

JOINT STATEMENT
LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS AT COP 26

9 November 2021

We, parliamentarians of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Glasgow, on the occasion of the 26th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),

Convinced of the fundamental role Parliamentary representatives worldwide play in building consensus-based, long-term policies, have come together to shift from words to climate action.

We consider that it is primordial to establish a cross-cutting roadmap that involves all jurisdictions and State powers of our countries to push for a new development paradigm towards a just transition to sustainable low-carbon economies in the global South.

In this context, Parliaments play a central role in defining legislative instruments that integrate environmental protection and, in particular, climate change mitigation and adaptation, as inescapable dimensions of every public policy. Given their representative and plural essence and in keeping with their role in counterbalancing other State powers, the involvement of Parliaments is fundamental to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the fulfilment of the Paris Agreement and other regional and international instruments related to environmental matters.

In this order of ideas and with a view to strengthening environmental legislation standards in our region, we announce the initiative to build the Parliamentary Observatory on Climate Change and Just Transition (the Spanish acronym is OPCC).

The purpose of the Observatory is to serve as a shared information tool on the state of parliamentary procedures related to environmental initiatives and of environmental legislation in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as to drive climate action within the realm of legislative powers and other government branches, thereby contributing to the identification of common actions and needs that countries could coordinate towards environmental stewardship, as well as providing visibility to the legal framework existing in our region.

We trust that this open access information platform will be a useful tool for the strengthening of environmental democracy, by providing pertinent information to the other public powers of our States and for the pursuit of actions and research by international organizations and civil society, academia, social movements, private companies and other stakeholders from our region and from the world.

The creation of the Observatory is based on sustainable development and its multidimensional nature in social, environmental and economic matters, as well as on the principles of just transition and of common but differentiated responsibilities. Therefore, the Observatory is centred on the defence of the planet, all living beings and people, their human rights and dignity. We also act based on the understanding that, from a global perspective, protecting the environment is the only path for the development and well-being of communities.

We jointly express the importance of moving towards a society of care and of “buen vivir”, in which we care for the planet, for forests, for wetlands and for each ecosystem, for biodiversity, for people and especially for indigenous peoples, for those who care for us and for ourselves, ensuring the reduction of inequality and the creation of quality jobs and decent living conditions, leaving no one behind.

In this sense, we reiterate the special relevance of the Escazú Agreement as a determining instrument for access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters and the protection of defenders of human rights in environmental matters in our region. We are determined to work for the prompt ratification of the Escazú Agreement by those States that have not yet done so.

In addition, we urge leaders and decision makers gathered at the 26th Conference of the Parties of UNFCCC to act in a manner consistent with the urgency of climate action at the international, regional, national and local levels. Furthermore, assuming the global, cross-cutting and intersectional nature of the climate crisis, causing damage to and demanding actions from all, we invite the parliamentarians of the world to add their efforts to this initiative.

We commit to the construction of the Parliamentary Observatory on Climate Change and Just Transition (OPCC), by providing up-to-date and rigorous information on our countries and by championing the construction of pioneering national legal frameworks, of regional dialogues and positions and of interparliamentary cooperation mechanisms to achieve the urgent structural change towards sustainability and equality in our countries and in those countries that join us in this effort.

In partnership for the common objectives and challenges that we face as parliamentarians of the Global South, we gather in the context of COP 26 to reiterate our commitment to work continuously to protect the planet, all living beings and our citizens of today and of future generations.

Signatories:

X 
 National Senator Gladys González
 President of the Environment and Sustainable Development
 Committee of the National Senate of Argentina

X 
 Senator Jaques Wagner
 President of the Environment Commission
 Federal Senate of Brazil

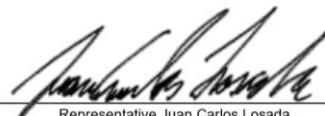
X 
 National Deputy Brenda Austin
 Vice President of the Commission for Natural Resources and
 Conservation of the Human Environment of the Chamber of
 Deputies of Argentina

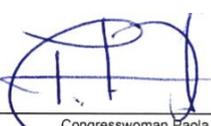
X 
 Federal Deputy Rodrigo Agostinho
 Federal Deputy at the Chamber of
 Deputies of Brazil

X 
 Senator Cecilia Isabel Requena Zárate
 Secretary of the Committee for the Environment, the Amazon,
 Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Climate Change
 Senate of Bolivia

X 
 Senator Ximena Ordenes Neira
 President of the Commission for the Environment
 and National Assets of the Senate of Chile

X 
 Senator Guido Girardi
 President of the Commission on Challenges of the Future, Science,
 Technology and Innovation of the Senate of Chile

X 
 Representative Juan Carlos Losada
 Representative to the Chamber of the Congress
 Republic of Colombia

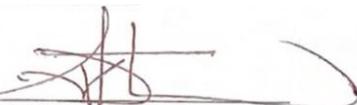
X 
 Congresswoman Paola Vega
 President of the Environment Commission of the Legislative Assembly
 Costa Rica

X 
 Mr. Gwendall Marcelina
 Member of Parliament
 Curaçao

X 
 Samuel Andrés Pérez Álvarez
 General Secretary of the Semilla Legislative Bloc and Deputy of the
 Congress of the Republic of Guatemala

X 
 The Hon. Vincent O. Whistley
 Minister of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration
 British Virgin Islands

X 
 The Hon. Otis Morris
 Minister of Home Affairs, Transportation, Broadcasting, Energy and
 Utilities and Telecommunications Commission of Turks and Caicos

X 
 The Hon. Verónica Dorsette-Hector
 Parliamentary Secretary
 Montserrat

X 
 Congressman Juan Federico Ruiz
 President of the Environment Commission
 Chamber of Representatives of Uruguay