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INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
OF MEMBER NATIONS
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

Regional Seminar on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for the Parliaments of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States

Organized by the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

St. Petersburg 18 October 2018
Tavrichesky Palace

Concept note

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the principal starting point in attaining a sustainable and better quality environment where people can develop and realize their full potential. Further to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1 on the 2030 Agenda, parliaments are urged and encouraged to implement the SDGs by leveraging their legislative, oversight, budgetary, and representative functions.

The IPU Member Parliaments have, on many occasions, reiterated their commitment to play their part in implementing the SDGs. In order to assist them in this work, and to encourage the exchange of information and sharing of best practices, the IPU has organized various activities, including regional seminars on implementing the SDGs in Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific. This event is the first seminar targeting all Members of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly. Representatives of the respective parliaments will be able to exchange ideas and views with their peers on the ways in which to engage with the SDGs and foster and promote innovation.

Incorporating the SDGs into domestic legislation is an important step towards achieving the desired result, but it is not the only way to do so. It is also of utmost importance to develop an effective parliamentary mechanism to ensure coordination and strong engagement of the institution on matters relating to the SDGs. In order to assist parliaments in defining the most suitable mechanism, the IPU promotes a self-assessment approach through the use of its self-assessment toolkit on parliaments and the SDGs. This approach has been of help to a number of parliaments and has produced several examples of good practice.

Format, objectives, and expected outcomes of the Seminar

Format: The Seminar will be attended by members of national parliaments of the CIS Member Nations; members of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly Permanent Commissions; representatives of the CIS Executive Committee; sponsors of the Draft Concept of Sustainable and Safe Development for the CIS Member Nations, and representatives of universities and research and development institutes.

Objective: The aim of the Seminar is to enable parliaments from the region to share experiences and engage in detailed discussion on the ways in which to balance the key social, economic and environmental components of the sustainable development strategy. Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the IPU/UNDP self-assessment toolkit – a tool that helps parliaments evaluate their preparedness to deliver on SDGs – and elaborate concepts to promote sustainable development on the basis of multiple approaches (e.g. “top-down”, “bottom-up flow approach”).

Topics for discussion will include natural and man-made disasters, the problems of risk reduction and managing consequences and the role played by the media in sustainable development. Special emphasis will be placed on sharing good practices and fostering understanding of the ways in which



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parliaments in the region institutionalize the SDGs, developing possible synergies and building coherence at the policy level.

Expected outcomes: The Seminar is expected to review the Draft Concept of Sustainable and Safe Development for the CIS Member Nations and use it as a basis for further work by the relevant CIS Interparliamentary Assembly Commissions in the economic, social and environmental areas.

Venue and dates: St. Petersburg, 18 October 2018.

Language: The proceedings of the seminar will be conducted in English and Russian.