



Legislators working worldwide to combat climate change

It is ultimately politicians who will decide whether we make the necessary changes in policy and budgets in time to prevent a global climate breakdown. Only they have the mandate to transform energy systems, strengthen forest protection, and implement other key reforms. If so, few things are more important than informing and mobilising politicians on these issues.

The Climate Parliament is the world's main international parliamentary network focused on climate and renewable energy. Collaborating with the European Commission and other partners, the Climate Parliament has long experience of working with national and regional legislators on the climate agenda. We cooperate closely with our principal partner in the UN system, the **United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)**. Both the Climate Parliament and UNIDO are keen to explore partnerships with other agencies, foundations and institutions working on climate change.

Parliamentary awareness about programmes can increase the chances of it scaling up with support from national governments. While governments and ministers change, cross-party groups of legislators can maintain consistent engagement, helping to build political will for government action. By providing parliamentary outreach for different organisations and research programmes on specific issues, the Climate Parliament is able to keep expanding its global network of concerned Members of Parliament and Congress (MPs). The network can then be deployed on many other climate issues in the future.

The following are some of the activities that we have undertaken in collaboration with different partners. More information can be found at www.climateparl.net.



1. INFORM AND INSPIRE

Virtual Parliamentary roundtables

Together with the **European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)** and the **United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)**, we have organised more than 60 virtual parliamentary roundtables for **African MPs** on Zoom and Teams, in both English and French. As a result, we now have a network of hundreds of concerned African MPs, many of whom are playing an active role on climate in their parliaments.



In-person Parliamentary roundtables

One recent roundtable was organised in New Delhi with the **US Agency for International Development**, bringing together MPs from **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka** to discuss regional grid connections for trading renewable energy. The meeting will lead to the creation of a regional parliamentary network to support and promote the creation of **green energy corridors across South Asia**. Over the last two decades, the Climate Parliament has organised hundreds of similar meetings, leading to all kinds of actions at the national level.



One-on-one engagement with key lawmakers

After a one-on-one videoconference with **Rebecca Kamara MP of Sierra Leone**, she established a cross-party **Climate Parliament Sierra Leone group** which is active on renewable energy issues. A former prisoner of the rebel army in Sierra Leone's brutal civil war, Rebecca Kamara has become one of the most formidable environmental advocates in the national parliament.

Engaging women legislators

Nasrine Pillane MP of Malawi attended a Climate Parliament meeting in Mozambique on clean cooking. On her return, she organised a women's cooperative in her constituency manufacturing efficient cookstoves. Many of the most effective members of the Climate Parliament network are women MPs. Our roundtables aim for **at least 30% and preferably 50% representation of women**, even in parliaments where the overall percentage is much lower, so as to build the capacity of female legislators as clean energy advocates. **Our Chairwoman is Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP**, a former Environment Minister of Finland.

Policy briefs for Members of Congress and Parliament

The Climate Parliament and the **United Nations Development Programme** jointly published a **Handbook for Parliamentarians on Renewable Energy**, which was widely distributed to our network. A section of our website is devoted to **Action Ideas** for legislators.

Field visits

After a meeting of **Latin American MPs in Santiago, Chile**, we took the group to visit a nearby large solar power station. One of the Peruvian MPs in the group, César Villanueva, returned home and began pushing for a similar power station in his home region in Amazonian Peru. He told us that the field visit in Chile had opened his eyes to solar power. A few months later, he became **Prime Minister** of Peru. Many members of our network go on to become ministers. Indeed, the new **President of Chile, Gabriel Boric**, is a former member of the Climate Parliament. Climate change is one of his three top priorities. The time to educate MPs about climate issues is **before** they become ministers or heads of government. *Pictured: Latin American MPs visiting a Chilean solar power station. César Villanueva second from left.*



2. ACT

Global initiatives

The Climate Parliament conceived and developed a new initiative which was launched at the **Glasgow** climate summit as the **Green Grids Initiative – One Sun One World One Grid**. A One Sun Declaration, originally drafted by the Climate Parliament, was issued by the **Prime Ministers of India and the United Kingdom**, as the summit host. It has now been **endorsed by 92 countries**. The Declaration commits governments to work together to accelerate the construction of clean energy superhighways linking cities to massively expanded solar and wind power in the best locations. **Regional working groups** have so far been established for Africa and Asia. More information can be found at www.greengrids.world. *Pictured: MPs from the Climate Parliament India with Prime Minister Modi at COP26, following Mr Modi's speech to announce the Green Grids Initiative– One Sun One World One Grid.*



Increasing budgets

The **Climate Parliament India group** played a key role in **doubling the budget of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy over a period of three years**, which resulted in additional expenditure on renewables of hundreds of millions of dollars each year. The first step was to initiate hearings in Parliament's powerful **Estimates Committee**, leading to the Committee instructing the Finance Ministry to devote 1% of the national budget to renewables. The Secretary of the Ministry during that period has stated that the budget increases would not have been possible without the support of the Climate Parliament group.

