



THE CLIMATE PARLIAMENT - 2017-2018

GREEN GRID INITIATIVE

Throughout the year, the Climate Parliament has been assembling a group of up to 30 countries, mostly in the developing world, with ambitious renewable energy goals to form a global leadership group to speed up the worldwide transition to renewable energy. The focus of this Green Grid Initiative (GGI) will be to build the new smart grid infrastructure we need for the renewable energy revolution. This includes grids from the continental scale to the village level. So far a number of countries have confirmed their interest in participating. They are: **Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Peru, Samoa, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda.** California has also agreed to participate, and a group of industrialised countries have been invited. In most cases these commitments have been made by Energy or Environment Ministers meeting with the Climate Parliament. We are still in discussions with **China**. As a parliamentary network, the Climate Parliament is uniquely positioned to serve as a catalyst for bringing together such a group. We launched the Green Grid Initiative on May 8th-9th 2018 at a planning meeting in Mexico City, attended by senior officials, legislators and business leaders from 18 countries, including a number of industrialised countries.

GGI Planning Meeting

A first Green Grid Initiative Planning Meeting in Mexico City, 8-9 May 2018 was convened by Mexico's Energy Minister Pedro Joaquín Coldwell and the Chair of the Senate Energy Committee, Senator Salvador Vega Casillas. The governments represented

at the meeting were: Argentina, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Jordan, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, South Korea, Sweden and the United Kingdom. California was represented by California ISO, the state grid operator.

Also represented at the Planning Meeting were: BMW; Mahindra and Mahindra, a major Indian company involved in electric vehicles, solar power and IT; and the Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO), which has been established by the State Grid Corporation of China. The innovative Indian grid company Sterlite Power and the major renewable energy developer ACWA Power are also actively involved in the Initiative.

The Planning Meeting for the Green Grid Initiative agreed the following process:

- 1. Joint Statement.** A Joint Statement was agreed, outlining the objectives of the Initiative. It will be signed by ministers, company CEOs, and legislators, and released by all signatories simultaneously on an agreed date.
- 2. Working groups.** Informal working groups of governments, companies and legislators will be created to develop action recommendations for ministers. Meetings may be hosted by Wilton Park, the high-level conference centre of the British Foreign Office in the Sussex countryside. It was agreed to develop working groups on the following areas: Global/Regional Renewable Energy Interconnections, Electric Vehicles,

Smart Grids and Storage, and Attracting Capital into Green Grid Investments.

- 3. Ministerial meetings.** Meetings of interested ministers will be convened to review and advance the recommendations. These meetings may have a sectoral or regional focus. The meetings will include opportunities for dialogue between ministers, CEOs and legislators. The Moroccan Energy Minister has offered to host a ministerial meeting, as well as Energy Ministers of Argentina and India.

INDIA

The Climate Parliament developed a Renewable Energy Toolkit to help legislators organise renewable energy plans for their constituencies: www.retoolkit.in. The toolkit was produced after incorporating feedback from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Climate Parliament legislators, and other experts over three consultation workshops in March and April 2017. The official toolkit launch took place on 21 March 2017 during the budget session of the Parliament, and was attended by more than 30 legislators from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and was aired on Lok Sabha TV, the parliamentary channel of India.

Accelerating the Transition to Clean Energy and Electric Transport across the Developing World, Delhi – 5-6 December 2017

The Climate Parliament hosted a global parliamentary roundtable event in New Delhi, India to discuss accelerating the transition to clean energy and electric transport across the developing world. Hon. R. K. Singh, Minister of Power of India, gave a



keynote speech. Legislators, experts and business leaders shared actionable ideas to address the challenges of building new smart grids at the village, city, national and regional levels, which are needed if we are to rely heavily on renewable energy in the future.

Other activities of the Climate Parliament's work in India in 2017 include:

- A series of parliamentary questions on renewable energy policies and budget issues were submitted by MPs from the Climate Parliament Network as well as signed letters on renewable energy solutions to the Ministries.
- A roundtable in the state of Odisha to discuss the Renewable Energy Policy of the state and the potential for decentralised RE technologies.
- A delegation of Indian MPs visited the University of Chicago, hosted by the Energy Policy Institute (EPIC India). The visit facilitated knowledge exchange between Indian legislators and researchers as well as policymakers and opinion leaders in Chicago and Washington DC. The parliamentarians attended roundtables on regulatory/policy solutions to environmental issues and met specialists at the White House and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- The Climate Parliament team prepared a policy brief on India's Goods and Services Tax reform and circulated it to legislators. The policy brief highlighted the impact of GST reform on the renewable energy sector in India.
- A project was executed in Odisha to consult with Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to apply public funds towards solar powered lighting appliances instead of kerosene. Climate Parliament staff raised awareness among parliamentarians about 'kerosene-solar swaps' and held a Roundtable Meeting with MLAs in Odisha to present the concept of the pilot project.

CHINA

The Climate Parliament, in conjunction with legislative staff of the Environment Protection and Resources Conservation Committee of the National People's Congress and the Industry Committee of the China Renewable Energy Society, conducted a project aimed at advocating key amendments to China's Renewable Energy Law. A joint NPC resolution was set to be proposed by 30 NPC members advancing key amendments to the Renewable Energy Law during the 2017 national conference of the NPC, in order to push forward discussions regarding the incorporation of these amendments within China's 2018-2023 National Legislation Plan. We succeeded in having not 30 but 96 NPC members propose the resolution at the NPC annual assembly which ended in mid-March 2017.

The NPC resolution led to discussions about reform of the renewable energy law between the NPC Committee, the National Energy Administration (NEA), think tanks and industry representatives. The Renewable Energy Department of the National Energy Administration (in effect China's Energy Ministry) expressed keen interest in the process, and encouraged us to continue discussions with other parts of the government and with Chinese industry. In late March 2018 we finalised a feasibility study of ideas for strengthening the law, carried out in collaboration with the NPC staff and the China Renewable Energy Society. This is feeding into discussions with the NEA with a view to including reform of the renewable energy law in the NEA's work programme for the 2018-2023 National Legislation Plan.

INDONESIA

In January 2017, discussions were held with the Director-General of Renewable Energy of Indonesia and his colleagues at the IRENA Assembly. Discussions focused on providing parliamentary support to promote renewable energy. The Green Grid initiative was also discussed, inviting Indonesia to express its willingness to become a member. It was concluded

that the Renewable Energy directorate would support the initiative, however, the decision would be taken by the Directorate-General of Electricity which is the responsible entity for grids of all kinds.

In February 2017, the Climate Parliament Secretary-General and Executive Director visited Jakarta and held meetings with Suseno Sukoyono, Adviser to the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries on INDC commitments of Indonesia, the MPs of the Green Energy Caucus in the Indonesian Parliament chaired by Satya Widya Yudha MP, and the Director-General of Electricity Pak Jarman. The discussions focused on the need for speedier implementation of the present government's plan to address the poor electrification rates in outlying islands, and on Indonesia's plan to enhance its research and development budget from USD 16.7 million in 2016 to USD 150 million by 2020 (with efforts to shift the focus to renewable energy and grids). The Director-General of Electricity authorised us to tell other countries that Indonesia will participate in the Green Grid Initiative.

LATIN AMERICA

We have made significant progress in Latin America. In six of the countries involved – Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru – we have commitments of active support from senior and influential Members of Congress, many of whom have played a key role in recruiting their national governments into the Green Grid Initiative. In addition to our success in assembling what could well become a very important regional and global initiative, we have continued to work at the national level. This work is summarised in the sections below.

CHILE

In 2017, the Chilean Climate Parliament group sent letters signed by 15 MPs to the Minister of Energy, Andrés Rebolledo, and the Minister of Environment, Pablo Badenier, requesting a revision of Chile's renewable energy target (from 70% to 100% by 2050) and non-conventional renewable energy target (from 20% to 30% by 2025), and opening a discussion on the electrification of transport. A Climate Parliament delegation held a meeting with Minister Rebolledo and several senior officials to confirm Chile's participation in the GGI. The Minister invited the Climate Parliament to organize a side-event within the Third Ministerial of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), which he hosted in Viña del Mar in September. The side-event focused on the GGI and specific opportunities for energy integration in the Americas, and included MPs from Mexico, Peru, Argentina and Chile.



Santiago, Chile - September 2017

The Climate Parliament Secretary-General Nicholas Dunlop also had the opportunity to address the ministerial meeting, where he stressed the need to step up the speed and scale of the transition in the Americas, and the importance of new grid connections to ensure a reliable supply of cheap renewable energy for everyone.

