



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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# Road to COP26: Virtual inter-parliamentary meeting on climate change

24 June 2021, Zoom, 14.00-15.00 (CEST)

Concept note

## Background and context

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to global prosperity, development and to the well-being of people around the world. The impacts of climate change are increasing in many places and there is an urgent need to accelerate climate action. The 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) will take place from 1-12 November 2021 in Glasgow, United Kingdom. It will bring together parties from around the world to advance action on climate change to meet the goals and objectives of the Paris Agreement and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Given the far-reaching and cross-border impacts of climate change, it is imperative that countries work together to address this crisis.

Parliaments, with their core legislative, oversight, budgetary and representation functions, are key to ensuring the implementation of the climate change goals contained in the Paris Agreement, as well as climate-change related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Parliaments are essential for the translation of international climate change commitments into country level action, for example through nationally-appropriate legislation and sufficient budget allocations. Furthermore, as climate change is a global issue that does not recognize borders, strong inter-parliamentary cooperation is crucial for finding international solutions that ensure all countries are able to prepare for, cope with, and address it.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has made supporting parliaments in addressing climate change a priority. A number of IPU resolutions on climate change have been adopted, including most recently one entitled *Addressing climate change* (2019) and another, *Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences* (2021). To encourage parliamentary action on climate change, the IPU has mobilized parliaments around COP for many years. This year, the IPU is working the Italian Chamber of Deputies and the British Group of the IPU to co-organize two upcoming meetings for parliaments. Firstly, there will be a Pre-COP26 Parliamentary Meeting on 8-9 October 2021 in Rome, Italy. This will be followed by the Parliamentary Meeting at COP26 in Glasgow, United Kingdom on 7 November, 2021 (date TBC). The expected outcome of both of these meetings will be an outcome document that is expected to charter a course for increased parliamentary action on climate change.

## Objectives

Prior to the COP26-related parliamentary meetings in Rome and Glasgow, the IPU is organizing a virtual inter-parliamentary meeting, in collaboration with the British Group of the IPU and Italian Chamber of Deputies. This meeting will provide parliamentarians with a brief overview of COP26. It will also provide them with the opportunity to meet the rapporteurs from the UK and Italy that will draft the COP26 outcome

document, and to share priority areas of concern for their countries and their parliaments' focus areas on climate change. The meeting will allow time for interactive discussion and Q&A with the rapporteurs.

IPU Members from different geopolitical groups are encouraged to share their regional perspectives on this occasion. Separate from this event, geopolitical groups are also encouraged to organize their own regional consultations on the draft COP26 outcome document and to further discuss regional climate change priorities.

### **Participants**

This event is open to all parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, in particular those that are working on issues related to climate change, environment and sustainable development.

### **Languages**

The language of the event will be English with simultaneous French interpretation provided (tbc).