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Network on Climate Change", Renewable
Energies



De Nationale Assemblée

Opgemaakt door:
drs. Jennifer Simons

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Session 1 Legislative Ecology of Climate Change: A Systems Perspective for Parliamentary Action

Leden van het panel: **Elliot Sucari**, Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of the American States

Dhr. Sucari is een deskundige op de afdeling "Sustainable Development" of wel Duurzame Ontwikkeling van de OAS. Hij geeft 4 belangrijke punten aan die een effect hebben op klimaatsverandering. Deze zijn:

1. Democratie
2. Mensen Rechten
3. Veiligheid
4. Ontwikkeling

Elk van deze punten hebben een effect op elkaar.

De meeste mensen zijn nu gefocused op de inspanningen van de 2030 agenda van de VN.

Hij geeft 6 punten aan waarbij er bij de 2030 agenda en de SDG's invulling kan worden gegeven in de Americas.

1. Disaster Risk Management (Risico rampenbeheersing)
2. Sustainable ecosystems Management (Management in duurzame ecosystemen)
3. Integrated water resource management (Geïntegreerde waterbeheer)
4. Sustainable Cities and communities (Duurzame steden en buurten)
5. Sustainable management of energy by prioritizing promotion of clean, renewable and environmentally sustainable energy and energy efficiency (Duurzaam beheer van energie door het stellen van prioriteiten voor de bevordering van schone, hernieuwbare en milieu vriendelijke energies en de efficiency van de energies)
6. Capacity strengthening for efficient, effective, responsible and inclusive instructions for sustainable development (de capaciteitsversterking voor efficiency, effective, verantwoorde en inclusieve instructies voor de duurzame ontwikkeling)

Verder geeft hij aan dat het parlement een visie nodig heeft om de wetten in orde te maken omtrent de klimaatsveranderingen.

Wat is de rol en de verantwoordelijkheid van het parlement over klimaatsverandering.

Panellist: Orlando Reyes, Researcher Climate Change Unit, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Orlando is een onderzoeker van de klimaatsverandering unit, economische commissie voor de latijns America en de Caraibische landen ECLAC.

Hij praat over het beleid van de regering en klimaatverandering in de wereld.

Hij haalt enkele punten aan van Klimaatsveranderingen en beleidsbesissingen.

- Klimaatsverandering Vereist een strategie voor duurzame ontwikkeling: iedereen is mede schuldig hieraan en we zullen ook het effect ervan zien
- Er zijn verschillen in het leveren van een bijdrage en ook op de manier hoe wij het beïnvloeden
- Degene die een kleine bijdrage leveren zullen degene zijn die het zwaarst getroffen zullen worden :Equity

Pannelist Derrick Oderson, Environmental lawyer and former climate change negotiator for Barbados to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Hij praat over de wettelijke implementatie van de overeenkomst van Parijs. Deze overeenkomst heeft de wereld gemeenschap bij elkaar gebracht om gezamenlijk acties te ondernemen tegen klimaatsverandering. Meer dan 90 landen hebben de overeenkomst van Parijs getekend. Het belangrijkste doel van deze overeenkomst is om de uitstoot van broeikas gassen te verminderen, zodat de gemiddelde temperatuur van de aarde niet meer dan 2 graden stijgt.

Hij geeft enkele punten aan waarbij wel wet- en regelgeving bestaat

- Many (33%) of the INDCs are built on existing Climate Change strategies, policies and legislation or facilitate the creation of new Climate Change policies and legislation
- INDCs are backed up by existing domestic laws
- National Green growth and green economies
- CC and sustainable development and related sectoral policies e.g. energy, transport, agriculture, forestry, etc.
- Comprehensive CC and energy legislation
- CC strategies, carbon taxes or levies on emissions, etc.

Deze implementatie zal nodig hebben:

- Nieuwe instituten, beleid en wetgeving
- Versterking van de bestaande klimaatsverandering wet en regulaties
- Het integreren en incorporeren van klimaatverandering in langdurige sociaal-economische ontwikkelings plannen
- Improvement of administration and performance evaluation of cc strategies and policies
- Some INDC or amendment of existing policies require parliamentary approval

Verder geeft hij aan dat de wetten omtrent de klimaatsveranderingen in de afgelopen 5 jaren verdubbeld zijn. In het jaar 2009 ging het om ongeveer 426 wetten en in 2014 was het 804. Bijna de helft van de landen die zich bezig houden met studies omtrent de klimaatsveranderingen hebben de emissiereductie doelstellingen tot 2020, de meeste van ze zijn formeel verankerd tot beleid of wet. 75 % van de globale uitstoot zijn onderworpen aan een wereldwijde emissiereductie target. Zeker 8 van de 10 landen hebben een doel voor renewable energy en 9 van de 10 landen hebben een target om koolstof arme technologieën te promoten.

