

International Parliamentary Hearing

# Legislation for a sustainable energy revolution



How parliamentarians can attract investment and drive the transition to a renewable energy economy



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# Introduction

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Dear Colleagues,

The desert nations of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region have quite simply the richest solar energy resources in the world. Just to give an idea of the potential, an area of desert just 250 km by 250 km, covered with solar power stations, could produce all the electricity that Europe and the Arab region use today.

If fully developed, this solar resource, combined with the region's excellent wind energy potential, could create large numbers of jobs, generate export revenue, and drive development. It could meet the energy needs of the MENA nations at a reasonable cost, and could provide a significant part of Europe's energy as well.

Regional cooperation on renewable energy could also help to prevent global climate change, which threatens the whole Mediterranean basin with drought and desertification. The Europe-Mediterranean region could show other regions of the world that it is possible for nations to share their best renewable energy resources to create a reliable supply of cheap, clean energy for everyone.

With this in mind, the latest in the ongoing series of joint parliamentary hearings organised by the Climate Parliament and the United Nations Development Programme took place in Hammamet, Tunisia, in April 2014. Inspired by Tunisia's adoption of a ground-breaking constitutional commitment to the "protection of the climate", our meeting explored how North African Parliaments can attract investment in their countries by strengthening renewable energy legislation, as well as how MENA and European Members of Parliament can work together to enable trading in renewable energy.

Although making the transition to renewable energy will not be easy, parliamentarians are in a unique position to take action. All that is required is understanding, personal commitment, and political will.

Thus, the work of the Climate Parliament continues. If you would like any more information on our work, or are interested in attending any of our future events, please do consult our website – <http://www.climateparl.net> - or contact [ben@climateparl.net](mailto:ben@climateparl.net).

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Graham Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Sir Graham Watson MEP**

Chairman  
The Climate Parliament

# List of participants

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## Members of Parliament

### France

Bernard Deflesselles  
Jerome Lambert

### Italy

Mariastella Bianchi  
Enrico Borghi

### Jordan

Najah Alazzeah  
Mohammed Al Alwan  
Hamdieh Alquaider  
Tamam Alriyati  
Jamal Gammoh  
Atef Kawar  
Abdallah Khawaldeh  
Wafa Bani Mustafa  
Adnan Al Sawair

### Libya

Khaled Mishri  
Ibrahim Sahd  
Abdelkarim Elgayash  
Soliman Gajam  
Abdelkarim Saleh  
Abdalhafid Aldaiek

### Morocco

Khadija Abladi  
Houbaine Bennasser  
Nabila Benomar  
Naima Benyahia  
Mohamed Boughelam  
Adil Chikitou  
Aziz Dermoumi

### Morocco (cont.)

Salima Faraji  
Rachid Hamouni  
Zineb Kayouh  
Fouad Laghrib  
Mansour Lambarki  
Dr Fatima Mazzi  
Dr Mohamed Zerdali

### Tunisia

Zyad Al Addari  
Attia Ben Adel  
Nafati Assia  
Faraj Benomar  
Habib Berbich  
Najla Bourial  
Jalal Bouzid  
Moncef Cheikhrouhou  
Souhir Dardouri  
Noaman El Fihri  
Hatem El Guellai  
Moez Kamoun  
Faiza Keddoussi  
Abdelaziz Kotti  
Dhamir Mannai  
Hasna Marsit  
Amira Marzouk  
Imane Ben Mohammed  
Krifa Karim Mohamed  
Hanane Sassi  
Fouad Tamer

### United Kingdom

Lord George Foulkes

## Panelists

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Mostafa El Aouazi	Climate Parliament
Nafaa Baccari	Tunisian Wind Energy Association
Prof. Amor Boubakri	University of Sfax, Tunisia
Charles Chauvel	UNDP
Nicholas Dunlop	Climate Parliament
Gianluca Fulli	EU Joint Research Centre
Abdelkarim Ghezal	Tunisian Ministry of Energy
Hamdi Harrouch	Tunisian Agency for Energy Planning
Ramzi Jelalia	Ferchiou & Associé, Tunisia
Robert Kelly	UNDP
Julia Keutgen	UNDP
Mouldi Mile	Desertec University Network
Hon. Kamal Ben Naceur	Minister of Energy , Tunisia
Silvia Pariente-David	Energy Consultant
Rudolf Rechsteiner	Swiss Development Cooperation Agency
Dima Rifai	Paradigm Capital Change Partners
Dominik Ruderer	Desertec Industrial Initiative
Kevin Sara	NurEnergie
Jihene Touil	UNDP
Oliver Waissbein	UNDP
Jonathan Walters	World Bank

## **Analysts & Observers**

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Naima Baroudi	Tunisian Parliament
Noreddine Citroen	Islamic Development Bank
Stefano Corrado	European Commission, Tunisia Delegation
Sanju Deenapanray	Ecological Living in Action
Hatem Dridi	Tunisian Parliament
Dr. Tareq Emtairah	Regional Centre for Renewable Energy
Khadija Esseghairi	NurEnergie
Daniel Rich	NurEnergie
Dario Savarese	First Secretary for Commerce, Italian Embassy in Tunisia
Maruizio Scaravaggi	NurEnergie

## **Climate Parliament & UNDP**

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Hichem Aouadi	Marion Denantes
Brahim Benmim	Mark Grassi
Francesca Carnibella	Ben Martin
James Corre	Sharon Youssefi

# Agenda overview

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How can we protect our citizens from climate change? How can we tap into the sun that pours out of our skies and the wind that blows across our coasts and deserts? How can we create jobs for our constituents and power our economies into the future?

Renewable energy legislation holds many of the answers to these questions. Legislation is the cornerstone of renewable energy development; it lays the foundations that create stable and ambitious policies that attract investment.

The Climate Parliament / UNDP international parliamentary committee hearing focused on the actions that legislators from across the Arab region can take in their national parliaments to strengthen renewable energy legislation. The four sessions focused on the following issues:

- 1. The key to success: how MENA countries can attract investment on a massive scale.** What is the most efficient way to finance renewable energy projects? What needs to be done to make renewable energy a priority for development banks and agencies or regional organisations?
- 2. Designing the ideal renewable energy law:** Can strong, ambitious renewable energy policy exist without supporting legislation? What are the indispensable elements of a successful renewable energy policy?
- 3. Towards a connected future: the revolutionary potential of interregional RE networks:** What can we do to encourage our governments to support international renewable energy trading? Why haven't we got a supergrid already? Should the initial focus be on creating the right conditions in exporting countries, or should we focus on market conditions in Europe?
- 4. Staying three steps ahead of government: the oversight role of parliamentarians:** What tools and methods can MPs use to best conduct oversight on matters of renewable energy policy and implementation?



# Programme

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## Saturday 5th April

- 09:00 – 09:20      Opening remarks  
**Hon. Dr. Dhamir Mannai MP**, Tunisia/Climate Parliament  
**Lord George Foulkes**, Climate Parliament  
**Ms Jihene Touil**, Environment & Energy Programme Officer, UNDP Tunisia
- 09:20 – 09:40      Inaugural address  
**Hon. Kamal Ben Naceur**, Tunisian Minister of Energy
- 09:40 - 10:10      **The climate challenge and how we can respond:** an introduction to the Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy (PARE) project  
**Mr Nicholas Dunlop**, Climate Parliament
- 10:10 - 10:40      Tunisia Powering Ahead  
**Mr Oliver Weissbein** and **Mr Nafaa Baccari**, UNDP Tunisia
- 10:40 – 11:15      Tea and Coffee
- 11:15 – 12:45      **The key to success: how can MENA countries attract investment on a massive scale?**  
Presentation: Hon. Moncef Cheikhrouhou MP, Tunisia/HEC  
Panelists: Ms. Silvia Pariente-David, Energy Consultant; Mr Oliver Weissbein, UNDP; Mr Kevin Sara, NurEnergie; Ms Dima Rifai, Paradigm Capital Change Partners  
Moderator: Mr Robert Kelly, UNDP
- 12:45 – 14:00      Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:30      **Designing the ideal renewable energy law**  
Presentations: i) Dr Dhamir Mannai MP; ii) Dr Rudolph Rechsteiner  
Panelists: Mr Nouredine Laghzal, Director of Energy, Tunisian Ministry of Energy; Mr Hamdi Harrouch, Tunisian Agency for Energy Planning (Agence Nationale pour la maitrise de l'énergie); Ms Jihene Touil, UNDP Tunisia.  
Moderator: Dr El Mostafa El Aouazi, Climate Parliament
- 15:30 – 16:00      Tea and Coffee
- 16:00 – 18:00      Policy analysis in country groups



