



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific



UNECE

Enhancing the role of parliaments in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs: Taking forward the UNGA resolution

Monday, 19 June 2023

10:00–11:45 CEST (Geneva time)

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

In a historic first, in December 2022 the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 77/159 which highlighted the critical role of parliaments in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). Entitled [*Enhancing the role of parliaments in accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*](#), the resolution recognized the need for strengthened collaboration and cooperation among key institutions such as governments and parliaments in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While governments must lead on the SDGs, parliaments have a critical role to play with their lawmaking, oversight, budget and representative functions. Together they can boost the development process in all its dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a coherent and efficient way, leaving no one behind.

As we approach the midpoint to the 2030 Agenda, there is a need to raise the bar for SDG leadership, as progress towards the Global Goals is lagging at the global level. According to the latest report of the United Nations Secretary-General “[*Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet*](#)”, the SDGs are badly off track. Under current trends, by 2030 only about one third of countries will meet the target to halve national poverty levels. Shockingly, the number of people facing hunger and food insecurity could increase. Gender equality will not be achieved, and 286 years would still be required to close gender gaps in legal protection and remove discriminatory laws. With respect to climate change, carbon dioxide levels continue to rise to a level not seen in two million years and current actions to address the crisis are insufficient. The lack of SDG progress is widespread at the global level, but it is the developing countries and the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people that are paying the higher price.

While the overall picture is deeply concerning, data points to favourable opportunities that countries must take advantage of. One of the areas where some progress has been observed is SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy. This Goal will be reviewed in-depth at the 2023 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2023. According to available UN data, the global population with access to electricity has increased from 87% in 2015 to 91% in 2021, and 71% had access to clean cooking fuels and technologies, up from 64% in 2015.

Universal access to affordable and clean energy is a critical element for both sustainable development and tackling the climate crisis. To effectively facilitate a clean energy transition, increased political will and a substantial reallocation of resources from highly polluting energy sources, such as fossil fuels, towards renewable energy are required. Parliaments and parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to accelerate this change, and thus ensure that policies and budgets are aligned with all SDGs. They can keep track of their governments’ commitments, including through the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) during the HLPF – the annual international platform as well as through regional platforms such as the UN ESCAP and ECE Regional Forum on

Sustainable Development, and ensure that the needs of all, especially those in vulnerable and/or marginalized situations, are heard and duly taken into consideration.

Jointly organized by the IPU, the UNECE and UNESCAP, the event will enable parliaments from the concerned regions to meet virtually, discuss common concerns, exchange their experiences and last but not least identify tangible actions they could undertake to implement the aforementioned resolution, and thus contribute to the effective implementation of the SDGs.

The resolution is an important step also in the run up to the [2023 SDG Summit](#), the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the UN General Assembly that will take place on 18 and 19 September 2023. It is a critical opportunity for relevant stakeholders, including parliaments, to take stock of the progress on SDGs implementation, discuss how to respond to the multiple and interlocking crises facing the world, and accelerate actions to put the SDGs back on track.

Objectives

The webinar aims to:

- Promote discussions on the recently adopted UNGA resolution 77/159 “Enhancing the role of parliaments in accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals” and on how parliaments can implement it in an effective way.
- Provide parliaments with key data and insights on SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, and promote discussions and experience sharing on tangible ways parliaments can help accelerate a fair and just energy transition, through an SDG-informed scrutiny.
- Advocate for stronger parliamentary engagement in the VNRs and other relevant platforms, in monitoring government actions, strengthening national ownership and providing relevant information that can help governments better tailor national policies, development plans and budgets according to the needs and specificities of all, especially those that are in vulnerable and/or marginalized situations.

Date

19 June 2023, 10:00 – 11:45 (CEST) / 15:00 – 16:45 (ICT)

Participation

The webinar is open to parliaments of the ECE and ESCAP Member States: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

Language

The working languages will be English, French and Russian.

Webinar platform

The event will be hosted on Zoom.

Registration

All interested parliamentarians and parliamentary staff can submit their registration **by 13 June** through the following link: <https://forms.microsoft.com/e/gdEwAm7sAf>.