Standing Committee on C-II/148/DR

Sustainable Development 18 January 2024

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

***Draft resolution submitted by the co-Rapporteurs***

***Mr. S. Patra (India), Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine) and Ms. M. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates)***

 The 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

(1) *Recalling* the objectives of the Paris Agreement to strengthen the global response to climate change, and the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COPs), which underline the urgent need for immediate, deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions across all applicable sectors, including through increased use of low-emission and renewable energy, just energy transition partnerships and other cooperative actions in the light of national circumstances,

(2) *Recalling also* the IPU resolution *Climate change – Let us not cross the line*,adopted at the 139th IPU Assembly, the *Parliamentary action plan on climate change* endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 198th session (2016), and the COP28 Parliamentary Meeting outcome document,

(3) *Noting* the importance of strengthening partnerships between all countries, parliaments and institutions (governmental, non-governmental and inter-parliamentary) to combat climate change, and that without such cooperation, the impacts of climate change will be inevitable,

(4) *Recalling* the *COP28 UAE Consensus*, which has the potential to become a benchmark for partnerships for climate action by laying out a response to the global stocktake, putting forward a plan to close implementation gaps by 2030, calling on Parties to transition away from fossil fuels to reach net zero, and introducing a new specific target to triple renewable energy capacity and double the rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030,

(5) *Recalling also* the principal goal of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to promote policies and actions that address the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to reduce global warming,

(6) *Considering* that the Paris Agreement has established mechanisms and procedures so that countries can define their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and that the majority of countries worldwide have submitted their NDCs at each successive COP meeting,

(7) *Welcoming* the launch, during the COP26 meeting in Glasgow, of the Global Methane Pledge, which is based on solid scientific data and contains a commitment to reduce methane emissions by at least 30% by 2030,

(8) *Noting* that, presently, more than 150 countries have signed the Global Methane Pledge, and *recognizing* that only by drastically reducing methane emissions in the current decade will it be possible to stay on track to avoid the average temperature rise in the atmosphere exceeding the 1.5°C target,

(9) *Bearing in mind* that, despite making up only 15% of greenhouse gases, methane is responsible for approximately a third of global warming and traps 80 times more heat than carbon dioxide, although it dissipates in the atmosphere within decades, rather than centuries as is the case for carbon dioxide,

(10) *Considering* that parliaments play a fundamental role in the oversight of government policies on environmental matters as well as in the implementation of corresponding legislation and regulation,

(11) *Considering also* that many parliamentary initiatives address the need for urgent climate action, including the parliamentary platform taking shape for climate action against methane,

(12) *Acknowledging* that controlling carbon emissions is critical in dealing with climate change, and that renewable energy is an appropriate way to meet energy demand without degrading the ecosystem, which brings environmental sustainability and offers the further advantage of being able to provide power to even the most underprivileged people living in the remotest areas, where non-renewable sources of power are not yet available,

(13) *Acknowledging also* that armed conflicts have a considerable impact on climate, causing the release of significant amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and leading to the destruction of ecosystems that host vital vegetation responsible for absorbing and removing emissions from the atmosphere,

(14) *Acknowledging further* that the need to encourage the deployment of renewable energy has increased drastically in recent years, and that more countries, both developed or developing, are promoting and adopting policies to deploy renewable energy,

(15) *Welcoming* the G20 New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration, which emphasizes accelerating clean, sustainable, just, affordable and inclusive energy transitions through various pathways, as a means of enabling strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth and achieving climate objectives,

(16) *Emphasizing* the need for deep, rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C pathways, as expressed in the decision on the first global stocktake at COP28, by tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030,

(17) *Recognizing* that developing countries need to be supported in their transitions to low‑carbon, low‑emission economies,

(18) *Emphasizing* that access to technology and low-cost financing for developing countries is pivotal for energy transitions,

(19) *Advocating* a collective approach for promoting technology transfer and knowledge sharing, and cultivating innovative solutions,

(20) *Noting* that the world's population is growing at an unprecedented rate and that this has resulted in a dramatic increase in energy demand globally, at a rate likely to be even more rapid than population growth,

(21) *Aware* that, in an effort to meet this ever-increasing energy demand and protect the climate, breakthrough advances have been made in the design of technologies that can control emissions and harness power from alternative energy sources,

(22) *Recognizing* the need to promote new chemistries for energy storage, aimed at accommodating the variability of renewable energy sources and fulfilling the dynamic energy requirements of a growing population,

(23) *Encouraging* the harmonization of hydrogen and zero- and low-carbon hydrogen standards with the goal of fostering worldwide collaboration, facilitating trade and igniting innovation, which holds the capacity to unlock economies of scale, promote technology transfer, expedite the transition towards cleaner energy sources, and reach the potential of renewable energy,

(24) *Welcoming* the collaborative initiatives on universal energy access by the International Solar Alliance, which is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies to bring energy access, ensure energy security, and drive energy transition in its member countries,

(25) *Recognizing* the crucial role of grid interconnections, resilient energy infrastructure and regional/cross-border power systems integration in enhancing energy security, fostering economic growth, and facilitating universal energy access for all, in an affordable, reliable and sustainable manner,

(26) *Highlighting* that climate change impacts individuals and communities differently, with women, youth, small island developing States, indigenous groups and communities in vulnerable situations often bearing the brunt of its consequences, and *calling for* coordinated efforts to ensure that actions to address these challenges reflect a comprehensive and equitable approach to climate action, including through the promotion of just transitions,

