

Bucharest, 15-16 June 2015
Palace of the Parliament

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Monday	15 June 2015
9.00 a.m.	Registration
9.30 a.m.	Opening session - Introduction by Mr. László Borbély , MP, Chairperson of the Committee for Foreign Policy of the Chamber of Deputies, Rapporteur of the Seminar Welcoming remarks by: Message from Mr. Valeriu Ştefan Zgonea , Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Romania Mr. Robert del Picchia , Senator France, Vice-President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Ms. Graţiela Leocadia Gavrilescu , Minister for Environment, Water and Forests, Romania Ambassador Lazăr Comănescu , Presidential adviser, Department of Foreign Policy, Presidential Administration, Romania Mr. Radu Podgorean , Secretary of State, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Romania Message from Mr. Victor Ponta , Prime Minister of Romania, delivered by Mr. Corneliu Calotă, Secretary of State, Spokesperson for the Government of Romania
10.15 a.m.	Group Photo
10.30 a.m.	Session I: The SDGs and why they matter to the region Unlike the expiring Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which for the most part applied only to developing countries, the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will apply to all countries, including those in the region. The session will introduce the current proposal for the SDGs and their targets, and illustrate how the goals will apply to the countries in the region. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderator: Ms. Ana Birchall, MP, Chairperson of the Committee for European Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies Speakers: Mr. Christian Friis Bach , Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Mr. Robert del Picchia , Senator France, Vice-President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Mr. Csaba Kőrösi , former Co-chair of the Open Working Group of the United Nations on Sustainable Development Goals
	Debate
11.45 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
12.00 p.m.	Session II: The role of parliaments in implementing the SDGs: Becoming fit for purpose This session will examine what parliaments need to act on the SDGs and what practical steps they can take to advance integration of the goals nationally and to monitor progress. It will also discuss opportunities to mainstream the goals into the work and functioning of parliaments and to make sure national policies and plans are consistent with them. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderator: Mr. László Borbély, MP, Chairperson of the Committee for Foreign Policy of the Chamber of Deputies Speakers: Ms. Shelley Inglis , Regional Cluster Leader for Governance and Peacebuilding, UNDP Mr. Sergiu Celac , Senior Adviser, National Center for Sustainable Development, Romania
	Debate

1.30 p.m.

Working lunch (Intercontinental Hotel, Corso Restaurant)

3.00 p.m.

Session III: Engaging parliaments with civil society to ensure national ownership and support monitoring of progress

This session will consider traditional and innovative ways to engage citizens in the legislative and oversight work of parliaments. The experience of the UN-led MyWorld survey will be discussed with a view to exploring new ways for citizens to provide bottom-up feedback to policymakers on the implementation of the SDGs. Particular attention will be paid to practical ways to enhance this interaction, including ways to effectively communicate on the SDGs.

- **Moderator: Ms. Sandie Blanchet**, UNICEF Representative in Romania

Speakers:

Mr. Giorgi Kldiashvili, Director, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information, Georgia

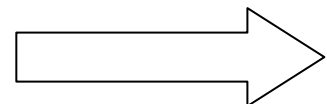
Debate

4.30 p.m.

Visit of the Palace of Parliament / Return to the hotel

7.30 p.m.

Official dinner offered by Mr. László Borbély, Chairperson of the Committee for Foreign Policy of the Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Romania (Marriott Hotel)



Tuesday

16 June 2015

9.00 a.m.

Session IV: Gender equality as a critical factor for sustainable development

In Central and Eastern Europe, as in many other regions, gender-based disparities disadvantage women, impede their development and that of their societies. The session will discuss opportunities that the SDGs framework presents to strike a better gender balance in sustainable development decision-making and determine the gender impact of sustainable development policies.

- **Moderator: Ms. Rozalia-Ibolya Biró**, MP, Chairperson of the Committee for Human Rights, Cults and Minorities, Senate of Romania

Speakers:

- **Ms. Alia El-Yassir**, Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, UN Women
- **Mr. Raša Nedeljkov**, Program Manager, Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability, Serbia

Debate

10.30 a.m.

Coffee break

10.45 a.m.

Session V: A case in point: Reducing risk from disasters and climate change through SDG implementation

Central and Eastern Europe have become increasingly vulnerable to the impact of climate change and disasters, issues that are explicitly included in the proposed SDGs framework. The session will discuss how parliaments can act to minimize risk from disasters and climate change through implementation of the SDGs. The participants will reflect on the issues and strategies discussed in previous sessions and to factor them into their deliberations.

- **Moderator: Dr. János Zlinszky**, Associate Professor, Department for Environmental Law and Competition Law, Pázmány Péter Catholic University

Speakers:

- Video message from **Mr. Achim Steiner**, Executive Director, UNEP
- **Ms. Marta Bonifert**, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

Debate

12.00 a.m.

Session VI: Summary of the seminar, next steps and closing session

This session will provide an opportunity for a general discussion of lessons learned from the seminar, next steps and follow-up actions. It will also reflect on strategies to mobilize a larger group of parliamentarians around the SDGs and their implementation.

- **Moderator: Mr. László Borbély**, MP, Chairperson of the Committee for Foreign Policy of the Chamber of Deputies

Debate

1.00 p.m.

Buffet lunch (Rustic Restaurant, Palace of Parliament)

2.30 p.m.

Return to the hotel / Departure for the airport