Uitdagingen voor de implementatie van de Parijs overeenkomst op nationaal niveau

- Is wind de status en de kracht van het bestaande wettelijke kader? d.w.z. primaire wet, secundaire wetgeving?
- Nieuwe wetgeving of herziening van bestaande wetgeving?
- Het opnemen van de INDC-bijdragen in de nationale wetgeving legt wettelijke verplichtingen op voor de uitvoering. Zal dit leiden tot rechten die uitvoerbaar zijn?
- Hoe kunnen de verplichtingen worden afgedwongen? Door wie? bijv. Moeten er sancties zijn om mislukkingen of schendingen van verplichtingen aan te gaan om te voldoen aan doelen welke zijn overeengekomen.

Bijdrage voorzitter Simons

We have to ponder the fact that we have known for at least two to three decades that climate would become a problem for the world and we have not been able to address the problems effectively.

Finally in Paris we seem to have come on the same page, put our countries behind the same goals

In my other contributions in ParlAmericas but also in the IPU meeting in Ecuador in the year 2013, I have addressed this issue. The theme of this meeting was:

"From unrelenting growth to purposeful development "Buen vivir", new approaches, new solutions"



But even after this meeting we have seen new trade agreements like one between Europe and the USA that give corporations more and more power. When specifically developing countries try to implement legislation to protect the health of citizens and environment they can and will be confronted with law suits because of the fact that companies are of the opinion that their opportunities to make huge profits are impeded by those protective regulations.

If we do not address these issues we will keep facing difficulties to address climate change, even if we agree on activities to mitigate or adapt to the effects of climate change.

Suriname is the greenest country on earth. We contribute to mitigation but receive very little support at this time to protect our forest and switch the country from large scale mining and logging to an economy in which our development is tied to protection and management of these natural resources.

This is because we still have no effective mechanism to compensate for the carbon sequestering capacity of forests. So regularly I receive the people working on redd+ who want my country to complete one more form to check if we comply with all the regulations and tell them that while they are busy with this process, every day businesses are started in the countries that contribute

the most to carbon emissions without them completing forms for us and the forest is delivering its services

We have taken responsibility for management of this important resource of our country and developed plans to change the basis of our economy towards more sustainable sectors, but we and other countries with the same situation will need some support of the region and the world to do so effectively. Carbon producers need to pay for the services of forests and we need an effective mechanism to make that possible. This is my plea. In the mean time the countries like Suriname will be on their own and we have to eat. We are optimistic but It will be difficult to save this forest totally on our own.

Na de lunch

Session 2 Interrogating New Renewable Energy Projects

Pannelist Byron Chiliquinga, Manager, Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE)

Dhr. Byron heeft het gehad over de duurzame energie en de verschillende factoren die effect zullen hebben daarop. Hij heeft in verschillende landen in zuid-america en de caribische eilanden diverse projecten uitgevoerd w.o. Guyana, Bolivia, Guatemala etc. In Guyana heeft hij een project uitgevoerd in verschillende buurten ver gelegen van de stad. Het gaat om :

- Illumination and solar cooling for guesthouse
- Solar fruit dryer
- Fish and wild meat cooling system



In Bolivia zijn er in 3 verschillende gemeenschappen energy systemen uitgevoerd. Het gaat bij deze om zonnepanelen voor de productie van kippen en eieren.

In Guatemala is er gewerkt met ongeveer 125 families uit diverse gemeenschappen. Hieronder enkele projecten die uitgevoerd zijn:

- Micro Hydroelectric central of 96 kW
- Cardamom drying facility
- Wood Transformation Centre
- Revolving Fund - microcredit for family projects

Het heeft een goede impact gehad en ze zullen doorgaan met deze projecten.

Pannelist Neeraj Negi, Senior Evaluation Specialist, Independent Evaluation Office, Global Environmental Fund

De GEF (Global Environment Facility) is in 1991 opgericht en telt 183 lidstaten. Ze financieren ongeveer 1300 klimaatsverandering projecten die ongeveer \$ 4.7 miljard kosten. Meer dan 50 van deze projecten worden in de Americas uitgevoerd. Het gaat bij deze om wind, waterkracht, biomassa, geothermische etc.

Indicatoren gebruikt in GEF

M&E op het programma niveau

- Weinig overeengekomen indicatoren voor het verzamelen van resultaten
- Gebruikt door alle relevante projecten
- Voldoende dekken van verschillende niveaus van de casual keten programma's

M&E op project niveau

- Alle relevante nationale/ programmaniveau indicatoren gebruikt
- Aanvullende indicatoren die relevant zijn voor het opgegeven project
- Moet adequaat de verschillende niveaus van de casual keten bestrijken

Indicatoren gebruikt in GEF Re projecten in de America's

Bevordering en ontwikkeling van lokale zonne-technologieën in Chili. GEF financiert 2,7 miljoen en co financiert 31,8 miljoen.

