



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Statement by Dr. Tulia Ackson President of the IPU

Ministerial Segment of the 2026 UN-HLPF

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President,

Distinguished ministers,

The adoption of the SDGs in 2015 was an acknowledgement that the world had arrived at a critical junction, where billions of people felt deprived in their essential needs, injustices of all kinds were becoming entrenched, and planetary boundaries were being trampled upon.

Despite some gains, the SDGs promise remains largely unrealized.

That's the bad news.

The good news is that we have choices. And by we I mean governments and parliaments together.

In the four years that are left, we can still make meaningful gains.

Just because we can't get the whole job done completely, it doesn't mean that we should let go of it altogether. Far from that!

Any action, big or small, that we can take for the SDGs today, will result in some improvement to the lives of our people.

The cumulative effect of these improvements can be profound, and they will open up new possibilities down the road.

As president of the IPU, I believe that there is still hope for this agenda.

We need to keep hope alive, for without hope, people give up, and everything is lost.

Let us hope that this HLPF session marks a fresh new start for the SDGs.

Let us hope that the ambitious agenda of the SDGs will continue on, in whatever form, after 2030.

The IPU looks forward to next year's SDGs Summit as a stepping stone toward a new framework for the post-2030 agenda.

A framework that will hopefully go beyond GDP, that is, less concerned with economic growth *as an end in itself* and more interested in actual improvements in human well-being.

Achieving the vision of the SDGs, which is about social justice, environmental sustainability, as well as peace, will be the acid test of the multilateral system as we know it.

People expect this system to deliver to them.

This is not rocket science. We have the know-how and the resources.

All we need is more political will.

Thank you.