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Webinar for the Asia-Pacific Region Parliaments

Putting the wellbeing of people and the planet at the centre of COVID-19 recovery strategies: The critical role of parliaments

Thursday, 10 March 2022
14:00–16:00 ICT (Bangkok time)

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and
the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

PROGRAMME

14:00 – 14:03	Opening session <i>Moderator: Mr. Charles Chauvel, Global Lead and Asia-Pacific Focal Point, Inclusive Processes and Institutions, Bangkok Regional Hub, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</i>
14:03 – 14:15	Opening remarks by the co-organizers - Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General, IPU - Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, UNESCAP
14:15 – 14.47	Segment 1: Setting the scene – The regional status of SDG implementation The segment will provide an update on the progress of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific. Findings from the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goal Progress Report 2022 will be presented to illustrate whether the region is on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Participants will also acquire information on the Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway which is a tool that contains relevant data and analysis that they could use to inform their work and monitor progress of SDGs implementation.
	- Mr. Arman Bidarbakht Nia, Head of Statistical Data Management Unit at Statistics Division, UNESCAP - Interactive debate
14.47 – 15:20	Segment 2: Addressing climate and disaster risk in Asia and the Pacific – progress towards more resilient and sustainable development The segment will provide a brief overview of the latest climate and disaster risk trends in Asia and the Pacific and how they are affecting resilience and sustainable development in the region. Key insights from a recently launched publication by the IPU and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) entitled <i>Disaster Risk Reduction to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals: A toolkit for parliamentarians</i> will be presented. Participants will learn about ten concrete actions that they can take to reduce disaster risk in their countries and engage in a dialogue on how to use disaster risk reduction to protect development gains. Participants will also be briefed on the

	upcoming Seventh session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in May 2022.
	- <i>Mr. Marco Toscano-Rivalta, Chief of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)</i> - <i>Interactive debate</i>
15:20 – 15:52	Segment 3: Experiences from the region with Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)
	In July of each year, a number of countries volunteer to submit SDG progress reports – known as Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) – to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York. The IPU works to support parliamentary oversight of these reports which governments draw up in close consultation with all national stakeholders, from parliaments to civil society and the private sector. Parliamentary involvement in the VNRs is key to monitoring government actions at the national level, strengthening national ownership of sustainable development and building more political support for the SDGs. The aim of this segment is to present the findings of the IPU survey report on parliamentary involvement in the 2021 VNRs and promote a discussion on the importance for parliaments to be engaged in this process. Parliamentarians will have the opportunity to exchange their views and share their experiences on this matter. - <i>Ms. Aleksandra Blagojevic, Programme Manager for International Development, IPU</i> - <i>Interactive debate</i>
15:52 – 16:00	Short summary of key takeaways