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## Parliamentary Forum at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

*Governance deficits and climate disasters:  
The case for parliamentary action*

Tuesday, 16 July  
Conference Room 2  
United Nations, New York

The Parliamentary Forum at the HLPF is designed to engage parliamentarians in assessing progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. Billed as a Special Event of the annual HLPF session, the Parliamentary Forum provides a major opportunity for parliamentary oversight of government action as well as for an exchange of best legislative practices on sustainable development from parliaments around the world.

This year's Parliamentary Forum will focus on two SDGs that are under review at the HLPF, namely, SDG 16, on peace, justice and strong institutions, and SDG 13, on climate change. In two fast-paced sessions, the meeting will highlight the concrete steps parliaments can make to advance these goals and help reset the SDGs as a whole.

### Programme

**10:00** Opening

Hon. Dr. Tulia Ackson, President of the IPU

**10:10** **SDG 16: Investing in parliaments as key institutions of governance**

[Goal 16](#) - on peace, justice and strong institutions – is a key enabler of the entire SDG framework that aims at drastically reducing poverty and inequality while re-setting the planet on a sustainable course. This goal recognizes that underlying the multiple crises of our time there is a fundamental *governance* challenge linked to people's trust in the institutions of government and of the institutional capacity to meet the needs of all people equitably and sustainably.

Addressing issues such as the rule of law, representative, effective and accountable institutions, fundamental freedoms, corruption, access to information, displacement, violence and

criminality, among others, Goal 16 provides the critical connective tissue that keeps societies together.

More than any other SDG, Goal 16 underscores the need for an effective public administration and institutions such as ministries, parliaments, the courts, local councils, public utilities and others that work for all of the people, leaving no one behind. Effective, accountable, representative institutions, are needed to incentivize people's civic engagement, support public services such as health care, education and environmental protection, curb tax evasion and corruption, and reduce those tensions in society that are often the root cause of conflict.

With progress on Goal 16 stalling, there is a clear need to strengthen national monitoring systems for this goal, including through better data collection. As the UN reports, Goal 16 is the second to last among the 17 SDGs in terms of proportion of countries with availability of data. Many countries lack necessary resources and capacities for data collection and significant data gaps remain in geographic coverage, timeliness and disaggregation.

The IPU was a strong advocate for a governance goal to be included in the SDGs. Today, key elements of Goal 16 lie at the heart of the [IPU's strategy](#) (2022- 2026). In particular, the IPU is working to improve the representation of women, youth and minorities in parliaments and to strengthen parliaments' oversight and legislative capacities. The IPU is working to develop or further refine standards of parliamentary practice to help parliaments improve their own oversight and legislative performance.

With this background in mind, this session will discuss the latest findings on Goal 16 progress, including those from partner organizations such as [UNDP](#). The discussion will highlight the concrete steps parliaments can make to strengthen their own institutional capacities for legislation, oversight and representation.

Questions for discussion:

- How can parliaments help accelerate progress on Goal 16 as a whole?
- How can governance institutions be made more effective, including through capacity building and better representation of the excluded and the most vulnerable in our society?
- How can the effectiveness of governance be improved, including through better data collection?

Moderator:

**Ms. Petra Bayr**, MP, National Council of Austria

Presenters:

**Mr. José García Ruminot**, Speaker of the Chilean Senate.

**Mr. Arvinn Gadgil**, Director, Policy Center for Governance, UNDP

**Ms. Ana Patricia Munoz**, Executive Director, International Budget Partnership

**11:30 SDG 13: Scaling-up adaptation and climate finance for a sustainable and resilient world**

Climate change is one of the most serious threats facing humankind. 2023 was the hottest year on record. While there is no country that is untouched by the impacts of the current climate crisis, developing countries that are the least responsible for climate change pay the biggest price. Temperature increases, rising sea levels, more intense storms, and increased flooding and droughts are undermining livelihoods and displacing people around the globe.

[Goal13](#) of the SDGs aims to promote urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts with a particular focus on developing countries. Despite recent progress in advancing both climate change mitigation and adaptation, the [Global Stocktake](#) that concluded at the 28<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), showed that the world is far off track for implementing the Paris Agreement goals on climate change which are closely intertwined with the SDGs, and particularly Goal13. Mobilization of climate finance, namely for developing countries, is seen as critical for accelerating climate action, especially in terms of building the adaptive capacity of frontline countries already experiencing severe impacts from climate change.

Increasing climate finance and expanding adaptation support is therefore essential for achieving SDG13 and the Paris Agreement goals. In the lead up to COP29 where climate finance will be the major topic of discussion, and building on the [Political declaration](#) of the high-level political forum in 2023, this session will explore how and why parliaments should advocate for increasing funding for climate action, with the aim of appropriate funding for adaptation alongside mitigation. Special attention will be paid to the unique financing and support needs of both Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries whose uneven exposure to climate shocks and stresses requires dedicated resources.

This session will focus on the legislative, budgetary and oversight efforts that parliaments can make to address the climate finance gap and support the reform of global financial institutions to enhance the accessibility of climate finance especially for developing countries, in line with the recommendations of the Outcome Document of the IPU Parliamentary Meeting at COP28, and recent IPU [resolutions](#) on climate. It will also identify clear opportunities for developed countries to support the adaptation needs of developing countries.

Questions for discussion:

- What are the biggest financial barriers to climate action in support of Goal13? What types of support do parliaments need to overcome these barriers?
- How can adaptation initiatives be better supported, especially in developing countries, to ensure long-term resilience building in the face of growing climate impacts?
- How can parliaments from developed and developing countries work together to agree on collective goals on climate finance, including for adaptation?

Moderator:

**Mr. David McGuinty**, MP, House of Commons of Canada, President of the IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs,

Presenters:

**Ms. Ligia Noronha**, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of UNEP New York Office

**Mr. Marc Ó Cathasaigh**, TD, Oireachtas of Ireland

**CSO/expert**

**12:50 Closing**

**Mr. Martin Chungong**, Secretary General of the IPU