Doelstellingen:

- Bevorderen van zonne-energie technologie overdracht en capaciteitsopbouw
- Projecten ontwikkelen naar proef zonne- technologieën (zonne-, waterverwarming en geconcentreerde zonne-energie)
- Steun voor prikkels, financieel mechanisme en publieke overhead

Indicatoren gebruikt in GEF RE projecten in de America's

Duurzame bedrijfsmodellen voor biogasproductie uit organisch stedelijk vaste afval in Argentinië. GEF financiert 2,8 miljoen, medefinanciering, 12,6 miljoen UNDP

Doelstellingen:

- biogas technologieën voor energieopwekking introduceren als onderdeel van de nationale strategie voor geïntegreerd afvalbeheer

project resultaat indicatoren:

- CO₂-uitstoot direct en indirect vermijden (replicatie)
- geïnstalleerde stroomopwekking capaciteit
- jaarlijks geproduceerde elektriciteitsvolume
- aantal mensen die worden gediend door elektriciteit geproduceerd door proef-biogas planten en replicatie
- aantal gemeenschappen met rioolwater- gebaseerde biogasprojecten
- aantal mensen getraind in biogas energiegeneratie
- financiering gemobiliseerd voor investeringen in biogas op rioolwater, enz

Relevantie voor de parlementariërs

- ✓ input / output indicatoren - bruikbaar voor toezicht en toezicht
- rapporteren over het gebruik van input, mijlpalen, output
- het identificeren en adresseren van implementatie barrières
- is programma / project goed geïmplementeerd-corrigerende maatregelen
- ✓ Resultaten indicatoren - resultaat van de overheidsuitgaven
- voordelen b.v. Vermijding van broeikasgasemissie, energieproductie, geïnstalleerde capaciteit, luchtkwaliteit, gezondheidsverbetering, werkgelegenheid, enz. en onbedoelde effecten
- effecten op kwetsbare bevolking
- waar voor je geld krijgen; gebruikte middelen / werkelijke kosten
- leren en toekomstige richting, repliceren, veranderen, beperken, verlaten?

Panellist Itza Castañeda, Gender and Sustainable Development Special Advisor, Global Gender Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature

Mevrouw Itza heeft in haar presentatie een vergelijking gemaakt tussen gender en energie. In Mexico is er zeker 6% van de bevolking die geen keuken in huis heeft. In lokale gemeenschapsgebieden waar er minder dan 2500 inwoners zijn, gebruikt 49.2 % houtskool en brandhout. Echter gaat het onderwerp van gender en energy veel verder dan het gebruik van deze dingen. Zeker 12.4 miljoen (43.4 %) van de huishoudens in Mexico leven in een energie armoede. Energie armoede neemt toe als men van de stedelijke naar landelijke gebieden verhuist. Er is waargenomen dat het niveau toeneemt naarmate de grootte van de plaats afneemt. Het aantal stedelijke huishoudens in energie armoede is 7,8 miljoen (27.5% van het totale aantal Mexicaanse huishoudens). 4,5 miljoen landelijke huishoudens bevinden zich in dezelfde positie.

Indicatoren

- betaalbare en schone energie
- deel van de bevolking met toegang tot de elektriciteit
- particuliere huishoudens die vuur of houtskool gebruiken om te koken
- huishoudens met toegang tot energiebesparende gloeilampen
- huizen met toegang tot zonnepanelen en verwarmers.

Mexico

- Vermindering van de uitstoot van broeikasgassen met 20% tegen 2030
- Pas de mensenrechten- en gender gelijkheid perspectieven toe als cross-cutting benaderingen en herken vrouwen als belangrijke spelers in de besluitvorming over energieverbruik
- benadrukken dat maatregelen niet de nadelige gevolgen moeten verhogen dat de klimaatverandering al dan niet onevenredig wordt veroorzaakt door de ongelijkheid van mannen en vrouwen

Integratie uitdagingen

- data en statistieken verzamelen die zijn gescheiden door geslacht en indicatoren die het mogelijk maken om gebruik, toegang en niveau van energie armoede te begrijpen, visualiseren, meten en vergelijken
- dit zal de besluitvorming informeren die niemand achterlaat
- meet energie armoede in huishoudens met gegevens gescheiden door geslacht, leeftijd, etniciteit, landelijke / stedelijke sectoren
- informatie die door seks is gesplitst over vrouwen en mannen deelname aan de sector

Complementair beleid

- Naast geslachtsgemak is het belangrijk om de bestaande juridische, technische en institutionele belemmeringen te herkennen en te transformeren
- Het gaat niet om het toevoegen of aggregeren van geslacht, het is een integratieproces

Betrokkenheid van de particuliere sector

- Gender als een doorslaggevende focus in de sociale impactbeoordeling
- Train externe dienstverleners om oplossingen te identificeren die betrekking hebben op gender ongelijkheid (buiten scholen, klinieken)

Afhankelijk van het ontwerp en de uitvoering kunnen beleid en instituties bijdragen tot het voortzetten van de patronen van ongelijkheid en uitsluiting of kunnen zij bijdragen aan een meer gelijkmatige uitbreiding van kansen voor vrouwen en mannen die leiden tot duurzame samenlevingen.

