



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



הכנסת
THE KNESSET

Seminar on Achieving the SDGs for the IPU's Twelve Plus Geopolitical Group and East Asia Parliaments

**Parliamentary Cooperation in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
SDG9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

The Knesset, Jerusalem (Israel), 20–22 November 2018

Concept note

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the principal starting point in attaining a sustainable and better quality environment where citizens can develop and realize their potential fully. Further to the United Nations resolution on the 2030 Agenda, parliaments are urged and encouraged to take the SDGs further by leveraging all their functions: legislative, oversight, budgetary appropriation, and representation.

The IPU Member Parliaments have on many occasions reiterated their commitment to play their part in SDGs implementation. In order to assist them in this work and help exchange good experiences and practices, the IPU organizes different activities including regional seminars on SDGs implementation. Regional seminars have been organized in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific. This event is the first seminar targeting all Members of the IPU Twelve Plus Geopolitical Group. The participating parliaments will be able to exchange ideas and views with their peers on ways to engage with the SDGs and to foster and promote innovation.

Domestication of the SDGs is an important step towards achieving the desired results but it is not the only way to do so. At the level of parliament it is of utmost importance to develop an effective parliamentary mechanism to ensure coordination and strong engagement of the institution on matters relating to the SDGs. In order to assist parliaments in defining the most suitable mechanism, the IPU promotes a self-assessment approach through the use of an IPU dedicated toolkit. This approach has been of assistance to a number of parliaments and has produced several examples of good practice.

SDG9

Investment in infrastructure and innovation is a crucial driver of economic growth and development. With over half the world's population now living in cities, mass transport and sustainable living solutions are becoming ever more important, as are the growth of new industries and information and communication technologies. Technological progress is also key to finding lasting solutions to both economic and environmental challenges such as providing new jobs and promoting energy efficiency. Promoting sustainable industries and investing in scientific research and innovation are all important ways in facilitating sustainable development.

The seminar will place particular emphasis on innovation—the most valuable resource for the State of Israel and which is a national asset crucial to economic prosperity. Strengthening the innovation ecosystem within countries and between countries is a crucial step, especially because the world is marching towards a future that is increasingly based on innovation and technology.

The seminar will provide a platform to discuss innovation as such but also in combination with other SDGs. Participants will discuss ways in which parliaments can create an enabling environment for innovation. On the final day of the seminar, the participants will be invited to take an enriching field visit to experience for themselves the value added of innovation as an engine of prosperity.

Format, objectives, and expected outcomes of the seminar

The aim of the seminar is to have the parliaments from the wider region share experiences, engage in comprehensive discussions on the said topics and get acquainted with good practices in developing effective parliamentary mechanisms for SDGs implementation.

The seminar will feature diverse sessions and will include keynote speeches, expert presentations and roundtable discussions.

It is expected that the seminar will conclude with an outcome document outlining key issues discussed and recommendations to parliaments.

Venue and date: The Knesset, Jerusalem (Israel), 20–22 November 2018

Draft Agenda: The agenda will be jointly agreed upon by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Knesset.

Participation: The seminar is open to the following IPU Twelve Plus Geopolitical Group and East Asia parliaments: Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Vietnam.

Languages: The working languages are English, French and Hebrew.