



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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# 145th IPU Assembly

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145th IPU ASSEMBLY  
2022 | Kigali, Rwanda

## Workshop on nutrition

### *How parliamentary action can help safeguard nutrition gains*

*Organized jointly by the IPU, the SUN Movement and AUDA/NEPAD*

*Friday, 14 October, 9:00 – 10:30  
Room MH4, ground floor, KCC*

#### **Concept note**

#### **Objectives**

- (1) To identify specific ways in which parliaments can contribute to better nutrition outcomes while also working on climate change adaptation and mitigation and the COVID-19 pandemic recovery.
- (2) To identify how parliaments can help implement regional and global nutrition commitments, including the outcomes of the United Nations (UN) Food Systems Summit, Nutrition for Growth Summit and the African Union Year on Nutrition.

#### **Background**

In 2020, 3.1 billion people were unable to afford a healthy diet while in 2021, 828 million people were affected by hunger.<sup>1</sup> Globally, in 2021, 149 million children had stunted growth, 45 million were wasted and 39 million were overweight.<sup>2</sup> In just two years, the number of severely food-insecure people has doubled from 135 million before the COVID-19 pandemic to 276 million today.<sup>3</sup> At societal level this translates into a missed opportunity for social and economic development required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, the war in Ukraine has caused an alarming rise in food prices globally.<sup>4</sup> Many countries struggle with the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change is already adding to the global food and nutrition crisis through increased extreme weather events such as droughts and floods, affecting the most vulnerable populations. Inaction in addressing these challenges through policies and action threatens years of progress in reducing malnutrition which could affect generations to come.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/publications/sofi/2022/en/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.who.int/news/item/06-05-2021-the-unicef-who-wb-joint-child-malnutrition-estimates-group-released-new-data-for-2021>

<sup>3</sup> <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000138231/download/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://news.un.org/pages/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/GCRG\\_3rd-Brief\\_Aug3\\_2022\\_FINAL.pdf?utm\\_source=UNITED+NATIONS&utm\\_medium=BRIEF&utm\\_campaign=GC RG](https://news.un.org/pages/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/GCRG_3rd-Brief_Aug3_2022_FINAL.pdf?utm_source=UNITED+NATIONS&utm_medium=BRIEF&utm_campaign=GC RG)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-01076-5>

At the same time, there is reason for optimism. 2021 was seen as the Nutrition Year of Action, during which 117 national pathways<sup>6</sup> were presented for food systems change at the United Nations Food Systems Summit and a record of financial commitments – US\$ 27 billion<sup>7</sup> – were made at the [Nutrition for Growth Summit](https://nutritionforgrowth.org/) (N4G). Building on this momentum, the African Union declared 2022 as the [Year of Nutrition](#), reaffirming the need to intensify efforts to address food security and malnutrition, which remain major challenges on the continent. Unprecedented work has been done to identify effective strategies, policies and investments in nutrition – for example, through legislations on labelling and marketing, policy coherence, trading practices, monitoring access to nutritious diets, addressing inequalities and empowering consumers.

Parliaments have a unique opportunity to leverage their powers to hold governments accountable and shape the national response to the food and nutrition crisis to turn these ideas into reality. This workshop will share ideas and examples of how policy recommendations can be turned into action for better nutrition outcomes, especially for the most vulnerable, and achievement of the SDGs. It will also build on existing tools such as the IPU [handbook on food systems and nutrition](#). An interactive discussion will allow for peer-to-peer learning and the identification of lessons learned in different contexts.

The event will:

- (1) Present the main nutrition challenges, including the links between climate change and the food and nutrition crisis.
- (2) Provide an overview of what high-level political action is being taken, including a focus on the African Union Year of Nutrition and the Pan African Parliament (PAP) commitments for improved food and nutrition security in Africa.
- (3) Reflect on what is the expected outcome of this action and how parliaments can help implement what is agreed at the regional and global levels.

Agenda	
9:00 – 9:05	<b>Opening remarks</b> Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU
9:05 – 9:45	<b>Panel discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Gerda Verburg, SUN Movement Coordinator</li><li>• Member of Parliament (TBD)</li><li>• Representative of the Pan-African Parliament (TBD)</li></ul>
9:45 – 10:25	<b>Interactive discussion and Q&amp;A with participants</b>
10:25 – 10:30	<b>Closing</b>

### Useful resources

- IPU and FAO, [Handbook for parliamentarians: Food Systems and Nutrition](#) (2021)
- Committee on World Food Security, [Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition](#) (2021)
- FAO and WHO, [Sustainable healthy diets: guiding principles](#) (2019)

<sup>6</sup> <https://summitdialogues.org/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://nutritionforgrowth.org/events/>