

CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUÉ

- 1. We, the 70 Parliamentarians from 37 Parliaments and Legislatures¹ of Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries, met at the Houses of Parliament in London 5-11 July 2009 for a timely and unique “International Parliamentary Conference on Climate Change: Countdown to Copenhagen”. The aim of the Conference was to equip Parliamentarians better to hold their Executives to account on effective and just responses to climate change in the lead up to and after the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen 7 – 18 December 2009. Our overarching objective was to consider clear and targeted strategies to contribute as parliamentarians to responding to the challenge of our lifetimes – curbing global warming, keeping it well below the 2°C tipping point², and supporting adaptation and mitigation measures in a manner that respects human rights and is fair, comprehensive, inclusive and effective.**
- 2. We recognise the forthcoming UNFCCC COP meeting in Copenhagen, as a critical moment in global negotiations on climate change.** Climate scientists and projections show that the time for effective public policy to curb climate change from dangerous levels is running out; economists have highlighted that the longer climate change is left unchecked the more costly it will be to mitigate and adapt to its consequences; and the poorest and most vulnerable groups and communities around the world are already struggling to survive the impacts of climate change.
- 3. We recognise that current efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions into the Earth’s atmosphere are insufficient given the scale of action required;** that GHG emissions need to be reduced radically if global warming rates are to be kept well below the 2°C tipping point; that **emission caps need to reflect responsibility for historic emissions into the atmosphere by industrialised countries;** that **adequate resources need to be mobilised for mitigation initiatives and technologies** to be developed, shared and employed to curb effectively the current path towards dangerous global warming; and that the inclusion of mechanisms for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and payment for environmental services (PES) in a post-2012 climate regime represent significant opportunities for forest-rich countries to contribute to the achievement of this goal whilst also securing important benefits for their citizens.
- 4. We recognise that climate change is already happening;** that current GHG emissions already commit the planet to further global warming; that despite being the least responsible for current and historic global GHG emissions, **developing countries are already the worst affected** by global warming and will continue to be so in the future; that developing countries, the most vulnerable, are also the least well equipped to respond to the predicted and increasingly frequent and severe humanitarian crises and adaptation challenges posed by climate change; and that the industrialised countries have an historic responsibility for climate change which places upon them an obligation - to provide **sufficient adaptation funding, in the form of grants; to ensure these are available quickly and efficiently, and in addition to existing overseas development aid.**

¹ Australia, New South Wales, Bahrain, Bangladesh, British Virgin Islands, Cameroon, Canada, East African Legislative Assembly, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Pan African Parliament, Portugal, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Scotland, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, The Gambia, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vietnam.

² The 2°C tipping point refers to what scientists agree is the level of global warming beyond which the process and effects of global warming would be irreversible and catastrophic for ecosystems and human society on the planet.

5. **We recognise** that effective mitigation and adaptation depends on the **urgent development and transfer of appropriate technologies**, especially to the poor, and that both developed and developing countries have expertise to offer.
6. **We recognise** that rising sea levels, floods, droughts and desertification caused by escalating climate change result in **forced displacement and migration** and **we call for a global mechanism or protocol recognising the rights of environmental migrants** and global responsibilities due to them.
7. **We welcome and encourage** the UNFCCC Secretariat's continuing coordination of **regular high-level international meetings** on climate change and **we call** on developed countries to support **more inclusive processes, structures and systems of engagement** to ensure that the voices of developing countries are heard equally in negotiating processes.
8. **We recognise** that equity and justice must be guiding principles, not only between, but also within countries. More attention must be given to social, economic and human rights issues in the negotiations and their outcomes. In particular, **principles of gender equity and justice must be taken into consideration at all stages of international, regional and national climate policy-making**. The human rights of marginalised groups including rights to land and rights to shape the measures that will affect their lives must be respected.
9. As representatives of 37 Parliaments and Legislatures, **we strongly urge** our Governments to:
 - a. **Seize this moment in history** and work collectively, creatively and urgently towards a fair, comprehensive, inclusive and effective global agreement on climate change.
 - b. **Encourage and support** our COP negotiators to facilitate reaching such an **agreement** at Copenhagen and **before the expiry of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012**.
 - c. **Press for a global emission target of 40% reduction below the 1990 level by 2020**, and rigorous and sustainable investment in the realisation of this target.
 - d. **Ensure climate change mitigation policies and strategies go hand in hand with support for adaptation policies and strategies**.
 - e. **Close the gap** between estimates of **adaptation funding required** and funding already committed, and make this quickly and easily available for urgent action on adaptation.
 - f. **Adopt** a strategy of early action on **disaster preparedness and adaptation** as a **cost-effective** response to climate change and protecting past, current and future poverty reduction investments and successes - assuring policy coherence and the **efficient use of public funds**.
 - g. **Mainstream** climate change analysis **across all public policy** from health and education to immigration and defence assuring policy coherence and the efficient use of public funds
 - h. **Take into account human rights and responsibilities** under international agreements, including commitments to women's rights and the consideration of gender differences in behaviour, across all mitigation and adaptation policies and interventions.
 - i. **Take into account the needs and interests of ALL stakeholders via active consultation** with groups including women, men, children, minority and indigenous groups as well as civil society, NGOs, business and industry.
 - j. **Engage in national, regional and international level cooperation and action** to explore openly all opportunities to tackle the emerging, diverse, inter-connected, cross-border causes and consequences of climate change.
10. **We Parliamentarians pledge to:**
 - a. **Build on this conference by using our influence at local, national, regional and international levels around the world to press for a fair, comprehensive, inclusive and effective agreement at Copenhagen and for its effective, efficient and timely implementation**.
 - b. **Initiate and encourage scrutiny and debate of climate legislation in our countries**.
 - c. **Build and strengthen solidarity between Parliamentarians and forge cross-party alliances at local, national, regional and international levels, including the formation of relevant committees, associations and networks, this conference being an initial step**.
 - d. **Sensitise and educate our constituents and the broader public to build a ground swell of support for urgent political action to mitigate and adapt to climate change**.