Renewable energy

Vraag voor onze tafel (Suriname, Jamaica, Grenada and Barbados)

What are the main challenges for the advancement of renewable energy policies in the Americas and the Caribbean?

1. Current artificially low prices of fossil fuels, relatively efficient generators that are readily available for relatively low installation cost, availability of the infrastructure and knowledge base that was developed around this way of energy production
2. Up front investment in installation for generation of renewable energy and also adjustment of distribution networks to absorb the input of renewable energy sources
3. For some countries there is also lack of awareness in the general public and policy makers alike, of the developments in the sector of renewable energy, with regard to both price and technology
4. For some regions or countries another challenge might be the availability of technical skills and knowledge for installation and maintenance

5. Specifically in the Caribbean having a private company as the incumbent energy distributor can put the brakes on the introduction of renewable energy because the incumbent sees this as competition or reduction of profit. In some of the Caribbean countries this has led and will lead to legal procedures

Bijdrage aan de discussie over implementatie van specifieke projecten zoals in de transportsector. Elektrische bussen worden genoemd evenals problemen met openbaar vervoer.

I would like to bring to the table that city planning is also very important for the issue of curbing emissions.

Geschreven bijdrage Voorzitter evaluatie conferentie voor ParlAmericas

The 2nd Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change has given parliamentarians of the Americas a very good orientation on this issue, which will enable them to develop relevant legislation with special emphasis on the role of renewable energy, for the implementation of the Paris agreement and the sustainable socio-economic development of their countries. Given the real and immediate danger of climate change for the peoples and economies of some countries of the region, the initiative of ParlAmericas to address this issue in a structural and permanent way, through the Network on Climate Change will prove to be of great importance for our region.

Op de laatste dag was de verkiezing voor het bestuur van de werkgroep

De voorzitter stelde zich verkiesbaar voor de functie van vice president voor de Climate Change group voor de regio van Zuid Amerika. Voor deze regio waren er twee kandidaten waaronder voorzitter Simons. Het besluit viel dat mw. Simons de functie zal vervullen. De kandidaat van Ecuador zal invallen ingeval van afwezigheid van mw Simons de functie waarnemen.

Buiten de conferentie

Voorzitter heeft een onderhoud gehad met dhr. Rolando Gonzalez, Secretary of Commissions of Parlatino, omtrent de achterstand die Suriname heeft opgelopen met de jaarlijkse contributie.

Suriname heeft ongeveer 10 jaren geen financiële bijdrage geleverd aan de organisatie Parlatino waarvan wij lid zijn. De schulden zijn intussen behoorlijk opgelopen. De Voorzitter stelde voor om te beginnen bij dit jaar en een andere oplossing te vinden voor de achterstand omdat Suriname een ernstige financiële crisis het hoofd biedt, die het extra moeilijk maakt om deze achterstand in contributie in te lopen.

Dhr. Rolando Gonzalez gaf aan dat er op 8 september een raadsvergadering zal zijn waarbij het voorstel om Suriname de schulden kwijt te schelden formeel zal worden aangenomen en dat Suriname dan voor november 2017 de contributie voor 2017 moet voldoen. De voorzitter is tevreden met dit voorstel en zal het parlement hieromtrent informeren.

DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT

2nd Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change

Renewable Energies

Panama City, Panama | August 3-4, 2017

We, parliamentarians from 23 countries and territories of the Americas and the Caribbean, met at the headquarters of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, PARLATINO, in Panama City, Panama, on August 3 and 4, 2017, on the occasion of the 2nd Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC), a joint initiative of ParlAmericas and PARLATINO that acts as an inter-parliamentary coordination body, to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of good legislative practices related to climate change in the hemisphere.

During this gathering, we shared experiences and perspectives on renewable energy integration and reaffirmed our commitment to advance in the strengthening of a legislative agenda that contributes to the achievement of the climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives adopted at the Paris Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2015.

Recognizing:

That climate change is one of the most pressing global challenges of our century, and that its impacts affect and exert pressure on the natural, social, and economic systems of the countries of our hemisphere and the world;

That the effects of climate change threaten the security and well-being of people and communities in the most vulnerable countries in the region, and particularly in Small Island Developing States;

That achieving the goal of limiting the temperature increase this century to less than 1.5°C does not eliminate the need to take adaptation measures of varying scales in the most vulnerable regions in the hemisphere;

That the fight against climate change requires coordinated and coherent cooperation by all social actors in accordance with their respective roles and capacities;

That during the Conference of the Parties COP22 in Marrakech in November 2016, the signatory countries proposed a common vision to accelerate action towards the achievement of the goals outlined in international climate change agreements;

The countries and territories convened were: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curaçao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Uruguay.

