

# 144<sup>th</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY

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## SPEECH BY HONORABLE KAMAL AIT MIK, MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS OF MOROCCO

### GENERAL DEBATE ON THE THEME:

**“GETTING TO ZERO: MOBILIZING PARLIAMENTS TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE”**

***Mr. president,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,***

It is a great pleasure for me, being a freshly elected young Moroccan parliamentarian, to participate in the general debate of the 144<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly on the theme: “Getting to zero: mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change.”

Let me first say that today’s youth are more exposed to climate damage than their parents, motivating many of them to tackle the challenge of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> footprints. That’s why today’s youth are engaging with climate science and policy more actively than previous generations, participating keenly in climate action and driving ambition for reducing emissions.

Besides pushing for effective emissions reduction policies from their governments, today’s youth and future generations can make individual behavioural changes, such as choosing lower-carbon modes of transport, using less air-conditioning or space heating, avoiding flights, and recycling and reusing possessions. Future generations will need far more low-carbon energy infrastructure and services than are available today. Sweeping systemic decarbonisation is necessary, not only to allow younger generations more flexibility in their lifestyle choices, but also to safeguard the future for younger

generations. This makes it imperative that today's leaders set in motion the necessary policies and investments right now.

To achieve meaningful intergenerational dialogue, countries and companies need to scale up financial and administrative support for youth participation in climate planning, decision-making and action at all levels. Younger generations have the most to gain from successful energy transitions. Innovation has the potential to create millions of new jobs in emerging industries. Strong and effective clean energy policies and investments today can not only lower the carbon intensity of younger generations' energy use – but also enable them to capitalise on the benefits of energy transitions.

***Mr. president,***

On behalf of my colleagues from the Moroccan delegation, and in the name of dozens of Moroccan young parliamentarians, let me share with you some proposals concerning the issues related to the theme of this general debate from the point of view of young parliamentarians.

As young parliamentarians, strongly engaged and firmly involved in action on climate change:

1. We call for an urgent, diversified and inclusive energy transition by 2030 that prioritizes energy efficiency and sustainable energy, keeping +1.5 goal within reach; financing for capacity building, research and technology sharing to ensure a transition with decent jobs, providing adequate support for all affected and vulnerable communities;
2. We call governments and the private sector to start abolishing rapidly the fossil fuels industry with a total phase out by 2030 at the latest, and secure a just transition designed for and with workers cooperatives, local communities, and those most affected by the climate crisis and land displacement, especially women, youth, "climate refugees", persons with disabilities and all vulnerable groups;

3. We also request that countries and relevant institutions ensure meaningful youth involvement in all decision-making on climate change and climate policy planning, implementation and evaluation at multilateral, national and local levels;
4. We call for countries to scale-up financial, administrative and logistical support to foster the engagement of youth to effectively drive climate ambition and concrete action;
5. We ask countries, international organizations and public and private financial institutions to dedicate funds to support youth participation in decision-making processes with implications on climate change;
6. We demand that Nature-based Solutions be prioritized as a key strategy to address the climate crisis which also emphasizes the need for a socially just and equitable society especially by recognizing, representing, respecting and protecting local communities' rights, and ensure that proper and sustainable solutions reach the most vulnerable groups and regions;
7. We also call for the inclusion of all stakeholders (including youth, women, local communities, and other marginalized groups), in capacity building, monitoring, investment and decision-making processes, towards resilient, blue and green economic recovery after Covid-19 pandemic;
8. Demand non-party stakeholders, in particular the private sector, to align current and future operations and their supply chain with net zero emissions. The transition needs to start immediately and requires clear reporting of plans and achievement of milestones, on at least an annual basis;
9. Call on governments to ensure comprehensive and universal climate change education and climate literacy for all and adequate funding for it according to international timelines. Education should have a holistic

approach, integrating local knowledge, gender perspective, and promote changes in lifestyles, attitudes, and behaviour, ensuring climate-neutrality and climate-resilience of educational institutions;

10. Call on governments and other relevant actors to raise awareness on climate change adaptation and mitigation for each person in the world, emphasizing “climate refugees”, through traditional media as well as using campaigns, arts, sports, entertainment, community leaders, influencers, and social media;
11. We focus on the importance of training journalists and media operators to convey the implications of the climate crisis in a transparent, accessible, and conversational manner by simplifying scientific findings, facilitating the understanding of policies and emphasizing the existence and feasibility of solutions, highlighting climate inequalities, combatting misinformation, and utilizing social media and traditional means of communication;
12. We finally call for the IPU and the national parliaments to create a “Parliamentary Network of Young Parliamentarians for Climate Action.” This network would serve as an essential link to national parliaments and inspire and monitor the action taken by national authorities to honor its commitments made with regard to the climate crisis, while encouraging the mutual enrichment of ideas and creating regular opportunities for young parliamentarians all over the world to share their experiences.

***Mr. president,***

Let me end by informing that the Moroccan parliament headquarters are recently equipped with a solar energy platform to reduce the use of electricity, and this is one of numerous examples of the involvement of the Moroccan parliament in action on climate change, more precisely since 2016 when it hosted the Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of COP22 in Marrakech.

***Thank you for your kindest attention.***