

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

www.cpaukbranch.org

Telephone: 020 7219 5373
Facsimile: 020 7233 1202
E-mail: cpa@parliament.uk



WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON SW1A 0AA

1129COM/CLI07

“Working for Parliamentary Democracy throughout the Commonwealth

COMMUNIQUÉ

FROM THE

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

26-30 NOVEMBER 2007 AT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT IN LONDON

1. **We, the 85 parliamentarians from Commonwealth and G8+5 countries met in London on 26-30 November 2007 for a unique Climate Change conference. Our purpose was to determine how better we might hold our Executives to account on climate change commitments made and yet to be made.**
2. **We welcome** the statement from the Commonwealth Heads of Government, particularly the Lake Victoria Climate Change Action Plan. **We also welcome** initiatives to bring together legislators, such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the GLOBE G8+5 processes to share experiences, knowledge and develop shared understandings.
3. With the release of the Stern Review in 2006 and the IPCC 4th Assessment Report, **we understand** better than ever the science and economics of climate change. **The scale and urgency of the challenge is stark.**
4. **It is clear to us** that the longer we delay action, the more costly it will be for both mitigation and adaptation. Many people, particularly those in small-island, coastal and vulnerable developing countries are already suffering the impacts.
5. According to The World Bank the costs of climate change impacts in exposed developing countries could range from several per cent to tens of percent of GDP or up to USD 100 billion per year. The IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report states that by 2020, 75–250 million people in Africa alone are projected to be exposed to increased water stress due to climate change. **We strongly believe** that adaptation, including disaster risk reduction and capacity building should be given equal weight to mitigation in climate change negotiations.
6. Tackling climate change is fundamental to development. **We believe** that the only way to secure climate, energy, economic, food, health and physical security for all is to agree a fair and effective global treaty supported by strong national policies which together achieve stabilisation of greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents abrupt and irreversible climate change and simultaneously support sustainable economic growth.

7. As representatives of legislatures from across the Commonwealth and from Brazil, France, Japan and Mexico, **we strongly urge** negotiators at the 13th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bali 3-14 December 2007 to:

- a. **Begin inclusive negotiations on an ambitious, comprehensive and binding post-2012 framework** which will deliver a global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of at least 50% from 1990 levels by 2050, including short and medium-term milestones, with a view to completing those negotiations by the 15th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December 2009.
- b. **Ensure that equal weight is given to adaptation and mitigation**, recognising that adaptation is particularly important for developing countries and small island states.
- c. **Promote the creation of durable carbon markets** to secure emissions reductions at least cost and create a price signal to ensure that economic decision-making takes into account the environmental cost of greenhouse gas emissions and create incentives for technology transfer.
- d. **Support improved land use management**, including conservation and sustainable use of forest resources such as consideration of market-based mechanisms and compensatory measures for the preservation of standing forests; provisions for reforestation and afforestation; and measures to combat illegal logging and other causes of deforestation and degradation.
- e. **Ensure that the principle of common, but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities are enshrined in the negotiations**, recognising that there is an obligation on us all to act.
- f. **Encourage the consideration of climate change objectives in other international processes** such as the WTO and Montreal Protocol.
- g. **Design a 'roadmap' from Bali (2007) to Poznan (2008) and to Copenhagen (2009)** with clear milestones which build the foundations for success.
- h. **Devise and implement a communications strategy** to engage better with the business and civil society communities, particularly young people who do not have a seat at the negotiating table.

8. In turn **we pledge** to do all we can by:

- a. **Calling on our domestic political leaders** to support an ambitious and ethical post-2012 treaty.
- b. **Encouraging debate** in our legislative bodies, including **promoting** the formation of climate change standing committees of parliamentarians, **developing** national legislative climate change plans and **strengthening** links between our countries' legislative bodies.
- c. **Using our links** with political leaders, citizens and the media to raise awareness of and to highlight the opportunities in tackling climate change.
- d. **Continuing to strengthen** legislative processes such as the GLOBE G8+5 climate change dialogue to put pressure on G8+5 leaders for more ambitious action.
- e. **Holding our governments to account on international commitments made.**

9. Success will result in the most exciting transformation of our transport and energy systems ever; creating economic opportunity, improving air quality, protecting biodiversity and providing greater climate and energy security, as well as promoting sustainable economic growth. Our failure to act will be impossible to justify to our citizens and to future generations.