



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Arab Regional Parliamentary Forum on the 2030 Agenda: The impact of COVID-19 on SDG implementation in Western Asia and the role of parliaments

Online, 26 November 2020

Draft Programme of Work

Time / Beirut	Session
09:45 - 10:00	Online registration
10:00 - 10:15	<p>Welcoming remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, ESCWA (3 min) ▪ Martin Chungong, Secretary General, IPU (3 min) ▪ Khaled Abdel Shafi, Regional Hub Director, Regional Bureau of Arab States, UNDP (3 min) ▪ Rami Ahmad, Special Envoy on SDGs, IsDB (3 min)
10:15 - 10:40	<p>Session I - Scene Setting</p> <p>This session serves to set the scene for the discussion by presenting some of the key findings of the Arab Sustainable Development Report (ASDR-2020) and the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region as well as main challenges. The session will also serve to discuss the potential role of parliaments in responding to crisis highlighting some regional and global experiences in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>Facilitator: Hassan Krayem, Governance Advisor, UNDP</p> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key findings of the Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020 (5 min) Maisaa Youssef, ASDR Lead Author, ESCWA ▪ The role of parliaments in crisis response (5 min) Sara Salman, Regional Advisor on Population Affairs, ESCWA ▪ Regional/global findings of the survey on parliaments' response to crisis (5 min) Avinash Bikha, Project Officer, Centre for Innovation in Parliament, IPU <p>Q&A</p>
10:40 - 11:30	<p>Session II - Tour de table: Open discussion with Arab parliamentarians on means to strengthen parliament's role in crisis response</p> <p>This session offers a platform for an open discussion with Arab parliamentarians on the role of Arab parliaments in crisis response and means to strengthen this role.</p> <p>Guiding questions to frame the discussion: (45 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What challenges did you face in responding to the COVID-19 crisis? - What reforms are required to overcome these challenges? <p>Facilitator: Karam Karam, Regional Advisor on Governance, ESCWA</p>



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Time / Beirut	Session
11:30 - 11:35	Break
11:35 - 12:20	<p>Session III - Tour de table: Open discussion with Arab parliamentarians on parliament's role in achieving the SDGs despite the COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p>Guiding question to frame the discussion: (45 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the most pressing priorities and opportunities for parliamentary action in your country to achieve SDGs in the context of COVID-19 recovery? (revamping social protection systems; pushing for an increase in health budgets...) - What changes are needed to strengthen the parliament's role in achieving the SDGs in the context of crisis? - How can parliaments help turn the crisis into opportunity to deliver on sustainable development? <p>Facilitator: Rami Ahmad, Special Envoy on SDGs, IsDB</p>
12:20 – 12:30	<p>Wrap-up The way forward and closing remarks.</p> <p>Facilitator: Maisaa Youssef, ESCWA</p>