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Parliaments and climate change: The role of the IPU in supporting parliamentary action on climate change and sustainable development

Arab Regional Parliamentary Forum on the 2030 Agenda: Strengthening Parliamentary
Engagement in Climate Action in the Arab Region
Beirut, 29-30 November 2022

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Addressing climate change is an integral part of sustainable development and achieving the SDGs by 2030



Climate action an IPU priority

Addressing climate change is a **key policy area** in the IPU Strategy 2022-2026

The IPU supports climate action by:

- Providing **technical support** on key climate issues at the national and regional level
- Facilitating **inter-parliamentary knowledge-sharing** and dialogue on climate change
- Producing **climate publications** (toolkits, policy notes) specifically for parliamentarians

Main areas of work: Paris Agreement implementation, green COVID-19 recovery, climate legislation, clean energy transition, disaster risk reduction, green parliaments



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Mobilizing parliaments at the international level

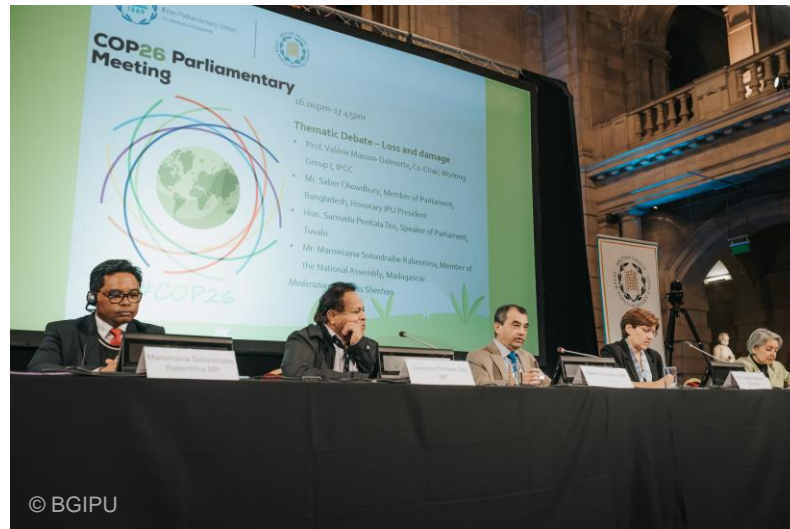
The IPU mobilizes parliaments internationally through different fora, including:

- **IPU Assemblies**

- The Nusa Dua Declaration was adopted at the 144th IPU Assembly in March 2022
- Outlines key actions to support the clean energy transition, inclusion of marginalized members of society and enhance global cooperation for joint climate action

- **International high-level climate meetings**

- Annual parliamentary meetings alongside UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs) to support implementation of the Paris Agreement and strengthen parliaments' engagement in the global climate action agenda



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Promoting parliamentary action at COP27

- Full-day event held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt hosted by the IPU and Egyptian House of Representatives
- Nearly 200 participants from over 50 countries
- Key topics included climate and development challenges, e.g. food security, displacement and climate justice




Outcome document adopted to guide parliamentary action post-COP27




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Green COVID-19 recovery

- Unprecedented opportunity to transform our economies and help achieve climate and environment-related SDGs (e.g. SDGs 7,11,12,13,14 & 15)
- IPU and UNEP produced a policy note for parliamentarians on green COVID-19 recovery to guide parliamentary action in the recovery period for a more sustainable future
- Parliaments submitted Expressions of Interest for tailored national and regional support
- Trainings and workshops being provided based on national/regional contexts, e.g. in Zimbabwe, Seychelles, Benin, Central Asia



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UN
environment
programme

Green approaches to COVID-19 recovery: Policy note for parliamentarians

Background

"The impact of the coronavirus is both immediate and dreadful. But there is another deep emergency – the planet's unfolding environmental crisis. Biodiversity is in steep decline. Climate disruption is approaching a point of no return... The current crisis is an unprecedented wake-up call. We need to turn the recovery into a real opportunity to do things right for the future."

United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres

"The path towards carbon reduction must form an important part of our future strategy in order to build more resilient societies, by transitioning towards a climate-neutral economy, protecting biodiversity and transforming the agro-food industry. This has the potential to rapidly deliver jobs and growth and improve the way of life of all citizens everywhere."

Declaration, Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

The consequences of COVID-19 and efforts to contain it have led to one of the most serious recessions in recent history, characterized by, among others, a decline in economic growth, decreased trade, low business revenues and massive layoffs. Projections indicate that, in the next two years, the global economy is expected to lose nearly US\$ 8.5 trillion in economic output due to the pandemic.¹ Understandably, the immediate focus for governments is economic recovery.

