



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## Reports on recent IPU specialized meetings

### (h) **Second interregional seminar on parliamentary capacity-building and the further implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

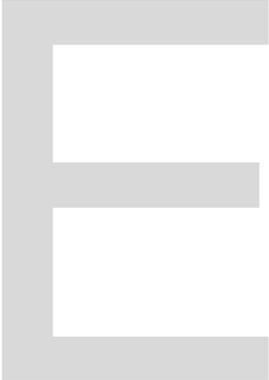
#### ***Implementing the SDGs through South-South parliamentary cooperation***

**Beijing (China), 5 – 7 September 2017**

The Interregional Seminar on Parliamentary Capacity Building and the further implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was organised for the second time in collaboration with the National People's Congress (NPC) of China. Held in Beijing, China, from 5 to 7 September, the event gathered parliamentarians from the following Asian and African countries: Benin, Cameroon, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. The aim of the seminar was to foster interregional exchanges on SDGs implementation and to reinforce South-South development cooperation. Special emphasis was placed on climate change and on agricultural and industrial modernization as a critical precondition for SDGs achievement.

The Vice-Chairman and Secretary General of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, the Vice-Minister of Trade of China, the IPU Secretary General, a number of experts from research institutes and UNDP Assistant Country Director addressed the participants at the event. The seminar constituted an important platform for sharing experiences and for allowing parliamentarians to proactively reflect on concrete strategies, actions and recommendations to advance parliamentary engagement on the SDGs. These informative exchanges also aimed at reinforcing parliaments' capacities to oversee the implementation of the SDGs.

The participants attached great importance to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and agreed that climate change is an issue caused by development and that it can be solved only through an innovative and sustainable approach. They recognized the need to pursue a balanced progress and promote green and low-carbon development initiatives that encourage the use of renewable energies to combat climate change and protect the environment. This process should visibly be based on the Paris Agreement, but also on legislation, politics, and national regulations accompanied by actions undertaken at regional, national and international levels.



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Discussions on South-South development cooperation and technology transfer gave participants the opportunity to reflect on the importance of enhancing coherence and efficiency in global and interregional parliamentary cooperation. Such transfer and cooperation are crucial components in tackling climate change and in promoting a developmental approach, based on countries' experiences and expertise, and aimed at improving human wellbeing and progress. More profound exchanges between legislative bodies and greater opportunities for collaboration and synergies seemed particularly relevant to the participants.

With respect to the role of parliaments in the implementation of the SDGs, the participants had the opportunity to share their experiences and the challenges they faced when engaging with the SDGs. Debates focused also on the importance of strengthening the rule of law and of building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. The importance of increasing public participation and institutions' transparency was also highlighted.

The seminar was followed by a field trip which allowed participants to familiarize themselves with the Chinese climate change mitigation models and technology developments.