



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

149th IPU Assembly

Geneva
13–17 October 2024



Workshop

Practical tools to achieve sustainable development

Monday, 14 October 2024, 09:00–10:30
Salle Genève (CCV, annex to the CICG)

Concept note

Background

The need to mobilize efforts for sustainable development is more urgent than ever before. Only five years remain before the unanimously adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) expire. According to the 2024 UN Sustainable Development Goals Report,¹ ironically, only 17% of SDG targets are on track to be met on time. Recent assessments show an alarming situation in which the world's poorest and most vulnerable are the most impacted. Climate change, environmental degradation, health inequalities, poverty, and socio-economic disparities continue to negatively affect the lives and livelihoods of people around the globe.

Parliaments have demonstrated commitment to advancing the 2030 Agenda. Through the IPU, numerous declarations and resolutions have been adopted that illustrate parliaments' political will and engagement to help ensure the world is more sustainable and resilient, and that no one is left behind. While there is strong political mobilization, there is a need to scale up coordinated actions to accelerate implementation of the SDGs through the work of parliaments.

The IPU has been involved in the creation of a range of practical tools to help parliaments strengthen national responses to pressing sustainable development challenges, particularly in low-resource settings. This workshop will raise awareness on leading tools that are readily available to enhance progress at the national level, particularly in the areas of health and climate change.

Objectives

This interactive workshop will bring together parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and subject matter experts to discuss how existing tools and capacity-building opportunities can help address key gaps and challenges in an effective manner. In particular, the workshop aims to:

- Showcase leading tools, particularly in relation to health and climate change, and provide hands-on demonstrations on how the work in a specific area can also help implement other SDGs
- Stimulate discussion on how the presented tools can help parliamentarians propose and implement structural solutions, through their core parliamentary functions (i.e. legislative, budgetary, oversight and representation)
- Gather feedback on additional capacity-building needs to enhance sustainable development actions in parliaments

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¹ UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024: unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2024/SG-SDG-Progress-Report-2024-advanced-unedited-version.pdf

The provisional list of tools and capacity-building opportunities to be presented and explored during this workshop includes:

1. [Health taxes](#) (Online course, IPU and World Health Organization (WHO))
2. [The role of parliaments and parliamentarians in strengthening health security preparedness](#) – (Online course, IPU and WHO)
3. Legal Preparedness Framework Guide – Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) Legal Preparedness Action Package
4. [Responding to climate change in the mountains: Opportunities for parliamentarians to act](#) – (Issues brief, IPU and Adaptation at Altitude Programme)
5. [Blue Planet Alliance](#) Fellowship Program

Practical arrangements

This 90-minute session will be open to all delegates at the 149th IPU Assembly. It will be organized in an interactive manner. Participants will be encouraged to benefit from the presence of subject matter experts, ask them questions and actively engage in discussions – including through the use of digital tools – on the challenges and opportunities involved in implementing the SDGs.

Interpretation will be provided in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.