

Second Regional Seminar for Parliaments of the Caribbean: Strengthening parliamentary action on the Sustainable Development Goals

Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago), 5 and 6 December 2019

Organized jointly by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago
and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Provisional Programme

Wednesday, 4 December 2019

Arrival of delegates

Thursday, 5 December 2019

8:30–9 a.m.

Registration

9–9:30 a.m.

Opening session

9:30–9:45 a.m.

Keynote presentation on SDG implementation in the Caribbean region

9:45–10 a.m.

Group photo

10–11:30 a.m.

Session I: Parliamentary engagement on SDG implementation in the region

This session will discuss how national parliaments can effectively engage with the SDGs and establish mechanisms to oversee their implementation. The session will include a presentation on the results of the IPU's survey on the institutionalization of the SDGs in the work of parliaments. Delegates will also be given an introduction to the IPU self-assessment toolkit, which has been designed to help parliaments evaluate their readiness to implement the SDGs in their respective countries. Parliamentary representatives will be invited to present their parliament's experience of implementing the SDGs.

Presentations will be followed by a debate.

11:30–11:45 a.m.

Coffee break

11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Session II: Taking action on climate change and disaster risk reduction and preparedness

This session will follow up on the Paramaribo Declaration and present current trends on climate change and disaster risk reduction in the region. The session will give parliamentarians the opportunity to share and take stock of the progress made at the national level, as well as the challenges and needs related to strengthening parliamentary oversight of government, passing and reviewing appropriate legislation, and properly allocating budgets. Parliamentarians will also be invited to share any innovative approaches by their parliaments to dealing with climate change.

Presentations will be followed by a debate.

1:15–2:30 p.m.

Lunch break

2:30–4 p.m.

Session III: Health emergencies in the Caribbean region and the role of parliaments in preventing and responding to global health threats

The Paramaribo Declaration recognizes that climate change poses a serious threat to human health and well-being. This session will therefore highlight the key health challenges the region is facing in this regard. As health emergency preparedness and response are crucial for addressing the consequences of climate change and for building strong and resilient health systems, the session will also discuss how parliaments can engage with health security at the regional and national levels.

Presentations will be followed by a debate.

6–8 p.m.

Reception offered in the Foyer of the Parliament by Sen. The Hon. Christine Kangaloo, President of the Senate Hon. Bridgid Annisette-George, MP, Speaker of the House

Friday, 6 December 2019

9–9:30 a.m.

Summary of day 1 and objectives of day 2

9:30–11 a.m.

Session IV: Innovation in parliament

SDG 16 highlights that effective institutions are a key enabling factor for the entire set of SDGs. It challenges parliaments to demonstrate the steps they are taking to be more transparent, accountable and inclusive. This session will discuss innovative approaches to improving the functioning of parliament and building closer links with citizens. The exchange of experiences will feed into a new Caribbean hub hosted by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago within the IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament.

11 a.m.– 12 noon

Closing session: Adoption of the Port of Spain Declaration

- Presentation of the Declaration
- Closing remarks

12 noon–2 p.m.

Lunch break

2–4 p.m.

Field visit (TBC)

Saturday, 7 December 2019

Departure of delegates