



Climate Parliament

Legislators working worldwide to combat climate change

Global Newsletter, Winter 2012/3

Dear Friends and Colleagues.

You'll find below an update on the work of the Climate Parliament. For those not familiar with us, the Climate Parliament is a global network of legislators working to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy. We focus mainly on the new laws and budget priorities that are required to shift the world from fossil fuels to solar, wind and other sources of renewable energy.

As you will see, we've been busy over the last few months. An international parliamentary hearing in November, held in partnership with the UN Development Programme in Sri Lanka, brought MPs from across the developing world together with climate scientists and policy experts to discuss measures to accelerate the transition to clean energy. A few weeks later, we were in Doha, Qatar, to attend the UN climate negotiations and host our annual Climate Parliament / UNDP Parliamentary Forum - a three day event for parliamentarians to discuss sustainability legislation and share best practice.

In Doha, we launched the "Renewable Tigers" initiative - an ambitious plan to promote economic growth in a group of developing countries through investment in renewable energy. In December, our India group met with the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and presented him with a memorandum on renewable energy development in India, along with a joint declaration calling for cross-border renewable energy trading, signed by MPs from the Bangladeshi, Indian and Sri Lankan Parliaments. Our India group has played a key role in substantially increasing both India's 2020 renewable energy target, and the Government of India's renewable energy budget. Finally, our members have been hard at work in the European Parliament, passing a crucial budgetary amendment through the Industry and Energy Committee, and hosting a conference on renewable energy in Turkey.

If enough concerned legislators around the world press for urgent action, working together with renewable energy industries, investors and citizen groups, there is still a chance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions fast enough to avoid catastrophic climate change.

Best wishes,



Sir Graham Watson MEP
Chairman



Nicholas Dunlop
Secretary-General

Climate Parliament MPs meet with Indian Prime Minister



On Wednesday 12th December 2012, the Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh, met with a cross-party delegation of MPs from the Climate Parliament Group in the Indian Parliament to discuss government action on renewable energy. Agreeing that the development of green energy in India was of high importance, the Prime Minister said that he plans to take a personal interest in the implementation of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) to ensure that its various targets, including an increase in the share of new and renewable energy to 15% of the total grid electricity mix by 2020, are successfully met.

The inclusion of an increased renewable energy target in the new Five Year Plan, in line with India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, is a major success for the Climate Parliament India Group, which has been pressing in Parliament for a more ambitious goal for two years. Likewise, the latest budget figures suggest that funding for the Ministry of Renewable Energy is set to more than double - thanks in no small part to the work of Climate Parliament MPs in Parliament's powerful Estimates Committee.

The MPs also presented Dr Singh with a joint declaration, drafted at the recent Climate Parliament - UNDP Hearing in Sri Lanka and signed by a cross-party group of MPs from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, which called for legislation and investment to encourage increased cross-border renewable energy trading in the South Asian region to enable countries in the region to share their energy resources.

European Parliament Committee adopts key Climate Parliament amendment on energy

We achieved an important step in our work for a Europe-Mediterranean renewable energy supergrid when two key Committees of the European Parliament voted to endorse an amendment tabled by members of the Climate Parliament.



The seven-year EU budget, now in its final stages of negotiation between Council and Parliament, contains a new Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) that includes over €5 billion for energy interconnections. Just one problem: the CEF didn't specify how much money should go to "electricity highways" to enable countries to share their renewable energy resources, and how much should go to gas pipelines. The Industry and Energy (ITRE) and Transport (TRAN) committees accepted the recommendation from Climate Parliament members to earmark 75% of the money for electricity highways. If it goes through the final negotiations, it will ensure that close to €4 billion will be used to attract more private investment into building crucial electricity highways within Europe, between Europe and North America, and linking wind power sites across the northern seas. The original amendment was tabled by our Chairman, Sir Graham Watson, who commented:

"The gas industry made \$180bn in profits last year. They can afford to pay for their own pipelines - they don't need EU taxpayers' money. Cross-border electricity interconnectors however are crucial to using more renewables, allowing us to share renewable electricity across borders and smooth out their variable supply."

March 2013: Climate Parliament Forum in European Parliament



On March 7th - 8th 2013, MPs from Africa, Asia and Europe, NGO representatives, and senior delegations from some of the world's largest multilateral development agencies gathered in the European Parliament for a two-day dialogue on renewable energy, development and investment, organised by the Climate Parliament.

