



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## Regional Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals for the Parliaments of Latin America and the Caribbean



### *Meeting the SDGs while reducing inequalities in and among countries: The role of parliaments*

1 and 2 December 2016, Panama City (Panama)

## DRAFT PROGRAMME

**Thursday**

**1 December 2016**

9.00 a.m.

**Registration**

9.30 a.m.

**Opening session**

- Ms. Blanca Alcalá, President of the PARLATINO
- Mr. Saber Chowdhury, IPU President
- Representative of Panama Government

10.00 a.m.

**Group photo**

10.15 a.m.

**Session I: The role of parliaments in achieving the SDGs**

Moderator: Mr. Rolando González Patricio, Alternate Secretary General, PARLATINO

Keynote speaker:

- Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The session will introduce the SDGs and their targets, and will inform participants about their implementation in the region and across the world. Special attention will be given to the ways in which national parliaments can take action on the SDGs and oversee their implementation.

11.15 a.m.

**Coffee Break**

11.30 p.m.

**Session II: Governance and partnerships for the SDGs**

Moderator: Mr. Saber Chowdhury, IPU President

Panelists:

- Mr. Gerardo Noto, Governance, Participation and Inclusion Team Leader for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP
- Mr. Harley Mitchell, Dean Universidad Católica Santa María la Antigua
- Ms. Laura Angélica Rojas, Senator, President of the Foreign Relations Commission International Organisms, Mexico

This session will introduce SDG 16, which highlights the importance of effective institutions, governance, inclusion, participation, rights and security in order to achieve sustainable development. It will also discuss ways to enhance citizen engagement on the SDGs and establish effective partnerships to further strengthen parliamentary contributions towards implementing the goals.

12.45 p.m.

Lunch offered by the President on PARLATINO, Ms. Blanca Alcalá, PENCAS Restaurant (5 minutes from the venue)

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2.30 p.m.

**Session III: Leaving no one behind: The impact of inequalities on sustainable development**

Moderator: Mr. Enrique Jackson, Representative of PARLATINO

Panelists:

- Mr. César Nuñez, Director, Regional Support Team for Latin America, UNAIDS
- Civil Society Organization Panama

The commitment to 'leave no one behind' is a key feature of the SDGs. The idea that 'no goal should be met unless it is met for everyone' cuts across all goals and is clearly addressed through SDG 10. This session will introduce the impact of social and economic inequalities on achieving the SDGs in the region.

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4.00 p.m.

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

Moderator: Ms. Lorena Peña Mendoza, Vice-President of El Salvador for PARLATINO

Panelists:

- Ms. Luiza Carvalho, Regional Director of UN WOMEN for the Americas and the Caribbean
- Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, Senator Mexico, Rapporteur of the IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

In Latin America and the Caribbean, as in many other regions, gender-based disparities disadvantage women and impede both their own and their societies' development. The session will discuss the opportunities that the SDGs present to strike a better gender balance in sustainable development decision-making and to determine the gender impact of sustainable development policies.

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5.30 p.m.

**Presentation of the IPU Self-assessment Toolkit for Parliaments on the SDGs**

- Mr. Saber Chowdhury, IPU President
- Mr. Cesar Nuñez, Attached UNDP Resident Coordinator, and UNAIDS Regional Director for Latin America

The IPU toolkit is designed to help parliaments to assess the extent to which they are fit for the purpose of helping to implement the SDGs in their country. The Toolkit is relevant to all parliaments. It can be used to identify means and processes available to each legislature, as well as the institutional gaps that need to be filled to support SDG implementation.

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**Friday**

**2 December 2016**

8.30 a.m.

**Inauguration of the PARLATINO XXXII General Assembly**

- Welcome by the President of PARLATINO, Sen. Blanca Alcalá,
  - Ceremony to acknowledge the career and steadfast contribution to Latin American life of Mr. Enrique Iglesias
  - Key note speech Mr. Enrique Iglesias
  - Address by representative of Panama Government
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10.30 a.m.

**Continuation of the regional seminar:  
Session V: Promoting income equity through political change: Key steps for parliaments**

Moderator: PARLATINO Member

Panelist:

- Mr. Augusto Lopez Claros, Director, Global Indicators Group Development Economics,
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World Bank Group

Strong economic growth in the region contributed to an unprecedented reduction in poverty and an increase in prosperity for all levels of society. However, as the economy slows down, it is critical that countries build on the gains made and continue to make strides toward shared prosperity. The session will discuss key steps that parliaments can take to pave the way towards closing income gaps between and across countries.

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12.00 p.m.

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

- Mr. Saber Chowdhury, IPU President
- Ms. Blanca Alcalá, President of PARLATINO

There will be a general discussion of lessons learned from the seminar, of next steps and follow-up actions.

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12.45 p.m.

**End of the seminar**

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