

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 (IPU)

Provisional Programme

Wednesday, 4 December 2019

Arrival of delegates

Thursday, 5 December 2019

8.30–9 a.m.

Registration

9–9.20 a.m.

Opening session

Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Jason Elcock, Corporate Communications Manager, Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago

National Anthem of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Remarks by:

- *Hon. Bridgid Annisette-George, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Trinidad and Tobago*
- *Hon. Barton Scotland, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; member of the Bureau of the IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development*

Video presentation: Threats of climate change

9.20–9.35 a.m.

Keynote presentation on SDG implementation in the Caribbean region

Speaker: Mr. Dillon Alleyne, Deputy Chief, Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

9.35–9.45 a.m.

Keynote speech delivered by: *Ms. Randi Davis, Resident Representative for Trinidad and Tobago, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

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.

Moderator: Mr. Joachim Henry, Senator, St. Lucia

- *Ms. Aleksandra Blagojevic, Programme Manager for International Development, IPU*
- *Mr. Emanuele Sapienza, Policy Advisor, Governance, Regional Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP*

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: 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.

Moderator: Ms. Lynette Holder, Senator, Barbados

- *Mr. Jun Xing, Team Leader, IHR Progress Report & Official Information, Country Health Emergency Preparedness and IHR, Health Emergencies Programme, World Health Organization (WHO)*
- *Mr. César Antonio Núñez, Director, Regional Support Team for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNAIDS*

Presentations will be followed by a debate.

1.15–2.30 p.m.

Lunch break

2.30–4 p.m.

Session III: 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.

Moderator: Mr. Anthony Boatswain, MP, Grenada

- *Mr. David Barrio Lamarche, Environmental Affairs Officer, ECLAC (via video link)*
- *Ms. Nicole Leotaud, Executive Director, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute*
- *Mr. Kenneth Kerr, Climatologist, Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service*

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, and Hon. Bridgid Annisette-George, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives

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.

Moderator: Ms. Randi Davis, Resident Representative for Trinidad and Tobago, UNDP

- *Hon. Bridgid Annisette-George, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Trinidad and Tobago*
- *Hon. Jennifer Geerlings-Simons, Speaker of the National Assembly of Suriname*
- *Mr. Shmulik Hizkiya, Head of Information Division, the Knesset of Israel (via video link)*

11 a.m.– 12 noon

Closing session: Adoption of the Port of Spain Declaration

- Presentation of the Declaration
- Closing remarks

12 noon–1.30 p.m.

Lunch break

2–5 p.m.

Field visit

The field visit will give participants the opportunity to see the recycling process and the creation of raw materials at the Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Recycling Depot. This will be followed by a visit to the Savannah East building, which is Trinidad and Tobago's first registered "green" building.

Saturday, 7 December 2019

Departure of delegates