Transition to Renewable Energy in the Americas, 9-10th September 2017, Santiago, Chile

The Climate Parliament hosted a regional parliamentary roundtable in Santiago, discussing energy integration and green grids in the Americas. Legislators, experts and business leaders of the Americas discussed steps to accelerate the transition to clean energy and electric transport. This roundtable addressed the challenge of building new smart grids from village to regional levels to enable a global transition to renewable energy by mid-century. The dialogue in Santiago featured prominently the seven Latin American countries that have indicated their interest in joining the GGI. Participants also visited a nearby solar power generating station.

PERU

In April 2017, we met with Vice Minister of Energy Arturo Vásquez and senior officials. Dr. Vásquez ratified Peru's interest in participating in the GGI. He underlined the creation of a multi-sector commission to devise a legislative and regulatory framework to integrate renewable energy into Peru's matrix, including measures such as the regulation for the distributed generation law, allowing PPAs for renewables and a modernization of distribution networks. The Vice Minister mentioned that a multi-partisan network such as the one the Climate Parliament had built in Peru could be very useful in obtaining support in Congress in order to pass the measures agreed upon by the special commission. A delegation from the Climate Parliament also met with newly appointed Vice Minister of Energy Ángela Grossheim. She ratified Peru's interest in participating in the GGI. In January 2018 she became Minister of Energy and Mines.

Congressman César Villanueva, who also presented at the Climate parliament's side-event at the ECPA ministerial in Viña del Mar and attended the roundtable in Santiago, contacted the Climate Parliament in November to request information and assistance on building a 100 MW solar PV plant in San Martín in the Peruvian Amazon, inspired by the site visit in Chile. He told us that his interest in solar for his region was a direct result of his participation in the Climate Parliament meetings in Chile. Mr. Villanueva is now Prime Minister of Peru under the new President. This is an excellent example of the impact



Quilapilún Solar Generation Plant, Colina, Chile

a parliamentary network can make: having inspired César Villanueva about renewable energy while he was a Member of Congress, we now have a Prime Minister who is a keen supporter of renewable energy in an important Latin American country.

MEXICO

In March, a delegation from the Climate Parliament met with Secretary of Energy Pedro Joaquín Coldwell and high-ranking officials. The Secretary expressed enthusiastic support for the GGI and offered to host a meeting in Mexico. Discussions focused on a green corridor connecting British Columbia to Central America along the west coast of Mexico. In September, a delegation from the Climate Parliament met in Viña del Mar with Alejandro Amerena, Director General for International Affairs at the Ministry of Energy of Mexico. He ratified Mexico's commitment to the GGI. Toward the end of the year, due to the calendar of the 2018 electoral campaign, it was agreed to hold a preparatory meeting of the GGI in Mexico during the first half of 2018, convened by the Minister.

ARGENTINA

In June 2017, a delegation from the Climate Parliament met in Buenos Aires with the Minister of Energy and Mining of Argentina, Juan José Aranguren. The Minister expressed Argentina's interest in joining the GGI and offered to host a ministerial meeting. Sergio Missana met with local organisations such as Fundación Directorio Legislativo, a local NGO that could be a valuable partner for engagement with the Argentine Congress, and the Argentinean Wind Energy Association. Minister Aranguren met with a Climate Parliament delegation in Viña del Mar during the ECPA ministerial in September, and ratified his commitment to the Initiative. A delegation of 5 Argentine MPs attended the parliamentary roundtable in Santiago: Juan Carlos Villalonga, Luis Bardeggia, Alejandro

Etchegaray, Fernando Sánchez and Héctor Olivares.

BRAZIL

In March 2017, a Climate Parliament delegation met in Brasília with Minister of Mining and Energy Fernando Coelho Filho. The Minister agreed for Brazil to join the GGI.

The Climate Parliament also met at the Ministry of Environment with Everton Lucero, Secretary of Climate Change and Environmental Quality, and Fernando Coimbra, Head of the Office of International Affairs. They expressed enthusiastic support for Brazil's involvement in the GGI, as energy integration must be a key element of the national strategy to implement Brazil's NDCs. They recommended approaching a series of MPs in the process of building a support network in the Brazilian Congress.

The delegation met with several MPs to discuss the GGI and the current situation of renewables in Brazil. These initial contacts could provide the basis for a Climate Parliament network in Brazil.

COLOMBIA

In November, our Americas Director attended ANDREC, a clean energy congress and exhibition organized by Green Power in Bogotá. He presented about the GGI to a group of renewable energy companies and chaired the sessions during the first day of the event. Attending ANDREC provided networking contacts and also an opportunity to learn about the current development of variable renewable energies in Colombia.

