



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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2017 South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Strengthening regional cooperation and resources for the SDGs

Organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Parliament of India

Indore, India, 18 – 20 February 2017

CONCEPT NOTE

In September 2015, the United Nations Member States adopted a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will inform their development agendas and policies over the next 15 years. The SDGs consist of 17 goals and 169 targets, which are available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>.

The Speakers of Parliament from South Asia met for the first time in Dhaka in January 2016 in a summit organized by the IPU and the Parliament of Bangladesh. They discussed ways and concrete action for their parliaments to help implement the SDGs. At the end of the meeting they adopted a bold Dhaka Declaration that highlights the importance of strong parliamentary action on the SDGs as a critical precondition for their achievement. The declaration identified a number of strategies, actions and recommendations to advance parliamentary engagement with the SDGs in South Asia, including on health and tobacco control.

Through the Dhaka Declaration, the Speakers established the South Asian Speakers' Forum on Achieving the SDGs. They decided that the Forum should meet once a year to discuss progress in the implementation of SDGs, focusing each time around on a particular aspect. The Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament is the first Chair of the Forum. At the Forum's first meeting in Indore, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha of India will take over as Chair.

Format, objectives and expected outcomes of the Summit

The Summit will follow up on the conclusions of the meeting in Dhaka and will aim to further define the opportunities and challenges facing parliaments in South Asia in exercising their role in the implementation of the SDGs. The discussions will be facilitated by experts and through tools developed by the IPU.

The discussions will serve to update the participants on implementation of the SDGs in their region and globally. Special emphasis will be placed on sharing experiences and increasing understanding about how parliaments in the region institutionalize the global goals, capture the synergies and build coherence at the policy level. IPU's Self-Assessment Toolkit for Parliaments on the SDGs will be presented as a tool to help parliaments identify what they can do better to support SDG implementation.

Through the prism of gender inequality, the Summit will deal with one of the greatest impediments to sustainable development in South Asia. The participants will also examine the impact of climate change on economic and social development of the region and ways to strengthen cooperation among parliaments in efforts to address the challenges.

Venue and dates: Indore, India, 18 – 20 February 2017.

Draft Agenda: The agenda will be developed jointly by the IPU and the Lok Sabha of India.

The Summit is intended for Speakers of Parliament from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. In the case of bicameral parliaments, both presiding officers will be invited.

Language: The proceedings of the Summit will be conducted in English.