

## **Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change**

144th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Honourable Members of Parliaments, President of the IPU, ~~Mr Pacheco~~,  
Secretary General of the IPU, Mr Chungong,

It is my pleasure to represent the delegation of the World Health Organization at the 144<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

We are living through a triple societal and health crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic is in no way finished and we must reach the target of vaccinating 70% of the population in all countries. The devastating war in Ukraine is also a devastating health crisis and Climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded that to avert catastrophic health impacts and prevent millions of climate change-related deaths, the world must limit temperature rise to 1.5°C.

Tackling all these crisis takes the three ingredients which also embody IPU; Political leadership, collaboration, and solidarity

In 2020, at the height of the pandemic, WHO launched a manifesto for a green and healthy recovery from COVID-19. It provided policy recommendations to help guide short- and long-term recovery Since then, many governments have made significant changes to their economic systems and their approaches to energy and resource use, and are turning the green and healthy recovery into a reality.

While mitigating climate change by getting to zero, countries must also build climate resilient health systems and sustainable, low carbon health systems.

At the COP26 UN climate conference late last year in Glasgow, more than 50 countries agreed to work together to transition their health systems to be climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable, as part of the COP26 Health Programme. WHO, the UK government, and others will be working closely together to help governments implement their commitments, and to invite more government to join this initiative.

I look forward to hearing from the other delegates on how we can continue to work together to accelerate the green transition and build more healthy and resilient societies.

I thank you