

Partnerships for Climate Action: Promoting Access to Affordable Green Energy, and Ensuring Innovation, Responsibility and Equity

(Committee on Sustainable Development)

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 148th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 27 March 2024)

The 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement to strengthen the global response to climate change, as well as the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COPs), which underline the urgent need for immediate, deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions across all applicable sectors based on available means of implementation, including through increased use of low-emission and renewable energy, just energy transition partnerships, and other multilevel and cooperative actions in the light of national circumstances,

Recalling also the IPU resolution Climate change – Let us not cross the line, adopted at the 139th IPU Assembly in October 2018, the Parliamentary action plan on climate change endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 198th session in March 2016, and the COP28 Parliamentary Meeting outcome document of December 2023,

Noting the importance of strengthening partnerships between all countries, parliaments, public and private institutions (governmental, non-governmental and inter-parliamentary), and civil society (especially vulnerable groups) to combat climate change, and that without such cooperation to facilitate climate action, the impacts of climate change will be inevitable at all levels,

Recalling the COP28 UAE Consensus, which has the potential to become a benchmark for partnerships for climate action by laying out a response to the global stocktake, putting forward a plan to close implementation gaps by 2030, calling on Parties to transition away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner to reach net zero, recognizing the crucial need to scale up adaptation finance, and introducing targets to triple renewable energy capacity globally and double the global rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030,

Recalling also the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system,

Considering that the Paris Agreement has established mechanisms and procedures allowing countries to define their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change; expressing appreciation that all Parties to the Paris Agreement have communicated NDCs that demonstrate progress towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal; and noting that more ambitious mitigation targets in NDCs are needed to reduce emissions rapidly,

Noting the launch, during the COP26 meeting in Glasgow, of the Global Methane Pledge, which is based on solid scientific data and contains a commitment to reduce global methane emissions by at least 30% below 2020 levels by 2030,

Noting also that, presently, more than 155 countries have signed the Global Methane Pledge, and recognizing that only by drastically reducing methane emissions in the current decade will it be possible to stay on track to avoid the average temperature rise in the atmosphere exceeding the 1.5°C target,

Bearing in mind that, despite making up only 16% of greenhouse gases, methane is responsible for approximately a third of global warming and traps 80 times more heat than carbon dioxide, although it dissipates in the atmosphere within decades, rather than centuries as is the case for carbon dioxide, and recognizing both forestry activity, thanks to its vital importance in capturing carbon dioxide, and the production of renewable raw materials for construction, such as wood and its derivatives, as strategic for the sustainable development of countries,

Acknowledging that the right to a clean and healthy environment, including the right to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations, is a fundamental right enshrined in both national and international laws,

Considering that parliaments play a fundamental role in the oversight and control of government policies on environmental matters as well as in budgetary allocations and enacting legislation, monitoring the implementation of corresponding legislation and regulations, and ensuring alignment between national policies and international commitments,

Considering also that many parliamentary initiatives address the need for urgent financing and climate action, including the parliamentary platforms taking shape for climate action against methane emissions,

Acknowledging that reducing carbon emissions is critical in dealing with climate change and mitigating environmental damage, and that renewable energy that does not degrade ecosystems provides a cleaner and more sustainable means to meet energy demand, bringing environmental sustainability and offering the further advantage of being able to provide power to even the most underprivileged people living in the remotest areas,

Acknowledging also that armed conflicts instigated by States or non-States have a considerable impact on the climate, causing the release of significant amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, leading to the destruction of ecosystems that currently store carbon and absorb and remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, and resulting in ecocide,

Acknowledging further that the deployment of renewables in the power, heat and transport sectors is one of the main enablers of keeping the rise in average global temperatures within reach of 1.5°C, that the need to encourage the deployment of renewable energy has increased in recent years, that more cities, regions and countries, both developed and developing, are promoting and adopting policies to deploy renewable energy, and that concrete and easily measured environmental goals are paramount in this respect,

