

143rd IPU Assembly

Madrid, Spain 26-30 November 2021



Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

C-IV/143/A.1 15 October 2021

Draft agenda

- 1. Adoption of the agenda
- 2. Approval of the summary record of the Committee's virtual session held during the 142nd IPU Assembly (April 2021)
- 3. The global vaccination campaign to end the COVID-19 pandemic: lessons from the WHO and WTO

Unequal access to the COVID-19 vaccine worldwide, with most people in developing countries left far behind, provides a clear illustration of a multilateral system in need of reform. Though many people called for the vaccine to be declared a "global public good", that has not happened.

Initiatives created to facilitate the global distribution of vaccines and the sharing of vaccine-making technologies have fallen far short of the mark. The strongly-held intellectual property rights of vaccine-making pharmaceutical companies have made it difficult for developing countries to produce the large quantities needed to meet current demand for billions of doses, and to do so at low cost.

This session will feature a discussion with WHO and WTO representatives on their agencies' role in the global vaccination campaign.

4. The UN Secretary-General's Report on Our Common Agenda

The Declaration adopted at the September 2020 High-Level Meeting on the occasion of the UN 75th Anniversary (UN75 Summit) included twelve commitments to tackle urgent global challenges within a stronger multilateral framework. Named "Our Common Agenda", these commitments aim to reset global efforts towards a more sustainable, just and peaceful world with the United Nations leading the way.

Following consultations with parliaments and other stakeholders, in September 2021 the UN Secretary-General issued a major report with recommendations on how to implement Our Common Agenda. Among other things, the Secretary-General notes: "I will also explore options to enhance parliamentary input at the United Nations, working with our existing partners."

This session will feature a presentation of the UNSG's Report on Our Common Agenda, with a particular focus on the ways and means by which parliaments can contribute to UN political outcomes and their implementation.

5. Elections

- (a) Elections to fill existing vacancies on the Bureau
- (b) Election of the President and Vice-President of the Committee
- 6. Any other business