



First Global Parliamentary Meeting on Achieving the SDGs

Turning the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic into opportunities for parliaments to achieve the SDGs

28-30 September 2021

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union
and
the House of Representatives of Indonesia

PROGRAMME

**Tuesday, 28
September 2021**

Central European Summer Time (Geneva)

10:00 – 10:25

Welcome

Moderator: Ms. Mercy Juma, journalist, BBC News Africa

Opening session

Welcome remarks by:

- Ms. Puan Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia
- Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Keynote speech : Setting the scene

The keynote speech will set the scene for the discussion by presenting some of the key findings on the progress and main challenges faced in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) achievement.

Keynote speaker: Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations – *prerecorded video*

10:25 -11:19

Session 1: How are parliaments contributing to the realization of the SDGs during the COVID-19 pandemic?

The COVID-19 pandemic has uncovered serious weaknesses and unbalances in our societies – like the prevalence of poverty, lack of universal health coverage, weak health systems, persistent inequalities. This session will offer parliaments the opportunity to share an example of how they continued to deliver on the SDGs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussions will also focus on the power of internal, but also, external collaboration, and the ways in which they could help accelerate SDGs achievement.

Expert: Ms. Kareen Jabre, Director of the Division of Programmes, IPU

Interactive debate

11:19 – 11:29

Session 2: “Leave no one behind”: Are we keeping the promise?

“Leave no one behind” is the central, transformative promise of the SDGs. It

represents the unequivocal commitment of all countries to eradicate poverty in all its forms, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind and undermine the potential of individuals and of humanity as a whole. This session will focus on why and how parliaments should enact laws that effectively promote equal opportunities, reduce inequalities, and eliminate possible discriminations.

Expert: Mr. Fernand de Varennes, United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues

11:29 – 11:32	Moderator chit chat with Ms. Lesia Vasylenko, President of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians
11:32 – 11:35	Moderator chit chat with Ms. Sahar Albazar, President of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians
11:35 – 11: 58	Interactive discussion
11:58 – 12:00	Wrap up session
12:00 – 12:05	Break
12:05 - 12:16	Session 3: COVID-19: A wakeup call to make investment in universal health coverage and health emergency preparedness a priority The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting efforts towards universal health coverage (UHC) in countries worldwide and risks reversing the gains already achieved. In the IPU report " Parliamentary action on universal health coverage in times of COVID-19 ", parliaments reported disruptions of essential health services; new barriers for vulnerable and marginalized communities to access the health services they need; challenges in ensuring health equity, including in countries with established health systems; and decreased momentum on UHC legislation. In this context, how can countries make progress towards UHC despite the COVID-19 pandemic? How can parliaments take leadership in going beyond mere political commitment to UHC to ensure health policies and reforms are backed by the necessary legal frameworks? How can they advocate for investment in health as part of comprehensive efforts for social reform despite budgetary constraints? Keynote: Mr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization -TBC
12:16 – 12:42	Interactive discussion
12:42 – 12:52	Summary of the day's highlights – Rapporteur - Mr. Sihar Sitorus, Chair of the SDG Task Force, House of Representatives of Indonesia
12:52 – 12:57	Reflections
12:57 – 13:00	Presenting tomorrow

Wednesday, 29 September 2021

	Welcome
13:00 – 13:10	Moderator: Ms. Mercy Juma, journalist, BBC News Africa Recap of day one - Dialogue between the moderator and Mr. Fadli Zon, Vice Chair of SDG Task Force, House of Representatives of Indonesia
13:10 – 13:21	Session 4: Climate change is real and it's intensifying: What are we doing about it? Enhancing the environmental dimension of the SDGs is crucial in the context of the climate emergency and COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 Intergovernmental Panel

on Climate Change (IPCC) report warns of increasingly extreme heatwaves, droughts and flooding, and a key temperature limit being broken in just over a decade. The consequences for the people and planet are often irreversible but science offers solutions. This session will hear a presentation on the latest scientific evidence on climate change and discuss ways for parliaments to translate science into policy and political action.

Expert: Ms. Maisa Rojas, Director of the Center for Climate and Resilience Research at University of Chile; Coordinating Lead Author of the WG1 6th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

13:21 – 13: 57

Interactive discussion

13:57 – 14:09

Session 5: Investing in the future: Towards a sustainable and resilient recovery of our economies

The aim of this session is to identify best practices, concrete next steps, and recommendations on how to ensure a forward-looking post-COVID-19 recovery of our economies with focus on conditional stimulus and recovery packages that simultaneously address the current economic downturn and the climate crisis.

Expert: Mr. Andrew Raine, Head of International Environmental Law Unit, UN Environment Programme

14:09 - 14:40

Interactive discussion

14:41 – 14:52

Session 6: Mobilizing SDGs financing by maximizing existing revenue streams and budgetary expenditure towards the SDGs

Making the most of limited public resources requires a thoughtful review of a country's budgeting practices and regular communication with all relevant stakeholders. Addressing the shortfall in SDG financing due to the current economic crisis will require creating new sources of government revenue. However, the deficit can also be addressed by ensuring existing resources are made available and used effectively for public benefit. It is essential that parliamentarians understand the sources of funding available in their countries and take the time to consider different strategies on how best to prioritize these funds. This session will explore how parliaments can make use of their oversight tools to ensure government responsibilities are being upheld and that scarce financial resources are used to their greatest benefit.

Launch of the IPU publication: *Making the Most of Public Resources: A Guidance Note for Parliamentarians on Budgeting for the SDGs* – Ms. Kareen Jabre, Director of the Division of Programmes, IPU

Expert: Mr. Charles Chauvel, Global Lead, Inclusive Processes and Institutions, United Nations Development Programme

14:52 – 15:13

Interactive discussion

15:14– 15:24

Summary of the day's highlights – Rapporteur - Mr. Sihar Sitorus, Chair of the SDG Task Force, House of Representatives of Indonesia

15:24– 15:28

Intervention reflections

15:28 – 15:30

Presenting tomorrow

**Thursday, 30
September 2021**

10:00 – 10:10	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Mercy Juma, journalist, BBC News Africa</p> <p>Recap of day two - Dialogue between the moderator and Dr. Fadli Zon, Vice Chair of SDG Task Force, House of Representatives of Indonesia</p>
10:10 – 10: 15	<p>Session 7 – The way forward: Let’s share ideas of possible actions parliaments could put in place to achieve the SDGs without further delay!</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Mercy Juma, journalist, BBC News Africa</p>
10:15 – 11:04	<p>Interactive discussion</p> <p>MPs from all IPU geopolitical groups will have the opportunity to ask questions, share final comments and ideas on possible parliamentary actions that should be put in place to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.</p>
11:05 – 11:15:	<p>Adoption of the outcome document – Rapporteur - Mr. Sihar Sitorus, Chair of the SDG Task Force, House of Representatives of Indonesia</p>
11:15 – 11: 30	<p>Closing speeches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Rachmat Gobel, Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia - Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General, IPU