



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



Third Regional Seminar for the Asia-Pacific region parliaments on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Islamabad, Pakistan, 22-24 February 2022

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union
and the National Assembly of Pakistan

GENERAL INFORMATION

SEMINAR VENUE AND DATE

The seminar will be held from 22 to 24 February 2022 (excluding arrival/departure) at the Serena Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan. Badges and seminar documents should be collected from the Registration Desk in the lobby of the hotel. Delegates will be able to access the seminar areas after collecting their badges.

PARTICIPATION

The seminar is open to the parliaments of the following Asia-Pacific countries: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Canada, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

Delegations should be gender-balanced and reflect the political representation of their respective parliaments. It is recommended that delegates should be those working directly on sustainable development issues in their parliaments.

ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS

In keeping with IPU practice, all participants will have equal speaking rights. To make the discussions as fruitful and enriching as possible, the following rules will apply:

- (a) After the resource persons have introduced an agenda item, the floor will be opened to participants for questions and comments.
- (b) Experience has shown that this kind of meeting does not lend itself to the reading out of prepared statements. Subject to alternative arrangements that the Chair may make to suit the circumstances, oral contributions may not exceed three minutes. Participants may speak several times on each item, particularly to respond to other statements.

DOCUMENTS

Presentations on the topics discussed at the seminar will be posted, when and if possible, by the IPU Secretariat on the IPU's website.

Participants wishing to distribute relevant documentation to their colleagues will be required to provide the material in sufficient quantities and to place it on a designated table.

WORKING LANGUAGES

The working language will be **English**.

Delegations wishing to use interpretation facilities should inform the organizers no later than 30 January 2022. Additional interpretation booths will be made available on a first come, first served basis.

REGISTRATION

Participants should complete the enclosed registration forms as soon as possible, and **no later than 30 January 2022**, and submit to:

<p>Mr. Tahir Hussain Secretary National Assembly of Pakistan Parliament House Constitution Avenue ISLAMABAD 44000 Pakistan</p> <p>Secretariat of the Seminar Tel: +92519212431 Fax: +92519212432 e-mail: secretary@na.gov.pk; waseemiqbal723@gmail.com</p> <p>With a copy to: Tel: +92519103114 Fax: +92519103213 e-mail: ir.diplo@gmail.com; salmajoveria@gmail.com; alisa.khan.82@gmail.com</p>	<p>With a copy to: Inter-Parliamentary Union Chemin du Pommier 5 C.P. 330 1218 Le Grand-Saconnex GENEVA Switzerland Tel: +41 22 919 4150 Fax: +41 22 919 4160 e-mail: postbox@ipu.org</p>
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TRANSPORT

Transfers will be provided upon arrival and departure to and from Islamabad International Airport to the Islamabad Serena Hotel. Transport will also be provided by the host Parliament for all the official and social events during the seminar.

COVID POLICY

To ensure a safe and healthy environment for all participants, a rapid COVID-19 antigen test and a temperature check will be carried out by the host Parliament at the entrance to the venue. Participants will be required to wear a face mask (including when seated) and respect social distancing during the entire seminar. All participants will be required to take a PCR test before travelling to Pakistan.

ACCOMMODATION

The National Assembly of Pakistan will provide accommodation for three delegates from unicameral and four delegates from bicameral parliaments from the participating countries of the Asia-Pacific Group. Delegations exceeding the above entitlement will be responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements for the additional delegates. **The travel details of the delegations should be sent to the Seminar Secretariat and the IPU Secretariat no later than 30 January 2022.**

VISAS

All applicants for entry visas to Pakistan are requested to contact a Pakistan embassy/consulate accredited to their country and close to their place of residence in order to obtain the appropriate visa. For information on visas or customs regulations, delegation secretaries and participants should contact the embassy of Pakistan in their country. Please visit the following website for further information: <https://visa.nadra.gov.pk/>

CURRENCY REGULATIONS

The official currency in Pakistan is the Pakistani Rupee (PKR). As at 11 November 2021, the exchange rate was USD 1 to PKR 171, but this can vary. Major international currencies can be exchanged at banks, currency exchange offices and major hotels. Most major credit cards are widely accepted.

WEATHER IN ISLAMABAD

Please see <https://www.accuweather.com/en/pk/islamabad/258278/weather-forecast/258278> for information.