



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Committee on Middle East Questions

Second Roundtable on Water: *From words to actions*

6 - 7 July 2017
IPU Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland

Working Paper II : A Parliamentary Network on Water (PNoW)

Composition: Specialized parliamentary committees in the region responsible for water, as well as MPs active in water-related issues, will be invited to join the Network. A chair will be designated to preside over meetings based on the principle of rotation in alphabetical order.

Purpose: The regional network of parliamentarians on water (NPOW) is intended to provide a platform for sharing experiences and lessons learned with other countries in the region experiencing similar problems of water scarcity and climate change: this collective approach to implementation will enable results to be achieved faster in a more coherent manner rather than in a piecemeal fashion. This regional approach is designed to leverage the unique position that parliamentarians have to influence change in their respective governments.

The network would create a **community of practice**. Through it, parliamentarians in the Middle East region will be able to enhance their understanding of the underpinnings of the SDG related to water (SDG 6); the nexus between SDG 6 and the human right to water and sanitation; to provide tools and methodologies for parliamentarians to take back home for implementation; to create an inclusive environment where experts are able to share ideas on water solutions with respect to SDG 6. The PNoW will also provide a forum for exchanging good practices in legislation related to water and water consumption and technical solutions for water projects in the region.

Working modalities: The PNoW shall report to the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions. The Committee will discuss the report and its recommendations, and the work of the PNoW will be incorporated in the report submitted to the IPU governing bodies. The resources required to support the activities of the Network will be discussed at the next Committee meeting in St. Petersburg.

Proposed first meeting of the PNoW (First quarter of 2018)

The kick-off meeting would provide an opportunity to discuss the work programme and tailored capacity-building programmes on water and sustainability issues. The PNoW will report back to the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions to brief it on the actions and progress to date. Reporting may also include the feedback from the pilot countries using legal and policy baselines and stakeholder engagement to identify a plan for implementation of SDG 6. It will identify indicators for each pilot country and the development of tools for parliaments.

Expected outcomes:

- ✓ Provide an opportunity to the regional parliaments to discuss a work programme to address a regional challenge, like water scarcity, in a cooperative context, by exchanging legislative and technical expertise in the area of new and renewable water and to receive tailored capacity-enhancement programmes on water and sustainability issues;
- ✓ PNoW will support, with the external expertise of WaterLex, progress on baseline research in pilot countries to develop concrete recommendations for the implementation of SDG 6;
- ✓ Report on progress; share national experiences on SDG 6 implementation.
- ✓ Ascertain the viability of maintaining and building on parliamentary networks in the future.
- ✓ Support the establishment of regional and national projects on water.