CALIFORNIA

In September, the Climate Parliament's Secretary General and Americas Director met in Sacramento with Energy Commissioner David Hochschild, who agreed for California to be part of the GGI. Nick Dunlop spoke on the phone with Stephen Berberich, President and Chief

Executive Officer of CAISO, the California Independent System Operator, who was enthusiastic about the Initiative and, specifically, about the opportunities for energy integration between California and Mexico.

AFRICA

Since 2012, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Climate Parliament have provided staff support and technical advice to cross-party parliamentary groups. Support to national cross-party groups is underpinned by regional and global information exchange, parliamentary collaboration and advocacy efforts. In the last two years our focus has been on Senegal, Benin and Côte d'Ivoire.

PARE Toolkit for Renewable Energy
We produced a toolkit of policy documents for legislators in Africa, containing policy ideas, example parliamentary questions and model documentation specific to Francophone West Africa, but relevant for legislators and others working in the energy sector worldwide. These resources are largely a result of the events the Climate Parliament has hosted in West Africa. The Climate Parliament helped build the capacity of parliamentarians to advocate for the renewable energy sector and promote policy and regulation reform.

Regional Parliamentary Hearing, 12-13 April 2017, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

A parliamentary hearing was held in Abidjan on "The role and responsibilities of parliamentarians in the growth of public and private investment in renewable energy." The meeting addressed the twin challenges of ensuring universal energy access and providing the quality energy needed to power rapid economic development. Interactive sessions were carried out under four broad themes: gender and energy, VAT/import duties exemptions on renewable energy equipment, mini-grids, and scaling solar for large-scale renewables. MPs decided to pursue four main themes in their

home countries. These were: joining and ratifying the International Solar Alliance and availing assistance under its "Solar for Agriculture" programme (solar pumps), joining the Scaling Solar programme, launching the Community Grid Initiative of the Climate Parliament supplemented by the mini-grid programme of the African Development Bank, and bringing about reforms of the VAT and import duty regimes on renewable energy equipment to make them affordable for wider and accelerated uptake.

BENIN

A series of workshops and discussions were held for Members of Parliament in Benin in 2017. In the National Assembly, the Climate Parliament convened a formal group of 40 members from across the political spectrum. Three steering committee meetings were held in February, April and September 2017. The meetings discussed ongoing and future activities related to parliamentary action on renewable energy, prepared the MPs for the regional meeting in Abidjan and delved into specific topics, such as the situation of electrification and renewable energy in Benin, the legal framework of renewable energy in Benin, removing barriers to investment in renewable energy, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. During the final steering committee meeting, next steps for the project were discussed with Hon. Abimbola, Chair of the Benin Climate Parliament network, as well as a resource mobilization strategy to ensure that the support to the network continues beyond 2017.

We hired an independent consultant to produce a briefing on the electricity code in Benin. Climate Parliament staff drafted a 'briefing paper on the key elements of the renewable energy bill' and circulated it to MPs ahead of the meeting of the committee in charge of drafting Benin's Renewable Energy Law in March 2017. Two MPs from the network are officially part of the committee to draft the law which, it is hoped, will facilitate the passage of the legislation in the National Assembly. Two further MPs have been

designated to support the official members of the drafting committee. The MPs in Benin have been supported by the Climate Parliament to mainstream gender issues into the drafting process on the new renewable energy law.

SENEGAL

In the National Assembly, the Climate Parliament convened a formal group of 17 members from across the political spectrum and representing all the major political parties. In Senegal, two steering committee meetings were held in March and April 2017. The meetings discussed ongoing and future activities, prepared the MPs for the regional meeting in Abidjan, and delved into specific topics such as the state of renewable energy legislation in Senegal, existing challenges and barriers to catalysing investment, the role of the Senegalese women MPs for the region on gender and energy, Community Grids, and fiscal incentives.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

In the National Assembly, the Climate Parliament convened a formal group of 20 members from across the political spectrum, representing all the major political parties. In Côte d'Ivoire, two steering committee meetings were held in April and July 2017. The April meeting discussed ongoing and future activities, prepared the MPs for the regional meeting in Abidjan, discussed the need for increased membership of women MPs in the network and delved into specific topics such as the state of renewable energy in general and the 21 decrees required to implement the country's new renewable energy law. The group also discussed tax exemptions for renewable energy equipment, and the government's policy on solar pumps.

