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مجلس الشورى
The Shura Council
State of Qatar • دولة قطر



Parliamentary Forum at the Second World Summit for Social Development

Investing in people and institutions: The role of parliamentarians in social development

Concept note

Introduction

Social development is a fundamental component of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It lies at the heart of creating a just, inclusive, and equitable society where everyone has equal access to rights, resources and opportunities. To that end, a number of Goals relate directly to social development, including eradicating poverty, achieving gender equality, providing quality education, ensuring decent work, ensuring good health and well-being to all, and reducing inequalities.

Parliaments play a vital role in achieving social development by formulating laws and policies that enhance social justice, provide equal opportunities, and protect the rights of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in society. They also have the power to allocate budgets and ensure adequate funding for social programmes, while overseeing the transparent and equitable distribution of resources. Through oversight, they monitor the implementation of government measures and ensure effective execution of social development initiatives. Additionally, parliamentarians play a key role in community engagement and representation, serving as a bridge between governments and citizens.

In a global context marked by rising inequality, weakening social cohesion, and increasingly precarious employment, the [Tashkent Declaration](#), adopted at the 150th IPU Assembly in April 2025, reaffirmed the commitment of parliaments worldwide to place social development at the center of their legislative agendas. Alongside inclusive governance reforms, the Declaration emphasizes people as the world's most valuable resource and calls for economic policies that benefit all.

Building on the momentum of the Tashkent Declaration, the Shura Council of the State of Qatar and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) are organizing a Parliamentary Forum on the sidelines of the Second World Summit on Social Development.

This initiative is in line with the Shura Council's commitment as an active partner and contributor to the State of Qatar's efforts in the field of social development and with the IPU's work to strengthen parliamentary capacities and support efforts to advance the SDGs.

The Parliamentary Forum will contribute parliamentary perspectives to the Summit by addressing topics related to the role of parliaments and parliamentarians in promoting social development through their legislative, oversight and budgetary functions, and by mobilizing parliamentary support for enhancing social justice and empowering all segments of society. The Parliamentary Forum will enhance dialogue,

and the exchange of ideas and practical experiences between parliamentarians, experts and other stakeholders. This inclusive dialogue supports the vision of the UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/79/319 on enhanced collaboration between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU.

Objectives

- To enhance participants' awareness of the crucial role that parliaments play to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, including those directly related to social development.
- To build on the recommendations outlined in the Tashkent Declaration, enable meaningful interaction among participants on parliamentary actions and collaborative models that can advance social development.
- To provide a parliamentary contribution to the Second World Summit on Social Development.

Expected outcomes

- Participants better understand why parliaments play a crucial role in accelerating the implementation of the SDGs, including those directly related to social development.
- Participants discuss concrete recommendations to strengthen parliamentary action related to social development, including through collaborative approaches with other stakeholders.
- Parliamentary perspectives are presented to the Second World Summit on Social Development.

Practical arrangements

The Parliamentary Forum will be organized as an official side event to the Second World Summit on Social Development. It will take place in person. It will be open to all accredited and registered delegates to the Summit.

The event will have simultaneous interpretation in English and Arabic.