



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.



## Webinar for the Asia-Pacific Region Parliaments

### Building a better future where nobody is left behind: How can parliaments ensure that COVID-19 recovery strategies are in line with the SDGs?

16 March 2021  
14:00–15:30 Bangkok time

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and  
the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

## PROGRAMME

- 14:00 – 14:05 **Opening session**  
Moderator: Mr. Charles Chauvel, Global Lead and Asia-Pacific Focal Point, Inclusive Processes and Institutions, Bangkok Regional Hub, United Nations Development Programme
- 14:05 – 14:15 **Opening remarks by the co-organizers**  
*Opening remarks by Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General, IPU*  
*Opening remarks by Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, UN ESCAP*
- 14:15 – 14:40 **Segment 1: Setting the scene – the regional status of SDG implementation**  
This segment will provide an update on the progress of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific. Findings from the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goal Progress Report 2021 will be presented to illustrate whether the region is on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
  - *Mr. Jan Smit, Regional Adviser on Official Statistics for the 2030 Agenda, UN ESCAP*
  - *Interactive debate*
- 14:40 – 15:05 **Segment 2: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals despite the COVID-19 pandemic – an exchange of experiences and good practices**  
This segment will focus on how parliaments can ensure that COVID-19 recovery strategies incorporate the SDG lens. The new IPU-UNEP publication *Green approaches to COVID-19 recovery: Policy note for parliamentarians* will be presented, followed by an interactive debate.
  - *Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon, Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme*
  - *Interactive debate*

15:05 – 15:23

**Segment 3: Experiences from the region with Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)**

Parliamentary involvement in VNRs is key to monitoring government actions at the national level, strengthening national ownership of and building more political support for the SDGs. The aim of this segment is to present the findings of the IPU survey on Parliamentary involvement in the 2020 VNRs and promote a discussion on the importance for parliaments to be engaged in this process. Parliamentarians will have the opportunity to exchange their views and share their experiences on this matter.

- *Ms. Aleksandra Blagojevic, Programme Manager for International Development, Inter-Parliamentary Union*
- *Interactive debate*

15:23 – 15:30

Short summary of key takeaways