Our group in the **European Parliament** passed an amendment to the EU's 2014-2020 budget, stating that at least 70% of the energy budget in the **Connecting Europe Facility** should be for electricity connections rather than gas pipelines. Hard negotiations followed with the national governments in the Council, where there was strong resistance to the amendment from some governments. Parliament stood firm, and it was finally agreed that **“the major part” of the €5 billion budget would go to electricity rather than gas**. *Pictured: A Climate Parliament global meeting in the European Parliament's Brussels headquarters.*



Climate legislation

In 2021 the Nigerian Parliament passed a climate law establishing a **National Council on Climate Change to set annual carbon budgets for Nigeria**. The law was written by the Chairman of the **Climate Parliament Nigeria** group, **Samuel Onuigbo MP**, who had previously made three unsuccessful attempts to pass a climate law and get it signed by the President. This time, the Climate Parliament used some of its **European Union** funding to sponsor two rounds of negotiation between the Parliament and relevant government departments on the final text of the law. This overcame the bureaucratic opposition which had previously blocked approval of the law, leading to the law coming into force with the President's signature on the fourth attempt.

National institution-building

The **Climate Parliament Bangladesh** group pressed for the establishment of a **new Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority**. When the new agency was created, the **Minister of Power** was kind enough to say publicly that it would not have happened nearly so quickly without the active engagement of the Climate Parliament group.

Local initiatives in Parliamentary constituencies

In the Bihar (India) constituency of **Dr Sanjay Jaiswal MP**, the lights came on for the first time in 50 villages which had never had electric light, with the installation of **50 solar minigrids**. Dr Jaiswal wrote on his website that this was the result of his involvement in the Climate Parliament. The **British High Commission** in Delhi funded a programme to help other Indian MPs apply some of their **MP Local Area Development Funds** to renewable energy projects at village level.

Jitu Soni MP of Tanzania heard a presentation on solar water pumps at a Climate Parliament roundtable. He went home and organised **solar water pumps to deliver water to two villages** in his constituency. Women who had previously spent hours each day carrying water from a distant source were now able to use their time productively.

3. CONNECT

Cross-party groups in national parliaments

As a result of an earlier series of roundtables in East Africa funded by the **European Commission**, a group of **Ugandan MPs** created a **Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change**. After a Climate Parliament meeting at COP22 in Marrakesh, the group decided to push for the establishment of a **standing Parliamentary Committee on Climate Change**. The Committee then pushed through a new national climate law, which requires that the annual budget of every government department must make a substantial investment in climate action. This must be certified by an independent committee of experts before Parliament will approve the budget.

Helping good ideas to travel

The Climate Parliament recently organised a **delegation of Zimbabwean MPs to Uganda** to learn about the new Ugandan climate law, with a view to strengthening a similar law now in the pipeline in Zimbabwe. In a virtual parliamentary roundtable with 25 African MPs, **Samuel Onuigbo MP of Nigeria and Lawrence Songa MP of Uganda** described the long process of parliamentary organising that in each country that led to their new climate laws. In a **Map of Green Ambition** on our website, we provide MPs with a one-page summary of a country's key climate targets, so that they can compare their own country's performance with other similar countries. We then highlight the front-runners in our roundtables. *Pictured: Zimbabwean MPs meeting in Kampala with their Ugandan colleagues to learn about Uganda's climate law.*



Dialogue between legislators and private sector

The Climate Parliament has organised virtual parliamentary roundtables where CEOs from renewable energy and electric vehicle industries share their experience with MPs about what policies are most effective in attracting investment. We are now organising a **Climate Parliament CEO Council**, with the aim of encouraging new private sector initiatives on green grids. Co-convenors of the CEO Council include: **Anand Mahindra**, head of the Mahindra Group, one of India's largest companies; **Norman Moyo**, CEO of Distributed Power Africa; **Paddy Padmanathan**, CEO of ACWA Power, which has built many of the world's largest solar power stations; and **Audrey Zibelman** who leads Tapestry, which Alphabet calls its "moonshot for the electric grid."

Media outreach through legislators

The Climate Parliament played a key role in getting media attention for the Green Grids Initiative during and after its launch in Glasgow, from **CNN** to **Radio New Zealand**. Many MPs in our network spoke in an online launch event, to which journalists were invited. Indian media made extensive use of our press release, and a group of Indian MPs, returning home after a **photo opportunity with Prime Minister Modi** at the announcement, held a well-attended press conference in Delhi.



Climate Parliament