



COMMUNIQUE

THE SECOND MEETING OF THE WEST AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Theme: “Strengthening Oversight in Climate Action Accountability and Reporting”

17 - 19 July 2024 at Royal Grand Hotel, Monrovia, Liberia

Preamble

WE, the Chairs and Members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committees on Environment, Climate Change, Agriculture and Natural Resources in West Africa convened in Monrovia, Liberia for the *Second Meeting of the West African Regional Parliamentarians' Forum, on Oversight in Climate Action Accountability and Reporting* with representatives from 12 West African Parliaments.

Recalling the outcomes of the **First Meeting of the West African Regional Parliamentarians** on the, “*Strengthening the Role of Parliaments in Implementation of Climate Policies and Climate Action*” held on 22-24 May 2023 in Abuja, Nigeria which called for the formation of a **West African Regional Parliamentarians Forum on Climate Change**.

Further Recalling the **International Parliamentary Union (IPU) Action Plan on Climate Change** of 2016, that aims to guide parliamentarians and parliaments (including their reporting structures and systems) as they strive to deliver on the Paris Agreement goals,

Recognizing that this meeting is being held at a crucial time, as Africa faces the severe impacts of climate change, highlighting the need to improve sustainable environmental and natural resource management to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity on the continent.

Understanding that as representatives of the people, achieving environmental sustainability and climate resilience in Africa can only be accomplished through multi-stakeholder engagements that foster inclusiveness and recognize the importance of all stakeholders, especially vulnerable communities that depend on natural resources for basic necessities and livelihoods.

Welcoming the efforts to strengthen the parliamentary oversight and budgeting functions of West African Parliaments enhance accountability in implementing international and national climate change commitments in a manner that contributes to sustainable development and poverty eradication efforts.

Noting that at this Meeting, the Forum covered the following critical areas:

- Awareness raising among Parliamentarians about national and international commitments on climate change.
- Sharing experiences from national Parliaments on the tools used to provide oversight and track the progress of implementing climate policies and actions.
- Sharing best practices in the formulation and enactment of climate laws.
- Establishing mechanisms for ensuring accountability and transparency in the implementation of climate policies.
- Effective allocating and utilizing resources for locally-led adaptation and climate action.
- Training and capacity-building programs for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff on climate issues.
- Creating opportunities for accessing technical expertise to support legislative, oversight, and budget reviews by Parliaments.
- Developing strategies for inclusive stakeholder engagement in climate action planning and implementation, including harnessing community voices and indigenous and local knowledge.
- Promoting cooperation among West African Parliaments and other Parliaments from different regions of Africa.
- Engaging with international climate and other high-level forums, including Parliaments in other jurisdictions such as the UK Parliament, US Congress, Canadian Parliament, EU Parliament, G7, and G20, among others.
- Accessing climate finance to enhance Parliamentary oversight in climate action accountability and reporting.

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WE HEREBY CALL FOR:

1. Strengthened collaboration and cooperation between the executive and the Parliament in addressing climate change issues.
2. Working with respective Parliamentary leadership to designate Champions on Climate Change within national and regional legislatures, as appropriate, and request AUDA-NEPAD and AGNES to facilitate this process.
3. Enactment of robust climate laws to facilitate the implementation of climate policies and actions by parliaments.
4. Encourage the formation of Parliamentary Caucuses on climate change in the national, sub-regional, and Pan African Parliaments.
5. Increase of budget allocations by the Portfolio Committees of Parliament towards effective oversight and tracking of climate action implementation.
6. Mobilization of resources for enhancing oversight and tracking of climate action implementation from various sources, including the GCF Readiness Grants and other climate finance sources.
7. Development of country and context-appropriate Assessment/Monitoring Frameworks, Tools, and Systems to assist in the oversight and tracking of climate actions.
8. AUDA-NEPAD and AGNES to support and facilitate the development of a Model Climate Change Law that could be adapted at the national and sub-regional levels.
9. Strengthening the capacity of parliamentarians and technical staff on climate change using technical experts and past parliamentarians versed in climate change issues.

10. Stronger collaboration between Parliaments, the scientific community, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders in climate actions.
11. Awareness creation and development of multimedia popular version publications on climate change and climate action to support parliamentary work across the continent.
12. Parliamentary participation at the 10th Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and request that this Forum makes a statement at the session to be held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 1-5 September 2024.
13. AMCEN and the Government of Cote d'Ivoire to provide space for the hosting of a Side Event by the Parliamentary Forums on Climate Change for Parliamentary at the 10th AMCEN Special session and request Parliaments, AUDA-NEPAD, AGNES and other Partners to support the Side Event.
14. Strongly urge AMCEN to institutionalize Regional and Sub-Regional Parliamentary Forum's participation at its bi-annual conferences.

WE, the Chairs and Members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committees on Environment, Climate Change, Agriculture and Natural Resources in West Africa, having successfully concluded our meeting, **SEIZE** this opportunity to commend the Government and the People of the Republic of Liberia for successfully hosting the Second Meeting of the West Africa Regional Parliamentarians Forum and EXPRESS appreciation for the hospitality accorded therein.

We also express our profound gratitude to the Speaker of the House of the Representatives, **Hon. Jonathan Fonati Koffa** and **Sen. Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence**, President Pro-Tempro of the Liberian Senate, for their leadership in organizing the Meeting, and we further record our appreciation for the support and facilities provided by the Liberian Legislature in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), that greatly contributed to the success of the Meeting.

Finally, we express our appreciation to the **African Group of Negotiators Experts Support (AGNES)** and the **African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)** for the support in convening the Meeting and for their excellent facilitation.

By adopting and signing this Communique, **WE collectively underscore** our strong commitment to climate action and encourage all the national Parliaments across the continent, to actively engage by integrating climate change into their respective Parliamentary calendar and activities.

Adopted and signed on 19 July 2024
Monrovia, Liberia

Countries' commitment



Republic of Benin




Republic of Burkina Faso




Republic of Côte d'Ivoire



Republic of The Gambia



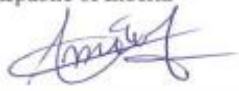
Republic of Ghana



Republic of Guinea



Republic of Liberia



Republic of Mali



Republic of Nigeria



Republic of Senegal



Republic of Sierra Leone



Republic of Togo