## Sunday 6th April

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- 09:30 – 11:00      **Towards a connected future: the revolutionary potential of interregional RE networks**
- Presentation: Mr Jonathan Walters, World Bank  
Panelists: Dr Mouldi Miled, DESERTEC University Network; Dr Dominik Ruderer, Dii; Mr Gianluca Fulli, EU Joint Research Centre  
Moderator: Mr Nicholas Dunlop, Climate Parliament
- 11:00 – 11:30      Tea and Coffee
- 11:30 – 13:00      **Staying three steps ahead of government: the oversight role of parliamentarians**
- Presentation: Mr Charles Chauvel, UNDP: MPs' pivotal role in overseeing the executive branch on government, reallocating state budgets and advocating for more rapid policy change  
Panelists: Mr Jean-Raphael Giuliani, UNDP Parliamentary Expert; Mr Bernard Deflesselles MP, France; Ms Nabila Benomar MP, Morocco  
Moderator: Ms Julia Keutgen, UNDP
- 13:00 – 14:30      Lunch
- 14:30 - 16:30      Planning parliamentary action
- 16:30 – 17:30      Closing plenary: presenting national action plans & requests for assistance

## Day 1: Opening session

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Dr Dhamir Mannai, a member of the Tunisian National Assembly, opened the Hearing by arguing powerfully that climate change is the most urgent, important issue that the global community needs to deal with, and thus thanked the assembled delegates from around the world for taking the time to join the Climate Parliament in Tunisia, for what he hoped would be a productive and informative event.

Ms Jihene Touil, Environment and Energy Programme Officer at UNDP's Tunisian Country Office, then added her thanks, and in doing so held up the example of the recently-passed Tunisian constitution as a demonstration that it is possible to work together for the common



*Dr Dhamir Mannai*

good. As such, Tunisia is an excellent location to meet together to address another common challenge – that of climate change. With the publication of the IPCC's latest climate report, there can be no doubt that climate changes will have huge impacts on all of us, but on the vulnerable the most. However, Ms Touil argued that there is good news – the huge potential of renewable energy. However, political leadership is needed to make the most of this potential. Luckily, UNDP is committed to helping developing countries build their renewable industries.

The Tunisian Energy Minister, Hon. Kamel Bennaceur, opened his presentation with a moving recognition of the sacrifices that many Tunisians have made for their new political system – their time, their money, and in some cases, even their lives. He argued that the Tunisian example made clear that decisions made today can have a big impact over the medium and long term, and that his Ministry was endeavouring to be guided by long term



*Hon. Kamel Bennaceur*

considerations.

The Minister then outlined the principle factors of the Tunisian energy situation, characterised by increasing demand, shrinking domestic supply, rapidly growing fossil fuel imports, and the ever-more pressing economic implications of subsidies and public money spent on importing energy. Tunisia expects its oil & gas production to peak within next the 5 years, and so the Minister argued in favour of a switch to renewable sources, with a lower CO2 footprint, while simultaneously ramping up energy efficiency. In addition, he called for a strengthening of interconnections with other countries in the area – including regional cooperation with Southern Europe.

Mr Nicholas Dunlop, Secretary-General of the Climate Parliament, then gave the opening presentation of the event: an overview of current climate science and the potential of renewables. In opening, Mr Dunlop spelled out the rapid pace of atmospheric change being caused by greenhouse gas emissions, and argued that the twenty five years of international climate negotiations meetings have not had the slightest effect on CO2 emissions, which continue to rise exponentially.



Mr Nick Dunlop

Luckily, a switch to renewables could provide the carbon cuts the planet so desperately needs, Mr Dunlop argued. However, Europe simply doesn't have the resources to do 100% renewables on its own – regional cooperation is required with the countries of North Africa, to create a large scale renewables grid that crosses the whole region, enabling wind and solar to become very reliable energy sources, with hydro balancing.

But the interconnections required for such a grid are progressing very slowly, Mr Dunlop argued. Their development needs a push – from MPs. Change has to come from legislators in Parliament, the people best equipped to address the climate problem – which is, Mr Dunlop concluded, a problem of national survival.



Ms Jihene Touil



# Session 1: The key to success

Mr Robert Kelly of UNDP opened the first session of the event - which focused on policy to encourage large-scale renewable energy in North Africa - with a quick outline of the UNDP's sustainable energy programme: the biggest in the UN family, with a portfolio of over \$1 billion. UNDP's network of 135 country offices all over the world help develop energy and climate in the context of national development, and ensure that nothing that UNDP does is outside of national strategic priorities, and projects are implemented by national government agencies only.

Mr Kelly went on to make the economic case for renewable energy, suggesting that renewables have concrete financial benefits in addition to their lower carbon footprint. Reducing fossil imports, subsidies on imported gas, subsidies for consumer electricity, and so on, can have a huge impact on the balance of payments for many countries. Meanwhile, the inspiring vision of an EU-MENA supergrid opens the possibility of valuable solar energy exports for North African countries.

Mr Kelly argued that the best way to encourage investment in renewables is to "de-risk", ie: reduce policy and regulatory risk to investors through reform of legislative frameworks. This can create the enabling conditions required for private investment to come in of its own accord. One way to do this, Mr Kelly explained, was by reducing finance costs by lowering the cost to borrow - in other words, lowering



Mr Robert Kelly

interest rates higher for developers by targeting specific market uncertainties. Getting this right, Mr Kelly insisted, could catalyse renewable energy development using purely economic arguments.

Following Mr Kelly's presentation, the session moved to a moderated panel discussion, featuring Ms. Silvia Pariente-David, a former energy consultant to the World Bank; Mr Oliver Weissbein from UNDP; Mr Kevin Sara, CEO of NurEnergie; and Ms Dima Rifai of Paradigm Capital Change Partners. The discussion was moderated by Mr Kelly.





Ms Dima Rifai



Mr Wassbein argued that the risk return profiles of renewable investments must be made competitive with other types of investment, such as construction or telecommunications, if private funding on the scale required is to be found. He suggested that at least \$200 – 500 billion a year in additional renewable investment was required in developing countries alone to stand a realistic chance of avoiding more than 2 °C of global warming.

Ms Rifai suggested that a key issue in the debate is energy security. With countries now thinking about how to dial down dependence on external imports, many nations are prepared to pay a premium in order to have access to a stable, reliable, domestic supply – thus opening up space for renewable investments.

Mr Sara then argued that energy exports could be vitally important for the Tunisian renewables industry. In fact, he suggested, they could be compared with agricultural projects on a similar scale: they require land, a bit of water, and sun, in order to export electrons to European consumers. Demand is high in Europe, Mr Sara insisted, and the technology required already exists – all we need is the regulatory reform to make it happen.

Delegates then had the chance to make interventions from the floor. These included:

Mr Jamal Gammoh MP, Jordan: “Establishing a 20% target for renewables is no easy task, but in Jordan we plan to set up a new “Chamber of Data” in order to pull together all figures, research, values, and estimates, so that we have good numbers to work with. We have also carried out a nationwide wind energy survey, to locate the best places for wind investment.”

Mr Ibrahim Said MP, Libya: “Politically, renewable energy is something we should endeavour for, to reduce energy costs. However, the most important motive is environmental, for the decades ahead. Our country’s contribution to damaging the environment is minimal; the big countries who are responsible for the biggest damage are the ones who need to do the most.”

Wafa Bani Mostafa, Jordan: “We need to reassure investors on the stability and security of renewables, so that money will pour in. Our country is far from self-sufficient in energy, but we have great sunshine – which we should be using! Our only other option is nuclear, but this is a bad idea for a country like ours that already really suffers from water scarcity. So for Jordan renewables are the only way.”



Ms Wafa Bani Mostafa MP



## Session 2: Designing the ideal renewable energy law

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After lunch, the first presentation was given by Dr Dhamir Mannai MP, who outlined the situation of renewable energy in Tunisia. Tunisia's plummeting oil production has led to an energy shortfall and exposed a serious lack of long-term planning for the future – meaning that the country now is a net importer of energy, with a huge impact on the state budget. Therefore, renewables are essential, Dr Mannai argued.