That the Sustainable Development Goals, in conjunction with the Paris Agreement, provide a comprehensive guide to mobilize countries and other actors on a development trajectory with clear goals in favour of people, the planet, and prosperity to advance the commitments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

That climate change is a complex combination of natural, sociocultural, economic, and even political phenomena that requires investments in scientific research, technology, and local knowledge to facilitate decision-making and the development of optimal adaptation and mitigation strategies;

That climate change has a variety of socio-economic dimensions that differentially impact diverse social groups and necessitate the creation of climate policies that are gendersensitive and take into consideration traditionally marginalized groups, such as Indigenous communities and those living in poverty;

That the transition to the use of renewable energy presents an opportunity for economic development and requires that legal frameworks be designed to promote its use;

That the role of parliaments is fundamental and imperative to the adequate implementation of the Paris Agreement and to realizing citizen will to take action against climate change;

We commit to:

1. Respond to the call made by governments at the COP22 in Marrakech to consider the fight against climate change as an urgent issue that requires the highest political commitment by undertaking concrete legislative action that strengthens efforts by governments and other actors to achieve the adaptation and mitigation commitments set out in the *Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)* adopted in the Conference of the Parties.
2. Strengthen through legislative activity the cooperation between diverse social and political actors towards the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and international climate change agreements adopted at the Conference of the Parties, as well as the Kyoto Accord on greenhouse gas emissions and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
3. Accelerate the necessary legislative reforms to incentivize the adoption of renewable energy in the public and private sectors, ensuring that the legal provisions seek to incentivize and facilitate a fair and broad distribution of the benefits derived from the transition to an inclusive and sustainable zero-emissions economy.

4. Design innovative legislative strategies that promote social alliances to take mitigation and adaptation actions that are gender-sensitive and consider traditionally marginalized groups like Indigenous communities and those living in poverty.
5. Seek to increase public budgetary allocations for scientific and technological research in order to develop technical capacity that allows for the optimal use of public and private resources for climate change mitigation and adaptation.
6. Strengthen follow-up and oversight mechanisms for governmental action to ensure the achievement, in time and form, of the commitments and goals outlined in climate change agreements, as well as guarantee access to information for continued improvement in climate action.
7. Encourage the use of scientific evidence by the parliamentarians of our legislatures as a resource to guide informed, coherent decision-making to concretely advance towards resilience and climate-compatible sustainable development.
8. Guarantee transparency and access to information for populations and civil society organizations on legislation, public spending, and scientific knowledge related to climate change.

We request that the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change develop a road map to guide parliamentary work on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the hemisphere.

Signed in Panama City, Panama, on August 4, 2017



2ND GATHERING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

#STOPCC17

This gathering was jointly organized by **ParlAmericas** and **Parlatino** under the umbrella of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC). It considered different socio-economic dimensions of renewable energy development and its links to adaptation and mitigation commitments proposed by countries across the Americas and the Caribbean in the **Intended Nationally Determined Contributions** (INDCs) under the **Paris Agreement**.

The gathering was opened by Member of the National Assembly **Elías Castillo** (Panama), President of Parlatino; Senator **Marcela Guerra** (Mexico), President of ParlAmericas; Member of the National Assembly **Javier Ortega** (Panama), President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change – ParlAmericas; Member of the National Assembly **Rolando González** (Cuba), Secretary of Permanent Commissions of Parlatino; and specialist Dr. **Gisela Alonso**, former member of the **United Nations High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda**.

DATE

August 3-4 2017

LOCATION

Panama City, Panama

PARTICIPANTS

46 parliamentarians from 23 countries and territories, 7 international organization specialists, and representatives of 2 networks of non-governmental organizations



President of ParlAmericas
MARCELA GUERRA

"The Nationally Determined Contributions submitted by the countries in the context of the Paris Agreement depend to a great extent on energy transformation as a key factor for their fulfilment. It is our duty as parliamentarians to ensure that legislation and budgets in our countries guarantee a just and wide-reaching transition to a zero emissions economy, diversifying the benefits generated by renewable energy."

"The United States' announcement of their withdrawal from the Paris Agreement is troubling and reminds us that grave environmental problems are not exclusive to matters related to science or availability of resources, but to the political will of the governments and the role that decision makers have at all levels."



President of Parlatino
ELÍAS CASTILLO



Member of the National Assembly
JAVIER ORTEGA
(Panama),
President of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change – ParlAmericas

“It is necessary to speed up the pace of work and encourage all actors at the public and private levels to act in a coordinated manner through inclusive processes to allow us to solve the problems generated by unsustainable economic growth, which cannot be uncoupled from climate change.”

