



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

## PARLIAMENTARY FORUM AT THE HLPF

Monday, 15 July, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.  
Conference Room 1

United Nations Headquarters

### DRAFT AGENDA

#### Opening

Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, President of the IPU

#### **Growing inequalities and distrust in government: Breaking the cycle**

This panel will reflect on the main theme of the 2019 HLPF—*Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*—from the standpoint of two of the five goals under review at the session, namely, Goal 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries) and Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels).

The debate will build on discussions held by the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs and a special Speakers' Dialogue held during the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in April 2019. These discussions concluded that the crisis of democracy today stems fundamentally from an economic model that favours “moneyed elites” at the expense of the vast majority of the people, leading to growing inequalities of income, wealth and knowledge, as well as a pervasive sense of economic opportunity. A majority of the public worldwide believes in representative democracy and in the importance of elections. At the same time, people feel alienated from their own governments. More than ever before parliaments and organizations such as the IPU and UNDP must work to build effective, inclusive and accountable institutions that people can believe in.

Leading questions:

- What are the root causes of income and wealth inequality today and what policy solutions are available to parliamentarians?
- How does inequality interfere with democracy and good governance, and how can parliamentarians counter this?
- How can governance institutions, beginning with parliaments, be made more representative of all constituencies and more accountable to the people?

Keynote speaker:

Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): Preliminary findings of the 2019 Human Development Report on inequality and key recommendations for parliamentarians

## **Parliamentary engagement in the SDGs: How can we measure progress? (4.30 p.m.)**

A new IPU survey of 89 parliaments shows that roughly 50 per cent of parliaments have taken some steps to institutionalize the SDGs. The ways and means of this varies widely however, and parliamentary action in terms of effective implementation of the SDGs through legislation and the budget process needs to be scaled up. The survey also provides evidence of how parliaments have used their constitutional powers to contribute to SDGs achievement. A second IPU survey on the participation of parliaments in the process for the Voluntary National Reviews suggests accountability for SDGs implementation remains weak.

This segment will feature fresh data on parliamentary engagement in the SDGs and invite participants to share their experiences and suggest practical solutions. It will also look at the ways in which parliaments might be able to assess the effectiveness of the systems in place and the impact of the decisions taken on the achievement of the SDGs.

Leading questions:

- What are the main obstacles to the SDGs mainstreaming in parliaments?
- How can parliamentary oversight of country reports to the HLPF be improved?
- What mechanisms exist or need to be developed to track the impact of laws and budgets on the realisation of the SDGs?

**Closing**