However, public funds alone are not enough to reach Tunisia's goal of 30% renewables by 2030. So, Dr Mannai suggested, the state needs to introduce new laws to motivate private finance assistance. Yet first, resistance in government to opening the door to private, decentralised investment in a deregulated energy market must be overcome.

Dr Rudi Rechsteiner gave the next presentation, in which he explored what should be done at the market level in order to encourage renewable investment. As oil prices has risen four-fold over the last decade or so, renewable alternatives have become much more competitive as the price of renewable energy technology has come right down. This has led, Dr Rechsteiner argued, to more and more countries managing to achieve solar profitability.

But a strong and well-designed legal frame-



Dr Dhamir Mannai

work is crucial to ensuring that private investors make adequate capital available to renewable entrepreneurs. Dr Rechsteiner ran through a range of specific improvements that could considerably improve renewable energy laws, including a forward-looking 5 year implementation plan linked to specified goals, to minimise the risk of heel-dragging at the relevant Ministries; the creation of strong and reliable courts capable of enforcing contracts; and a reduction in the number of licences granted, in order to cut down the possibility of corruption.



## Day 2: Towards a connected future

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At the start of the Hearing's second day, Lord George Foulkes gave an opening address to welcome back the delegates, and outlined some of his personal views on climate and energy. London is experiencing its worst air pollution in living memory, but climate deniers in the House of Lords continue to question the existence of anthropogenic climate change.

The opening presentation was delivered by Professor Chokri Yaich MP, and featured an overview of the latest climate science. The professor illustrated how concentrations of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> have been rising massively since the Industrial Revolution, as evidenced by trapped air from ice cores. More recent measurements have tracked a 25% increase in CO<sub>2</sub> over the past 60 years, which correlates with observed temperature increases. Using this data to extrapolate outwards, climate scientists can project a 3-4 °C rise in tempera-



Lord George Foulkes

tures over the next 100 years. This, of course, would be very hazardous – leading, among other impacts, to a rise in sea levels of around 1 metre. As the warming will occur over a very short geological time period, natural earth systems will be unable to react as they normally do to geological changes.

This will lead to some dramatic changes in the biome. By 2030, there could be a 50% reduction in overall global vegetation, with a 28% reduction in the water table, a huge impact on oceans, and the potential for feedback loops triggered by the melting of Arctic tundra.

Given the terrifying predictions of climate impacts over the next 100 years, it's clear that action is urgently required. Carbon emissions must be reduced, renewables must be developed, fossil fuel production curbed, and more research done on new renewable energy and efficiency technologies.



Prof Chokri Yaich MP



Mr Jonathan Walters

The next presentation was given by Mr Jonathan Walters, of the World Bank, who gave a fascinating overview of the potential of solar exports from North Africa to the EU. With North Africa experiencing a huge comparative advantage in solar over almost everywhere else on the planet, it's possible to conceptualise desert solar in the region as a natural resource comparable with oil and gas. All that's needed to export this resource, Mr Walters argued, are interconnections to European consumers.

Links already exist between Morocco and Spain, and there are many more planned but awaiting funding or government approval. Mr Walters then made a persuasive case for European subsidies to support the expansion of North African solar development. With solar photovoltaic (SPV) technologies now so cheap, the necessary level of subsidy required to meet market energy prices is surprisingly low. However, concentrated solar power (CSP) is probably a better option for exports as the energy it produces can be stored as heat. While CSP is still rather expensive, CSP prices are falling rapidly as economies of scale and learning curves kick in. Mr

Walters argued that costs will come down further if – and only if – the scale of investment increases, which needs subsidy stimulus.

A panel, comprised of Dr Mouldi Miled of the DESERTEC University Network; Dr Dominik Ruderer of Dii; and Mr Gianluca Fulli, European Commission Joint Research Centre, and chaired by the Climate Parliament's Mr Nicholas Dunlop, then delved deeper into the topics raised during the morning session.

Mr Miled attacked critics of solar exports to Europe who paint such projects with the brush of neo-colonialism. Mr Miled argued that, as the climate stakes are so high, the issue is essentially a borderless problem, affecting the entire planet.