“Science has convincingly shown the transversal influence of environmental processes on the economy and society, which must now be incorporated into new legislation, regulations, and environmental tools.”



Dr. **GISELA ALONSO**,
former member of the United Nations High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

“In the face of climate change impacts, we are not only facing a scientific task or financial resources; we are facing a challenge that requires above all political will.”



Member of the National Assembly
ROLANDO GONZÁLEZ
(Cuba)

CLIMATE CHANGE

A Comparative Overview of Legislative and Executive Responses in the Americas



CLIMATE CHANGE

A Comparative Overview of the Rights Based Approach in the Americas



On the occasion of this gathering, ParlAmericas and the **Organization of American States (OAS)** launched two complementary publications on climate change: *A Comparative Overview of Legislative and Executive Responses in the Americas*, and *A comparative Overview of the Rights Based Approach in the Americas*.

These publications are intended to brief parliamentarians on developments in the Inter-American agenda that relate to climate change, and its linkages with environmental and human rights law; and to provide a comparative analysis of trends in the development of legislation and executive policies to address climate change at the national level. **Claudia de Windt** of the Department of Sustainable Development of the OAS presented the publications via video conference.

ParlAmericas developed linking cards containing summaries of the intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) of 34 countries across the hemisphere that are significant to the Paris agreement. This resource provides parliamentarians with a basis for quick reference and comparison of mitigation and adaptation commitments in the report to identify areas for legislative action.

Legislative Ecology of Climate Change: A Systems Perspective for Parliamentary Action

The first session of the gathering, moderated by Member of the National Assembly **Ana Belén Marín** (Ecuador), explored the relationship between sectorial national legislation and climate change adaptation and mitigation commitments to identify existing gaps and synergies. Through their presentations, the expert panelists proposed ways to incorporate mitigation and adaptation measures in legislation to advance national commitments and encourage parliamentarians to consider climate change as a new requirement in legislative activities.

Elliot Sucari, Associate in the [Department of Sustainable Development at the Organization of American States \(OAS\)](#) presented on government responses and approaches to climate change, and the roles and responsibilities of legislations, asking parliamentarians to

reflect on how they can contribute to prioritizing and harmonizing international environmental agreements and sustainable development targets under the 2030 Agenda at the national level.

During his presentation, **Orlando Reyes**, Researcher in the Climate Change Unit of the [Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean \(ECLAC\)](#) highlighted the links between public policies and climate change pointing to the needs to undertake transformative changes in legislation to implement the commitments of the climate agenda.

Environmental Attorney **Derrick Oderson**, an environmental expert representing the [Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre](#), in turn, discussed the implications of the Paris Agreement and renewable energy integration for national legal systems.



ORLANDO REYES,
Researcher,
Climate Change
Unit, ECLAC

"The Nationally Determined Contributions describe the national efforts towards low emissions and climate resilient development, but preliminary analysis suggests that these will not be sufficient to achieve the goal of maintaining climate change below 2 degrees with current consumption and production patterns. We therefore need measures that modify these patterns to ensure that climate change policies are implemented."

"Our challenge is to transform global conversations into regional and local actions; it is of the utmost importance to include civil society participation in decision-making on sustainable development to ensure the safeguarding of rights."



ELLIOT SUCARI,
Associate,
Department of
Sustainable
Development, OAS

Derrick Oderson raised several key questions for legislators during his intervention:

"What is the status and strength of existing legal frameworks?, and in the absence of legal force at the domestic level, can the preparation, submission and implementation of nationally determined contributions be treated as a policy intervention as opposed to a strictly legal obligation? And finally, what happens if there is inaction by state parties which fail to implement agreed targets at all? How can commitments be enforced? And by whom?"



DERRICK ODERSON,
Environmental Expert,
Caribbean Community Climate
Change Centre

Interrogating New Renewable Energy Projects

The second session explored socio-economic dimensions of renewable energy projects, including consideration of gender-specific and Indigenous perspectives. The session was moderated by Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Teresa Lizárraga** (Mexico) and featured expert presentations on various types of indicators that can be used to assess the benefits of renewable energy integration and on how these indicators can be used by parliamentarians in legislative work related to climate change and renewable energy.

Byron Chiquinga, Manager in the **Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE)**, presented case studies of rural electrification projects to demonstrate the economic and social benefits of deploying renewable energy



BYRON CHILQUINGA,
Manager,
OLADE

"Self-management with proper capacity allows communities to grow in a sustainable manner. In these processes, legislative functions are fundamental to facilitating capacity-building with the support of the private sector."

technologies in remote rural areas of Guatemala for crop and wood transformation activities in small communities.