PARE staff undertook several pieces of research to assist the MPs through technical support, awareness raising and capacity building. These included researching and drafting briefing papers, learning materials and parliamentary questions for the group on a wide range of subjects.

As part of the implementation of one of the commitments made by the Ivorian Climate Parliament Network in their action plan at the April meeting in Abidjan, parliamentarians met with Mr. Thierry Tanoh, Minister of Petroleum, Energy and Renewable Energy Development on 19th July 2017. The Minister informed MPs that his department was elaborating the ministry's strategy for renewable energy and invited the MPs to a presentation at the National Assembly in October 2017.

Gender and Energy

Our work through cross-party groups has proved highly successful in engaging significant numbers of



Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire - April 2017

women MPs. It is quite rare to see women MPs sitting in committees in charge of energy policy as, in many countries, it is seen to be a very male dominated field. However, involving men and women MPs to incorporate gender perspectives in energy policy and planning is critical to ensure the effectiveness of all development activities that involve energy use and to make dramatic improvements to women's lives.

The Climate Parliament provides a forum for members of parliament to share gender-sensitive knowledge and experience and develop policy actions within their own parliaments on clean energy issues. At all of our meetings in West Africa we have held sessions on gender and energy, which have been well attended by women MPs. We did the same at the meeting in Abidjan. For each country one or two MPs agreed to act as champions, leading interactions with other MPs, both within National Assemblies and with their peers in other member countries. This enables the identification of country and context-specific opportunities and challenges, as well as broader regional or international issues. A further meeting of women MPs from Ivory Coast was held on 27 June 2017 in Abidjan. The hearing was particularly dynamic and by the end identified 5 MPs from the Ivorian National Assembly willing to join the Climate Parliament network and act as champions within their own National Assembly and through advocacy aimed at the executive level.

COLLABORATIONS

China's Global Interconnection Initiative

The Climate Parliament remains one of the 20 organisations (mostly large corporations) on the board of the Beijing-based Global Energy

Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organisation (GEIDCO.) This is the organisation set up by the State Grid Corporation of China to promote long-distance electricity connections for renewable energy. Our hope is that the Green Grid Initiative will provide political support for practical proposals made by GEIDCO for new interconnections. GEIDCO have also decided to get directly involved with the Green Grid Initiative. A senior representative from GEIDCO participated in the preparatory event in Mexico City in May 2018.

International Solar Alliance

We are one of only three organisations (together with the World Bank and UNDP) who have signed a Joint Declaration for collaboration with the new International Solar Alliance, led by India and France. If funding can be found, we plan to organise a Parliamentary Solar Summit in conjunction with ISA Meetings. The ISA is also keen to collaborate closely with us on the Green Grid Initiative. Early drafting on the founding document of the ISA was done at a Climate Parliament meeting in Lucerne, Switzerland in 2015. Interim Director-General of the ISA, Hon. Upendra Tripathy, attended the Climate Parliament's Parliamentary Roundtable in Delhi, December 2017 and Abidjan, April 2017 and presented on the ISA framework agreement, encouraging parliamentarians in attendance to sign and ratify the agreement.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

At the global level, we will continue to build the Green Grid Initiative and advance its goals through working group meetings of governments, legislators and companies. We will invite companies in relevant sectors to join the business group within the Initiative, the 'Green Grid Leadership Forum', which is being convened

by the Climate Parliament. Up to 20 Founding Members will act as a core group within the Green Grid Leadership Forum. Foundations will also be invited to support and participate in working group meetings.

At the same time, we are planning with UNDP a new round of international meetings of MPs from developing countries to build parliamentary support to implement - and where possible exceed - the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to which national governments committed at the 2015 Paris Climate Summit. We plan to present examples of successful, cutting-edge programmes and renewable energy policies which are being undertaken in one or more countries and which can be replicated in others in order to implement the NDCs and steadily reduce global emissions while increasing energy access.

In addition, we will help our MPs promote local renewable energy in their constituencies. One opportunity for doing this is to encourage Indian national MPs and state legislators to devote part of their Local Area Development funds to renewable energy in their constituencies. These funds total some billions of dollars, and are therefore a potentially important source of support for small-scale renewables projects. We have already done substantial work on this, and will continue this work in the coming year as funding permits.

As always, the role of Climate Parliament legislators will be to help generate stronger political will and government action to accelerate the global transition to clean energy in order to combat climate change and enable the world's poorest citizens to harness their local energy resources.



Green Grid Initiative Preparatory Meeting - Mexico City, May 2018