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DE  
NATIONALE  
ASSEMBLÉE  
VAN DE REPUBLIEK SURINAME

**Regional Seminar on climate change and disaster risk reduction for Parliaments of the Caribbean**  
**Organized jointly by the National Assembly of Suriname and the Inter-Parliamentary Union**  
**Paramaribo, 5-6 November 2018**

**Provisional programme**

**Sunday, 4 November 2018**

Arrival of delegates

**First day – Monday, 5 November 2018**

08:00 – 08:30

**Registration**

08:30 – 09:00

**Opening session**

Introduction of participants

- Welcome speech of Ms. J. Simons, Speaker of the National Assembly of Suriname

Group photo

09:00 – 10:30

**Session I: Understanding and responding to climate change.**  
**1- Challenges, opportunities and response actions of countries in the region.**

This session will feature an overview and update on climate change around the globe and its impact on sustainable development in the region, short- and long-term challenges, as well as opportunities for transformation into a more sustainable development model. It will also focus on how the Caribbean region responds to these challenges.

- Mr. Robert Ondhowe, Programme Manager, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, UN Environment
- Dr. Alina Averchenkova, Principal Research Fellow, Lead, Governance and Legislation, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change (*video message*)
- Mr. Jomo Sanga Thomas, Speaker of the Assembly, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

*Presentations will be followed by a debate.*

10:30 – 10:45

Coffee break

10:45 – 12:30

**Session I: (cont.) Understanding and responding to climate change  
2- International commitments and the role of national legislators.  
Regional specificities.**

The international community agreed that national commitments on climate change at global level were reflected in the Paris Climate Change Agreement and will be set out in more detail by the nationally determined contributions of each country. In addition, the Escazú Agreement, reached by and for Latin America and the Caribbean, reflects the priorities and particularities of the region. It addresses key aspects of environmental management and protection from a human rights-based perspective. This session will allow participants to learn more about the role of parliamentarians in the domestic ratification process of the Paris and Escazú Agreements as well as their part in translating international commitments into national laws and policies.

- Ms. Stara Ahmidouch, Chief of Staff, IPU
- Ms. Hafida Lahiouel, Director, Legal Affairs, UNFCCC (*video message*)
- Mr. David Barrio Lamarche, Legal Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, UN ECLAC
- Ms. Donna Marie Scott-Mottley, Senator, Jamaica

Presentations will be followed by a debate.

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch

14:30 – 17:30

Visit to an area affected by coastal erosion and/or areas affected by climate change and natural disasters

17:30

Travel back to Paramaribo

**Second day – Tuesday, 6 November 2018**

9:00 – 10:30

**Session II: Enhancing resilience and disaster preparedness in the context of climate change.**

**1- Parliamentarians respond to climate change.**

Parliamentarians are at the heart of the response to climate change. They are responsible for transposing international agreements into national legislation, supporting pro-environmental measures through appropriate budget allocation, assuring robust oversight of government performance and adopting climate change-related laws and policies. This session will introduce the IPU Parliamentary action plan on climate change which identifies practical recommendations on how parliamentarians can contribute to mitigating the worst effects of climate change. It will also allow participants to take stock of what has been done at parliamentary level to combat climate change in the region.

- Ms. Stara Ahmidouch, Chief of Staff, IPU
- Mr. Guibion Ferdinand, Senator, Saint Lucia
- Dr. José Rubiera, MP, Cuba
- MP from Suriname (Ms.) - *to present national strategies and parliamentary action to combat climate change*

Presentations will be followed by a debate.

Parliamentarians will be invited to present examples of legislative, budgetary and oversight measures relating to climate change adopted by their respective parliaments.

10:30 – 10:45

Coffee break

10:45 – 12:30

**Session II: (cont.) Enhancing resilience and disaster preparedness in the context of climate change.**

- **Parliamentarians take action to reduce disaster risk.**

This session will allow delegates to gain a better understanding of the action taken at the global level and in the region to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards. Participants will share national experiences and challenges related to implementing disaster risk reduction policies at national level and take stock of existing tools and good parliamentary practices.

- Ms. Celeste Connors, Executive Director of Hawai'i Green Growth – *video message*
- Mr. Jerry Slijngard, Coordinator, National Coordination Center for Disaster Relief, Suriname
- Mr. Omar Bello, Coordinator, Unit of Sustainable Development and Disaster, ECLAC
- Hon. Boyd Knights, Speaker of the House of Assembly of Dominica

Presentations will be followed by a debate.

Parliamentarians will be invited to present examples of action taken and results achieved at national level.

12:30 – 14:30

Lunch

14:30 – 16:00

**Closing session: Adoption of the Outcome document**

- Presentation of the Outcome document by the rapporteur

19:00 – 21:00

Reception offered by the National Assembly of Suriname

**Wednesday, 7 November 2017**

Departure of delegates