Neeraj Negi, Senior Evaluation Specialist of the **Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environmental Fund (GEF)**, presented program and project level indicators to inform monitoring functions of legislations, for example measuring installed solar capacity, electricity generated and number of people benefiting from the deployment of renewable energy technologies.

Itza Castañeda, Specialist at the **Global Gender Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** emphasized ways to integrate the gender considerations in energy legislation.



ITZA CASTAÑEDA,
Specialist,
Global Gender
Office, IUCN

"It is important to recognize and transform the existing legal, technical and institutional barriers. It is not about adding or aggregating gender; it is a process of integration."

INTEGRATING GENDER CONSIDERATIONS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY

- ⇒ Build understanding around the existing legal, technical and institutional barriers to mainstreaming gender. Design interventions that target these barriers.
- ⇒ Promote the collection of adequate intersectional data to measure energy poverty in households.
- ⇒ Ensure that the data about energy use and access is disaggregated by sex in addition to other relevant social factors such as age, ethnicity, rural/urban, etc.



NEERAJ NEGI,
Senior Evaluation
Specialist,
Independent
Evaluation Office,
GEF

"Parliamentarians can utilize indicators as useful tools for the oversight and supervision of renewable energy projects to take corrective measures, find value for money, and understand the effects of new projects on vulnerable populations."

"I will explore the possibility of implementing legislation that gives priority to renewable energies to strengthen small island states' contributions to environmental protection through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions."



Member of the
Chamber of Deputies
PRICE CYPRIEN (Haiti)

Renewable Energy and the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Nexus

The third session, moderated by Senator **Harcourt Husbands** (Barbados), focused on actions that can simultaneously reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and address the impacts of climate change. Particular attention was devoted to overlaps and synergies between different adaptation and mitigation measures.

Mariana Curi, Executive Director of *Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano*, presented concrete examples of the challenges and benefits of acting in an integrated

manner, and the importance of engaging non-governmental organizations in parliamentary dialogues to advance climate compatible sustainable development.

Gustavo Mañez, Regional Coordinator for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation at the *United Nations Environment Programme* (UNEP) presented the challenges for moving towards electric transportation and the potential contributions of this technology to climate change mitigation efforts in the region.

"This type of event is about best practices and understanding the struggles across the region. We really will not get the type of action that we need and deserve without going forth as a group... this type of forum moves the agenda forward."



Senator
MATTHEW SAMUDA
(Jamaica)



MARIANELA CURI,
Executive Director, *Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano*

"Adaptation and mitigation are addressed separately and have not seen the adoption of an integrated approach. They are in fact two sides of the same coin, but there are different priorities for planning and implementation; specific options operate at different scales and institutional levels, in addition to country priorities providing more support for mitigation."



GUSTAVO MAÑEZ, Regional Coordinator for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, UNEP

"Companies should eventually not produce any vehicles that pollute and are inefficient."

BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES FOR INTEGRATING MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION MEASURES INTO CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIONS

Benefits

- Long term cost effectiveness
- Avoid negative externalities
- Achieve sustainable development goals
- Transparency and participation of different sectors

Challenges

- Transition from a sectoral perspective to a system one
- International negotiations remain separated by topic
- Additional costs of activities (e.g. in the case of renewable energy, high costs for patents)
- Monitoring, reporting and verification of synergies and benefits
- Linking multisectoral/multilevel dialogue on both topics
- Experts focused on just one issue

Moving Forward: Key Outcomes of the 2nd Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change

During the 2nd gathering of the PNCC, the four Vice-Presidents of the ParlAmericas PNCC executive committee were elected for two-year terms: Member of Parliament **Dan Ruimy** (Canada) for the sub-region of North America; Member of Congress **Sofía Hernández** (Guatemala) for the sub-region of Central America; Speaker of the National Assembly **Jennifer Simons** (Suriname) and Member of the National Assembly **Ana Belén Marín** (Ecuador) (Alternate Vice-President) for the sub-region of South America; and President of the Senate **Andy Daniel** (Saint Lucia) for the sub-region of the Caribbean.

The parliamentarians from the 23 countries and territories of the Americas and the Caribbean reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen the legislative agenda through a [joint public declaration](#) that aims to contribute to the achievement of the climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives adopted at the [Paris Conference of the Parties \(COP21\)](#) to the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#) in December 2015.

The declaration outlined several strategic lines of action to advance the climate change agenda from a legislative perspective. First, by responding to the call made by governments at the COP22 in Marrakech to consider the fight against climate change as an urgent issue that requires the highest political commitment and undertaking

concrete legislative actions that advance governments efforts and other social actors to achieve the adaptation and mitigation commitments set out in the Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

Parliamentarians also committed to strengthen cooperation between the diverse social and political actors to achieve the goals of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the international climate change agreements adopted at the Conference of the Parties, as well as the [Kyoto Protocol](#) on greenhouse gas emissions and the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#). Commitments were also made to promote increases in public budgets to fund scientific and technological research, as well as enhance local capacity.

