

Viet Nam's statement
at the IPU-142 Standing Committee on Sustainable Development
with regard to “How can the IPU resolution inspire and guide parliamentary
work and action on digitalization and the circular economy?”

Viet Nam delegation highly welcome IPU's initiative to call for the interplay between digitalization and circular economy, aiming towards the achievement of the SDGs, especially, SDG 12 of responsible consumption and production. With 29 concerns to consider in the Preamble and 36 actions to take in the Operative Part, this comprehensive Resolution is an ambitious one, but urgently necessary, especially in the pandemic crisis context.

For the IPU Resolution to inspire and guide parliamentary work and action on digitalization and the circular economy, we would like to bring your attention to 3 main courses of action as follows:

Firstly, member parliaments are required to raise public awareness of this Resolution, circulate it first and foremost among parliamentary committees and then share it with governments and their people in order to shape circular economy with digitalization as an enabler. Education should take the role to equip people with enhanced knowledge on circular economy to do business and form responsible consumption behavior at early stage. At the same time, digital literacy, digital skills and digital readiness should be considered essential in education at all levels.

Secondly, as the Resolution has already pointed out, IPU needs to enhance cooperation with member parliaments and other organizations, including regional parliamentary organizations, in order to gather evidence on the circular economy, environment and digitalization and to promote guidelines for parliamentary action.

Some of policies to be adopted from IPU Resolution are: Circular economy as a mean to SDG 12 should be built into national development strategies. Economic and financial incentives are needed to promote sustainable products and services as opposed to short lifespan ones. Modern environmental criteria should be stipulated in laws and regulations. Especially, incentives to facilitate digitalization should orient the digitalization towards circular economy as innovation is vital for the creation of a circular economy. With core technologies such as AI, robotics, 3D printing, IoT, block chain, cloud computing, Machine to Machine communications (M2M), 5G, autonomous vehicles, nanotechnology, biotechnology, materials science, renewable energy, energy storage and quantum computing, the Fourth

Industrial Revolution or Digitalization Revolution helps drive the demand for circular products and positively influence the way businesses operate by allowing closed loop material systems to be more available, remanufacturing more profitable, product lifecycle extended, the usage of resources more efficient, green energy more affordable, linked industries more resilient and arming customers with advanced real-time statistical analysis, which will help them to be free to choose the provider and products/services that fit their value of sustainable development.

Besides, the joining hand of related parties should be at the center of any policy, apart from parliaments and governments, private sector and every citizen should be more proactive: business need to incorporate circular economy and digitalization into its production design for sustainable development; simultaneously, people need to step-by-step change their consumption mindset.

Thirdly, IPU is expected to create formal platforms for member parliaments to continue to learn best practices from one another and further the support from parliaments of donor countries./.