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Transforming agrifood systems for the health of people and the planet: The role of parliaments

Wednesday, 26 June 2024

10:00–11:30 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)

PROGRAMME

10:00	Opening session <i>Moderator: Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, ECE</i>
10:05	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General, IPU</i>- <i>Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP</i>
10:15–11:20	Part 1: Securing food for all thanks to inclusive, equitable and healthy agrifood systems (~30') <p>Agrifood systems are essential to human survival and to the eradication of hunger. The way in which food is produced, distributed and consumed has a large impact on people, and pose major hurdles leading, for example, to hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Agrifood systems can also be the source of inequalities. Women, children, elderly people, low-income consumers, peasants, agrifood workers, indigenous people and migrants are some such disadvantaged groups within agri-food systems.</p> <p>Parliaments can play an essential role in improving food security and driving the transition towards inclusive, equitable, healthy agrifood systems. Through their core functions (lawmaking, oversight, budget, representation) parliamentarians can help transform agrifood systems ensuring that the wellbeing of all people – with no one left behind – is at the heart of laws, policies, national plans, strategies and budgets.</p> <p>In this segment discussions will focus on how parliaments can create the right environment to improve people's lives by making agrifood systems inclusive, equitable and healthy for all. Attention will also be given to the importance of using disaggregated data and innovative practices to make this process efficient, just and comprehensive.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary, ECE</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Ms. Natalia Galat, Senior Technical Officer (SDG Coordination), Office of Sustainable Development Goals (OSG), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Waven William, President of the IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Member of Parliament (Seychelles) - Ms. Cherrie Atilano, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, AGREIA Agricultural Systems International Inc <p>The panel will address relevant questions, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the link between agrifood systems, inequalities and sustainable development? - How can parliaments promote the right to food? - How can parliaments make sure that laws, policies, national plans, strategies and budgets duly take into consideration the needs of people that are most affected by hunger, malnutrition and poverty? <p>Part 2: Mobilizing financial resources and collaboration for a green transition of agrifood systems (~30')</p> <p>According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the agrifood system “underpinning the world’s current dietary patterns is responsible for around 21–37 percent of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which reveals it to be a major driver of climate change”. This trend can change if actions are undertaken to make these systems resilient and sustainable. Improved agrifood systems could in fact generate economic benefits, create jobs and improve food security, while delivering over a third of the climate change solution.</p> <p>Various are the ways in which parliamentarians can use their powers to support climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts in the food and agriculture sector. The focus in this segment will be on the importance for parliaments to enhance actions to build climate-resilient and low-emission agrifood systems by way of increased national budgets, and internal and external collaboration.</p> <p>The panel will address relevant questions, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can agrifood systems support climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts? - How can sustainable agrifood systems help generate economic benefits, jobs and achieve other SDGs? - How can parliaments ensure that adequate funds are devoted to accelerate a green transition of agrifood systems? <p><i>A panel of speakers with diversified expertise and approaches to parliaments’ work will participate in the two segments. The focus of the first part will be on the impact of agrifood systems on the health of people – most notably those that are in more vulnerable situations, while the focus of the second part will be on their impacts on the planet. Through a talk show format, invited experts will share relevant information as well as insights that could help inform and enhance parliaments’ work in this area which is directly connected to the achievement of all SDGs. The parliamentary audience will be invited to interact with the experts, provide information on national practices, share personal experiences and considerations. To prompt active participation and create further opportunities to exchange ideas, participants will be invited to complete online polls during the two segments.</i></p>
11:20	Short summary of key takeaways
11:28	Evaluation survey
11:30	Closing