In the global sunbelt, where most of the world's poor majority lives, bilateral and multilateral development agencies have an important role to play in enabling access to clean energy for everyone. The multilateral agencies also have an important role to play in encouraging and supporting the building of "electricity highways" to link cities and countries to the areas with the most abundant renewable energy resources. Members of Parliament approve the budgets which fund those agencies, and need to monitor their work on behalf of their constituents. MPs can encourage and support them to give top priority to accelerating the global transition to a low carbon economy.

This Climate Parliament Forum enabled legislators to question agency heads and senior officials from major multilateral and bilateral agencies about what they are doing – or not doing – to support renewable energy. Speakers included Jonathan Taylor, Vice President of the European Investment Bank - which in addition to its European work invests more in developing countries than even the World Bank; Sri Mulyani Indrawati, a Managing Director of the World Bank Group; Adnan Amin, Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency; Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank; Mr Rintaro Tamaki, Deputy Secretary-General for Environment,

Development, Green Growth and Financial Affairs at the OECD; Einar Telnes, Director of Climate at the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation; and Dr Mohamed Jamel Eddine Zarrouk, Chief Economist, Islamic Bank of Development. A full report on the Forum will be published on the Climate Parliament website in the next few months.

Climate Parliament hosts event on renewable energy in Turkey

On January the 24th, the Climate Parliament, working in partnership with the [Desertec Industrial Initiative](#) and [E3G](#), brought together national legislators, MEPs, representatives of the European Commission and business leaders for a conference on renewable energy in Turkey.

The event highlighted the plentiful renewable resources in the country and looked at creating a green energy hub between Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, in light of the Enhanced EU-Turkey Energy Cooperation agreed in June 2012 between Turkey and the EU.

Sir Graham Watson MEP, Chairman of the Climate Parliament, commented: "Turkey's demand for power is set to double in the next 12 years - potentially a huge new source of CO₂. It is crucial that the EU-Turkey energy relationship focuses on renewables, cross-border electricity lines and connecting Turkey to a wider green energy grid with Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Turkey could create a climate-proof economy and power its growth with cheap solar power - but now is the time to choose."

"Turkey should not be blinded by the fact that it is at the centre of 68% of the world's oil reserves and 75% of the world's gas reserves. Those are the fuels of the past, not the future. It is crucial that the green energy switch starts now."

2012 Parliamentary Hearing: "Policy for the Renewable Energy Revolution"



On the 16th - 18th November 2012, parliamentarians from across Asia, Africa and the Middle East came together in Sri Lanka for a Climate Parliament / UNDP Parliamentary Hearing. The hearing focused on regional electricity trading and the potential of sustainable energy investment for cutting carbon emissions, fighting poverty, and driving economic growth in South Asia and across the developing world. The hearing was opened by the Sri Lankan Minister for Energy, Patali Ranawanke MP, and UNDP's resident representative for the region, Subinay Nandy. The Minister declared that "the age of fossil fuels is over".

Over the course of the three-day conference, MPs heard presentations from leading climate scientists, policy experts, and technical specialists, questioned leading thinkers on potential solutions to the climate change problem, and worked together to outline future legislative strategy. They also had an opportunity to see renewable energy in action during a field trip to a nearby small hydroelectric dam, which included a guided tour of the turbine room from some of the engineers working on the project.

MPs sign joint declaration on renewable energy trading



One of the most interesting developments at the Sri Lanka Hearing was a joint declaration calling for cross-border renewable energy trading in South Asia, drafted and signed by a cross-party

group of MPs from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. The declaration, recognising the severity of the climate threat, urges the governments of the region to invest in long-distance transmission infrastructure, to permit for example the export of large-scale solar power from India to Bangladesh. It also encourages the governments to co-operate on research and development on renewable technology.

The declaration was presented to the Indian Prime Minister on the 12th of December, by members of the Climate Parliament group in the Indian Parliament. The signatories also plan to present the joint declaration to the speakers of the Bangladeshi, Indian and Sri Lankan Parliaments.

Climate Parliament Forum in Doha



The annual Climate Parliament / UNDP Parliamentary Forum was held this year in Doha, Qatar, timed to coincide with the latest round of the UN negotiations on climate change. While international negotiators battled to preserve what remains of the Kyoto Protocols, our Forum - held across town, in the historic Corniche quarter - brought together MPs, technical experts and policy analysts to exchange experience on how to fight climate change at the national level. MPs heard inspiring renewable energy success stories from Bangladeshi, Indian and Moroccan legislators, and explored innovative policy ideas from the Climate Bonds Initiative, the Institute for Development Studies, and UNDP.

Participants at the Forum included parliamentarians from Bangladesh, Denmark, Finland, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, the Republic of Congo and the UK. After meeting in regional groups at the close of the

conference, the MPs agreed on regional action plans, which included pledges to introduce and strengthen renewable energy legislation, bring new legislators into the Climate Parliament network, sensitise constituents on the challenges of climate change, map renewable energy resources and work towards the creation of regional energy supergrids.

The Renewable Tigers initiative



The Doha Forum saw the launch of our **Renewable Tigers** initiative. Organised by UNDP and Climate Parliament, the initiative will focus on how ten developing nations can work together to harness the potential of renewable energy to stabilise energy prices, minimise carbon emissions and drive development. The strategy is part of a €3.1 million global project, funded by the European Union and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aimed at helping MPs from developing countries to fight poverty with clean energy.

Off-grid renewables are often the cheapest and most effective way to bring electricity to the billions of people currently living in energy poverty. But the abundant sunshine and wind of the developing world could also be used to power large-scale renewable energy plants, generating electricity for cities and factories through national and even international grids. The Renewable Tigers initiative is designed to help build political will, encourage South-South cooperation, and provide staff support to MPs to enable developing nations to harness their considerable renewable resources.

By working together, MPs from the ten nations can: share best practices; encourage regional energy integration; develop renewable

manufacturing, research and development; and steadily realise their potential to become Renewable Tigers – doing in renewables what the Asian Tigers have done in manufacturing.

“Developing countries can’t wait for rich developed nations to solve the climate problem,” Nick Dunlop, Secretary-General of the Climate Parliament, argues. “The countries represented in this programme are severely threatened by climate impacts. But they also have vast renewable resources. They have a huge opportunity to work together to transform their economies, improve their energy security and show the rest of the world how the fight against climate change can be won.”

We are working in this project with MPs from Bangladesh, Congo (Republic of), India, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Tunisia.

Climate Parliament group established in Bangladeshi Parliament



The Climate Parliament achieved another significant landmark in the South Asian region last month as Bangladeshi MPs, drawn from across the political spectrum, came together to form an official Climate Parliament Group in the National Parliament of Bangladesh, the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. They aim to move renewable energy up the governmental agenda, promote stronger legislation to encourage green investment, and provide political and financial support for the development of renewable technology in Bangladesh. The Climate Parliament Bangladesh MPs agreed that

renewable energy remains the best choice for providing clean, cost-effective and reliable energy for the future of Bangladesh.

Success in the Climate Parliament's effort to make off-grid renewables a lending priority for Indian banks



Members of the Climate Parliament Group in the Indian Parliament have helped to secure the recognition from the Reserve Bank of India of renewable energy as a priority sector for lending. Thanks in part to their efforts, individuals hoping to set up off-grid solar or wind energy systems are now entitled to Priority Sector lending from Indian banks, allowing easier access to credit and financial support. The new policy was announced after Indian MPs, supported by Climate Parliament staff in India, successfully lobbied for renewables to be reclassified as a priority sector for lending. This should go some way to encouraging growth in off-grid renewable energy in both rural and urban areas currently without adequate access to electricity.

Climate Parliament launches 3 year joint programme with UNDP

The Climate Parliament is now working in close partnership with the United Nations Development Program to help legislators in Africa, South Asia and the Middle East provide access to clean, renewable energy for their constituents. After securing \$4 million of funding, mainly provided by generous grants from EuropeAid and the Danish Government, the Climate Parliament and UNDP will be working together over the next three years to

help legislators to strengthen legislative frameworks and promote renewable energy projects designed to harness the power of sun, wind, water, biomass and other sources of renewable energy.

Progress in Climate Parliament campaign for stronger Indian Government renewable targets



Members of the Climate Parliament Group in the Indian Parliament have successfully campaigned to have the Indian Government raise its 2020 renewable energy target from 6.4% to 15% - a significant boost to India's growing renewable energy industry, and indeed for the global industry, given India's size. The 15% target was included in the Approach Paper to the next national Five Year Plan. Meanwhile the powerful Estimates Committee, prompted by members of the Indian Climate Parliament Group, has recommended the government allocate 1% of its national budget towards renewable energy - which would represent a quadrupling of India's renewable energy budget. The Climate Parliament India group is now preparing to meet with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to ensure that the 15% target is fully implemented, and to further the 1% budget initiative.

Climate Parliament group meets with Commission President Barroso



Members of the Climate Parliament group in the European Parliament have met with the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, to discuss renewable energy, electricity infrastructure, and upcoming EU budget allocations to support low-carbon energy. The group has also held meetings with the EU Commissioners for Climate Change, Competition, Development, Economic Affairs, Energy, Environment, Regional Policy and Research. Further to our ongoing campaign to gain more EU budgetary support for renewable energy and a European supergrid in the next 2014-2020 EU Multiannual Financial Framework, a number of European national MPs and MEPs signed our letter to all 27 EU finance and energy ministers urging them to invest in clean energy and electricity highways in Europe and the developing world.

Our new Regional Directors

The Climate Parliament is pleased to welcome three new Regional Directors, Mukul Sharma, Mostafa El-Aouazi and Dr Wilson Matekenya, who will be expanding our networks in South Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa, respectively.



In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, our work is now being led by Mostafa El-Aouazi. Mostafa was at one time Head of the Renewable Energy Division in the Moroccan Ministry of Energy and Mines. Over a long career in renewable energy, Mostafa has worked closely with Moroccan MPs, brought solar lighting to 8000 villages, and overseen a satellite programme based in Abu Dhabi mapping renewable energy resources around the world.



Dr Wilson Matekenya, our Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Director

Dr Wilson Matekenya joins us this month as our Regional Director for Sub-Saharan Africa. Having been born into a subsistence farming village in Zimbabwe with no electricity, Wilson has direct experience of the importance of energy access. He has four degrees, including a doctorate, in energy engineering and development finance. He joins us from the Department of Science and Technology on the Square Kilometre Array project, a major new international astronomy project, where he was Director of Business Enterprises Development. Prior to that, he worked in the Sustainable Energy Division at the South African Government's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

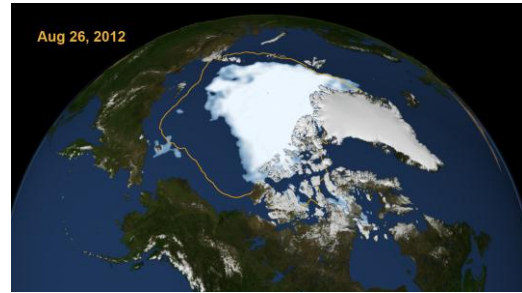


Mukul Sharma, our Regional Director for South Asia

Mukul Sharma, our Regional Director for South Asia, is a Delhi-based scholar, writer and development professional, specialising in environment, social and human rights issues. He was a Special Correspondent at the Navbharat Times, Delhi, 1983-1998, and has received 12 awards for his environmental, rural and human rights journalism. He has been a visiting fellow at the University of Oxford, the London School of Economics and the Mahidol University, Thailand. He was the Director of Amnesty International and Heinrich Boll Foundation in India and has also worked at South Asian and regional levels with ActionAid International and the AIDS Society of Asia and Pacific, based in Bangkok.

Other Climate Parliament staff include James Corre (Policy Communications Coordinator), Francesca Carnibella (Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General), Ben Martin (Editor), Niharika Krishna (Researcher), Sharon Youssefi (Programme Officer) and Sumedha Basu (Policy Coordinator, India). We are also currently recruiting a Programme Officer for our India team, and a Policy Co-ordinator for Francophone Africa.

Unprecedented Arctic ice melt sounds alarm bell for climate change



Last month, sea ice in the Arctic shrank to its lowest level ever recorded - 3.5 million square kilometres, less than half the area typically occupied in late summer forty years ago. The unprecedented speed of the melt caught many scientists by surprise, and suggests that some models of climate change may have been overly optimistic in their projections of Arctic ice melt. Many experts are now predicting that the Arctic Ocean could be entirely ice-free in summer months in less than two decades. Without the reflective summer ice on the Arctic Ocean, the planet will absorb much more solar radiation. It is estimated that this will raise temperatures to the same degree as 20 years of current greenhouse gas emissions. As this and other climate impacts intensify, the pressure to abandon fossil fuels will increase steadily. Countries that continue to invest in fossil fuel infrastructure intended to last for decades are in danger of finding that they have wasted a lot of the public's money. Those that take the renewable energy path now, by contrast, will be in pole position to compete in the new clean energy economy.

The Climate Parliament would like to thank our supporters, without whose help our work would not be possible:

The British High Commission in New Delhi; the ClimateWorks Foundation; the Environmental Defense Fund; EuropeAid; the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Foundation; the Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and UNDP.

