



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Speech by Ms. Anda Filip, IPU Secretary General

Special Open Session with young MPs on parliamentary engagement in the SDGs
12th IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians

Samarkand, 5 September 2026

Madam Speaker/Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan,
Madam President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Madam United Nations Resident Coordinator,
Mr. UN Assistant Secretary General for Youth Affairs
Madam President of the IPU Bureau of Young Parliamentarians
Madam President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians,
Madam Chairperson of the Youth Parliament under the Senate of the Oliy Majilis,
Honourable Senators and Members of Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to address you at this Special Open Session with young MPs on parliamentary engagement in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Now more than ever, this is the right time to discuss how we can accelerate progress, how parliaments can ensure that international development commitments are turned into action, and how young parliamentarians, current and future political leaders, can help make a difference on the ground.

Please allow me first to express my profound gratitude to the leadership of the Parliament of Uzbekistan not only for its generous hospitality but also for its strong record of engagement in advancing the SDGs.

Uzbekistan has played a key role in promoting the landmark 2022 United Nations General Assembly resolution on *Enhancing the role of parliaments in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs*, as well as the 2026 resolution on *Enhancing the role of parliaments in accelerating social development*. These resolutions are particularly relevant as they acknowledge the crucial role and responsibility of parliaments with regard to national plans and strategies aimed at fully implementing the 2030 Agenda. They also recognize the value and contribution of youth to the Agenda's full and successful implementation.

As you are aware, the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 is at risk. Conflicts, climate change, widening inequalities, rising debt and a deepening financing gap are slowing progress, and in too many cases, reversing it. These are not abstract challenges; we can see their effects around us.

Who among us can still say that climate change is a distant threat? Just few days ago, a devastating flash flood in Nepal swept away homes, roads and bridges, taking many lives and inflicting lasting wounds on society.

Who among us has not heard citizens struggling with the rising cost of food and other basic necessities? In 2025, 284 million people were working and yet still living in extreme poverty. This is not merely an economic challenge – it threatens the stability and security that we have worked painstakingly to build over several decades.

Who among us has not seen a young person struggling to find a decent job? According to UN data, the global youth unemployment rate rose to 12.4% in 2025, equivalent to 67 million young people without work. Behind these numbers are millions of young people whose aspirations are being held back, whose potential remains untapped, and whose hopes for a better future are being put on hold.

Behind every statistic there is a person, a family, and a community that you, as parliamentarians, represent.

Vous disposez des moyens nécessaires pour améliorer leur vie grâce à vos fonctions parlementaires.

Vous pouvez vous assurer que les mesures d'adaptation aux changements climatiques sont adéquates et qu'elles permettent de protéger les personnes les plus exposées. Vous pouvez renforcer la législation du travail, protéger les droits des travailleurs et créer de meilleures opportunités d'emploi pour les jeunes. Vous pouvez veiller à ce qu'un budget suffisant soit consacré aux infrastructures résilientes, aux logements abordables et aux services publics essentiels. Vous pouvez être à l'écoute et faire en sorte que les voix et les besoins de tous soient pleinement pris en compte dans les processus décisionnels nationaux. Ce sont là, parmi tant d'autres, les moyens grâce auxquels vous pouvez transformer les ODD, de simples engagements mondiaux en résultats concrets pour les peuples.

At the IPU, we are very pleased to acknowledge the important initiatives that the Oliy Majlis has been pursuing to advance the implementation of the SDGs on the ground: from advocacy at the global level, to mainstreaming the SDGs across its core functions. I would like to commend the Oliy Majlis for these efforts which contribute to the implementation of the SDGs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sustainable development is particularly important for the IPU. Already one of our four main policy areas in the Strategy for 2022-2026, it remains a central priority in our Strategy for 2027-2031 – it is integrated throughout our work in a cross-cutting manner. I am particularly proud that, in approving the new Strategy, Member Parliaments reiterated their commitment to supporting action on sustainable development for all.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the IPU has implemented hundreds of awareness-raising and capacity-building activities at the global, regional and national levels. These actions have helped to: raise parliamentary awareness of development challenges; strengthen capacities to mainstream the SDGs into parliamentary functions; align legislation with international commitments; increase budgetary allocations; and initiate dialogues with constituents and relevant stakeholders. These actions have also provided parliaments with opportunities to exchange with and learn from their peers in order to achieve the SDGs through collaboration and parliamentary diplomacy. The IPU stands ready to further strengthen collaboration with your parliaments and provide technical support if and when needed.

Together we can do more, better and faster. So let us build on the momentum and on the important message that you, young parliamentarians, also delivered three years ago at the Ninth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, which was dedicated to accelerating action towards the SDGs.

I would like to conclude with a few concrete suggestions. First, keep the SDGs at the heart of your laws, budgets and actions, and use your oversight role to ensure effective delivery. Second, strengthen cooperation across political parties and borders. Third, look beyond 2030: ensure that the voices of young people help shape the next development agenda so that it can build a future of greater opportunities and hope for all.

I thank you.