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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: Combating poverty and promoting health-care

Regional Seminar for the Parliaments from Central and Eastern Europe and
Central Asia co-organized by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and
the Inter-Parliamentary Union

**24-25 May 2018, Belgrade (Serbia)
The House of the National Assembly**

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Thursday

24 May 2018

09.00 a.m.

Registration

09.30 a.m.

Opening session

Keynote addresses by senior officials of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other prominent participants

Moderator: Mr. Milorad Mijatović, Member of the Standing Delegation of Serbia to the IPU and Coordinator of the Focus Group for the Implementation of the SDGs of the National Assembly

- **Ms. Maja Gojković**, Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia
- **Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron**, IPU President
- **Prof. Dr Slavica Djukić-Dejanović**, Minister without Portfolio and Head of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on the Implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Serbia
- **Ms. Karla Hershey**, UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia/UNDP Resident Representative

10.00 a.m.

Family photo

10.15 a.m.

Session I: The Sustainable Development Agenda and priorities of the States in the region

The session will focus on the results achieved by the States in the region regarding the Sustainable Development Goals. What were the priorities and what activities were undertaken to meet these priorities?

Moderator: Ms. Sanda Rašković Ivić, MP, Rapporteur to the IPU Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Panellists:

- **Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky**, UNDP Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Regional Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, Istanbul Regional Hub
- **Mr. Laszlo Borbely**, State Counsellor to the Prime Minister, Government of Romania

11.15 a.m.

Coffee break

11.30 a.m.

Session II: Results obtained by Parliaments in the region by overseeing the implementation of the SDGs: The role of self-assessment

This session will be dedicated to parliamentary activities regarding the introduction of efficient oversight mechanisms in the implementation of the SDGs. Parliamentary representatives will be invited to present their experiences regarding the introduction of parliamentary oversight mechanisms and cooperation with the executive. A particular matter that will be considered is to what extent the parliaments used the IPU self-assessment toolkit.

Moderator: Mr. Milorad Mijatović, Head of the Focus Group for the Implementation of the SDGs, National Assembly of Serbia

Panellists:

- **Ms. Aleksandra Blagojević**, Programme Manager for International Development, IPU

Presentations by national delegations

1.00 p.m.

Lunch hosted by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms. Maja Gojković

2.00 p.m.

Session III: Poverty reduction in the region: Marginalized groups

The reduction of poverty is one of the most important goals of the SDGs. The aim of the debate on this topic is to have an exchange of experiences in the fight against poverty in the States in the region. Marginalized groups, such as the Roma and other ethnic minority groups, are the ones that are the most exposed to poverty. Members of parliament will have the opportunity to present their views on the most efficient way to address this issue.

Moderator: Ms. Vesna Rakonjac, former Chairperson of the Committee on Labour, Social Issues, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, National Assembly of Serbia

Panellists:

- **Ms. Suzana Paunović**, Head of the Office for Human and Minority Rights, Government of Serbia

- **Mr. Jorge Nuño Mayer**, Secretary General, Caritas Europa

- **Ms. Olivera Vuković**, Executive Director, SeConS Development Initiative Group

3.30 p.m.

Coffee break

4.00 p.m.

Session IV: Implementation of SDG 3: Promoting health-care

The States in the region had similar experiences in their transition from a state socialist system, where much attention was given to health-care, to liberal capitalism, where health-care underwent important changes. How do health-care policies meet the needs of today's population and what is the difference in the quality and scope of public health-care?

Moderator: Mr. Darko Laketić, Chairperson of the Health and Family Committee, National Assembly of Serbia

Panellists:

- **Mr. Zlatibor Lončar**, Minister of Health, Serbia

- **Ms. Zsafia Pusztai**, WHO representative and Head of WHO Country Office in Serbia

5.30 p.m.

Guided tour of the House of the National Assembly

6.30 p.m.

Return to the hotel

8.00 p.m.

Dinner hosted by the Coordinator of the Focus Group for the Implementation of the SDGs, Mr. Milorad Mijatović, Guard House, Topčider

Friday

25 May 2018

9.00 a.m.

Session V: Climate changes compounds poverty and public health

To what extent does climate change affect poverty and the quality of health of the population of the States in the region? What are the experiences of other regions where climate change has a distinct impact on the population? What are the lessons to be learned and what measure can be taken to impact climate change?

Moderator: Ms. Jasmina Karanac, Coordinator of the Green Caucus, National Assembly of Serbia

Panellists:

- **Mr. Goran Trivan**, Minister of Environmental Protection, Serbia
- **Mr. Boris Erg**, International Union for Conservation of Nature
- **Mr. Rezo Getiashvili**, Environmental Projects' Coordinator, Caucasus Environmental NGO Network
- **Mr. Vladimir Kendrovski**, Technical officer for climate change, WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, Bonn

10.30 a.m.

Coffee break

11.00 a.m.

Session VI: Inclusion of youth in social and political processes as a prerequisite for an efficient SDGs implementation

The youth has to take part in the implementation of UN 2030 Agenda since they represent the generation which will benefit from the implementation of the SDGs. The questions are how to motivate youth and include them in the SDGs' implementation process and what role do members of parliament have in this regard.

Moderator: Ms. Gordana Čomić, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia

Panellists:

- **Ms. Marija Lugarić**, former MP of the Croatian Parliament and initiator of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU
- **Ms. Jelena Kодиć**, Youth NGO "Balkans let's get up"
- **Mr. Duško Radišić**, Assistant Mayor of Zrenjanin, Serbia

12.15 p.m.

Summary of the seminar, next steps and conclusions

12.30 p.m.

Lunch in the honour of the guests

2.00 p.m.

Presentation of Global Parliamentary Report 2017: *Parliamentary oversight: Parliament's power to hold government to account*

3.00 p.m.

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