP11. Organized jointly by the IPU and the French Parliament, it will be the only official parliamentary activity held in conjunction with the UN Climate Change Conference. The Meeting will take place on 5 and 6 December 2015, on the premises of the National Assembly and the Senate respectively. A practical information note on the Meeting, its registration form and provisional programme are enclosed. Regular information updates will be posted on the IPU website (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/cop21.htm>).

The particular importance of COP21/CMP11 session in Paris stems from the fact that it is expected to adopt a new global climate change agreement, to be applied from 2020 onwards. The Parliamentary Meeting will provide parliamentarians with an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the main issues and orientations of COP21/CMP11 and the parameters of the future global climate change agreement, interact with government negotiators directly involved in the Conference decision-making process, and discuss ways of ensuring strong parliamentary involvement in the implementation of the eventual Paris agreement.

As on similar occasions in the past, the Meeting in Paris will be open to parliamentarians attending the UNFCCC session as members of official national delegations or in any other capacity, such as observers representing civil society organizations. To ensure the success of the Meeting, it is of paramount importance to ensure that each parliament nominate MPs who are directly involved in activities dealing with environmental protection and climate change.

It is recommended, whenever possible, that delegates to the Parliamentary Meeting travel to Paris as members of official national delegations to COP21/CMP11. This is by far the easiest way to ensure that their transportation, visa, and accommodation needs are dealt with in a centralized way. More importantly, they will then be accredited to the UN Climate Change Conference and receive ID badges allowing them unrestricted access to the premises of COP21/CMP11 (Paris-Le Bourget). I therefore urge you to contact your country's relevant ministry without delay.

Please note that the organizers of the Parliamentary Meeting are not in a position to facilitate accreditation to the UN Conference and cannot provide visa assistance for entry into France. These matters should be dealt with by each delegation individually, as part of the overall COP21/CMP11 accreditation procedure.

Should your delegates require assistance with finding hotel accommodation in Paris in relative proximity to the National Assembly and the Senate, we advise you to make use of an on-line booking facility provided by the French Parliament (<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/cop21/hotels.htm>). It is a useful tool for booking rooms at a preferential rate in the period from 3 to 7 December.

In the run-up to the Parliamentary Meeting, the IPU intends to hold broad consultations on the draft outcome document of the Meeting. To ensure maximum openness and transparency of the drafting process, you will find enclosed - already at this relatively early stage - a preliminary draft of the document, prepared by the Rapporteur of the Meeting, Senator Hervé Maurey of France. The draft will be discussed at the session of the IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, to be held on 19 October in the framework of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Assembly. Should your Parliament have any comments and observations about the preliminary draft, please do not hesitate to send them to the IPU Secretariat in advance of the October Assembly.

In addition to the adoption of the outcome document, the Parliamentary Meeting will be expected to discuss a Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change, a draft of which is being prepared by the IPU Secretariat. The Action Plan is meant to accompany the intergovernmental Agreement to be adopted at COP21/CMP11 and should serve as a policy directive offering a medium- to long-term vision of IPU objectives and priorities in the field of climate change and related areas of sustainable development. The Action Plan will be finalized after the Parliamentary Meeting in Paris, with a view to its formal endorsement by the Governing Council of the IPU at its 198<sup>th</sup> session in Zambia in March 2016.

Given that the COP21/CMP11 session will be taking place from 30 November to 11 December, parliamentary delegates will have ample opportunities to work with their national delegations on the days other than 5 and 6 December. They will also have the possibility of attending various parallel events and activities taking place at a dedicated space at Paris-Le Bourget site, the venue of the UN Conference. Subject to confirmation, the IPU plans to co-organize one such event together with the London School of Economics and Political Science. The event would be held specifically for parliamentarians and legislative researchers registered to COP21/CMP11. Details and the date of the event will be announced later.

We sincerely hope that members of your parliament will take part in the forthcoming COP21/CMP11 session in Paris and will also attend the Parliamentary Meeting on 5 and 6 December.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Chungong  
Secretary General