(27) *Acknowledging* that youth are the most important and dynamic segment of the population in a society, that they are agents of change, entrepreneurs and innovators, and that, through education, science and technology, they are scaling up their efforts and using their skills to accelerate climate action, taking account of their common needs, such as access to quality education to prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow; the availability of decent work; equality among men and women; and a planet that is healthy, clean, and sustainable,

(28) *Bearing in mind* that harnessing the perspectives, new ideas and energy of young people constitutes a vital component in the broader efforts to address key issues affecting people of all ages, such as achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); peace and security; the right to education, health and social protection; gender equality; equal socioeconomic and political opportunities; and fighting climate change,

(29) *Acknowledging* the importance of investments in sustainable lifestyles, energy transitions and accelerating progress on the SDGs,

(30) *Recognizing* that sustainable and responsible consumption and production, coupled with environmentally friendly life choices and lifestyles, are key to achieving the SDGs, including climate goals and inclusive economic growth,

(31) *Envisaging* a comprehensive transformation in energy efficiency measures across the globe, with the ambitious target of doubling the global rate of energy efficiency improvement by 2030 in a nationally determined manner, taking into account the Paris Agreement and different national circumstances, pathways and approaches to foster a sustainable and responsible energy landscape on a global scale,

(32) *Recognizing* the importance of accelerating the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies, and adopting policies to transition towards low-emission energy systems, including by rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation, renewable energy and energy efficiency measures,

(33) *Highlighting* the importance of addressing environmental challenges through united climate actions and partnerships to safeguard the planet for future generations,

1. *Emphasizes* thatglobal warming is a collective problem that can only be solved by international cooperation and partnership on the basis of multilateral processes, especially and primarily those under the aegis of the UNFCCC, based on the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities in accordance with respective capabilities, as has been ratified in Article 3.1 of the Convention;

2. *Calls on* parliaments to actively commit to climate action to cut methane emissions, and ensure that:

(a) NDCs explicitly include drastic reductions of methane emissions

(b) legislative initiatives in national parliaments reduce methane emissions in the energy and waste management industries and

(c) best practices in agriculture are promoted, namely in livestock and manure management;

3. *Also calls on* parliaments to monitor whether government policies are effectively aligned with the commitments and emission reduction goals established in the Global Methane Pledge;

4. *Further calls on* parliaments to ensure that international funding in the coming years focuses on aid and investments to reduce methane emissions, namely by:

(a) detecting and repairing methane emissions from oil and gas production and distribution, upgrading obsolete equipment, stopping flaring and venting of waste, and applying drastic emissions controls

(b) implementing better livestock and manure management practices

(c) investing in waste management (household and industrial), requiring landfills to strictly control methane emissions, and diverting organic waste to valorization processes such as composting, protein extraction and energy production;

5. *Recognizes* that the unprecedented global energy crisis underlines the urgency to rapidly transform energy systems to be more secure, reliable and resilient, including by accelerating the clean, equitable and just transition to renewable energy during this critical decade of action;

6. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing a clean energy mix, including low-emission and renewable energy, at all levels as part of diversifying energy mixes and systems, in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards just transitions;

7. *Affirms* support for promoting reliable, diversified, sustainable and responsible supply chains for energy transitions, including for critical minerals and materials;

8. *Reaffirms* parliaments’ steadfast commitment, in pursuit of the objectives of the UNFCCC, to tackle climate change by strengthening the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and its temperature goal, reflecting equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances;

9. *Encourages* parliaments to urge their respective governments to undertake policy measures to combat climate change, promote renewable energy and implement various schemes and initiatives to provide the benefits of renewable energy to the people;

10. *Encourages* the collective actions and efforts to triple renewable energy capacity globally through existing targets and policies, as well as to demonstrate similar ambition with respect to other zero and low-emission technologies, including abatement and removal technologies, in line with national circumstances, by 2030, but *opposes* the use of emission abatement technologies to delay climate action in sectors where feasible, effective and cost-efficient mitigation alternatives are available;

11. *Urges* parliaments to press their governments to create international and national enabling environments and partnerships to foster innovation, voluntary and mutually agreed upon technology transfer, and access to low-cost financing, taking into account the needs, vulnerabilities, priorities and different national circumstances of developing countries;

12. *Encourages* national parliaments to cooperate with other regional and international parliaments on knowledge exchange and transfer of best practices and policies for sustainable development and clean technology transfer;

13. *Urges* parliaments to work with the private sector to create a welcoming environment for investing in clean energy and technology transfer;

14. *Calls upon* parliaments to urge their governments to work towards facilitating access to low-cost financing for developing countries, for existing as well as new and emerging clean and sustainable energy technologies, and for supporting energy transitions;

15. *Recognizes* the role of parliamentarians in raising awareness of climate change issues and *calls* *on* governments to include youth in all climate negotiations;

16. *Applauds* the initiative of the IPU to engage parliaments and parliamentarians in its *Parliaments for the Planet* campaign, which highlights that parliaments and parliamentarians can be agents of change by contributing to ensure a just, equitable and sustainable transition through individual and institutional efforts;

17. *Recognizes* that climate equity is impossible when entities responsible for climate damage are not held accountable;

18. *Emphasizes* the importance of considering climate change-related damages within reparation mechanisms arising from internationally wrongful acts;

19. *Highlights* the need to define ecocide as unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts.