



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Regional Seminar for Parliaments of the Western Balkans on Climate Change

23-24 February 2026, Podgorica, Montenegro

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and
the Parliament of Montenegro

in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

PROGRAMME

Sunday, 22 February

19:30 Welcome dinner at the Hilton Hotel

Monday, 23 February

09:00–09:15 **OPENING OF THE SEMINAR**

Welcoming remarks:

- Mr. Andrija Mandić, President of the Parliament of Montenegro
- Mr. Dejan Durović, Chairperson of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning, Member of Parliament, Montenegro
- Mr. Boban Stanišić, Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro
- Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General, IPU (video address)

Keynote address: State of climate change in the Western Balkans

- Ms. Ekaterina Paniklova, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative for Montenegro

09:15–10:45 **SESSION 1 - CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE WESTERN BALKANS: IMPACTS, COSTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARLIAMENTARY ACTION**

This session will focus on the current and projected impacts of climate change across the Western Balkans, focusing in particular on economic, social and environmental risks. It will explore the concrete impacts of climate change across sectors, including on agriculture, water management and infrastructure, and their consequences on citizens and the economy. The role of parliaments in addressing these risks, including by strengthening climate change adaptation, preparedness and climate-resilient infrastructure, will also be discussed.

- Mr. Vladimir Djurdjević, Professor, Faculty of Physics, University of Belgrade

The session will be interactive and participants are encouraged to actively contribute to the discussion.

10:45–11:00 **COFFEE AND TEA BREAK**

11:00–12:15 **SESSION 2 - ENHANCING PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

This session aims to enhance parliamentarians' capacity to communicate climate challenges effectively, counter misinformation and engage citizens and other stakeholders in constructive dialogues on climate action. It will present strategies parliamentarians can use to articulate climate change in clear language to various audiences, to build public trust and address public concerns related to climate change including on jobs, energy prices and the economy.

- Ms. Karen Cirillo, Digital Communications Specialist, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub

The session will be interactive and participants are encouraged to actively contribute to the discussion.

12:15–13:15 **LUNCH BREAK**

13:15–14:45 **SESSION 3 – THE GREEN TRANSITION: A STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS**

This session will explore how decarbonization and climate action in the Western Balkans can support economic development, promote sustainable development and strengthen regional and EU market integration. Discussions will highlight the strategic role of parliaments in aligning national legislation with EU and global climate frameworks, and in overseeing a green and just transition. The session will draw on experiences from parliaments from countries at different stages of EU integration, providing a space for political dialogue and peer learning.

Moderator: Ms. Aleksandra Kikovic, Team Leader, Inclusive and Green Growth, UNDP Montenegro Country Office

Panelists:

- Mr. Zoran Dabetic, State Secretary at the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Development of Montenegro
- Ms. Ivana Vojinovic, Director of the Centre for Climate Change, University of Donja Gorica
- Mr. Thomas Waitz, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the European Parliament Delegation to EU Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee, and European Parliament Rapporteur for North Macedonia (remote participation)

The session will be interactive and participants are encouraged to actively contribute to the discussion.

14:45–15:30 **BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

Participants will engage in group discussions to exchange experiences, reflect on national and regional priorities for climate action, and identify gaps and opportunities for parliamentary action on climate change and the green transition. A set of guiding questions will be shared with participants.

15:30–15:45 **COFFEE AND TEA BREAK**

15:45–16:20 **SHARING OF INSIGHTS FROM BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

Each breakout group will have the opportunity to share a brief summary of their discussions in plenary, highlighting specific actions that could be taken to advance climate action at the national and regional level.

16:20–16:50 **THE WAY FORWARD FOR ENHANCING PARLIAMENTARY ACTION AND REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS**

Participants will discuss how parliaments can reinforce their leadership role on climate action beyond the regional seminar, and translate the ideas discussed into concrete action. Participants will also discuss shared priorities, avenues for enhancing regional cooperation on climate change and for identifying mechanisms to support mutual learning and sharing of experiences going forward.

- Interactive discussion moderated by Ms. Sladjana Kaludjerovic, Member of Parliament and Chair of the Green Parliamentary Group, Montenegro

16:50–17:00 **CLOSING OF DAY 1 AND INFORMATION FOR DAY 2**

Tuesday, 24 February

10:00 **FIELD VISIT**

Visit to Skadar Lake and lunch in Virpazar, organized by the Parliament of Montenegro.