



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Regional Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals for the Parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia



Parliamentary cooperation for sustainable development: Investing in climate change and water cooperation opportunities

Regional seminar for Parliaments from Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia
organized jointly by the Hungarian National Assembly and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

**23–24 February 2017, Budapest (Hungary)
Parliament Building**

PROGRAMME

Thursday

23 February 2017

09.00 a.m.

Registration

09.30 a.m.

Opening session

Moderator: Mr. Mihály BALLA, President of the Hungarian National Group of the IPU

- **Mr. László KÖVÉR, Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary**
- **Mr. Saber CHOWDHURY, IPU President**

10.00 a.m.

Group photo

10.15 a.m.

Session I: The Sustainable Development Agenda

The session will provide participants with information about the establishment of the Sustainable Development Agenda, their content and the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Moderator: Ms. Erzsébet SCHMUCK, MP, Vice-President of the Hungarian National Group of the IPU

Keynote speaker:

- **Mr. Csaba KÖRÖSI, State Secretary, former Ambassador of Hungary to the UN, Director of the Directorate for Environmental Sustainability (Office of the President of the Republic)**
- **Ms. Monika LINN, Principal Adviser & Chief, Sustainable Development and Gender Unit, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

11.15 a.m.

Coffee Break

11.30 p.m.

Session II: What parliaments can do to engage with the implementation of the SDGs

This session will foster discussion of how national parliaments can institutionalize the SDGs and establish mechanisms to oversee their implementation. Participants will be introduced to the IPU self-assessment toolkit on the SDGs, which has been designed to help parliaments assess how “fit for purpose” they are in helping to implement the Goals in their country context. The participants will be invited to report on the work of their parliaments on the SDGs.

Moderator: Mr. Saber CHOWDHURY, IPU President

Panel members:

- **Mr. Gábor BARTUS, Secretary of the National Council for Sustainable Development, Hungary**
- **Mr. Laszlo BORBELY, former Member of Parliament, Romania**

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- **Ms. Biljana LEDENICAN, Portfolio Manager for Inclusive Political Processes, UNDP Serbia**
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1.00 p.m.

Lunch hosted by the Hungarian National Assembly

2.00 p.m.

Session III. General effects of climate change

This session will review the impacts of climate change, such as climate migration and health effects, and their management. It will also consider the role of health in the global development strategy until 2030.

It will examine developments since the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and discuss legislative gaps that need to be bridged for its successful implementation. Participants will be invited to report on the status of implementation in their respective countries. The session will focus on opportunities for parliamentarians to address key economic, social and environmental issues, such as environmental protection, support to the local green economy, reinforcement of social cohesion and participation of citizens.

Moderator: Dr. Martina MAKAI, Deputy-Minister of State, National Development Ministry

Panel members:

- **Dr. István MIKOLA, Minister of State for Security Policy and International Cooperation (Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade), Hungary**
 - **Ms. Diána ÚRGE-VORSATZ, Physicist, Climate Researcher, Vice Chair of Working Group III. of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**
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3.30 p.m.

Coffee Break

4.00 p.m.

IV: Water as key enabler of sustainable development and promoting effective water governance in the region: Key steps for parliaments

As specified in the 2015 IPU Resolution *Shaping water governance: Promoting parliamentary action on water and sanitation*, water governance can be a key element in maintaining peace between States and can promote cooperation. The Resolution also specifies that effective management and multilevel good governance of water resources are indispensable preconditions for achieving the human right to water. The session will discuss ways in which water governance can support achievement of the SDGs. The discussion will also be informed by the outcome of the 2016 Budapest Water Summit.

Strong political will and leadership are key to promoting effective water governance nationally and across borders. This session will hear some examples of how countries of the region have managed to create legislative frameworks to enable effective water governance and transboundary cooperation on water issues. Special emphasis will be given to effective strategies to balance competing human needs while giving priority to water for personal and domestic use for all, without discrimination, with a particular focus on gender equality and the most vulnerable sectors of society. Based on these examples, the session will aim to identify key steps for parliaments to take to further support these efforts.

Moderator: Mr. József GAYER, President of the Global Water Partnership Hungary Foundation

Panel members:

- **Mr. András SZÖLLŐSI-NAGY, Member of the World Water Council, President of The International Hydrological Programme of the UNESCO (UNESCO-IHP)**
 - **Ms. Amanda LOEFFEN, Director General, Waterlex**
 - **Mr. István JOÓ, Ministerial Commissioner Responsible for the Organisation of the Budapest Water Summit 2016**
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5.30 p.m.

Guided tour of the Parliament Building

6.30 p.m.

Return to the hotel

8.00 p.m.

Dinner on the Danube hosted by Mr. János LATORCAI, Deputy-Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly

Friday

24 February 2017

9.00 a.m.

Session V: Agriculture and food security

The session will consider the effects of climate change on ecosystems, human, plant and animal health, farming and water resources in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia and adaptation efforts. The effects of the global economic change on the economy of the regions will be discussed. The session will also consider support for the further development of the green economy, the introduction of green farming, the increasing popularity of organic farming, extensive animal husbandry and the expansion of natural forest management. Global megatrends and their possible effects in the regions will also be reviewed.

Moderator: Mr. Zsolt FELDMAN, Deputy Minister of State for Agricultural Economy (Ministry of Agriculture)

Panel members:

- **Mr. Tamás NÉMETH, Academic, Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Agronomist, Food Economist**
- **Ms. Agnes ZOLYOMI, General Secretary, CEEweb for Biodiversity**

10.30 a.m.

Coffee Break

11.00 a.m.

Session VI. Action to achieve implementation: The introduction of good examples and the involvement and role of youth.

Moderator: Ms. Mónika BARTOS, first Vice-President of the Hungarian National Group of the IPU

Panel members:

- **Mr. Tamás PÁLVÖLGYI, Deputy Director, Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary, Head of the National Adaptation Center**
- **Mr. Toni VIDAN, Programme Manager, Energy Programme, Green Action, Croatia**

12.15 p.m.

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. The outcome document will also be adopted.

12.30 p.m.

Lunch hosted by the Hungarian National Assembly

2.00 p.m.

City tour of Budapest offered by the Hungarian National Assembly (in English, French and Russian)