Global capacity-building initiative for parliaments on sustainable development

Regional seminar for the parliaments of the Arab States

Beirut (29 and 30 November 2005)

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Tuesday - 29 November 2005

08.30 to 09.30: Registration

09.30 to 10.30: Plenary 1

Opening addresses
- Mr. Nabih Berri, President of the National Assembly of Lebanon
- Dr. Marcel Boisard, Executive Director of UNITAR, Assistant Secretary-General of the UN
- Mr. Martin Chungong, Director, Division for the Promotion of Democracy of the IPU
- Mr. Nour Eddine Bouchkouj, Secretary General of Arab IPU

10.30 to 11.15: Plenary 2 Chair: Dr. Marcel Boisard, Executive Director of UNITAR

Overview of the global water policy issues
- Dr. Mounir El Khatib, President of Khatib & Alami
- Overview of seminar goals and methodology, by Dr. Philippe Roch, former Director of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape
- Presentation on global water issues, the water cycle by Dr. Philippe Roch, former Director of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape
- Facilitated discussion

11.15 to 11.30: Coffee break

11.30 to 13.00: Plenary 3 Chair: Dr. Philippe Roch, former Director of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape

Global and regional experiences with water
- Presentation on challenges related to global and regional water Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), by Dr. Philippe Roch, former Director of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape
- Presentation on the challenges of the Arab region in implementing the water-related MDGs, by Dr. Hosny Khordagui, Head Environment and Water Team, UNESCWA
- Presentation on regional regimes: the MedWet Initiative and the European Union’s Water Framework Directive, Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, MedWest Coordinator, Ramsar Convention
- Facilitated discussion on implementation experiences

13.00 to 15.00: Lunch hosted by Lebanese Parliament

15.00 to 16.30: Drafting exercise 1

Group 1: Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, MedWest Coordinator, Ramsar Convention
Group 2: Dr. Hosny Khordagui, Head Environment and Water Team, UNESCWA

Regional water framework
- Overview of objectives and methodology of drafting exercises
- Execution of drafting exercise
- Presentation of drafting exercise results
- Collective review of drafting exercise
16.30 to 16.45: Coffee break

16.45 to 18.00: Plenary 4

*Water and cross-cutting issues: integrated water resource management* presented by Dr. Philippe Roch, former Director of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape.

**Wednesday - 30 November 2005**

08.30 to 10.00: Plenary 5 Chair: Dr Adel Aboujaoude, Khatib & Alami

*The national experience in implementing MDG water goals*

- Presentation by Mr. Nasser Nasrallah, Deputy, National Assembly of the Lebanon
- Presentation by a Parliamentarian from another region *(To be determined)*
- The role of the private sector in water-related MDGs, and the importance of partnerships, by Dr Najib Khatib, Khatib & Alami, Consolidated Engineering Company
- The role the private sector in sustainable development, Alain Coine, Vice-President, Rhodia Group
- Facilitated discussion on national experiences

10.00 to 11.30: Drafting Exercise 2

Group 1: Dr. Nadim Farajalla, Assistant Professor, American University of Beirut
Group 2: Dr. Adel Aboujaoude, Khatib & Alami

*National strategy on water-related MDGs*

- Overview of drafting exercises objectives and methodology
- Execution of drafting exercise
- Presentation of drafting exercise results
- Collective review of drafting exercise

11.30 to 13.30: Lunch hosted by President and CEO of Khatib & Alami

13.30 to 14.30: Plenary 6 Chair: Mr Martin Chungong, Director, Division for the promotion of Democracy, IPU

*Anatomy of a water bill*

- Presentation by a Parliamentarian of the Arab region on the process and substantive challenges in water-related law making
- Facilitated discussion

14.30 to 16.30: Drafting Exercise 3

Group 1: Mr. Nasser Nasrallah, Deputy, National Assembly of the Lebanon
Group 2: Dr. Nadim Farajalla, Assistant Professor, American University of Beirut

*National water bill*

- Overview of drafting exercises objectives and methodology
- Execution of drafting exercise
- Presentation of drafting exercise results
- Collective review of drafting exercise

16.30 to 16.45: Coffee break

16.45 to 17.30: Plenary 7 Chair: Dr. Philippe Roch, former Director of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape

*Evaluation of the parliamentary seminar on water*

- Summary of key issues raised in plenary sessions, by the chair or parliamentarian
- Summary of results of drafting exercises, by Nasser Nasrallah, Deputy, National Assembly of the Lebanon