



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.



South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Male' (Maldives), 1-2 September 2019

Organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the People's Majlis

GENERAL INFORMATION NOTE

1. VENUE & DATE

The 2019 South Asian Speaker's Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will be held at the People's Majlis in Male' (Maldives) from 1 to 2 September 2019. Jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the People's Majlis (Parliament of Maldives), the Summit will follow up on the conclusions of the 2016, 2017 and 2018 events, held in Dhaka (Bangladesh), Indore (India) and Colombo (Sri Lanka) respectively. The meeting will be followed by a post conference tour on 2 September 2019 in a local island (TBC).

31 August	Arrival of Delegates
1 September	Opening / Sessions
2 Sept. - Morning	Sessions / Closing
- Evening	Conference tour
3 September	Departure of Delegates

2. PARTICIPATION

The meeting is open to Speakers of Parliament from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Speakers and Presiding Officers of parliament (or both parliamentary chambers in the case of bicameral parliaments) are invited to attend the event. The Speakers or Presiding Officers may be accompanied by the Secretaries General or Clerks and one accompanying official. The IPU President, IPU Secretary General and IPU Secretariat staff will also attend.

3. ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS

As per established practice, all participants will have equal speaking rights. The debates will take place in English. Delegations who wish to have interpretation into their own language are kindly requested to make their own arrangements.

4. EXPECTED OUTCOME

At the close of the Summit, a brief outcome document will be issued. It will contain a summary of conclusions and recommendations of the meeting.

5. DOCUMENTS

Written texts of the presentations will be distributed to participants as they become available. As far as possible, the IPU Secretariat will make available background documentation relevant to the issues under discussion.

Participants wishing to distribute documentation to their colleagues will be required to provide it in sufficient quantities during the meetings.

6. LANGUAGES

The Summit will be conducted in English.

7. SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

Each delegation will be allotted three seats. Delegations composed of both Speakers from bicameral parliaments will be allotted six seats. Additional seating will be made available in the meeting room for persons accompanying parliamentary delegations.

8. REGISTRATION

Parliaments invited to the Summit are requested to send their list of participants to the following addresses **no later than 31 July 2019** using the enclosed registration form:

Contact / Address in Maldives:	CC: Inter-Parliamentary Union
Foreign Relations Department People's Majlis Secretariat Medhuziyaaraiy Magu Male' 20080, Maldives	5, chemin du Pommier Case postale 330 1218 Grand-Saconnex Geneva - Switzerland
Tel: +960 331 32 16	Tel: +41 22 919 41 50
Fax: +960 334 18 56	Fax: +41 22 919 41 60
Email: foreign@majlis.gov.mv	Email: postbox@ipu.org

9. HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel using the hotel registration form, and a copy of the reservation should be sent to the Host Secretariat.

The cost of accommodation is the responsibility of delegates and is payable directly to the hotel. The cost of meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner), except for the lunch on 1 and 2 September and hosted dinners, is also the responsibility of delegates during their stay in Maldives.

Rates

	Kurumba Maldives		Hotel Jen		Somerset	
	Single	Double	Single	Double	Single	Double
Standard	451.23++ \$	485.3++\$		195+++ \$	155\$	173\$
Suite	757++\$	815.2++\$		245+++ \$	249\$	267\$

10. REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK

The Host Secretariat will run an information desk at the People’s Majlis. Delegates are requested to register there and collect their identity badges, invitations and all other relevant documents upon check-in.

A registration and information desk will also be available to participants at the meeting venue. The desk will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on 1 and 2 September 2019.

For the purpose of preparing identity badges, delegates are kindly requested to send by email to the Host Secretariat a passport-size photograph of themselves set against a white background. A profile of the delegate may also be enclosed.

11. TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Arrival and Departure:

In order to ensure an efficient reception service, all participants are kindly requested to provide dates, flight numbers and their arrival and departure time to the Host Secretariat. Delegates will be met on arrival at the airport. Arrival and departure transfers from and to Male’ International Airport will be arranged by the organizers. Transport will also be provided for all official venues, receptions and field visits by the Host Secretariat.

12. VISAS

A free thirty day visa is issued on arrival to the Maldives. All visitors to the Maldives must have six months remaining on their passport and a departing ticket. Delegates can find more information online by visiting <https://immigration.gov.mv/holiday/>.

13. SECURITY

All necessary security measures will be taken by the national authorities. Participants are required to wear their identity badges at all times when they are at the meeting venue and at all other official functions during the Summit.

14. MEDICAL FACILITIES

During the summit, first aid facilities will be provided at the venue. All other medical facilities will be at the participants' own expense.

15. INSURANCE

It is recommended that participants take out their own comprehensive insurance policies covering all risks.

16. CLIMATE

The weather in September is quite variable with warm sunny days and occasional rain showers. The temperature can range between 25°C to 30°C and there is an average rainfall of 125mm.

17. PRESS

Journalists wishing to report on the summit are requested to obtain accreditation from the Host Parliament. Access to the Meeting Hall will be restricted to official delegates only. There will be a media centre at the venue. Photographers and camera crews registered as members of their parliament's delegation will be permitted to cover meetings.

18. DRESS

Business dress or national dress is appropriate for meetings and evening events.

19. CURRENCY

Most major international currencies can be exchanged at the airport, hotels and nearby banks. Major credit cards are accepted in hotels and most shops.

The official currency is the Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR) and the rate is roughly MVR 15.42 to 1 US dollar.

20. RECEPTIONS

After the conclusion of the first day of the Summit (1 September 2019), a dinner will be hosted by the Speaker of the People's Majlis in honour of the visiting dignitaries (venue to be announced). Presiding Officers or Speakers and Secretaries General of all Parliaments of South Asian countries are invited to the dinner.

21. OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

- Time Zone : Local time is GMT +05.00 hours
- Weights & Measures : Metric
- Electricity : 230 Volts. Electrical sockets (outlets) used in the Maldives are type C and D
- Telephone : Country code 960