



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK

On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund

PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF COP23

Bonn, 12 November 2017

The Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the 23rd United Nations Conference on Climate Change was jointly organized by the IPU, the Fiji Parliament, and the German Parliament on 12 November 2017 at the premises of the University of Bonn. The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF was represented among the 240 parliamentarians present at this Meeting by its Vice-Chair Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif (Tunisia) and Treasurer Hon. Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin (Malaysia).

The Meeting emphasized the role Members of Parliament can play in tackling the rise of carbon dioxide emissions, climate-induced migration, and global inequality in the face of climate change. Both the Speaker of Parliament of Fiji Hon. Jiko Luveni and the Deputy Speaker of the German Bundestag Hon. Claudia Roth underlined in their speeches that fighting climate change requires sharing and assuming responsibility for global action against it, notably on the part of wealthier and more industrialized nations.

Citing the official COP23 motto, the Prime Minister of Fiji Frank Bainimarama urged for concerted global action that goes “Further, Faster, Together” to achieve the goals laid out by the Paris agreement.

Taking the floor during the discussion period, the Vice-President of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif underlined the importance of searching for viable alternatives to subsidies, as vulnerable populations in many parts of the world are dependent on them. Furthermore, she highlighted the role of parliamentarians in climate-sensitive budgeting to ensure sufficient domestic resources are allocated to public policies combating climate change. PN Board member Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin focused his intervention before the audience on low-income countries as they will suffer the most damage from pollution, disproportionately to their level of contribution to this problem, and stressed the responsibility of parliamentarians to take action.

Further discussions pointed out the benefits of giving parliamentarians a greater responsibility on the forefront of the battle against climate change, as this is one of the main challenges future generations will face.

While the parliamentarians recognized the importance of the 2015 Paris agreement, it was also criticized for being short on ambition, and not oriented enough towards concrete action. Climate change is still often viewed as a strictly environmental issue, and policies adopted in this regard mostly address the sphere of energy. The participants agreed on the need to raise awareness among stakeholders and populations that it is a cross-cutting issue which affects all areas of life, from agriculture and nutrition to economic growth and migration patterns.

On the occasion of this Meeting, the Vice-Chair Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif met with the new IPU President Hon. Gabriela Cuevas Barron and discussed future collaboration between the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF and the IPU on climate and other development matters. In other meetings with the President of the Pan-African Parliament Hon. Roger Nkodo Dang and the Deputy Speaker of the German Bundestag Hon. Claudia Roth, she discussed their future involvement in the Parliamentary Network activities, and invited them to take part in the upcoming Global Parliamentary Conference in April 2018.

During the final session, the participants adopted an outcome document drafted by the parliaments of Germany and Fiji, and incorporating the amendments and comments received during the broad period of consultations in the months leading up to the Meeting. The outcome document, among other things, encouraged the countries who have not yet ratified the Paris agreement to do so, and the developed countries to undertake further absolute emission reduction.



From left to right: Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif, Hon. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, and Hon. Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin

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