

4 December 2023 | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

# OUTCOME STATEMENT

## PARLIAMENTARY ACCOUNTABILITY SUMMIT

### AT COP28

Global Renewables Hub, Blue Zone

Parliamentarians, including those from the Climate Vulnerable Forum's Global Parliamentary Group (CVF GPG), convened a Parliamentary Accountability Summit on December 4, 2023, during the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates .

The Summit provided a crucial platform to strengthen parliamentary engagement and support for advancements in achieving the 1.5°C temperature increase limit, driving the implementation of the Sendai Framework and reinforcing climate finance, including for adaptation.

This Parliamentary Statement issued at the Parliamentary Accountability Summit serves as an articulation of key messages and priorities from the perspective of parliamentarians. It underscores the imperative for enhanced accountability in climate action, ensuring the fulfilment of commitments at both national and international levels as follows:

*As parliamentarians convened at COP28, we stand united in our commitment to ensuring climate change accountability and aligning our actions with the imperative goals of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, implementing the Sendai Framework and reinforcing climate finance; cognizant of the social dimensions and impacts of climate change on human rights; and recognizing the urgency of these tasks, we emphasise the following key outcomes:*

#### 1.5 Alignment Commitment:

We *Reaffirm* our unwavering commitment to achieving the 1.5°C temperature limit set by the Paris Agreement. Acknowledging the sobering findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Climate Vulnerable Forum's Traffic Light Assessment Report, we recognize the critical need for immediate and robust actions to stay on track.

We *Echo* the calls for all countries, especially major emitting countries to reassess and recalibrate their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) promptly, to achieve alignment with the ambitious 1.5°C Celsius target by the year 2025 to ensure

contribution to the shared responsibility of mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change.

We are dedicated to fostering a legislative environment that actively harnesses the potential of renewable energy as a pivotal catalyst for achieving our climate commitments. We strive towards creating regulatory frameworks that not only recognizes but actively promotes the integration of renewable energy sources into our energy landscape towards tripling renewable energy by 2030.

#### Disaster Risk Reduction:

We *Acknowledge* the rising frequency and severity of climate-related disasters and therefore emphasise the crucial role of integrating disaster risk reduction into parliamentary agendas. Our commitment lies in strengthening legislative frameworks that prioritise risk reduction, resilience, response, and recovery, with a strong dedication to protecting our communities from the growing impacts of climate-induced disasters.

We *Advocate* for developing a proactive approach to prevention and preparedness, emphasising the establishment of strong mechanisms for pre- and

post-disaster risk assessments and transparent public reporting - anchored in a comprehensive, whole-of-society strategy which shifts focus from reactive response to proactive risk management mitigation.

*We commit* to heighten our political determination to ensure that our collective actions are aimed at effectively confronting the magnitude of the climate emergency.

#### Scaling Up Climate Finance:

*We Recognise* the existence of a persistent gap in climate finance, and we urge for the scaling up of adequate climate finance using all available sources, including local, national, transnational, public, private and alternative sources, to fund climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

*We Commit* to advocating for enhanced collaboration between governments including legislatures to secure the necessary funding to implement effective climate adaptation and mitigation measures.

*We Acknowledge* that countries at the forefront of the climate emergency, often bear the brunt of constant climate incidents that diminish their capacity to allocate already scarce resources to critical economic and development strategies. We therefore call on our counterparts in developed countries to ensure that they fulfil their financial commitments and scale up their contributions to meet the growing needs of developing nations in the face of climate change.

*We Urge* for funding mechanisms to be responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable developing countries, and sensitive to not increasing indebtedness through an increased emphasis on grant-based funding for countries most in need.

#### Parliamentary Accountability Mechanisms:

We recognize the unique role of parliaments in holding governments accountable for their climate commitments. We commit to utilising parliamentary tools such as questions, statements, and oversight to monitor and assess the implementation of climate policies, ensuring transparency and accountability at both national and international levels. We therefore urge parliaments and parliamentarians around the world to support efforts to ensure accountability by:

- *Enacting* laws that institutionalise climate commitments, incentivize investment for sustainable practices and technologies and by

conducting oversight to assess and review the government's progress in meeting our climate commitments.

- *Ensuring* adequate funds are allocated for climate-related initiatives and monitoring their expenditure in accordance with realising the priorities of the NDCs and disaster risk reduction goals. This includes scrutinising the budget to confirm that climate-related expenditures are in line with the commitments made in the NDCs.
- Facilitating public participation in the climate policy process to ensure broader input, making the implementation of NDCs and other climate goals more transparent and accountable, through public consultations, hearings, and mechanisms for citizens to provide feedback on climate policies.
- Establishing mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on progress in implementing climate goals and strengthening the oversight role of parliamentary committees on climate change to provide focused attention to implementation by conducting hearings, gathering expert opinions, and producing reports on the government's progress in meeting climate targets.
- Building the capacity of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff on climate-related issues to enable Parliaments to better understand the complexities of our climate goals, assess technical reports, and engage effectively in debates related to climate policy.
- Fostering platforms such as this Accountability Summit at various international forums to facilitate Parliamentarians engagement to share experiences and best practices in ensuring climate change accountability.

As parliamentarians, we leave COP28 with a renewed sense of purpose and determination. We carry forth these commitments to our respective legislatures, advocating for bold and effective climate policies that safeguard our planet for current and future generations.

*Issued by Parliamentarians at the Parliamentary Accountability Summit at COP28 in Dubai, UAE on 4 December 2023.*