

**144<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly**  
**Nusa Dua, Indonesia // 20-24 March 2022**

**General Debate on**  
**Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments**  
**to act on climate change**

Excellencies,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

For decades, scientists have been warning us about the devastating consequences of global warming. Although International Organizations, governments and politicians keep setting goals to avoid the worst, most of these goals never achieved.

Today, climate change and its consequences have overtaken us. Every continent, every region and every country (are) facing significant challenges due to climate change: extreme heat and cold conditions, storms in higher frequency and intensity, floods and wildfires, are some of the dramatic effects of this phenomenon. The growing number of climate related disasters has shifted awareness and today many governments accept “climate change” as an issue of national security.

None of us has the right to stay still, leaving the – so called – “big polluters” to act. Every single country’s action has an impact on

the world's global green transition. Thus, cooperation and collaboration are essential.

International commitments as the "Paris Agreement" and the "2030 Agenda" cannot be materialized, without national action. All countries need new climate laws as a legal framework for the next 20 or 30 years. We should ask ourselves which targets or goals we need to achieve on a national level and describe and define the roadmap for the years to come.

As Parliamentarians, it is our duty to ensure that these laws not only created but also applied, because climate change causes disasters, which in turn increase inequality and poverty.

Furthermore, we have to make sure that a number of other policies are also adjusted. E.g., warning systems and defenses have to be set up, as well as resilient infrastructures. This is essential in order to prevent loss of lives, destruction of homes, livelihoods, loss of jobs, etc. There is also need of social assistance for people facing such dramatic situations.

In this context, inter-parliamentary cooperation can contribute to the exchange of expertise and best practices. In Greece for example, we had a major catastrophe by mega-fires, last summer, and social assistance was a critical issue!

Strong political will and determination is required, for a comprehensive approach and response to climate change. And this of course means extra financing – which is rather a problem for many countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the EU, we recently took the decision to create a European Recovery Fund in order to cope up with the economic crisis, caused by the pandemic. And among others, with this Fund, we are financing actions and policies to prevent climate change. Investing in renewables, investing in green energy, accelerating the phase-out of coal energy and speeding up the switch to electrical vehicles, are some of the measures to achieve the ambitious 2030 emissions reductions. At the same time, these actions boost the economy and contribute to the creation of new jobs. So, is a win – win situation!

As many countries face difficulties to afford the “green transition”, the EU supports developing countries in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change. In 2020, 23.4 billion € were committed by the EU for this purpose. The EU also remains committed, contributing towards the developed countries’ goal, of jointly mobilizing 100 billion USD per year, to support developing countries until 2025.

As Parliamentarians, we need and have to, press our governments to act effectively against climate change and to implement the relative international agreements.

We are running out of time. There is no space for excuses. It is our generation’s obligation to hand over to our children and grandchildren a better and safer planet!

Thank you.