



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## Pursuing climate action and sustainable development: the role of parliaments in enhancing policy coherence

10-11 August 2023 , San José (Costa Rica)

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of Costa Rica

### PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

#### Wednesday, 09 August 2023

Arrival of delegates

#### Thursday, 10 August 2023

##### Seminar meeting

08:00–08:30 Registration

08:30–09:30 **Official opening**

Welcoming remarks:

##### Group photo

09:30- 10:15 **Special Address: Exploring the Frontiers of Clean Energy: Biogas, Hydrogen, and Plasma**

A special address from renowned scientist and former NASA astronaut, who will share his expertise and insights on developing clean energies for the creation of a revolutionary engine that utilizes biogas, hydrogen, and plasma.

10:15–10:30 **Coffebreak**

10:30 – 11:30 **Session I: Setting the scene: An overview of climate change and sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean.**

This introductory session will provide an overview of recent climate change and sustainable development trends in Latin America and the Caribbean. As 2023 is the mid-point for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and for meeting important emissions-reductions targets under the Paris Agreement, the session will highlight progress made to date on achieving these objectives in the region. It will provide a platform to discuss barriers for addressing sustainable development and climate issues, and explore opportunities and innovative solutions for overcoming them at the national and regional level. Delegations will be invited to share updates on how they are promoting actions to address the climate crisis and sustainable development at the institutional and/or individual level.

The presentations will be followed by a debate with delegates.

11:30–12:30 **Session II: Protecting the region's oceans and biodiversity**

Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the world's most biologically-diverse regions of the world. The region's rich marine and terrestrial biodiversity is essential for sustainable development. Not only can it help sustain livelihoods, provide food, purify water but it can also support economic growth, human health and well-being. Due to the unsustainable use of land and oceans, exploitation of natural resources, climate change and pollution, many population groups, species and natural resources have been severely impacted. This session will discuss urgent actions that parliaments in Latin America and the Caribbean should take to protect the region's oceans and biodiversity in their countries and through regional cooperation.

The presentation will be followed by a debate with delegates.

12:30–1400

**Lunch offered by the Parliament of Costa Rica at the National Museum**

14:00–15:30

**Session III: Public engagement on climate change: Hearing the voices of underrepresented groups**

This session will explore opportunities for strengthening public engagement on climate change and promoting consultations with citizens so they can provide their feedback on the implementation of the SDGs and climate-related Goals on the ground. It will encourage parliamentarians to discuss how to ensure the meaningful participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups who are most affected by climate change, including women, youth and indigenous peoples, in decision-making processes. It will also explore how key regional agreements that aim to expand people's access to environmental information and protect the rights of environmental defenders, namely the Escazú Agreement, can be better implemented in the region.

The presentation will be followed by a debate with delegates.

15:30–15:45

**Coffee break**

15:45–16:45

**Session IV: Greening parliaments**

Climate action begins at home. Given their political nature, parliaments and parliamentarians can be effective institutions and actors in promoting a culture of sustainability across society. They can take meaningful steps to addressing the climate crisis by reducing their own carbon footprint and openly advocating for stronger climate action. Following the recent launch of the IPU [Parliaments for the Planet](#) campaign which outlines ten concrete steps parliaments and those who work in them can take to become greener, this session will specifically focus on a selected number of key actions from the campaign. Concretely, it will provide an opportunity to exchange best practices on how parliaments are raising climate awareness within their institutions and promoting cross-party collaboration to advance climate initiatives. It will also provide a platform to discuss how parliamentarians can become climate champions, including by effectively engaging their constituents and interacting with civil society, climate experts and environmental leaders to enhance their capacity to address climate change and fulfill their roles as representatives of the people.

The presentations will be followed by a debate with delegates.

16:45–17:45

**Closing plenary: The path forward to ensure a climate-resilient and sustainable Latin America and Caribbean region**

**Cocktail reception**

**Friday, 11 August 2023**

**Field Visit**

*To be developed by the Parliament of Costa Rica, in consultation with the IPU*

The field visit will provide parliamentarians with the opportunity to:

- Learn about national and local environmental initiatives;
- Interact with non-governmental organizations and civil society working on climate and environment-related issues;
- Strengthen their understanding of the benefits of environmental education projects and awareness-raising initiatives in Costa Rica.
- Continue discussions and inter-parliamentary exchanges from the seminar.

**Saturday, 12 August 2023**

Departure of delegates