



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Regional Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals for the Parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia



Parliamentary cooperation for sustainable development: Combating poverty and promoting health-care

Regional seminar for Parliaments from Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia organized by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

**24-25 May 2018, Belgrade (Serbia)
The House of the National Assembly**

CONCEPT NOTE

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the principal starting point in attaining a better quality social and natural environment where citizens can fully develop and realize all their potentials. IPU Member Parliaments are committed to improving and furthering mechanisms and legislative frameworks to reach these goals. Every Member has the obligation, particularly in the legislative framework, to oversee and encourage the attainment of the SDGs. IPU Member Parliaments determine budgets, develop legislative frameworks and supervise the implementation of legislation targeting the achievement of the SDGs.

Defining the SDGs is an important but not the only step towards achieving results. We believe it is particularly important to develop relevant parliamentary mechanisms for the oversight of the implementation of the SDGs. Regional seminars provide a framework that offers opportunities to the parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia to share their experiences on the introduction of efficient parliamentary oversight mechanisms of the SDGs implementation and the interaction of these mechanisms with other branches of government.

Combating poverty is a huge challenge for contemporary society. States must be responsible and take care of their citizens and provide them with basic living conditions. The goal is to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. Marginalized groups are particularly vulnerable to poverty. Fighting against poverty means to be humane, responsible and committed to the well-being of the citizens of one's State.

Health-care is a human right which States are continuously improving. It is a long-term process and it is therefore vital to define the goals we want to attain as we improve the quality of public health-care and expand the number of health-care consumers. The social transformations that occurred in the States of the region left negative consequences on the quality of public health-care. In this regard, information on how to improve public health-care in the States of IPU Members will be particularly important and will contribute to the debate.

Other topics will also be discussed at the seminar, such as the impacts of climate change on contemporary society and the State, with particular emphasis on the increase in poverty and on public health-care, and the inclusion of youth in social and political processes. It is expected that there will be a qualitative exchange of opinions and of the diverse experiences of the representatives of parliaments.

Format, objectives and expected outcomes of the seminar

The aim of the seminar is to have the parliaments from the wider region share experiences, engage in comprehensive discussions on the said topics that are deemed to be very important in attaining a better quality of life, and to get acquainted with good practices in the development of parliamentary oversight mechanisms of the implementation of the SDGs.

The topics to be elaborated will include: the eradication of poverty, improvement of public health-care, the impacts of climate change, and the social and political participation of youth.

The primary aim will be to reach as broad as possible a consensus on these issues. How do combating poverty and the improvement of health-care systems impact sustainable development? Equally important is the question whether we can strengthen parliamentary cooperation in the region on these issues?

Venue and date: Belgrade, House of the National Assembly, 24 – 25 May 2018.

Draft Agenda: The agenda will be jointly agreed upon by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia.

Participation: The seminar is open to the following parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Serbia.

Language: The working languages are English, French, Russian and Serbian.