



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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2017 South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

*Strengthening regional cooperation and resources
for the SDGs*



Organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
and the Parliament of India

Indore, India, 18-20 February 2017

Indore Declaration

We, the Speakers of the national Parliaments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, having deliberated on the theme *Strengthening regional cooperation and resources for the SDGs* at the South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals at Indore on 18–19 February 2017,

Recognizing the Summit's utmost relevance in light of the convergence of our interests and the shared destiny of our peoples as we strive towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Noting that the South Asian region, home to more than a fifth of humanity, is faced with challenges of poverty eradication, gender inequality, inadequate regional connectivity, climate change and disaster management,

Underscoring the imperatives of the SDGs for eliminating poverty, and *stressing* gender equality as a critical factor for sustainable development, as well as the need to deal with the challenges of climate change and natural disasters,

Emphasizing the need for harmonizing development with environmental preservation, and *recognizing* the centrality of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities,

Also emphasizing the strengthening of appropriate policies and legislation for transforming societal attitudes towards women and mainstreaming them as a critical factor for sustainable development,

Stressing the need for greater intraregional connectivity for promoting trade, transport, tourism, technology and disaster mitigation,

Appreciating the need to mobilize resources for implementing the SDGs,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen parliamentary cooperation, in pursuance of the 2016 Dhaka Declaration on SDG Action in South Asia,

Encourage parliamentarians of the South Asia region to share, learn and benefit from the best practices followed in our respective countries;

Urge parliaments to create enabling conditions for encouraging the private sector, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to participate in the realization of the SDGs;

Call upon parliaments to create gender-sensitive elected bodies, particularly at the grassroots level, with a view to achieving gender equality and prioritizing issues pertinent to women;

Encourage parliaments to put in place legislative measures to protect women against discrimination, violence, sexual harassment, atrocities and trafficking;

Emphasize the need to provide equal opportunities and access to health care, nutrition, education and skills development;

Urge parliaments to collectively work to advance actions, strategies and cooperation among all stakeholders in order to mobilize additional resources and achieve the targets under the SDGs in a time-bound manner;

Reaffirm that the achievement of the SDGs is closely linked to addressing the threat of climate change and strengthening disaster risk reduction, which require regional as well as international cooperation;

Stress that the Paris Agreement should continue to be guided by the principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, especially the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities;

Agree to consider setting up joint parliamentary groups under the Forum to deliberate and deepen cooperation on relevant issues;

Call for greater and urgent cooperation among the South Asian countries in order to strengthen a regional response and meet the challenges of climate change and related disasters;

Call upon the IPU to facilitate dialogue and cooperation for achieving the SDGs;

Call for the sharing of knowledge, information, research support and capacity-building programmes for achieving the SDGs;

Call upon the parliaments of the South Asia region to allocate one day in a Session for deliberation on the SDGs.