



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## Can reducing methane emissions build a healthier, more sustainable future?

A collaborative dialogue among parliaments, governments, civil society and experts

11 December 2025

09:30–11:00 CET (Geneva time) /15:30–17:00 ICT (Bangkok time)

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

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### Background

The climate change global challenge necessitates urgent and coordinated action across multiple sectors to ensure the well-being of both people and the planet. Methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, is responsible for a significant portion of global warming. About 60% of its emissions come from human activities, including fossil fuel industries such as oil, gas and coal, as well as agriculture, landfills and wastewater treatment. Methane emissions are over 80 times more harmful than carbon dioxide in the short term, making it second in its contribution to climate change.

In addition to being a climate issue, methane also contributes to ground-level ozone, a harmful air pollutant that affects public health, crops and the environment. Ground-level ozone can cause a wide range of respiratory issues, heart diseases and cancer. It reduces crop yields and quality resulting in economic losses for farmers, food shortages and higher food prices, and exacerbating food insecurity and poverty, especially in regions that are already vulnerable.

Reducing methane emissions should not just be an environmental imperative, but a smart economic move. From healthcare savings and improved agricultural productivity and air quality, to job creation in emerging sectors and increased global trade opportunities, the economic benefits of reducing methane emissions are significant and diversified.

Parliaments play a critical role in this area. They can enact targeted legislation, incentivize clean energy alternatives, strengthen regulations, encourage sustainable agricultural practices, and promote the use of existing technology and solutions to abate methane emissions. Additionally, to make cities and industrialization sustainable, parliaments can help improve air quality regulations to limit harmful pollutants, and support urban planning policies that improve waste management and energy use. This investment in a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable environment can drive economic growth, stability and prosperity at the national level and beyond.

To advance this critical work at the parliamentary level, it is essential to promote coherent plans and collaborations among concerned stakeholders at the local, national but also regional level. Effective communication and collaboration among parliaments, governments and other relevant stakeholders are essential to improving national development, making it sustainable through the exchange of data, expertise and best practices.

Jointly organized by the IPU, ESCAP and ECE, this online dialogue serves as a pre-event to the ESCAP and ECE 2026 regional forums on sustainable development which are intergovernmental meetings organized to review progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional level. The 2026 [Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development](#) will be held from 24 to 27 February 2026, and the ECE [Regional Forum on Sustainable Development](#) will be held on 21 and 22 April 2026.

## Objectives

This online dialogue among parliaments, governments, key stakeholders and experts aims to:

1. Share evidence-based insights on the impact of methane emissions on public health, air quality, and the environment (SDG 3; SDG 9; SDG 11).
  2. Exchange successful approaches and good practices highlighting the economic, environmental and social advantages of investing in methane emissions' reduction.
  3. Promote collaboration to advance the implementation of the Global Methane Pledge (SDG 7; 17).
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## Participation

This webinar is open to all parliaments, governments, civil society, experts and other relevant stakeholders who are interested in participating in this collaborative dialogue.

## Language

The working languages will be English and French.

## Event platform

The event will be hosted on Zoom.

## Registration

All interested parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, government representatives and officials can register by **5 December 2025** at the following link: <https://forms.gle/5Y3jQmt6GTTxigvm8>