



Regional Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals for the Parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe



Seminar for Parliaments from Central and Eastern Europe organized jointly by the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

15-16 June 2015, Bucharest (Romania)

Geneva, 30 April 2015

Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr. Speaker,

It is our great pleasure to invite your parliament to the *Regional Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the Parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe*. This event, to be held in Bucharest, on 15 and 16 June 2015, is the second of a series of regional seminars organized jointly by the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly will adopt a set of SDGs to replace the Millennium Development Goals once they expire at the end of 2015. The intergovernmental negotiation process has produced a proposal to the General Assembly, consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets, which is available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal>.

The IPU and its member parliaments have been actively engaged in the negotiations, campaigning for the inclusion of democratic governance as a stand-alone goal and an enabler of development in all societies. Most recently, the 132nd IPU Assembly adopted the Hanoi Declaration, in which parliaments make a strong commitment to implement the SDGs at the national level. The Declaration is available at <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/132/rpt-gendebate.htm>.

The Bucharest Seminar will discuss how the SDGs and their targets may apply to Central and Eastern Europe and advance its development. Special emphasis will be placed on the important role parliaments can play in ensuring effective implementation of the SDGs at the national level. The event will allow the participants to proactively engage on these issues and elaborate concrete strategies, actions and recommendations to advance parliamentary engagement with the SDGs.

We believe this initiative will help us identify how best to adapt the future global goals to regional and national ones and build robust parliamentary support for their implementation at national level, while also harnessing regional specificities.

We sincerely hope your parliament can participate in this Seminar. We encourage parliaments to send delegations of up to four members (parliamentarians and parliamentary staff) directly involved in this topic and representing political affiliation and gender in a balanced manner. The working languages of the Seminar are English, French, Russian and Romanian.

As usual, participants are asked to make all their own arrangements for visas, accommodation and travel. All practical details concerning participation can be found in the General Information document. The draft programme, the registration form and the hotel reservation forms are also enclosed.

You are kindly asked to complete and return the registration and hotel reservation forms to the Parliament of Romania with copy to the IPU Secretariat by **1 June 2015** at the latest. Further information about the Regional Seminar will be posted on the IPU web site as soon as it becomes available.

We look forward to hearing from you, and remain,

Yours sincerely,



Martin Chungong
IPU Secretary General



Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea
Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies