LEGISLATORS’ RESOLUTION

Adopted by the 2nd World Summit of Legislators, Mexican Congress,
6th – 8th June 2014

Preamble

Legislators from more than 70 parliaments,

Recognising that tackling poverty and the unsustainable use of natural resources are the biggest challenges facing humanity in the 21st century,

Welcoming progress that has been made by international processes to address these issues, however, noting with serious concern that the world remains on an unsustainable pathway and that there is a need for urgent action,

Recognising that legislators and parliaments can contribute significantly to achieving sustainable development objectives through:

- Informed legislative debate on the national consequences of failing to address sustainability issues, including the impacts of climate risk on national prosperity and security,
- National domestic legislation to underpin the sustainable development agenda,
- Effective scrutiny to monitor government delivery of international commitments,
- Mechanisms within UN and other international processes on sustainable development to recognise, strengthen and support national legislation and broader governance structures,
- The promotion of synergy between disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation (CCA) and sustainable development and lead efforts to ensure coherence and mutual reinforcement in three landmark agreements set for 2015: a post-2015 framework for DRR, the Sustainable Development Goals and UNFCCC COPs 20 and 21; these processes and agreements have the common aim of fortifying development and making it sustainable; strong political ownership of and commitment to ambitious goals and accelerated implementation of these agreements is a global priority
- The promotion of enhanced information exchange and cooperation among legislators in the region to address the cross-border regional challenges
- Steering the transition towards a low-carbon economy to unlock the potential for job creation of clean technologies.

Emphasising that through the work of legislators, GLOBE International’s systematic policy-focused engagement makes a difference by:

- Developing cross-party political support for legislation (reducing the political risk of policy reversals after elections) and deepening understanding of the national implications of current unsustainable use of resources, including water,
- Providing a platform to share experiences and learn from each other
- Delivering robust legislation in support of sustainable development, including climate change, natural capital and forests/REDD (legislators learn from, and are inspired by, each other - learning lessons and replicating successes leads to better laws),
o Strengthening legislators’ capacity to exercise effectively their oversight responsibilities (better informed and engaged legislators strengthens accountability and scrutiny of the Executive branch),

*Encouraging* legislators from all countries to endeavour towards having GLOBE chapters in their respective national legislatures, and establish regional secretariats,

*Committing*, following two and half days of active discussion at the 2nd GLOBE World Summit of Legislators held in the Congress of Mexico, to raise and, where appropriate, pass, adopt or formally to recognise this *Legislators Resolution* through parliamentary mechanisms within our national legislatures,

**Resolution**

On climate change, *recognising* that well-informed climate legislation can bring significant national and local co-benefits, including strengthened energy security, improved health, reduced disaster risk, increased access to sustainable energy and investment into clean and domestic energy sources, including renewable energy, the creation of high-quality new jobs and better air quality,

**Committing** to:

- Undertake a comprehensive assessment of our existing national legislative responses to address and prepare for the impacts of climate change to ensure they are consistent with the international goal of limiting global average temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius
- Where appropriate, strengthen the legislative responses in advance of the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in 2015, including the consideration of carbon pricing and incorporating natural capital accounting concepts in national accounting procedures
- Where already in existence, ensure the effective scrutiny of the implementation of climate legislation
- Debate the role of national legislation in a new climate change agreement and whether countries should be required to put their commitments into national laws

**Committing**, also, to use nationally appropriate parliamentary channels to:

- Structure an effective process to hold our governments to account on the implementation of the post-2020 climate agreement
- Hold national parliamentary debates to review the contributions to the United Nations Secretary General (UNSG)’s 2014 Climate Summit in September 2014; and governmental positions ahead of the UN climate change negotiations in Lima in 2014 and Paris in 2015
- Call on our heads of government to strongly support the international negotiations between now and Paris in 2015, the scheduled conclusion of negotiations on a new international climate agreement, taking into account the latest IPCC science to ensure that the increase of the global average temperature rise remains below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, starting with their participation at the UN Secretary General’s 2014 Climate Summit in September and presenting their own ambitious
- Request relevant ministers and lead negotiators to report to Parliament ahead of the UNFCCC negotiations in Lima in 2014 and Paris in 2015, and to brief parliament on the outcomes
On the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognising that the sustainable management of the Earth’s natural capital is indispensable to attain not only our biodiversity preservation targets but also all sustainable development objectives, that depend on the continued flow of ecosystem services and natural resources that sustain human life,

Recognising reversing current unsustainable trends poses a serious challenge but also a significant opportunity to restructure our economies and review our regulatory frameworks in support of sustainable development, promoting equal opportunities and providing sustainable livelihoods,

Committing to:

- Hold national debates on the development of the new SDGs and scrutinise our governments’ positions
- Identify appropriate legislative responses in support of the implementation of the future SDGs
- Examine what tools parliaments require to effectively oversee implementation of the SDGs
- Support the national implementation of the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services and corporate sustainability accounting as soon as possible and by 2030 at the latest
- Transpose sustainable development commitments agreed in international fora into legislative frameworks that maximise the likelihood of implementation,

Calling upon Governments and the United Nations to:

1. Recognise that we need a new generation of international agreements on sustainable development that reinforce existing national legislation and requires countries to put into national laws the commitments and contributions they make in the international negotiations
2. Put legislators at the heart of their engagement on the sustainable development agenda, including in policy processes linked to climate change and the new Sustainable Development Goals, and specifically involve parliaments, as a matter of urgency, in drafting appropriate text for the new international climate change agreement to be concluded in Paris in 2015
3. Recognise the need to include natural capital accounting as a cross-sectoral theme within the SDGs including a specific goal recommending that all countries implement national systems of natural capital accounting by 2025, and should be provided adequate international support to do so,
4. Use their leverage with international financial institutions such as the World Bank and GEF to insist that they better support the work of Parliaments in developing national laws and regulatory structures; specifically, that programmes on climate change, forests/REDD+ and natural capital accounting should engage in parallel with national parliaments to develop capacity, understanding of, and share best legislative practice,
5. Fully capacitate UNEP and consolidate all environmental issues and projects to be undertaken under the UN Environment Programme, with the support of all partners,
6. Encourage all partners to set up mechanisms to assist the African nations, and other nations in need, to benefit from the global climate change financing opportunities
7. Support the GLOBE Partnership for Legislation and the UNOPS Legislation Fund.