Dr Dhamir Mannai MP added that, in his view, neo-colonialism is actually the blocking of exports from North African countries who want to export their solar energy. Indeed, the EU closing its markets to MENA solar is colonial protectionism of the worst kind.

Mr Fulli then explored how the supergrid concept can be viable and profitable, through encouraging two-way cooperation on cables, interconnectors and so forth. Some under-sea connections are already profitable, but the regulatory framework needs tweaking to make investing clearer and easier.

Mr Ruderer, in answer to a question regarding when North African solar will be able to compete without subsidies, suggested that such projects are already viable business cases, even without extra subsidies. Indeed, CSP is competitive in Saudi Arabia, while exports of Tunisian wind could be competitive in Italian wholesale markets. He argued that the whole sector represented a €65 billion export industry opportunity for Tunisia by 2050.





## Session 4: Staying three steps ahead

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The fourth session of the hearing featured a presentation from Mr Charles Chauvel of UNDP, who pondered why it is desirable to promote the scrutiny of governments from the legislative branch. He argued that it is one of the primary responsibilities of MPs is to make sure that the government lives up to its commitments under the law.

Taking as his case study the example of Senegal, Mr Chauvel explained how a framework law passed in 2010 on renewables has still not been promulgated by the executive. In response, Climate Parliament MPs are putting public pressure on Government Ministries, and the Prime Minister's office, to actually require the government to fulfil its promises.

Mr Chauvel then gave a succinct overview of the various parliamentary tools available to MPs to assist them in providing oversight on government projects. He argued that consulting with constituents itself could be a powerful tool, through gathering data and opinions from voters, civil society organisations, representatives of ministries, and private firms. Media involvement can help start a national conversation, placing pressure on government to respond. Parliamentary questions – even if they're not answered – can create pressure and generate interest; Mr Chauvel gave the example of how parliamentary questions raised in Morocco and India have helped hold the government's feet to the fire over climate.

On the discussion panel following Mr Chauvel's presentation, Ms Nabila Benomar MP then suggested that, in Morocco, many MPs are becoming involved in renewable energy projects and policy targets for 2020, and outlined several parliamentary activities currently in the pipeline on renewable energy. These included discussions over fossil fuel subsidies, boosting funding for



Mr Ansgar Keine

renewable projects, and developing new public-private partnerships to increase investment.

M. Bernard Deflesselles MP then explored what role an MP can play in addressing climate change issues. He explained how, in the French political tradition, a strong executive and a relatively weaker parliament places constitutional limits on the powers of MPs – but far from removes their capacity for meaningful action. Instead, Mr Deflesselles explained how MPs must work within their parliaments to take advantage of windows of opportunity, and forge connections at the international level with fellow MPs in other countries, in order to advocate together.

M. Jerome Lambert MP agreed, urging his fellow MPs to work towards an international climate agreement in 2015. He made the point that, as fossil fuels are a finite resource, they will run out – leaving countries heavily dependent upon them, such as Libya, without a source of energy or national income. In addition, the drastic environmental situation means new renewables are more essential than ever.

## Concluding session

The final session of the event handed the floor to representatives of the national discussion groups, who reported back the results of their dialogue to the assembled delegates in plenary.

First to report were the Libyan delegation of MPs. Thanking the organisers for an informative and educational experience, the MPs said they hoped to return again, in order to best serve the interests of the environment and to advance the prospects of renewable energy in Libya. They then set out four proposals which they pledged to work towards upon their return to the Libyan parliament. The first, inspired by the Tunisian example, was a constitutional amendment to explicitly commit the government to the protection of the environment and the adoption of renewables in order to protect future generations. The second was a specific law governing renewable energy, distinct from existing fossil energy laws. Thirdly, the MPs pledged to work towards the reduction of custom duties for renewable energy technology to encourage national and foreign investment. The final pledge was to push for a specific renewable energy target, such as 15% of national supply by 2020.



