

148th IPU Assembly

Geneva, 23-27 March 2024

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development C-II/148M 18 January 2024

Partnerships for climate action: Promoting access to affordable green energy, and ensuring innovation, responsibility and equity

<u>Explanatory memorandum</u> submitted by the co-Rapporteurs Mr. S. Patra (India), Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine) and Ms. M. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates)

The Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Cycle (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), summarizes the state of knowledge of climate change, its widespread impacts and risks, and climate change responses in terms of mitigation and adaptation.

The report reinforces the scientific view that CO₂ is the primary greenhouse gas and needs to be drastically reduced. The report mentions that for every 1000 GtCO₂ emitted by human activity, global surface temperature rises by 0.45°C (best estimate, with a likely range from 0.27 to 0.63°C). The remaining carbon budgets from the beginning of 2020 are 500 GtCO₂ for a 50% likelihood of limiting global warming to 1.5°C and 1150 GtCO₂ for a 67% likelihood of limiting warming to below 2°C. Reaching net zero CO₂ or greenhouse gas emissions primarily requires deep and rapid reductions in gross emissions of CO₂, as well as substantial reductions of non-CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions.

The report mentions with high confidence that international cooperation is a critical enabler for achieving ambitious climate change mitigation, adaptation, and climate resilient development. Climate resilient development is enabled by increased international cooperation, including mobilizing and enhancing access to finance, particularly low-cost finance for developing countries, vulnerable regions, sectors and groups, and aligning financial flows for climate action to be consistent with ambition levels and funding needs.

Global warming is a global collective action problem that can be solved only by international cooperation on the basis of multilateral processes, especially and primarily those under the aegis of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Every country's climate action therefore has to be based on the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as ratified in Article 3.1 of the Convention.

The world's population is growing at an unprecedented rate, leading to a dramatic increase in global energy demand. The world's energy demand is likely to grow even more rapidly than the increase in population. To satisfy this ever-increasing demand and protect the climate, breakthrough advancements in design technologies have made it possible to control emissions and harness power from alternative energy sources. As controlling carbon emissions is critical in combating climate change, renewable energy is an appropriate way to satisfy energy demand without degrading the ecosystem. Apart from bringing environmental sustainability, renewable energy offers another advantage: the ability to provide power to even the most underprivileged people living in the remotest areas where non-renewable sources of power are not yet available.



- 2 - C-II/148/M

Awareness of the need to encourage the deployment of renewable energy has increased drastically in recent years. More countries, whether developed or developing, are promoting policies to deploy renewable energy. Parliaments play an essential role in legislating green policies and monitoring government policies affecting the climate, including budgeting. This resolution calls for parliaments to raise awareness of the role of parliamentarians in combating climate change through their legislative and monitoring tools.

The Paris Agreement strengthens the global response to climate change. The outcomes of the Climate Change Conferences underscore the urgent need for immediate, deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions by Parties across all applicable sectors, including through increasing the use of low-emission and renewable energy, just energy transition partnerships and other cooperative actions. Parliaments are urged to cooperate with other regional and international parliaments to exchange knowledge and best practices and policies for sustainable development and clean technology transfer.

In preparing the draft resolution, the co-Rapporteurs took into consideration input from colleagues from different regions of the world during the hearing held at the 147th IPU Assembly in Luanda.

With all of the above in mind, the co-Rapporteurs constructed the draft resolution in view of creating stronger partnerships for climate action and ensuring innovation and equity. The resolution emphasizes the need to increase awareness among parliamentarians regarding their role and tools to contribute effectively to climate action. The resolution acknowledges the role and responsibility of parliamentarians in protecting future generations and bridging the gap between all stakeholders in combating climate change.