



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## Third Regional Seminar for the Asia-Pacific Region Parliaments on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals



### Development for all: Parliament's SDG road map

Islamabad (Pakistan), 2 and 3 March 2020

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
and the National Assembly of Pakistan

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

### Sunday, 1 March 2020

	Arrival of delegates
5 p.m.	Visit to Pakistan Sweet Homes (TBC)
7.30 p.m.	Reception (Venue: Serena Hotel)

### Monday, 2 March 2020

9.15 a.m.	Departure from the hotels
9.30–10 a.m.	Registration
10 a.m.	<b>Inaugural session</b>
11.15 a.m.	<b>Group photo</b>
11.20–11.30 a.m.	Tea break
11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.	<b>Session I: Envisioning inclusive development: Socio-economic challenges in Asia</b>

Given the region's demographic dividends, population explosion, and the large number of young people in the productive age gap, education, health and the environment assume great significance on account of their real contribution to production by ensuring rapid and inclusive growth. The plenary will provide an opportunity to discuss challenges to economic growth and how this has impacted development among the region's countries. It is estimated that around 400 million people are living in extreme poverty in the region at the lower poverty line and 1.2 billion people at the higher international poverty line. That accounts for more than a quarter of the region's population. The plenary will discuss regional best practices and solutions for sustainable development along with a regional baseline to measure future progress.

[Presentations will be followed by a debate with delegates.](#)

1–2 p.m.	Lunch and prayer break
2–3.30 p.m.	<b>Session II: Integrating the SDGs into national policy and legislation</b>

This session will focus on the importance of reviewing legislation proposed by governments in order to ensure that it contributes to the achievement of both the national SDG action plan and the wider 2030 Agenda, as well as guaranteeing that the needs of marginalized and vulnerable populations are taken into consideration. Participants are expected to share challenges, best practices and/or success stories of national policies devised in their respective countries.

Presentations will be followed by a debate with delegates.

3.30–3.45 p.m.

Tea break

3.45–5.00 p.m.

## PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### A) Preserving our common future: Strengthening the response to environmental challenges

Urgent action is needed to strengthen the response to environmental challenges in the Asia-Pacific region. This session will focus on addressing the current state of global climate emergency, including transforming the Paris Agreement commitments into national policies and laws, reducing waste generation, improving the management of natural resources, and supporting responsible consumption and production. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from and exchange with the experts present, allowing them to strengthen their knowledge about climate change and the green economy, including discussing viable solutions for transitioning towards a zero-carbon economy, best practices, and ways to enhance the regional response in the fight against climate change.

### B) Ending hunger and malnutrition

Little progress has been made towards ending hunger and malnutrition in the region. A growing body of research demonstrates the negative consequences of food insecurity for the most vulnerable groups, especially women's and children's health and developmental outcomes, including cognitive development and school achievement, as well as overall health. The aim of the debate on this topic is to discuss ways to successfully address population needs through the promotion of adequate policies and laws in the areas of health, agriculture, education and gender equality, and to implement the SDGs by maximizing available domestic resources for nutrition.

5.00-5.15 p.m.

## Plenary session - Conclusions of the parallel breakout sessions

7–8 p.m.

Cultural programme and dinner for delegates at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts

## Tuesday, 3 March 2020

9–9.45 a.m.

Visit to the Parliament

9.55 a.m.

Recap of day-one proceedings

10–11.30 a.m.

## Session III: Women at the centre of the development agenda

This session will focus on identifying the challenges and root causes of discrimination that curtail women's rights. A case study of Pakistan's cross-party Women Parliamentary Caucus will be presented. What started as a vision in the Parliament of Pakistan is now an international best practice having been successfully reciprocated in over a dozen other parliaments as well as in provincial and regional legislatures. This session will explore Goal 5 and the ways in which gender equality can support the achievement of the SDGs. Participants will be invited to reflect on how to integrate Goal 5 into their national legislation, and to find effective approaches that promote the economic empowerment of all women.

Presentations will be followed by a debate with delegates.

11.30–11.45 a.m.

Coffee break

11.45 a.m.–1.15 p.m.

#### **Session IV: Mobilizing resources for SDG implementation**

Resources from both the public and private sectors are greatly needed to implement the SDGs by 2030. This session will consider how parliaments, together with development partners, can secure adequate financial and non-financial resources for the implementation of national and regional SDG strategies. Key development cooperation commitments and corresponding institutional processes will be highlighted.

Presentations will be followed by a debate with delegates.

1.15–2 p.m.

Lunch

2–3.15 p.m.

#### **PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

##### **A) Promoting decent work for youth, leveraging technology and innovation for collective action**

Over 500 million young people live on less than US\$ 2 a day. 43 per cent of the global youth labour force is either unemployed or trapped in working poverty. While youth offers many of the world's poorest countries a demographic dividend, young people are at the forefront of many of world's emerging political movements calling for economic equality. Creating youth employment could contribute to not only reducing disparities, but also have a multiplier effect for development. This session will focus on the importance of promulgating laws that favour full and productive employment and decent work for all, and equal pay for work of equal value. The session will also aim to exchange achievements in ensuring that technology and innovation have a positive impact on our lives, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized populations.

##### **B) SDGs and child rights**

The SDGs are inextricably linked to human rights in general and the rights of children specifically. Despite the SDGs falling short of explicitly recognizing children's rights, all goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda are relevant for children, even where they are not explicitly mentioned. This session will allow participants to discuss ways to ensure that the needs and rights of children are taken into account in national legislation.

3.15–3.30 p.m.

Tea break

3.30–4.45 p.m.

#### **PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

##### **A) Promoting diversity for sustainable peace**

Given the interdependent nature of development, fundamental rights, and peace and security, parliaments should play an active role in promoting peace. As stated in the resolution entitled *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development* adopted unanimously by the 138<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, inclusiveness and diversity are crucial to ensuring that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account. Inclusiveness is itself a means of conflict prevention. Participants will discuss the importance of endorsing and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and applying all generic parliamentary functions to hold governments accountable for the effective implementation of the sustaining peace framework and the SDGs.

##### **B) Providing clean water and sanitation**

Access to clean water and basic sanitation is a human right deemed essential to live a healthy life. It is estimated that in 2015 260 million people in the Asia-Pacific region had an unimproved water service and over 1.5 billion people lacked a basic improved sanitation facility. This session will invite participants to reflect on effective approaches that could ensure the provision of sanitation facilities and access to adequate infrastructure for all. Participants will also discuss ways to support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

4.45-5.00 p.m	Tea break / Core group to finalize recommendations
5.00-5.30	<b>Plenary session - Conclusions of the parallel breakout sessions</b>
5.30–6 p.m.	<b>Closing plenary: Leaving no one behind – The way forward</b> <b>Adoption of the outcome document</b> Distribution of souvenirs, certificates and copy of group photo to participants Dinner