

Parliamentary Forum at the 5th UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5)

4 March 2023, Doha, Qatar
Thematic Roundtables Hall, QNCC

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10:00 – 10:30 Opening Session

Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

H.E. Hassan bin Abdullah Al-Ghanim, Shura Speaker, Shura Council of the State of Qatar

Ms. Rabab Fatima, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

H.E. Mr. Csaba K rösi, President of the 77th session of the General Assembly

10:30 – 12:30 The LDCs in perspective: unresolved challenges, untapped opportunities

Drawing on the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) adopted during the first part of the LDC 5 conference (March 2022), and with a focus on commitments to build productive capacities, increase productivity, support inclusive growth, and reduce economic and environmental vulnerabilities, this session will provide an overview of the structural economic issues that LDCs continue to deal with as well as the opportunities these countries may have to free up their own development potential. The discussion will take the cue from the Parliamentary Message to the LDC 5 adopted at the 143rd IPU Assembly in Madrid (November 2021), and reflect on how parliamentarians can help implement the far-reaching economic and social justice agenda of the DPoA.

Leading questions

- Is the global economic system sufficiently supportive of the LDCs?
- How can the LDCs diversify their economies and improve productivity?
- How can the LDCs scale up investments in infrastructure, health, education and other public goods?

be fully transparent and accountable, immune to corruption, representative of all constituencies and social classes, and properly equipped to deliver to the people. Parliaments are a key institution of governance with great oversight and representative authority. Yet many LDC parliaments remain under-capacitated to exercise their constitutional functions and tend to exclude important groups, such as women and youth, as well as the marginalized. This session will reflect on governance reforms that are most critical to the LDCs, beginning with the institution of parliament

Leading questions

- What are the key governance challenges that LDCs must contend with, including within the confines of international institutions?
- What are the main obstacles to governance reforms in the LDCs?
- How can LDC parliaments become more representative of women, youth and other groups, while strengthening their oversight role?
- What role do actors such as political parties, the media, and civil society play in governance reforms in the LDCs?

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Moderator

Hon. Mr. Saber Chowdhury, Honorary President of the IPU, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh

Presenters

Hon. Ms. Maria Angelina Sarmiento, Vice President of Parliament, Timor Leste

Hon. Ms. Sara Žibrat, Member of Parliament, National Assembly of Slovenia

Ms. Sara Margrethe Sekkenes-Tollefsen, UN Res3[, UN)-10(Res1-d)-to t C(S)5ar)-14(y)dnal