Emphasizing the need for deep, rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C pathways, as expressed in the decision on the first global stocktake at COP28, by tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030 as well as through

accelerating zero- and low-emission technologies and transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems,

Welcoming the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, which emphasizes accelerating clean, sustainable, just, affordable and inclusive energy transitions through various pathways, as a means of enabling strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth and achieving climate objectives, and which calls for recognition of the needs, vulnerabilities, priorities and different national circumstances of developing countries and support of strong international and national enabling environments to foster innovation, voluntary and mutually agreed technology transfer, and access to low-cost financing,

Recognizing the need expressed in the decision on the first global stocktake at COP28 for States to contribute to global climate change efforts by accelerating zero- and low-emission technologies, including renewables, nuclear, abatement and removal technologies, and low-carbon hydrogen production,

Recognizing also the importance of the agreement reached at COP27 to provide loss and damage funding for vulnerable countries hit hard by floods, droughts and other climate disasters, and welcoming the subsequent operationalization of the global fund for loss and damage at COP28,

Recognizing further the role of developed countries in providing support to and enhancing cooperation with developing countries in transitioning to low-carbon, low-emission economies; emphasizing the imperative to significantly scale finance to meet the urgent and evolving needs of developing countries, including access to technology and low-cost financing; advocating a collective approach for technology transfer and development, knowledge sharing, and cultivating innovative solutions as crucial to fostering socially just, sustainable and effective progress; and emphasizing that every nation is responsible for creating an attractive investment climate that can draw in both domestic and international capital to speed up change,

Noting that developed countries, as the largest contributors to carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions, should bear the greatest responsibility,

Noting also that the world's population is growing at an unprecedented rate and that this has resulted in a dramatic increase in energy demand globally, at a rate likely to be even more rapid than population growth,

Aware that, in an effort to meet this ever-increasing energy demand and address the issue of global warming, breakthrough advances have been made in the design of technologies that can control emissions and harness power from renewable and alternative energy sources, but their costs remain unaffordable to many developing countries,

Recognizing the need to promote and encourage new technologies to scale up integration of battery energy storage systems, aimed at enabling greater integration of variable renewable energy sources and fulfilling the dynamic energy requirements of a growing population,

Encouraging the harmonization of zero- and low-carbon hydrogen standards with the goal of fostering worldwide collaboration, facilitating trade and igniting innovation, which holds the capacity to unlock economies of scale, promote technology transfer and

development, expedite the transition towards cleaner energy sources, and reach the full potential of renewable energy,

Welcoming the collaborative initiatives on universal energy access from civil society organizations for increased deployment of green energy technologies to bring energy access, ensure energy security and drive energy transition,

Recognizing the crucial role of grid interconnections, resilient energy infrastructure and regional/cross-border power systems integration in enhancing energy security, fostering economic growth, and facilitating universal energy access for all, in an affordable, reliable and sustainable manner,

Highlighting that climate change impacts individuals and communities differently, with women, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, the populations of small island developing States, indigenous groups and communities in vulnerable situations often bearing the brunt of its consequences, and calling for coordinated efforts to ensure that actions to address these challenges reflect a comprehensive and equitable approach to climate action, including through the promotion of just transition pathways,

Recognizing that women and girls are uniquely affected by the damaging effects of climate change and that steps should be taken to support women's leadership and decision making in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, resilience-building and sustainable natural resource management,

Acknowledging that youth are the most important and dynamic segment of the population in a society, that they are agents of change, entrepreneurs and innovators, and that, through education, science and technology, they are scaling up their efforts and using their skills to accelerate climate action, taking account of their common needs, such as access to quality education to prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow, the availability of decent work, equality among men and women, and a planet that is healthy, clean and sustainable,

Bearing in mind that promoting climate culture and harnessing the perspectives, new ideas and energy of young people constitute vital components in the broader efforts to address key issues affecting people of all ages, such as achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), peace and security, the right to education, health and social protection, gender equality, equal socioeconomic and political opportunities, and fighting climate change,

Acknowledging the importance of investments in sustainable, healthy lifestyles, just and sustainable energy transitions, and accelerating progress with and achievement of the SDGs, especially in developing countries, as well as in the context of the fight to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions,

Recognizing that sustainable and responsible consumption, production and trade, coupled with environmentally friendly life choices and lifestyles such as zero-waste approaches, are key to achieving the SDGs, including climate goals and inclusive economic growth,

Recognizing also the leadership of subnational governments in accelerating and scaling up climate mitigation and adaptation action through the implementation of local and

regional climate plans and actions, while effectively engaging citizens and industry in the transformative process towards responsible consumption and production,

Envisaging a comprehensive transformation in energy efficiency measures and global reduction in consumption, with the ambitious target of doubling the global annual rate of energy efficiency improvement by 2030 in a nationally determined manner, taking into account the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement and different national circumstances, pathways and approaches to foster a sustainable and responsible energy landscape on a global scale, and acknowledging that the global transition provides opportunities for and poses challenges to sustainable development, economic growth and eradication of poverty, and thus requires a coherent, just transition in different sectors of the national economy,

Recognizing the importance of accelerating the development, transfer, deployment, and dissemination of technologies, and of adopting policies to transition towards zero- and low-emission energy systems, including, inter alia, renewables, nuclear, abatement and removal technologies such as carbon capture and utilization and storage, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors, and emphasizing the need to make these technologies available and as affordable as possible to all,

Highlighting the importance of addressing environmental challenges through united climate actions and partnerships to safeguard the planet for present and future generations,

1. Emphasizes that global warming is a collective challenge requiring strengthened international cooperation and multilateral processes under the aegis of the UNFCCC framework, based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities as outlined in Article 3.1 of the Convention and Article 2.2 of its Paris Agreement; and underscores the need for added international support for developing countries;
2. Encourages parliaments to ensure a transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade to achieve the goal of net zero emissions;
3. Stresses the importance of enhancing a clean energy mix in line with 1.5°C pathways, including zero- and low-emission and renewable energy, at all levels as part of diversifying energy mixes and systems, in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards just transitions; particularly for workers whose jobs are affected by the transition away from fossil fuels;
4. Affirms support for promoting reliable, diversified, sustainable and responsible supply chains for energy transitions, including for critical minerals and materials through responsible sourcing practices and international cooperation;
5. Reaffirms parliaments' steadfast commitment, in pursuit of the objectives of the UNFCCC, to tackle climate change by strengthening the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and its temperature goals, reflecting equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances;

6. Encourages parliaments to urge their respective governments to undertake policy measures to combat climate change, promote renewable, zero- and low-emission energy, implement various schemes and initiatives, including based on the COP28 global stocktake, and establish regulatory frameworks to support green energy initiatives to the benefit of the people;

7. Calls on parliaments to actively commit to collective climate action to cut methane emissions, and ensure that: (a) NDCs explicitly include reductions of methane emissions, (b) legislative initiatives in national parliaments reduce methane emissions in the energy and waste management sectors, (c) best practices in agriculture are promoted, such as sustainable agriculture and livestock farming as strategic economic activities, (d) resources are allocated, including funding for research, technology development and implementation of methane emissions reduction strategies;

8. Also calls on parliaments to monitor whether government policies are effectively aligned with the commitments and emission reduction goals established in the Global Methane Pledge and the International Energy Agency's 75% reduction goal;

9. Further calls on parliaments to ensure that international funding in the coming years focuses on aid, investments and deployment of innovative green technologies to reduce methane emissions, namely by: (a) detecting and repairing methane emissions from oil, gas and coal production and distribution, upgrading obsolete equipment, reducing flaring and venting waste, and applying drastic emissions controls, (b) implementing better livestock and manure management practices, (c) investing in waste management (household and industrial), as well as waste reduction, requiring landfills to strictly control methane emissions, and diverting organic waste to valorization processes such as composting, protein extraction and energy production;