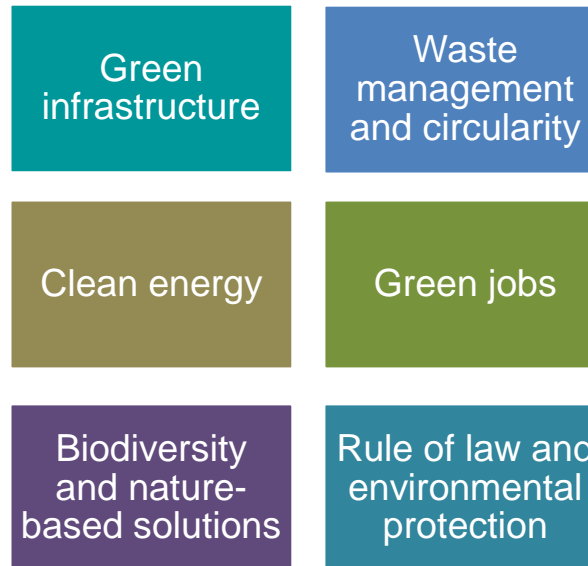
There is a link between habitat loss, environmental degradation and climate change on the one hand and, on the other, the emergence of novel zoonotic diseases that are transmitted between animals and humans, such as coronaviruses.² This link calls for a sound environmental response to the pandemic.³ For the economic recovery to be effective and long lasting, it will need to reflect coherently all dimensions of sustainable development, including the environmental pillar. It will also need to address its effects on the most vulnerable, including women, children, persons with disabilities and marginalized communities.

There is an urgent need for a socially inclusive COVID-19 recovery that is in line with climate action and environmental protection.

Parliamentarians are key players in the immediate and long-term recovery efforts, given their power to enact laws and oversee government policy.⁴ While legislation and

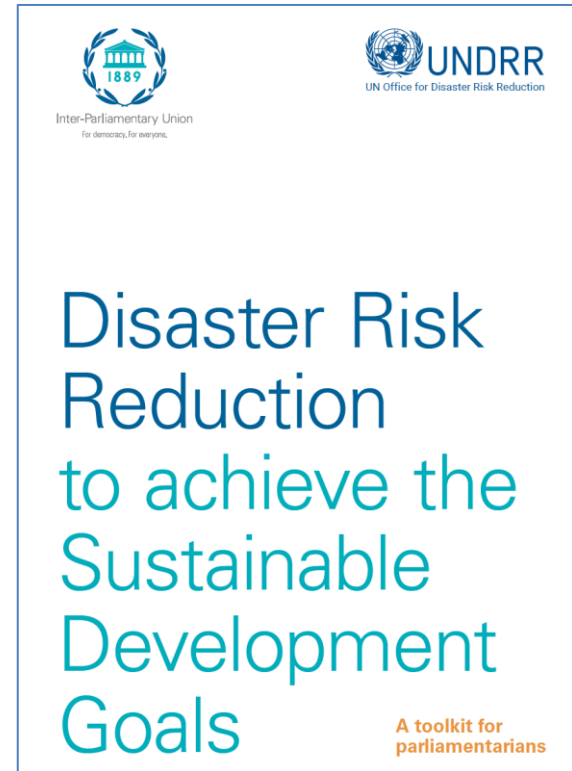
- 1 www.un.org/press/en/2020/sgsm7001.doc.htm
- 2 www.un.org/press/en/2020/conference-speakers-parliamentarians-2020-07-27-2020/
- 3 www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/environment/2020-07-27.html
- 4 UN Environment Programme, *Preventing the Next Pandemic: Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission* (2020) www.unenvironment.org/resources/issue-brief/preventing-the-next-pandemic-zoonotic-diseases-and-how-to-break-the-chain-of-transmission-2020, p. 10-11 and 26-28
- 5 www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/parliamentarians-prepare-covid-19
- 6 More information on what role parliamentarians can play during the pandemic: https://parliamentary.un.org/sites/default/files/2020/07/28/Role_of_Parliamentarians_During_COVID-19.pdf

Outlines **six key action areas** for a green COVID-19 recovery:



Parliamentary action on DRR

- Toolkit by the IPU and UNDRR specifically designed for parliamentarians
- Identifies 10 key DRR actions for parliamentarians to take to help achieve the SDGs
- Highlights specific actions related to the core parliamentary functions: legislation, oversight, budget and finance and representation
- Provides case-study examples from parliaments across the globe



Climate resources

IPU website: <https://www.ipu.org/our-impact/sustainable-development>

COP27 Parliamentary Meeting Outcome Document: <https://www.ipu.org/file/15756/download>

Green approaches to COVID-19 recovery: Policy note for parliamentarians:
<https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/other/2020-12/green-approaches-covid-19-recovery-policy-note-parliamentarians>

Disaster risk reduction to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals: A toolkit for parliamentarians: <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/toolkits/2021-10/disaster-risk-reduction-achieve-sustainable-development-goals>

Nusa Dua Declaration: <https://www.ipu.org/file/14184/download>

IPU Strategy 2022-2026: <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/about-ipu/2022-01/strategy-2022-2026>





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Thank you

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