



Second World Summit for Social Development

Parliamentary Forum at the Second World Summit for Social Development

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

4 November 2025, 15:00–16:15, Room 11

Organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Shura Council of the State of Qatar

Background on the event

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. The [Tashkent Declaration](#), adopted at the 150th IPU Assembly in April 2025, reaffirmed the commitment of parliaments worldwide to place social development at the centre of their legislative agendas. Building on the momentum of the Declaration, the Parliamentary Forum at the Second World Summit for Social Development contributed parliamentary perspectives to the Summit, enhanced dialogue and the exchange of ideas and practical experiences between parliamentarians, experts and other stakeholders.

Key issues discussed

- Parliamentarians are the critical link between people and policies. They must push for stronger progress on social development goals paying particular attention to underrepresented and vulnerable groups.
- Amidst concurrent crises, investing in people, particularly youth, is both a demographic necessity and a cornerstone of democratic resilience. Parliamentarians must be gatekeepers of youth participation and empowerment in a structured, sustainable and impactful way.
- Prioritizing the “furthest behind first” is a challenge for governance and inclusion. It requires a multidimensional approach to address inequalities and discrimination, as well as going beyond traditional economic measures of progress based on Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- Building inclusive institutions is essential for people-centred decision-making that fosters equitable social progress. Parliamentarians can foster social dialogue and representation of civil society to move from policy to practice, ensuring that global and national actions deliver tangible benefits for communities.
- Disasters and climate change divert resources from development to crisis response, calling for long-term policies and laws that integrate environmental and social goals to build resilience as a form of investment in society.
- Parliamentary cooperation is vital to ensure social policy issues remain a priority even amid economic and political challenges.

Key recommendations for action

- Strengthen parliamentary oversight through tools such as scorecards, integrating indicators on employment, social inclusion and poverty into economic planning.
- Empower citizens by supporting women empowerment, access to education, and participation in the labour market for women and underrepresented groups such as people living with disabilities.
- Promote inclusive governance by creating safe spaces for youth participation and fostering ongoing dialogue with civil society.
- Enact legislation and ensure the financing and implementation of national strategies that link social development with disaster risk reduction and climate resilience.
- Engage in regional and global platforms to exchange experiences, share lessons and build solidarity in advancing social goals.