It was agreed in the declaration that climate change legislation should be gender-sensitive and include considerations of traditionally marginalized groups, such as Indigenous communities and those living in poverty. Guaranteeing transparency and access to climate information and scientific knowledge related to climate change, particularly to encourage decision-makers to use scientific evidence to develop legislative strategies for informed and coherent decision-making was also included.



Speaker of the National Assembly
JENNIFER SIMONS
(Suriname)

"Given the real and immediate danger of climate change for the peoples and economies of the region, the initiative of ParlAmericas to address this issue in a structural and permanent way through the Network on Climate Change, will prove to be of great importance for the hemisphere."

"It is important that we understand that climate change has severe impacts on smaller countries or smaller islands, which we might not always see. In developing countries, climate change is a more immediate threat that has greater impact on everyday life. This helped me to see what the rest of the world is experiencing with climate change and I can talk more accurately to my constituents about its impacts."



Member of Parliament
DAN RUIMY
(Canada)

The final declaration from the gathering can be consulted at http://www.parlamericas.org/uploads/documents/Declaration_PNCC_2017_ENG.pdf



Member of the National Assembly
ANA BELÉN MARÍN (Ecuador)

"We have to focus on consumption patterns that are currently unsustainable. We see the climate variations and have many objectives to achieve. Each adaptation and mitigation activity, action and policy must adjust to the reality of each country, territory, or region, and we must work in accordance with these differences."

"Technical indicators are very relevant for us as parliamentarians. We assign budgets, and knowing how to measure progress is important for monitoring efficiency in public spending."



Member of the Chamber of Deputies
TERESA LIZÁRRAGA (Mexico)

For any information related to the work of the PNCC, contact the ParAméricas Climate Change Program: parlamerc@parlamerica.org

PARLIAMENTS IN ATTENDANCE



PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



Organization of American States

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ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes **PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY** in the **INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM**



ParlAmericas fosters **OPEN PARLIAMENTS** by advancing the principles of transparency, accountability, citizen participation, ethics and probity



ParlAmericas is composed of the **NATIONAL LEGISLATURES** of the member States of the OAS from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean



ParlAmericas promotes policies and legislative measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of **CLIMATE CHANGE**



ParlAmericas facilitates the exchange of parliamentary **BEST PRACTICES** and promotes **COOPERATIVE POLITICAL DIALOGUE**



ParlAmericas works towards strengthening democracy and governance by accompanying **ELECTORAL PROCESSES**



ParlAmericas mainstreams **GENDER EQUALITY** by advocating for women's political empowerment and the application of a gender lens in legislative work



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Proposal: ParlAmericas MOU with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
Intended for: Board of Directors, ParlAmericas
Date: August 21st, 2017

Background

The **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)** mandate includes ensuring that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is applied to climate change adaptation, increasing investments for DRR, promoting disaster-resilient cities and strengthening the international system for disaster risk reduction.

The Chief of the UNISDR office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Raul Salazar, attended the **2nd Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change (PNCC)**. During a side meeting with ParlAmericas, he identified synergies between the adaptation components of the parliamentary work of the PNCC and the mandate of the UNISDR. Ongoing collaboration was proposed to concretely advance the common agenda through knowledge exchanges and discussions to present the region's most recent advances on disaster management legislation. Some countries have already aligned their practices with the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**, widening the scope of legislation to integrate **sustainable development, adaptation and gender** considerations in disaster risk management.

Rationale for MOU with UNISDR

This represents an opportunity for ParlAmericas to engage directly with the UN office through the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding that will seek to help secure additional funding for specific initiatives and activities in the region in accordance to the work of the PNCC. The immediate Strategic Programming areas for ParlAmericas with the UNISDR will include:

1. Leveraging the UNISDR **Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE)**. This alliance would provide an avenue to engage with a key stakeholder in the adaptation agenda: the private sector. The private sector plays a critical role in the achievement of goal 13 of the SDG 2030 that calls for all actors to take on urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. This goal encourages the private sector to prepare to adapt to climate change and build resilience in the communities in which they operate to enhance economic stability.
2. **SENDAI Legislation** – This area of work would include developing a series of workshops to highlight legislative advances in ten countries of the region that have adopted the Sendai framework to reform their disaster legislation and broaden legislation to include sustainable development and adaptation. This would be aligned with the adaptation components of the work of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and commitments 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Parliamentary declaration of the 2nd Gathering of the PNCC.

The UNISDR has worked with parliamentarians to move from political commitments to concrete actions. In this context, a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNISDR would advance a strategic area of the PNCC in strengthening legislative capacities and focus on one of the most critical issues to vulnerable countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean Small Island States, as well as vulnerable sub-national regions in the rest of Latin America.

