



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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# Seminar on Achieving the SDGs for the IPU'S Twelve Plus Geopolitical Group and East Asia Parliaments

Jerusalem, 20-22 November 2018



הכנסת  
THE KNESSET

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Knesset

## Programme

### Tuesday, 20 November

- 08:15 Departure to the Knesset
- 09:00 – 09:45 Arrival at the Knesset and registration
- 09:45 – 10:15 **Welcoming address**
- Welcoming keynote addresses by senior officials of the Knesset and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)*
- Hon. Yuli Yoel Edelstein, Speaker of the Knesset
  - IPU representative
  - Mr. Albert Sakharovich, Director General of the Knesset
  - Ms. Yarden Meller-Horovitz, Secretary General of the Knesset
- 10:15 – 10:25 **Group photo**
- 10:25 – 11:30 **Session I: The Sustainable Development Agenda and priorities of the States in the region**
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets will be introduced along with a regional baseline to measure future progress. The session will focus on the results achieved by the States in the region regarding the SDGs. What were the priorities and what activities were undertaken to meet these priorities?
- Moderator: Mr. Yotam Yakir, Head ad interim, International Affairs Division, the Knesset
- Opening remarks by Mr. Nachman Shai, MP, Head of the Israeli delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Mr. Anders Jönsson, Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
  - Mr. Alon Beer, Director General, Society for International Development (SID), Israel Branch
- 11:30 - 11:45 Break
- 11:45 – 13:00 **Session II: Achieving sustainable development through the promotion of science, technology and innovation**
- The session will focus on the crucial role played by science, technology and innovation in advancing the transformative impact of the Sustainable Development Agenda. It will be informed by Israel's experience in fostering innovation as a precondition for development.
- Presentations will be followed by a debate with delegates

Moderator: Ms. Sinaia Netanyahu, former Chief Scientist, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Israel

- Mr. Aharon Aharon, CEO, Israel Innovation Authority
- Mr. Mark Talesnick, Technion Institute of Technology, founder of the Israeli Chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB)
- Ms. Mónika Bartos, MP, Hungary

13:00-14:30 Lunch offered by the Knesset

14:30 – 16:00 **Session III: Results obtained by parliaments in the region by overseeing the implementation of the SDGs: The role of self-assessment**

This session will focus on how national parliaments can effectively engage with the SDGs and establish mechanisms to oversee their implementation. Delegates will be given an introduction to the IPU self-assessment toolkit which has been designed to help parliaments evaluate their readiness to implement the SDGs in their respective countries. Parliamentary representatives will be invited to present their parliament's experience in implementing the SDGs.

Presentations will be followed by a debate with delegates.

Moderator: Ms. Aleksandra Blagojevic, Programme Manager for International Development, IPU

Opening remarks: Mr. Yoav Kisch, Chair, Internal Affairs and Environment Committee, the Knesset

- Ms. Aleksandra Blagojevic, Programme Manager for International Development, IPU
- Ms. Zuzana Majerova Zahradnikova, MP, Czech Republic
- Mr. Francesco Verducci, Senator, Italy

16:00 Transport to hotel

19:00 Dinner hosted by the Speaker of the Knesset  
Venue: Mamilla Hotel, Ball Room  
(transport to the venue from designated hotels will be provided by the Knesset)

## Wednesday, 21 November

07:50 Departure from hotels

08:30 Arrival at the Knesset

08:30 – 08:55 Introduction to the Green Knesset project

09:00 – 09:15 Visit and introduction in the Plenary Hall by Ms. Yardena Meller-Horovitz, Secretary General of the Knesset

09:30 – 09:45 Accessibility in the Knesset: Briefing by Mr. Albert Sakharovitz, Director General of the Knesset

09:55-10:20 Presentation by Ms. Sivan Ya'ari, CEO of Innovation: Africa  
"The power of an individual to make a real difference"

10:20-11:20 **Session IV: Leveraging technology and innovation to achieve the SDGs while leaving no one behind**

Leaving no one behind is one of the central aspects of the Sustainable Development Agenda. The aim of this session is to foster an exchange on challenges and achievements in making sure that technology and innovation bring a positive impact to the lives of all, including the most vulnerable and

marginalized populations. This session will also consider how parliamentarians can contribute to this process. Moderator: Mr. Yotam Yakir, Head ad interim, International Affairs Division, the Knesset

- Mr. Uri Maklev, Chair, Science and Technology Committee, the Knesset
- Ms. Rachel Shaul, CEO Presentense, Israel
- Mr. Pradeep Kakkattil, Director, Office of Innovations, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

11:20 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:30 **Roundtable Discussions**

In this session, delegates will have the opportunity to further share their experiences and ideas about how parliamentarians can advance SDG implementation and innovation in different thematic areas.

Parallel roundtable discussions on:

- Innovation and Parliament – Moderators: Mr. Reuven Sandman, CIO and Head of the IT Department, the Knesset; Mr. Gali Bar-Or, National Legislation Database Project Director, Legal Department, the Knesset
- Innovation and Water – Moderator: Mr. Oded Distel, Head of New Tech, National Water and Energy Program, Ministry of Economy, Israel
- Innovation and Accessibility – Moderator: Ms. Danna Hochstein Mann, Director, ALYNnovation, Israel
- Innovation and Women – Moderator: Ms. Aida Touma-Sliman, Chair, Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality, the Knesset
- Innovation and Renewable Energies - Moderator: Ms. Yael Cohen Paran, Chair, Subcommittee for Advancing Technologies for Renewable Energy, the Knesset

13:30-15:00 Lunch offered by the Knesset

15:00 – 16:00 Opening remarks: Ms. Sharren Haskel, MP, Member of the Israeli delegation to the IPU

Conclusions of the roundtable discussions  
Adoption of the outcome document

16:00-16:30 Meeting with an Israeli Minister

16:30 Transport to hotels

20:00 Transport to VIP tasting tour of Jerusalem's famous Mahne Yehuda Market offered by the Knesset/ Free evening

## Thursday, 22 November

08:15 – 09:20 **Talk with Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**  
Venue: David Citadel Hotel (transport will be provided from the designated hotels)

10:30 – 16:00 **Field trips:**  
Field trips will be organized to two different projects that use technological innovation in their daily work. The seminar participants will be able to choose from the following options:

### **Tour #1: Innovation and People with Disabilities**

Get a sneak peek at the **Israeli Innovation Center**, which will open to the public in early 2019. This center, housed at the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation,

showcases some of Israel's most cutting-edge developments in the fields of water, cyber, agritech, medicine, and more. The center is informed by the spirit and vision of Shimon Peres, Israel's ninth president, who viewed technological advances as a vehicle for peace and cooperation on the regional and global levels.

Visit the **TOM Experience** (Tikkun Olam Makers) and experience hands-on how a movement is creating tangible solutions for people with disabilities around the world. We will tour Impactlabs—the largest center of physical products innovation in Israel—and meet with a "Need Knower" (someone with a need that was addressed) and a "Maker" (someone who built an innovative, problem-solving product).

#### **Tour #2: Water and Innovation**

Tour the **Shafdan Wastewater Treatment Plant**, the largest and most advanced of its kind in the Middle East, which services some 2.5 million residents in the greater Tel Aviv region. See how this advanced system has improved the water quality in the region and in the Mediterranean Sea.

Visit the **Sorek Desalination Plant**, the largest of its kind in the world with a capacity of 624,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day. The plant provides clean water for more than 1.5 million people, and makes a significant contribution to alleviating Israel's water shortage while keeping the environmental impact to a minimum.