



**International Roundtable of Parliamentarians on Disaster Risk
Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation**
St Julians, Malta, 23-24 November 2009

ADOPTED

The Malta Declaration of the Commitment by Parliamentarians to COP 15 and Beyond 24 November 2009

1. Why we parliamentarians, representatives of the people, are engaged.

Because:

- a. Our core responsibility includes oversight of the executive and formulation of legislations, as well as appropriation of the budget.
- b. We are the bridge between the executive and the people and we also have the responsibility to ensure the implementation of decisions taken.
- c. We are the elected representatives of people, we have to secure that their aspirations, views, and knowledge form part of the overall decision-making processes.

- d. We are in close and constant contact with our people, and we know how to raise their awareness to threats to their livelihoods and to explain how to prevent that these threats do not materialize.
- e. We have opportunities and responsibilities in leading our citizens through crises and uncertainties using innovative ideas to overcome the challenge of climate change through the application of disaster risk reduction as a tool for climate change adaptation.

2. *What we are concerned about.*

- a. The universal threat to the welfare and aspirations of humanity as a result of climate change makes it incumbent upon us as leaders to ensure awareness creation and responsible and immediate action by all stakeholders of society, in conformity with the fundamental principles of human rights.
- b. The frequency and scale of disasters obliges us to promote the coordination between governments, parliaments, civil society, private sector, academia, local communities and the general populace to commit to immediate action to share our collective experiences and knowledge and implement all the decisions of COP 15 to reduce the threat to our welfare and existence.

3. *Therefore, we call upon all parliamentarians to collectively:*

- a. Proactively invite their governments to demonstrate the utmost political will to ensure the positive outcome of COP 15.
- b. Exercise our responsibility in national oversight over the implementation of COP 15 decisions.
- c. Encourage all parliamentarians as role models to combat corruption, to embrace transparency and accountability at all levels of handling disaster related and climate adaptation funding with strict adherence to the code of conduct, national quality standards and international best practices.
- d. Recognize the importance of building a culture of prevention by using education as a good example of how long-term investment benefits socio-economic development and thus prevention.
- e. Recognize that measures for climate change adaptation will contribute not only to the prevention of problems resulting from increasingly scarce resources, which may lead to conflicts and local displacements, specially related to water and land, but will also represent an opportunity to create employment and sustain development.

- f. To use all the available instruments of their legislative bodies, including gender mainstreaming, to ensure disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures are integrated in national planning and budget processes.

4. We also call upon:

- a. All the Parties to the Conference to ensure immediate action to finalize a legally-binding agreement, with progressive and accessible financing mechanisms adequate for reaching the goals of disaster risk reduction, coupled with accessible appropriate technology, to ensure availability based on region-specific vulnerabilities.
- b. The private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to use their influence to ensure the implementation of COP 15 decisions and achieving and realizing their national goals.
- c. The private sector to set aside no less than 10% of corporate social responsibility funding for the specific use for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation programmes and projects.

*Our commitment is to consistently represent
the true voice of the people*

