

Concept note on the parallel event of Parliamentarians at the Comprehensive High-Level Midterm Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action

Background

The comprehensive High-Level Midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Program of Action (IPoA) marks the midpoint of the decade-long development programme for the least-developed countries (LDCs). Its primary objective is the assessment of the implementation of the IPoA by the LDCs and their developing partners. The review will identify key accomplishments, lessons learned and new strategies to address the critical constraints in delivering the goals of the current programme. The Midterm review will assess the role played by all relevant stakeholders and will seek to strengthen the global partnership for the development of LDCs, including by promoting the participation of all stakeholders in the effective implementation of the IPoA.

The IPoA identifies national parliaments as key actors in implementing the IPoA and calls for a strengthening of their role in achieving the programme's objective of graduation from the LDC status. With their mandate to represent constituents, enact legislation and oversee government policy, parliaments help ensure national ownership, accountability and transparency of the development process. Parliamentarians from the LDCs assume an important function in the effective implementation of the IPoA by:

1. Mainstreaming the IPoA objectives into national development policies and ensuring coherence between national and international development agendas.
2. Ensuring good governance and the rule of law at the local, national and international level which is essential for achieving the objectives of the programme of action.
3. Strengthening the national policy and regulatory framework needed to mobilize public resources, both national and international, and ensure oversight and effective utilization of these resources along with attracting foreign investments to finance the implementation of the IPoA.
4. Ensuring synergy and coherence of the IPoA with other key global development agreements, including the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Parliamentarians from the development partners fulfil an important function in informing their governments and public about the special needs of the least developed countries and in ensuring the adequate financial and technical support for the effective implementation of the IPoA.

Objectives of the Parallel Event

The Parallel Event will assess the contribution of national parliaments to the implementation of the IPoA and explore ways to further strengthen it. The event will also identify accomplishments, lessons-learned and challenges faced by parliaments in

promoting the objectives of the programme of action and it will provide a platform for parliamentarians to share their experiences and to develop strategies to promote parliamentary action in the implementation of the IPoA.

Progress and obstacles of parliaments in mainstreaming the IPoA objectives into national development policies (NDPs) will be also addressed. Participants will be able to share their experience of parliamentary mechanisms of mainstreaming international development agendas into national legislation.

The event will also provide an opportunity to discuss good practices and new strategies to improve domestic resource mobilization, promote foreign investment, strengthening taxation systems and improving parliamentary oversight of public financial management.

The Parallel Event will further allow participants to discuss the capacity-building progress of LDC parliaments which is necessary to research, monitor and report on the IPoA progress. The role of the UN system and of developing partners will be assessed in this regard.

The event will be co-organized by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and the Office of the High Representative and will result in a summary by the co-chairs.