

South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Promoting regional parliamentary cooperation for sustainable, equitable and green economic growth

Organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Parliament of Sri Lanka

Colombo (Sri Lanka), 11-12 July 2018

CONCEPT NOTE

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the principal starting point in realizing harmonious economic, social and environmental development in which all citizens can fully develop and realize their potential. Realizing the SDGs will transform the world and pave the way for sustainable societies where no one is left behind. IPU Member Parliaments have committed to take the necessary action to carry forward this vision through legislation, oversight, budget and advocacy.

Under the auspices of the IPU, in 2016 Speakers of Parliaments from South Asia decided to establish a Forum with a view to meeting every year to discuss progress in the implementation of the SDGs in their region and identify strategies to further advance parliamentary engagement in the area. Through the South Asian Speakers' Summit and its declarations, the Speakers fulfilled their vision and reconfirmed their political will to achieve the SDGs at the national and regional levels.

The Third South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals will offer the opportunity to advance ongoing discussions. It will focus on regional parliamentary cooperation for sustainable, equitable and green economic growth and for the creation of decent work for all men and women, including for young people and persons with disabilities. The Summit will also allow participants to discuss ways in which regional cooperation among parliaments can eradicate forced labour, promote social protection as well as safe and secure working environments for workers.

Considering the repercussions economic growth may have, there is a need to adopt an approach that foresees a sustained increase in living standards for all people while ensuring the protection of natural assets and the environment as a whole. Parliaments have a leading role to play in this respect. Through their legislative, oversight, budgetary and representative functions, they can initiate and guarantee the implementation of development strategies to support the advancement of a homogeneous growth at the economic, social and environmental levels.

Format, objectives and expected outcomes of the Summit

Format: The Summit will be attended by Speakers of Parliaments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Delegations will also be composed of the parliamentary Secretaries General or Clerks, members of parliament and senior parliamentary staff. The event will follow up on the conclusions of the 2nd South Asian Speakers' Summit held in Indore (India) and will be made up of a series of interactive panel discussions led by relevant experts

Objective: The aim of the Summit is to have the parliaments from the South Asian region share experiences, engage in comprehensive discussions on the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all (Goal 8), and to identify opportunities for concrete regional parliamentary

action on the aforementioned topics. Special emphasis will be placed on sharing good practices and increasing understanding about how parliaments in the region institutionalize the SDGs, capture the synergies and build coherence at the policy level.

Expected outcomes: The Summit is expected to adopt a declaration containing forward-looking recommendations to effectively advance the realization of the SDGs at the national and regional levels.

Venue and dates: Colombo, Sri Lanka, 11-12 July 2018

Draft Agenda: The agenda will be developed jointly by the IPU and the Parliament of Sri Lanka.

Language: The proceedings of the Summit will be conducted in English.