10. Recognizes that the unprecedented global energy crisis underlines the urgency to rapidly transform energy systems to be more secure, reliable and resilient, including by accelerating the clean, equitable, affordable and just transition to renewable, zero- and low-emission energy;

11. Encourages the collective actions and efforts to triple renewable energy capacity globally through existing targets and policies, as well as to demonstrate similar ambition with respect to other zero- and low-emission technologies, including, inter alia, renewables, nuclear, abatement and removal technologies such as carbon capture and utilization and storage, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors, and low-carbon hydrogen production, in line with national circumstances;

12. Encourages parliaments to urge their respective governments to meet their international commitments to contribute to global climate change efforts by accelerating zero- and low-emission technologies, including renewables, nuclear, abatement and removal technologies, and low-carbon hydrogen production;

13. Urges parliaments to press their governments to create international, national, regional and local enabling environments and partnerships to foster innovation, voluntary and mutually agreed upon technology development and transfer, and access to low-cost financing, including capacity-building, grant-based finance and non-debt instruments, taking into account the needs, vulnerabilities, priorities and different national circumstances of developing countries;

14. Also urges parliaments to press their governments to allocate specific budgetary resources for climate action initiatives, focusing on the implementation of sustainable, zero- and low-emission development strategies, and to prioritize capacity-building to empower all nations, particularly those facing significant socio-economic challenges and the adverse effects of climate change;

15. Encourages parliaments to establish a parliamentary mechanism to systematically monitor and report, through an evidence-based approach, the progress of climate-related legislation and the mainstreaming of green budgeting in parliamentary procedures, to ensure transparency and accountability of the climate actions taken;

16. Encourages national parliaments to cooperate with other regional and international parliaments on knowledge exchange and the transfer of best practices, policy standards and legislation regarding climate action for sustainable development and clean technology transfer and development;

17. Recommends that the IPU, other inter-parliamentary institutions and platforms, and national parliaments closely engage with relevant international climate stakeholders including the UNFCCC finance architecture and its climate technology framework as a means to strengthen parliamentary exposure and awareness on climate issues;

18. Urges parliaments to cooperate with the public and private sectors to create a conducive environment for investing in clean energy technologies and infrastructure, capacity-building and technology transfer and development, as well as to promote greater public-private partnership at the regional and international level, and to deliver a more people-centred energy transition and climate-resilient development for all;

19. Calls upon parliaments to urge their governments to work towards facilitating access to low-cost financing for developing countries, for existing as well as new and emerging clean and sustainable energy technologies, and for supporting just and sustainable energy transitions;

20. Recognizes the role of parliamentarians in raising awareness of climate change issues and of the fact that children and youth will be significantly affected in the future by climate change, and calls on governments to include youth in all climate negotiations;

21. Encourages parliaments to ensure the meaningful and equal participation of women in climate action, including gender-responsive implementation of climate goals;

22. Applauds the initiative of the IPU to engage parliaments and parliamentarians in its Parliaments for the Planet campaign, which highlights that parliaments and parliamentarians can be agents of change by contributing to ensure a just, inclusive, equitable and sustainable transition through collective, individual and institutional efforts;

23. Encourages national parliaments to take stronger climate action by implementing the IPU climate change tools, such as the 10 actions for greener parliaments, to align their work with greening initiatives, to take greater part in NDC processes and to call for more ambitious climate action plans and goals that focus on people-centred and community-led adaptation and a just and equitable energy transition at all levels;

24. Recognizes that climate equity is impossible when entities responsible for climate damage are not held accountable;

25. Emphasizes the importance of considering climate change-related damages within reparation mechanisms arising from internationally wrongful acts and of acknowledging that major past, present and future large emitters have a great responsibility in this respect;

26. Highlights the need to define ecocide as unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts.