



Parliamentary Forum:

Renewable Tigers

South – South cooperation to lead the renewable energy revolution

Doha, December 8th - 10th 2012

Summary Report



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



The Climate
Parliament

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Asiatisk Plads 2
DK-1448 Copenhagen K
Phone. +45 33 92 00 00
Fax +45 32 54 05 33

The European Union

European Commission
Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid
B - 1049 Brussels
Belgium
(+32) 02 299 11 11



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Programme

www.climateparl.net
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Introduction

In December 2012, over forty parliamentarians, policy experts and technical specialists came together in Doha, Qatar, for a three-day Forum on climate change, renewable energy and parliamentary action in the developing world. The Doha Forum was the second in a series of parliamentary meetings jointly organised by the Climate Parliament and the United Nations Development Programme, under the Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy (PARE) programme.

The Doha Forum was designed to facilitate peer learning on renewable energy for parliamentarians. Legislators were given the opportunity to present renewable energy success stories from their own countries, learn from each other's experience of undertaking parliamentary initiatives, and share best practices. Presentations included an inspiring case study of solar power in Bangladesh, where over 1 million homes have been provided with off-grid solar energy systems in the last five years; an exploration of India's ambitious new renewable energy legislation; and a description of Morocco's plans to encourage massive investment in solar power for domestic consumption and export to Europe – all presented by the MPs who helped make them happen.

In addition, the assembled MPs were briefed by leading technical experts in the fields of public

policy, investment finance, and international development. The expert speakers included Sean Kidney, the Director of the Climate Bonds Initiative; Robert Kelly, UNDP's Regional Advisor for Climate Change Mitigation; Mokgadi Modise, the Chief Director for Clean Energy at the South African Department of Energy; Veerle Vandeweerd, the Director of UNDP's Environment and Energy Group; and Ana Velasco, a Research Fellow at the Institute for Development Studies. The expert presentations focused on the specific legislative and financial initiatives required for enabling renewable investment in the developing world.

On the final day of the Forum, a field trip was arranged to Qatar's newly opened Solar Energy Testing Facility, where MPs were briefed by the facility's Head of Operations, and shown the \$200 million research centre by one of the engineers working on the project.

The Forum also attracted interest in the media. Journalists and a photographer from Arab News attended the Forum and interviewed several of the MPs, while the Climate Parliament's Middle East and North Africa Regional Director, Dr Mostafa El Aouazi, was interviewed live on Al-Jazeera Arabic for the evening business section, reaching a potential audience of over 20 million viewers.



The Renewable Tigers

The Doha Forum also saw the launch of a new joint initiative for 2013: the Renewable Tigers project. Organised by UNDP and Climate Parliament, the initiative will focus on how developing nations can work together to harness the potential of renewable energy to drive development while simultaneously reducing carbon emissions and fighting climate change.

The underlying idea of the Renewable Tigers strategy is simple: that a group of ten countries in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia could work together to turn clean energy into an engine of economic growth. These ten countries are Bangladesh, Congo Brazzaville, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Tunisia. We believe these countries have the potential to become “Renewable Tigers”, doing in renewable energy what the Asian Tigers did in manufacturing industries and socio-economic development.

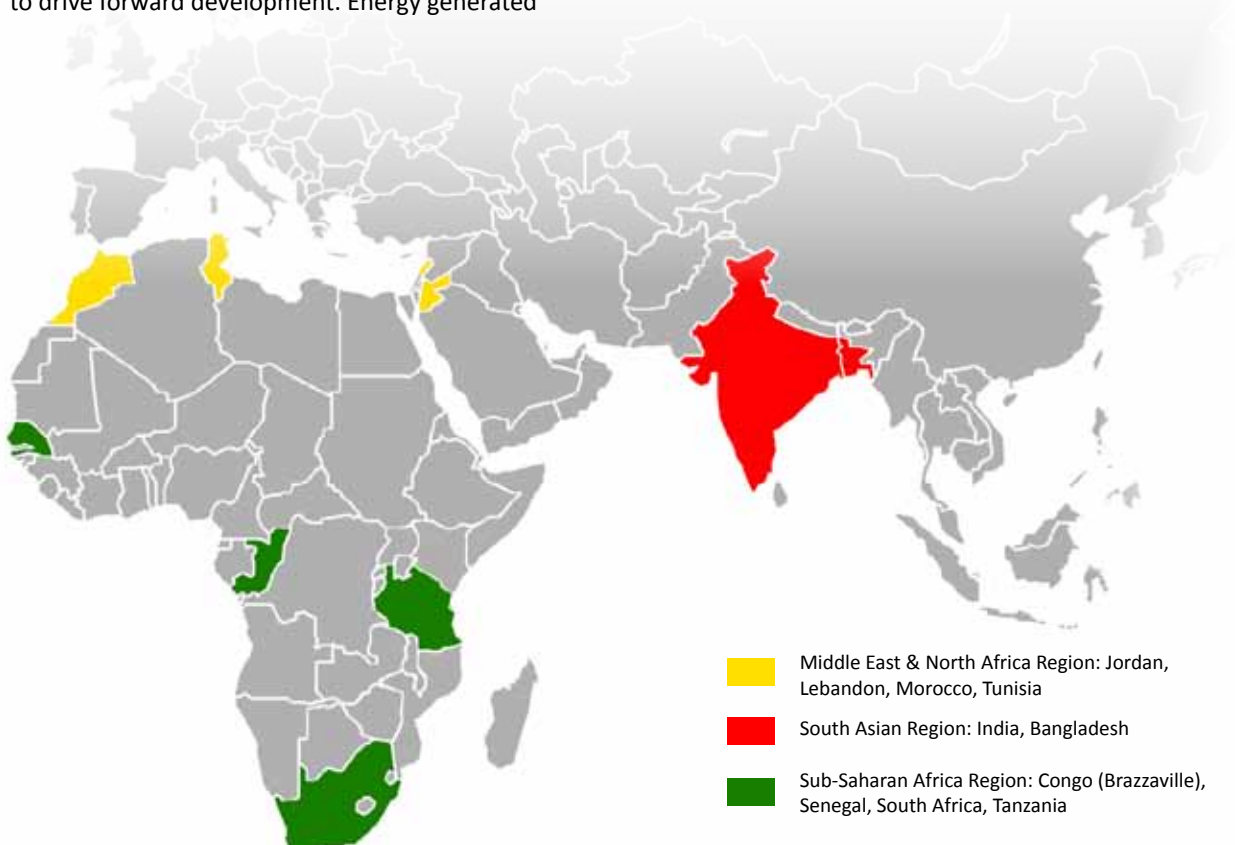
The rich resources of sun, biomass, wind and hydro available in these ten countries can be harnessed to drive forward development. Energy generated

from the abundant sunshine and wind of the developing world could power towns and cities, drive village-level renewable mini-grids for those in energy-starved rural areas, or even be exported to neighbouring countries via cross-border interconnectors. Investment in renewables would thus help to drive growth, create jobs, and grow new industries.

By working together, the ten nations can share best practices; encourage regional energy integration; develop renewable manufacturing, research and development; and gain collective bargaining power.

The Climate Parliament and UNDP will work together to help build political will around renewable issues, build networks of legislators committed to action, and provide parliamentary support and technical assistance to MPs to enable developing nations to harness their considerable renewable resources.

For more information, please visit the Climate Parliament web site, at www.climateparl.net.



Participants

Members of Parliament

Bangladesh

Mrs Shammi Akther
Mr Tanvir Shakil Joy
Mr Zunaid Ahmed Palak

Denmark

Mr Steen Gade

Finland

Ms Satu Hassi

India

Dr Jhansi Lakshmi Botcha
Dr Sanjay Jaiswal
Mr Jesudas Seelam
Ms Vasanthi Stanley

Lebanon

Mr Mohamad Jameel Kabbani

Morocco

Mr Ahmed Motassadeq
Mr Moh Rejdali

Portugal

Ms Maria das Graça Carvalho

Senegal

Mr Papa Biram Touré

South Africa

Mr Sisa Njikelana

Tanzania

Mr Peter Simon Msigwa
Ms Bernadeta Mushashu

Tunisia

Mr Dhamir Mannai
Mr Abdelaziz Kotti
Ms Zohra Smida

Speakers

Mr Nicholas Dunlop, Secretary-General,
Climate Parliament

Ms Sofi Halling, Parliamentary
Development Policy Analyst, UNDP

Mr Robert Kelly, Regional Technical Advisor,
UNDP

Mr Sean Kidney, Director, Climate Bonds
Initiative

Ms Mokgadi Modise, Chief Director
for Clean Energy, South African
Department of Energy

Ms Veerle Vandeweerd, Director,
Environment & Energy Group, UNDP

Ms Ana Pueyo Velasco, Research Fellow,
Institute of Development Studies

Sir Graham Watson MEP, Chairman,
Climate Parliament

Observers & Support Staff

Ms Sumedha Basu, Policy Coordinator,
Climate Parliament

Mr James Corre, Policy Communications
Officer, Climate Parliament

Ms Francesca Carnibella, Executive
Assistant to the Secretary-General,
Climate Parliament

Ms Lotte Geunis, Parliamentary
Development Officer, UNDP Bureau for
Development Policy

Dr El Mostafa El Aouazi, MENA Regional
Director, Climate Parliament

Mr Ben Martin, Editor, Climate Parliament

Dr Wilson Matekenya, Regional Director for
Sub-Saharan Africa, Climate Parliament

Mr Mukul Sharma, Regional Director for
South Asia, Climate Parliament

Ms Sharon Youssefi, Programme Officer,
Climate Parliament

Content of the Hearing: Friday

The hearing was formally opened by the Chairman of the Climate Parliament, **Sir Graham Watson**, who welcomed the delegates and restated his firm belief that energy is vital for the development of people and societies across the world – but cautioned that to ensure a habitable planet for the future, that energy must be renewably sourced and sustainably managed.

A short opening address was then given by **Ms Veerle Vandeweerd**, Director of the UNDP's Energy & Environment Group. Agreeing with Sir Graham's comments, Ms Vandeweerd reemphasised the importance of renewable energy in enabling the developing world to grow economically without jeopardising future security and stability, and underscored UNDP's commitment to supporting renewable energy projects throughout the developing world. According to Ms Vandeweerd, sustainable energy can help to power economic development, improve education and access to healthcare, fight disease, and empower women and marginal social groups. Arguing that technology transfer from the developed to the developing world was crucial to enable the renewable energy transition, she outlined the various forms of technical support that the UN is able to offer, including the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) technology centres and UNDP platforms for delivering expertise to legislators.

After a brief round of introductions from the delegates, the opening presentation of the conference was given by the Secretary-General of the Climate Parliament, **Mr Nicholas Dunlop**. Citing a recently published **report** from the World Bank, "Turn Down the Heat", Mr Dunlop insisted that in order to avoid devastating levels of climate change, carbon emissions would need to peak within the decade and fall rapidly thereafter. This would require the world to wean itself off fossil fuels – and the only available alternative is renewable energy.

"In order to avoid devastating levels of climate change, carbon emissions will need to peak within the decade and fall rapidly thereafter."

Mr Dunlop then pointed out that the developing world would overwhelmingly bear the brunt of climate impacts such as desertification, drought, crop failures, flooding, heat waves and disease outbreaks. However, these same countries also have some of the richest resources of renewable energy in the world. Arguing that it was nonsensical for relatively cloudy countries in Europe to lead the world in solar energy, he called on the developing world to lead the transition to renewable energy. Mr Dunlop outlined the Climate Parliament's Renewable Tigers initiative, designed to help build



political will, encourage South-South cooperation, and provide parliamentary support to MPs to enable developing nations to harness their considerable renewable resources.

By working together, the ten nations can share best practices; encourage regional energy integration; develop renewable manufacturing, research and development; and realise their potential to become Renewable Tigers – doing in renewables what the Asian Tigers have done in manufacturing. Mr Dunlop argued that not only are off-grid renewables the most effective way to power the billions of people currently living in energy poverty, but they can also run large-scale renewable energy plants, thus generating electricity for cities, national and even international grids. The benefits of the switch to renewables can thus be summed up in the “SPEECH” acronym: **S**ecurity, **P**rice stability, **E**mployment, **E**conomic assets, **C**limate change, and **H**ealth.

Finally, Mr Dunlop argued that parliamentarians were crucial to the renewable energy revolution, and urged the MPs at the Forum to provide momentum, take charge of legislative action on renewable energy, and fight against bureaucratic inertia.

The next presentation was given by **Mr Robert Kelly**, UNDP’s regional advisor for climate change mitigation. Insisting that energy efficiency and renewable energy were two sides of the same coin, Mr Kelly outlined the contribution that energy efficiency measures could make to reducing the carbon intensity of development. At present, the generation, transmission and consumption of power is staggeringly inefficient; of every 100 units of power generated throughout the world, only 1 unit is actually used. Mr Kelly argued that energy efficiency measures tend to be low-cost, high-gain solutions, with savings that could potentially dilute the cost of implementing renewable energy.



Mr Robert Kelly

Despite this, there are still some market barriers preventing wider adaptation of such policies; Mr Kelly insisted that MPs had a crucial role in overcoming barriers such as lack of information, up-front costs, and energy subsidies. Mr Kelly compared North Africa, which has excellent solar resources but very little installed solar capacity, with Germany, which has only a fraction of the sunlight but has almost half of the world’s installed solar panels; the reason, he suggested, is that renewable energy is driven by policy first and local conditions second. The legislative framework which governs solar investment and generation is far weaker in North Africa, which subsequently sees a much lower level of investment, despite its greater generating potential.

“Of every 100 units of power generated throughout the world, only 1 unit is actually used”

Mr Kelly concluded by arguing that developing nations need to create a “smart enabling environment”, with a focus on particular national advantages. Government policy should be geared towards encouraging private investment by absorbing risks and maximising revenue streams from renewable projects, to ensure they are as attractive to investors as possible.

Ms Ana Velasco of the Institute for Development Studies gave the next presentation, which focused on how to encourage technology transfer for renewable energy in the developing world. She pointed out that current UNFCCC policies had not been entirely successful in promoting technology transfer, as the measures adopted were too homogenous and did not take into account differences between regions and individual countries. In addition, Ms Velasco pointed to a lack of accurate measurement of outcomes and analysis of impacts, which effectively mean policymakers and investors are still in the dark over how existing measures are playing out on the ground.

“Most international capital for renewable energy tends to flow towards countries where solid frameworks are already in place – such as India, Germany and China”

She argued that, because of this uncertainty, most international capital for renewable energy tends to flow towards countries where solid frameworks are already in place – such as Germany and China. Ironically, however, this is precisely where investment is least urgently needed. To enable technology transfer to the developing world, Ms Velasco argued that four key factors are required: demand for the technology itself, an effective institutional framework, physical infrastructure, and innovation. She argued that most of the nations represented at the Forum would need to implement policy changes to create demand for renewable technology, build institutional strength and encourage innovation.

Ms Mokgadi Modise



After a break for lunch, the next presentation was given by **Ms. Mokgadi Modise**, Chief Director of the Clean Energy Department of Energy South Africa. She laid out the basic tenets of South Africa’s “Integrated Resource Plan” (IRP), an ambitious twenty year programme inaugurated in 2011, which includes a detailed strategy for the adoption of clean energy. The Plan aims to encourage investment in capacity, with five key targets to be met: affordability, carbon reductions, water conservation, regional economic development, and reliability of supply. Ms Modise pointed out that, as the cost of renewables falls over time, a progressively higher share of the energy supply can be met from renewable energy at the same total system cost.

Ms Modise then laid out in detail the bidding process that Energy South Africa had adopted for selecting renewable energy contractors. She stressed that a key factor for choosing winning bids was the impact on the local economy and society, in terms of job creation and regional integration. As a key aim of the IRP is to develop domestic industry, bids from domestic firms which source components manufactured locally will be preferred under the bidding process.

Sir Graham Watson MEP, Chairman of the Climate Parliament, gave the next presentation, which focussed on parliamentary tools for effective action on renewable energy legislation. Recognising that parliamentarians in some countries wielded rather less power than others, he nevertheless suggested that all the MPs attending the Forum were respected community leaders with the power to hold their governments to account. Action on renewable energy must be non-partisan, and Sir Graham called on legislators to build bridges between different parties to ensure that sustainability legislation does not fall prey to the vicissitudes of party politics. He cited the German example, where six committed legislators had drafted a feed-in tariff law that within five years turned Germany into a world leader in solar technology.

However, as Sir Graham pointed out, national action is not enough: a supra-national approach is required, as a global problem such as climate change cannot effectively be solved by an insular national approach. The concept of cross-border High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electricity supergrids, such as those laid out in the **Desertec initiative** or the

European Commission's **Energy Road Map 2050**, is gaining credence, and could potentially be applied in the developing world as well. Interconnected parliamentarians working across national borders to create harmonised regional energy policies can, according to Sir Graham, be a powerful force in the fight against climate change.

The final presentation of Friday's afternoon session was given by **Mr Steen Gade**, member of the Danish Parliament for the Socialist People's Party and a former director of the Danish Environmental Protection Agency. Mr Gade outlined the Danish example, where efficiency measures had been so effective that energy usage in the country is actually falling, even as GDP continues to increase. Ambitious renewable goals aim to have 50% of the energy mix supplied by wind power by 2020, and 100% by 2050. Echoing Sir Graham's point on the importance of cross-party support, Mr Gade pointed out that these measures had been voted in with over 90% support in the Danish Parliament.

"Denmark aims to have 50% of the national energy mix supplied by wind power by 2020, and 100% by 2050"

Moving on to an analysis of what donor nations can do to support renewables in the developing world, Mr Gade argued that a key role of developed world governments was to use financial muscle to absorb some of the risk of renewable investment in the Global South, thus leveraging private investment. Savouring the irony, Mr Gade pointed out that government intervention was required to remove barriers and prevent market failure; with the majority of global capital no longer concentrated in government budgets, but located in the ledgers of pension companies and bond markets, the role of government has now become to unlock these potentially vast sources of private capital, rather than channelling aid directly.

There followed an extended discussion in plenary. **Mr Dhamir Mannai MP**, of the Tunisian Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Infrastructure, argued that economic action is normally motivated by either pain or pleasure, and the job of environmentalists is to reduce future pain by curtailing short-time pleasure – always an unpopular move with the public. Sir Graham agreed that in his experience, citizens vote out of fear or greed; unfortunately, the impacts of climate change are



*Mr Dhamir
Mannai MP*

too distant – both geographically and temporally – to be effective motivators for action. However, economic self-interest can be a powerful spur, as shown by the German example. Because the feed-in tariff allowed people to make money from installing solar panels, they proved popular with the public.

Mr Mohammad Kabbani, Chair of the Lebanese Parliamentary Committee on Energy, Water, Transportation & Public Works, invited the Climate Parliament to establish a working group in Lebanon, and distributed a short paper that he had written, expressing the support of his Committee for the Climate Parliament's Renewable Tigers initiative.

Ms Satu Hassi pointed out that global fossil fuel subsidies far exceed those of the renewable energy industry, and that one of the reasons that fossil fuels are often argued to be "cheaper" than renewable energy is because their market price fails to include the considerable government subsidies that such fuels receive. This money could be more productively spent on subsidies to developing renewable technologies, building market mechanisms or providing load guarantees to nascent projects.

"Global fossil fuel subsidies far exceed those granted to the renewable energy industry"

Mr Sean Kidney, the Director of the Climate Bonds Institute, pointed out that an additional cost of fossil fuels is that economies which are



(l-r): Ms Shammi Akther, Mr Zunaid Palak, & Ms Satu Hassi

heavily dependent upon their use expose themselves to considerable risk of price shocks and supply restrictions. The price of renewable energy may be slightly higher now, but it is consistent, and will not increase over time unlike scarce fossil fuels.

Sir Graham Watson then argued that both the developed and developing worlds needed to move together in the same direction – towards a full embrace of sustainable energy. As the global North tries to wean itself off fossil fuels, it would be nonsensical for the global South to embrace them en masse, but should try to avoid getting “hooked” in the first place.

Mr Jesudas Seelam expressed his belief that the public needed to be empowered if they were to face the challenges of global climate change – the

citizenry must be made more resilient to the projected impacts through education, job security, and access to energy. Mr Mohammad Kabbani agreed, although he pointed out that all too often it is the younger citizens in the developing world who push hardest for fossil fuel subsidies.

Mr Mohammad Rejdali argued that the impact of such subsidies actually most often flow to those who need them the least – big businesses, transport companies, and large-scale agriculture. He gave the example of his own country, Morocco, where of annual fuel subsidies worth \$48 million, only around \$10 million actually reaches the poorest level of society.

“The impact of fossil fuel subsidies actually most often flows to those who need them the least”

Mr Sisa Njikelana made the point that energy is both a commodity, and an enabling factor which contributes a value to society far beyond its market rate. He argued that people in the developing world demanded energy first, and were often little concerned if it came from fossil fuels or renewables. He argued that any party or programme that was seen to be delaying the introduction of energy access would quickly lose public support. He also called for balanced leadership, spread fairly between the developed and developing world, on the issue of climate change.



Content of the Hearing: Saturday

Saturday's session was begun by **Mr Tanvir Shakil Joy**, a Bangladeshi MP and the co-convenor of the Climate Parliament group in the Bangladeshi Parliament, who gave a presentation on the remarkable progress being made in his country in the field of off-grid solar energy. The "Solar Home Systems" project, initially supported by the International Development Association and the Global Environment Facility, was begun in 2007, with an initial target of electrifying 50,000 homes. However, the project quickly proved a runaway success, with the initial phase coming in three years early and \$2 million under budget, and over 1 million homes electrified by 2012, at the impressive (and accelerating) rate of over 50,000 a month. Mr Joy pointed to the considerable knock-on benefits of the scheme, which include the creation of hundreds of skilled, well-paid jobs, and incalculable benefits in terms of health, education, infant mortality, and others.

Mr Joy then examined how the project had been organised and financed, and detailed the various incentive schemes and legislative frameworks that Bangladesh has put in place to encourage further growth in renewable energy, both off- and on-grid. These include ambitious programmes to fund rural electrification through incentive tariffs, the use of targeted tax exemptions, and the deployment of microfinance to fund solar-powered water pumps. He concluded with the inspiring example of a fellow member of the Bangladeshi Climate Parliament group, Mr Zunaid Ahmed Palak MP, who had recently installed a solar panel on the roof of his own house.

The next presentation was delivered by **Mr Sean Kidney**, Director and co-founder of the Climate

Bonds Initiative. Mr Kidney began by underlining the scale of the climate change threat, but then argued that it is possible to see the challenge as an opportunity for large-scale infrastructural investment, providing an economic stimulus on the scale not seen since the 1930s. Renewable energy could also, Mr Kidney argued, help countries to pay down current account deficits by decreasing capital outflows on oil imports,

"Bangladesh has electrified over 1 million homes with off-grid solar systems in the last five years, at a rate of over 50,000 a month"

thus strengthening that country's currency. He pointed out that the investment is already starting to happen, and that the world is on the cusp of a renewable engineering boom, with China aiming to generate 15% of its GDP from the low-carbon sector, and South Korea already investing 2% of its annual GDP in renewables.

Mr Kidney then explored a key mechanism for making such investment happen – the concept of the climate bond. Bonds are fixed term loans at a fixed interest rate, normally offered on very



Mr Tanvir Shakil Joy, MP

large sums. The holder of a bond does not lose money if the borrower goes bust, unlike shares – hence they are the favoured assets of pension funds, who seek to avoid risk wherever possible. The transition to renewable energy requires around \$1 trillion of investment per annum, Mr Kidney explained; this may seem like an astronomical figure, but in fact it represents less than 1% of the total value of the global bond market. Hence, in seeking funding for renewable projects, it makes sense to turn to bonds.

Indeed, Mr Kidney pointed out that, in many ways, renewable energy investments are a perfect fit for bond investors. Renewable projects typically require high levels of capital up front, but then have low operating costs



Mr Sean Kidney

thereafter and can return consistent yields year on year; they are relatively low-risk investments as their profitability is not reliant on fuel prices; and they are often designed to make operational returns for long periods of time, sometimes well in excess of fifty years. Since bond markets are legally obligated to minimise long-term risk in their portfolios, they are naturally wary of the economic threat posed by climate change, and thus predisposed to look favourably on renewable energy. In fact, several bond companies have already written open letters to national governments, demanding action on climate change in order to protect their investments.

In order to unlock the huge potential of the global bond market, government action is required. As pension funds are mandated

to be risk-averse, strong regulation and policy frameworks are required to reduce the risks of investment in renewables. Mr Kidney also argued that governments should

“The transition to renewable energy requires around \$1 trillion of investment a year - less than 1% of the total value of the global bond market”

have “skin in the game” – in other words, governments should shoulder a share of the risk themselves, so that investors can see that they are committed to a particular project and unlikely to renege on the deal. Renewable energy investments will have to be packaged together, as individual projects are rarely large enough to merit attention from pension funds, who typically only buy bonds in excess of several billion dollars. Mr Kidney concluded his presentation with an optimistic thought: national governments, in effect, play the role of fundraisers, trying to attract private investment into their national economies. If MPs can show that a proposed regulatory reform – for example, a loan guarantee for climate bonds – is likely to attract billions of dollars of investment, then the measure will almost certainly prove a popular one.

The next speaker was **Dr Sanjay Jaiswal**, an Indian MP and founding member of the Climate Parliament group in the Indian Parliament, who gave an analysis of recent developments in Indian legislation on renewable energy. Admitting that coal was still cheaper at present than renewable energy at present, Dr Jaiswal pointed out that, as a finite resource, it cannot last forever, and with price rises inevitable as supplies dwindle, the only logical course of action was to invest in renewables now. Citing the remarkable statistic that installed renewable capacity was growing at some 20% per year, with some 30GW due to be installed over the next five years, Dr Jaiswal argued that this was in large part due to policy reforms and legislative action to unlock the considerable might of the Indian private sector.

The key piece of legislation was the 2009 National Action Plan on Climate Change, consisting of 9 detailed plans for different sectors, including wind, solar, and energy efficiency. The law had huge impact, with renewable investment climbing rapidly immediately upon its introduction. Indeed,

within three years of the passage of the NAPCC, renewable energy was almost at grid parity in India, at 9 rupees per kWh compared to 8 for conventional fossil-fired power.

Dr Jaiswal also stressed the importance of local projects, and pointed to the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, where the growth of renewable energy has been particularly impressive thanks to strong local government support. Innovative policy measures have yielded impressive results, such as Gujarat's policy to allow solar developers to build panels over canals for free. Not only does this make solar investment more attractive thanks to lowered costs, but it also decreases the evaporation of canal water, thus benefiting local farmers. Dr Jaiswal explained that, in order to encourage private sector confidence, renewable policies need to be stable and consistent, with cross party support to ensure permanency. He pointed to the way forward, both for India and the other countries represented at the Forum: innovative policy solutions to unlock finance, regulatory stability, and regional co-operation on trade and technology transfer.

Mr Moh Rejdali MP was next to address the assembled parliamentarians, with a presentation detailing Morocco's ambitious plans to achieve a 42% share for renewables in the national energy mix by 2020. With Morocco situated only 14km from Europe and

"In Gujarat, developers can install solar panels over canals for free - providing power for locals, a boost for local industry, and decreasing the evaporation of canal water for farmers"

boasting vast potential reserves of wind and solar energy, the country is well placed to be a vanguard of the renewable energy revolution. Domestic power demand is growing rapidly, but over 4500 MW of renewable energy capacity are planned to meet the growing needs of the population and provide clean energy for export to Europe.

Mr Rejdali then laid out the legislative programme which was governing the country's renewable transition, stressing that clear principles, a robust legal framework, and a strong commitment from government were all necessary to encourage private investment to make the renewable goals a reality. As



*Mr Mohammad
Rejdali, MP*

well as significant investment in renewables, the Moroccan government has given energy efficiency measures a high priority, with a targeted 12% energy saving by 2020, allowing lower carbon emissions without impacting GDP growth. Finally, he explored the delicate balance between generating enough power for the domestic market, while still exporting enough energy to Europe to finance further construction. To get an affordable price for domestic consumers, Mr Rejdali explained, significant investment is required to build future capacity. To attract such foreign investment, Morocco plans to build energy capacity for export to Europe, with the profits then funnelled back into further expansions of infrastructure programmes, effectively forming a virtuous circle.

Mr James Corre, Policy Communications Coordinator at the Climate Parliament, gave the final presentation of the Forum: an overview of the Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy project. Explaining the foundational aim of the project as enabling effective parliamentary policy to provide energy access for all and reduce carbon emissions, Mr Corre argued that research and development, generation capacity, distribution infrastructure, and energy efficiency were the four key areas for legislative action.

However, the task remains a challenging one; government capital for state investment in the developing world is all too scarce, and political power has decentralised since the 1970's. Therefore, the task falls largely to the private sector, with parliamentarians playing the role of investment enablers, rather than directors

of state funding. Public money must be spent to leverage private capital, and legal and regulatory frameworks need to be put in place to channel that capital into the most effective projects.

He moved on to outline the different roles that UNDP and the Climate Parliament perform within the project. UNDP's role is to provide technical support and policy research, technical advice, handbooks, and toolkits; mentoring support for MPs; and online networking and information access via the UN's online parliamentary networking tool, AGORA. While there is no direct funding available through the project, UNDP provides advice and assistance for mobilising other sources of funding.

Meanwhile, the Climate Parliament works to develop parliamentary networks, thereby building a constituency for change in and between national parliaments; organise Hearings and Fora to bring MPs together for network building and peer-learning; and to provide strategic advice for linking up parliamentary initiatives across regions.

After the presentations had finished on Saturday, the Forum was honoured to receive **Mr Sanjiv Arora**, the Indian Ambassador to Qatar.



*from left to right: Dr Jhansi Lakshmi Botcha,
Dr Sanjay Jaiswal, Mr Jesudas Selaam, Mr
Sanjiv Arora, Mr Nicholas Dunlop, and Ms
Vasanthi Stanley*

Regional Action Pledges

At the conclusion of the Forum, the MPs separated into regional groups to discuss regional work-plans for future action on renewable energy. Mr Papa Biram Touré acted as the rapporteur for the Sub-Saharan and MENA group, and reported back to the plenary session that they had agreed on a number of action points, including:

- A request for technical support from UNDP to provide expert advice regarding legislature, laws and policies on renewables.
- Pledges to work towards the creation of accurate, well-researched maps of renewable energy resources in the countries of the region
- A plan to raise awareness amongst the public and unify action on climate change, by focussing on civil society groups, political parties, and government ministers, and also the private companies who are working in the area, to create common consensus on the area of renewables.
- Pledges to work towards new laws which are most appropriate regarding renewable energy, recognising that different legislative plans should be linked together
- A recognition of the need to provide executive oversight, to make sure that governments execute projects voted in by parliaments
- A call for a future global meeting to evaluate ongoing action
- A pledge to explore methods for financing, and plead the case for renewable energy to the financial sector; so that parliamentarians can act as a link between government, financiers, and the people.

After the South Asian regional group had met to discuss future action, Mr Tanvir Shakil Joy reported back to the plenary session that the MPs had:

- Pledged to create public awareness for advocacy and bring new MPs into the existing Climate Parliament groups in India and Bangladesh, so that more MPs are included in renewable initiatives.
- Pledged to convene an all-party meeting to make sure that renewable initiatives are consistent even if the party in power changes, and establish renewable energy as a common consensus across party lines.
- Asked for research into regional supergrids, to join together renewable resources across Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, so that regional connectivity can meet energy needs among the nations.
- Decided to work towards including the renewable energy agenda at the South Asian Regional Co-operation Forum, perhaps to be formatted as a special side event for renewable energy.
- Pledged to share experience and expertise on policy between India and Bangladesh so that MPs can learn from best practice in both countries.



Field Trip

The regional action pledges discussed on Saturday afternoon comprised the final formal session of the Forum. On Sunday morning, however, a field trip was arranged to visit Chevron Qatar's newly opened Solar Energy Testing Facility, a cutting edge



*Chevron's Solar
Energy Testing
Facility*

research centre on the outskirts of Doha where the international energy giant is testing a wide range of different solar technologies to determine their suitability for different markets around the world.

The MPs were briefed by Chevron's Head of Operations for Qatar, Mr Carl Atallah. Mr Atallah described the scope of the project and sketched a brief history of Chevron's involvement in solar energy. Although solar radiation is excellent in the region, Mr Atallah explained that the specific purpose of the facility was to understand how different types of solar panels - such as thin film, amorphous, or polycrystalline - cope most efficiently with the heat, humidity and sand of the Qatari climate. The MPs were then shown the \$200 million solar research centre by one of the engineers working on the project.

Conclusion

Over the course of three days in Doha, the parliamentarians and other delegates had heard inspiring success stories from MPs on the front lines of the renewable energy revolution; listened to respected policy experts outline innovative legislative solutions to the problems of climate change; discussed possibilities for future action in their home countries; and pledged to take specific steps to move forward on renewable energy.

The response from the delegates to the Doha Forum was overwhelmingly positive. Many of the parliamentarians remarked that they had found the presentations to be of excellent quality, and others commented that the smaller group discussions had been very productive.

The Climate Parliament and UNDP would like to thank all the speakers who gave such a uniformly excellent set of presentations, as well as the organisers, translators, and staff of the Movenpick Hotel without whom the event would not have been possible. We look forward to working closely with the MPs in the future to put the ideas discussed in the briefings and regional groups into practice.

In 2013, the Climate Parliament and UNDP will be holding two further gatherings for parliamentarians under the PARE project, provisionally scheduled for May in Morocco and November in South Africa. If you are interested in attending either event, please email ben@climateparl.net.

About the PARE project

Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy (PARE) is a joint project organised by UNDP and the Climate Parliament, created to help MPs in the developing world to design and implement policies on renewable energy.

The project focuses on the generation and transmission of renewable energy in a wide range of contexts, from large-scale solar power stations or wind farms, to small-scale biogas digesters which can turn agricultural waste into cooking gas for a single household. In addition, the project encourages the development of both long-distance, cross-border grid connections linking as many people as possible to areas where renewable energy is most abundant, and village mini-grids enabling communities that are far from the national grid to harness local solar, wind, small hydro, biomass or other renewable resources. The PARE project aims to address gender imbalances in energy access and legislative activity by ensuring that the needs and knowledge of both women and men will inform programme activities and its outcomes. Wherever opportunities arise, the project will also seek to address closely related themes such as energy efficiency and climate adaptation, without diluting the main focus on the switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

The Climate Parliament is the only international parliamentary network with renewable energy development as its primary focus. The Climate Parliament brings considerable experience to the task of organising international parliamentary hearings and coordinating South-South parliamentary networking. It has achieved impressive results in terms of successful parliamentary initiatives over recent years.

Contributing to parliamentary activities that aim to advance specific objectives can be politically sensitive for intergovernmental agencies. As an independent parliamentary network, owned by the MPs themselves, the Climate Parliament

does not run the risk of being seen as engaging in external political interference, and is able to establish direct peer-to-peer channels of communication with MPs. This approach has already been established in countries such as India where Climate Parliament has supported a cross-party network of MPs for more than three years.

By working with Climate Parliament, UNDP is directly supporting networks of national political leaders who are already keen to pursue greater access to renewable and sustainable energy. UNDP has a long tradition of working with and providing technical support to national networks of MPs, be they multi-party women's caucuses or parliamentary groups.

UNDP is the leading multilateral organization in the field of parliamentary strengthening, providing technical support and guidance to more than 70 parliaments around the world (one in three national parliaments globally), to effectively address global development challenges, such as climate change. In this regard, UNDP is strengthening the ability of parliaments to elaborate coherent and effective policy and legislative frameworks in support of renewable energy and climate change mitigation. As the principal UN agency dealing with renewable energy issues (with clean energy as one of its main focus areas), UNDP is a key entry point to funding renewable energy and climate change projects through mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility. Moreover, UNDP promotes knowledge sharing through AGORA (www.agora-parl.org), an online knowledge Portal on parliamentary development offering resources, expertise and networking opportunities on parliamentary development.

If you are a Parliamentarian or a Parliamentary professional interested in ongoing dialogue with colleagues on these issues, you are invited to register at info@agora-parl.org.



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Parliament

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www.climateparl.net
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