



# National Assembly of Belize

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **The National Assembly Hosts a Climate Crisis Forum for Parliamentarians**

—10<sup>th</sup> November 2023— As a prelude to the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, (COP28), which will be held from November 30 to December 12 at the Expo City, Dubai, the National Assembly, in collaboration with the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, and ParlAmericas, held yesterday, 9<sup>th</sup> November, a Climate Crisis Forum for Parliamentarians. The forum was held at the auditorium of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management under the theme "Climate Action: One Goal, a Shared Responsibility."

Present were parliamentarians, Chief Executive Officers, technical staff, Ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps, students, among other guests. The forum's main goal was to enhance the knowledge and awareness of parliamentarians of the Climate Crisis, and of the opportunity it presents to them as parliamentarians and their responsibility to play a protagonist role in supporting and monitoring Belize's commitment to the Paris Agreement.

Hon. Carolyn Trench-Sandiford, President of the Senate, welcomed all to the Forum after which the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator shared a few remarks on the climate crisis and partnership between the UN and National Assembly of Belize. Mr. William Holness, Climate Ambition and Transparency Coordinator, from UNEP, provided an informative presentation on understanding what the Paris Agreement is and of our country's responsibility to the treaty. Meanwhile, Senator, the Honourable Anthony Vieira from the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, and Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliament Network on Climate Change (PNCC) for the Caribbean, provided examples on how parliamentarians can become more actively involved in finding solutions and creating policies that will address climate crisis and its impacts, especially for developing countries like Belize. Hon. Orlando Habet, Minister for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, then provided a thorough presentation on how Belize has been affected by climate change. Hon. Habet also informed of the national efforts being undertaken to combat climate crisis, through partnerships, legislation, policy and strategy. Finally, a panel session, moderated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Valerie Woods, and consisting of panelists Hon. Ramon Cervantes, Member for Orange Walk North, Hon. Dr. Louis Zabaneh, Member for Dangriga, and Senator Janelle Chanona, representative of the NGO community, was held to discuss the impacts of climate change in their respective constituencies.

Mrs. Clarita Pech, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, expressed her gratitude and appreciation to those present and to the speakers for their informative and insightful presentations. The inputs and comments from Parliamentarians during the forum will contribute to Belize's participation and messaging at COP28. For additional information on the forum and / or its contents, please do not hesitate to contact the National Assembly at [clerkna@bna.gov.bz](mailto:clerkna@bna.gov.bz).

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