Parliamentary Forum at the 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5)

22 January 2022, Doha, Qatar
Exhibition Hall 2, QNCC

09:30 – 10:00 Opening session

Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

H.E. Hassan bin Abdullah Al-Ghanim, Speaker, Shura Council of Qatar

10:00 – 10:15 Keynote remarks

Mr. Courtenay Rattray, UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries

The Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs: Key elements and implications for parliaments

10:15 – 12:30 The LDCs in perspective: unresolved challenges, untapped opportunities

This session will provide an overview of the structural economic issues that LDCs continue to deal with as well as the opportunities these countries may have to free up their own development potential. The discussion will take the cue from the Parliamentary Message to the LDC 5 adopted at the 143rd IPU Assembly in Madrid (November 2021).

Leading questions

- Is the global economic system sufficiently supportive of the LDSs?
- How can the LDCs diversify their economies and improve productivity?
- How can the LDCs scale up investments in infrastructure, health, education and other public goods?
- How can the LDCs fend off the growing threat of climate change?

12:30 – 14:00 Luncheon offered by the Shura Council of Qatar

14:00 – 15:30 The LDCs and aid: toward more effective development cooperation

Most LDCs remain highly dependent on foreign aid for their infrastructure and social budgets. Escaping the traditional “donor-recipient” relationship and making aid part of a larger framework for effective development cooperation is particularly challenging for the LDCs. At the same time that the actual results of aid in LDCs may be wanting, developed countries’ commitments to scaling up good quality aid remain unrealized. Parliamentary oversight of aid and engagement in national and global development cooperation processes remain weak. This session will explore these and other such issues of development finance through a parliamentary lens and in the light of recent IPU case study in Rwanda.

Leading questions

- How can aid and development cooperation to the LDCs be made more effective?
- How can aid be used to leverage other sources of development finance in the LDCs?
- What national and global constraints are there to mobilizing domestic resources in the LDCs?
o How can parliamentary oversight of development cooperation be strengthened in both developed and developing countries?

**15:30 – 16:00  Women and youth representation in LDC parliaments: the current state of play**

The representation of women and youth in parliament has long been a critical focus area at the IPU as part of its democracy mission. This short segment will highlight the evolution of women and youth representation in LDC parliaments over the past decade.

**16:00 – 17:30  The LDCs and governance: the challenge of institutional reforms**

Better governance is a necessary condition to development everywhere, including in the LDCs. Governance requires first and foremost that all decision-making at both national and international levels be fully transparent and accountable, representative of all constituencies and social classes, and properly equipped to deliver to the people. Parliaments are a key institution of governance with great oversight and representative authority. Yet many LDC parliaments remain under-capacitated to exercise their constitutional functions and tend to exclude important groups, such as women and youth, as well as the marginalized. This session will reflect on governance reforms that are most critical to the LDCs, beginning with the institution of parliament.

**Leading questions**

- What are the key governance challenges that LDCs must contend with, including within the confines of international institutions?
- What are the main obstacles to governance reforms in the LDCs?
- How can LDC parliaments become more representative of women, youth and other groups, while strengthening their oversight role?
- What role do actors such as political parties, the media, and civil society play in governance reforms in the LDCs?

**17:30 – 17:45  Closing session: main takeaways**

**Mr. Duarte Pacheco**, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

**H.E. Hassan bin Abdullah Al-Ghanim**, Speaker, Shura Council of Qatar (or his representative)