



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 136<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1- 5 April 2017



Governing Council  
Item 7

CL/200/7(g)-R.1  
7 March 2017

## Reports on recent IPU specialized meetings

### (g) South Asian Speakers' Forum on implementation of the SDGs

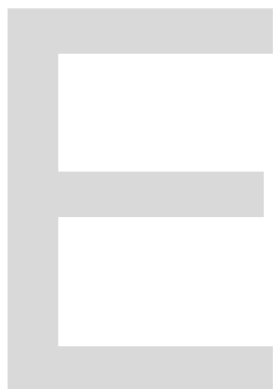
Indore (India), 18–20 February 2017

The Speakers of Parliament from South Asia met for the first time in Dhaka in January 2016 at a summit organized by the IPU and the Parliament of Bangladesh. They agreed to establish the South Asian Speakers' Forum on Achieving the SDGs. The first meeting of the Forum was convened by the Lok Sabha of India and the IPU in Indore on 18-20 February 2017.

Speakers of Parliament from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka met to discuss the implementation of the SDGs in the region. They followed up on the Dhaka Declaration that they adopted in 2016 by sharing their experiences of how parliaments in the region were institutionalizing the global goals and building coherence at the policy level. IPU President Saber Chowdhury presented the self-assessment toolkit for parliaments on the SDGs. The toolkit was co-produced with UNDP to help parliaments support SDG implementation.

Participants adopted the Indore Declaration, which concludes that gender- and other types of inequality are major impediments to the achievement of the SDGs in the region. The declaration called for the creation of gender-sensitive bodies, especially at the grassroots level, and legislative measures to protect women against discrimination, sexual harassment and violence. The Declaration also recognized that achieving the SDGs was closely linked to addressing the challenge of climate change and called for more cooperation among South Asian countries on this issue. The declaration called on the IPU to facilitate dialogue so as to achieve the SDGs and suggested that South Asian parliaments set aside one day per session to deliberate on the SDGs. Participants agreed to look into establishing joint parliamentary bodies to work on the issues identified as important for regional cooperation.

The next meeting of the South Asian Speakers' Forum on Achieving the SDGs will take place in Sri Lanka.



#IPU136



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

## 2017 South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

### *Strengthening regional cooperation and resources for the SDGs*



Organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)  
and the Parliament of India

Indore, India, 18-20 February 2017

## Indore Declaration

We, the Speakers of the national Parliaments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, having deliberated on the theme *Strengthening regional cooperation and resources for the SDGs* at the South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals at Indore on 18–19 February 2017,

*Recognizing* the Summit's utmost relevance in light of the convergence of our interests and the shared destiny of our peoples as we strive towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

*Noting* that the South Asian region, home to more than a fifth of humanity, is faced with challenges of poverty eradication, gender inequality, inadequate regional connectivity, climate change and disaster management,

*Underscoring* the imperatives of the SDGs for eliminating poverty, and *stressing* gender equality as a critical factor for sustainable development, as well as the need to deal with the challenges of climate change and natural disasters,

*Emphasizing* the need for harmonizing development with environmental preservation, and *recognizing* the centrality of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities,

*Also emphasizing* the strengthening of appropriate policies and legislation for transforming societal attitudes towards women and mainstreaming them as a critical factor for sustainable development,

*Stressing* the need for greater intraregional connectivity for promoting trade, transport, tourism, technology and disaster mitigation,

*Appreciating* the need to mobilize resources for implementing the SDGs,

*Emphasizing* the need to strengthen parliamentary cooperation, in pursuance of the 2016 Dhaka Declaration on SDG Action in South Asia,

*Encourage* parliamentarians of the South Asia region to share, learn and benefit from the best practices followed in our respective countries;

*Urge* parliaments to create enabling conditions for encouraging the private sector, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to participate in the realization of the SDGs;

*Call upon* parliaments to create gender-sensitive elected bodies, particularly at the grassroots level, with a view to achieving gender equality and prioritizing issues pertinent to women;

*Encourage* parliaments to put in place legislative measures to protect women against discrimination, violence, sexual harassment, atrocities and trafficking;

*Emphasize* the need to provide equal opportunities and access to health care, nutrition, education and skills development;

*Urge* parliaments to collectively work to advance actions, strategies and cooperation among all stakeholders in order to mobilize additional resources and achieve the targets under the SDGs in a time-bound manner;

*Reaffirm* that the achievement of the SDGs is closely linked to addressing the threat of climate change and strengthening disaster risk reduction, which require regional as well as international cooperation;

*Stress* that the Paris Agreement should continue to be guided by the principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, especially the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities;

*Agree* to consider setting up joint parliamentary groups under the Forum to deliberate and deepen cooperation on relevant issues;

*Call* for greater and urgent cooperation among the South Asian countries in order to strengthen a regional response and meet the challenges of climate change and related disasters;

*Call upon* the IPU to facilitate dialogue and cooperation for achieving the SDGs;

*Call for* the sharing of knowledge, information, research support and capacity-building programmes for achieving the SDGs;

*Call upon* the parliaments of the South Asia region to allocate one day in a Session for deliberation on the SDGs.