



ASSEMBLEIA DA REPÚBLICA

Delegação à Assembleia Parlamentar da OSCE

## **Declaration on the United Nations Conference on Climate Change**

**João Soares, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

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The United Nations Conference on Climate Change that will take place in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December will give world leaders an important opportunity to show their commitment and courage as regards the resolution of a problem that affects our future.

**I call upon all Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to take action. We all have to use our influence on our respective Parliament and show our Governments that we are committed to this issue. Together, the 56 participating States of the OSCE have considerable influence that can positively impact the Copenhagen Conference. We have among us some of the main fossil fuel producers and consumers.**

Any decision that does not define concrete measures aimed at reducing polluting emissions into the atmosphere and does not involve all States - developed and emerging economies - has to be considered a failure or even a step backward.

We must work to regulate and reduce the consumption of fossil fuels, as they are the main cause of the greenhouse effect. At the same time, it is essential to create more global incentives to reinforce the use of cleaner energy such as biofuels, solar energy and wind and wave power. Nuclear power, for peaceful purposes, also needs to be discussed as an alternative.

The impact of climate change on the planet's life is more and more visible through increasing desertification, food and water shortages, and the growth of uncontrolled migratory movements.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has been systematically drawing attention to many of these problems. In recent years, we have adopted a number of resolutions on climate change and environmental security, water management and food shortages. These resolutions call for global action, taking into account the various aspects of the problem: political, economic and human dimensions.

The current level of pollution that is found in the air, on land, and in seas and rivers is not sustainable and if we do not stop its increase, it will lead the planet to the abyss. As responsible citizens and political leaders, it is our duty to correct our mistakes and to intervene in order to guarantee the planet a sustainable future.

Strong political leadership is needed in the coming weeks to ensure far-reaching solutions. I call on all OSCE PA Members to step up and support an ambitious agreement in Copenhagen!