Tunisian National Group

The Moroccan delegation was next to report, with Mr Zimed Kayou MP outlining the fruits of their national discussions. These had settled on a list of priorities for parliamentary action: working towards reducing the costs of renewables; opening up the energy market to competition; a review of the tax system currently governing renewable technology imports; organising a round of written questions from MPs to relevant ministries, as well as verbal questions in the Parliament; and the organisation of a day of study to explore the current situation of renewable investment and the legal framework surrounding it. The study day should include all relevant stakeholders, including ministries, private firms and civil society organisations. Mr Kayou concluded with a pledge from the Moroccan group to continue their work on raising awareness of the necessity of renewables in Morocco.

Third to report was the group of Jordanian MPs, with Mr Jamal Gamonde MP acting as rapporteur. Mr Gamonde discussed the current state of Jordanian law regarding renewables, and outlined his groups conclusions that an adequate financial system, geared towards encouraging investment from small to medium enterprises in the renewable sector in collaboration with Jordanian banks, was essential. Local industries should be encouraged





in order to generate jobs and investment opportunities; but the government has an important role to play in providing feasibility studies, wind and solar mapping, access to training, and incentives to the large Jordanian energy companies to invest in renewables. Finally, the Jordanian group pledged to explore the possibility of establishing a fund for renewable energy in order to help leverage more private investment by helping entrepreneurs to overcome barriers to entry into the market.

Next to share the findings of their discussions was the European group, represented by STELLA MP. The group agreed that cooperation with the countries of the Maghreb is an issue that should enjoy more support

and progress from all parliamentarians. Trans-Mediterranean energy trading will only become a reality if energy produced in the Maghreb is at an affordable price for consumers and end users in Europe, so observing the rules of competition is essential to ensure energy is affordable. Therefore, increasing cooperation on policy and investment between the EU and North Africa is an important first step, STELLA concluded.

Finally, the Tunisian delegation of MPs gave their report, with Dr Dhamir Mannai MP as rapporteur. Noting the excellent timing of the Climate Parliament hearing, with the new Tunisian energy law under discussion at the Constitutional Assembly and due for its third reading within the week, Dr Mannai outlined a detailed list of improvements to the draft law which he and his colleagues pledged to work towards. These included: ensuring the law is signed and enacted promptly and without undue delay; increasing the target for renewables from 30 to 50% of national supply; redefining ownership issues surrounding export cables; clarifying the role of national utilities and other state-owned actors; defining a minimum price for exports; crystallising the costs of interconnection, as well as who will bare them; the creation of an independent authority to regulate the sector and inspect new plants; defining feed-in tariffs in more detail; increasing the transparency of the law, especially over licences, to limit corruption; and the setting of clearer deadlines for investors.



# About the PARE project

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Chronic power shortage is a major problem in the South. At the same time, countries in Africa and Asia have rich potential in renewable energies like solar, wind, hydroelectric or biomass energy. If harnessed, these resources could provide the unlimited energy that is needed to lift the poor out of poverty and help reduce gender inequalities, without accelerating climate change.

The lack of national legal frameworks and policies as well as a lack of financial resources are major obstacles that have to be overcome if we want to promote and enable renewable energy for a significant portion of the world's population. Parliaments are key national institutions for the development, promotion and funding of renewable energy projects.

Members of Parliament must have the right tools to ensure access to clean energy for all the world's citizens. UNDP and the Climate Parliament propose to work together to build the capacity of parliamentarians to strengthen their advocacy and monitoring of the development of renewable energy sources, and to promote policy and regulatory reform to encourage investment in renewables.

UNDP is uniquely placed to build the capacity of developing country parliaments on energy issues, and to strengthen links between MPs and the UN system. UNDP

currently supports one in three parliaments around the world. 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.

The Climate Parliament is the only global parliamentary network which has renewable energy as its primary focus, and it has already achieved impressive results in stimulating legislative and policy initiatives in Africa, India and the small island states.

In this collaboration, entitled Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy, UNDP and the Climate Parliament are building regional networks of MPs and national cross-party parliamentary groups to promote renewable energy, new grids and other steps to ensure access to sustainable energy. At the same time, we will facilitate technical advice to the parliamentarians from across the UN system and from other organisations.

To learn more, visit the Climate Parliament website, at:

[www.climateparl.net](http://www.climateparl.net),

or the AGORA parliamentary portal, at:

[agora-parl.org](http://agora-parl.org)



**Climate Parliament**  
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