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Parliamentary Forum at the 2026 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The SDGs at a critical juncture: Taking stock of implementation, turbocharging action, and envisioning the future of sustainable development

Tuesday, 14 July, 10:00–13:00
Conference Room 1
United Nations, New York

The Parliamentary Forum at the United Nations (UN) High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) engages parliamentarians in assessing progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level.

A Special Event of the official HLPF session, the Parliamentary Forum provides an 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 begin with a focus on SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, one of five goals under review at the 2026 HLPF. The rest of the session will be devoted to a discussion on the SDG framework as a whole and the way forward for sustainable development after 2030.

Draft programme

10:00 Opening

Dr. Tulia Ackson, President of the IPU

10:10 **SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

According to the United Nations 2025 SDG report, up to three billion people struggle to afford adequate housing and more than one billion live in slums and informal settlements. Achieving SDG 11 requires inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban policies that guarantee access to affordable housing and to basic services such as safe water and sanitation, efficient transport and green spaces for all.

National parliaments hold the levers to make this possible. Through legislation, budgets and regulatory frameworks, they can enable cities to provide energy-efficient housing, expand low-emission public transport and build resilient infrastructure to withstand floods, heatwaves and other climate shocks. Parliaments can also help address the health hazards linked to urban pollution, including methane from landfills, a greenhouse gas more than 28 times as potent as CO₂.

The challenge is no longer whether cities must transition, but how national action can ensure a fair, low-emission and inclusive urban future. This session will explore how parliaments can deliver cleaner air, healthier communities, affordable urban living and truly sustainable cities.

Leading questions:

1. How can laws and budgets ensure affordable, energy-efficient housing for all?
2. How can parliaments help cities reduce urban pollution, including methane emissions, and become more resilient to climate impacts?
3. How can parliaments strengthen coordination with local and city authorities to deliver inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban development?

11:30 **SDGs implementation: Lessons learned and the future of sustainable development**

The landmark UN Pact for the Future (September 2024) includes many provisions to “turbocharge” the implementation of the SDGs by 2030. At the same time, Action 12(b) of the Pact sets the 2027 SDG Summit as the time for a first reflection on the post-2030 sustainable development agenda.

The fact that most of the SDGs lag behind to varying degrees in almost all countries and that they may not be achieved fully on a global scale, should not be cause for complacency or inaction. On the contrary, after so many years of experience and investments in institutionalizing the SDGs, in building the required policy tools, and in developing critical oversight capacities, countries should work steadfastly to reap the rewards of those efforts.

This said, knowing that the full vision of the SDGs will likely remain unrealized, the time has come for governments, parliaments and all stakeholders from civil society and the private sector to take stock of the challenges encountered in implementing the SDGs and to draw from those lessons the guidance they need to shape the future of sustainable development for the post-2030 era.

This session will be focused on a retrospective look at SDGs implementation through parliaments as a way of mobilizing action in these critical four years and of reflecting on the ways in which a new post-2030 sustainable development agenda might be conceived.

Leading questions:

1. What lessons have parliaments learned from institutionalizing the SDGs over the years?
2. How can parliaments help propel the SDGs forward in the remaining time?
3. What should be the main criteria to guide the creation of a new sustainable development agenda for the post-2030 era?

12:50 **Closing**

Ms. Anda Filip, Secretary General of the IPU