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MOBILIZING PARLIAMENTS FOR THE SDGs

An official side event of the 2018 High Level Political Forum
Monday, 16 July, 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm
(Room to be announced)

United Nations Headquarters

DRAFT AGENDA

This event will provide an opportunity for parliamentarians to discuss the main theme of the 2018 HLPF: ***Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies***

Building on the [conclusions of the spring session of the IPU Committee on UN Affairs](#), the panel will consider key aspects of economic and environmental sustainability from the standpoint of one of the SDGs under review at the HLPF session, namely, Goal 12, on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.

As noted at their spring session, global consumption and production remains well above the environment's regenerative capacities. While economies might be growing in monetary terms, they are also undermining their own resource base and causing irreparable damage to the environment. The ecological footprint calculator very effectively shows that current consumption and production patterns continue to demand more of nature than nature can deliver. Most of this ecological deficit can be attributed to unsustainable lifestyles in developed countries. Meanwhile, most people in developing countries continue to be deprived of basic necessities and are often more exposed to the consequences of environmental degradation, including climate change, than the rest of the world.

In reviewing progress toward Goal 12, the UN report for the HLPF session notes, among other things, that "domestic material consumption (DMC) per unit of GDP changed globally from 1.29 to 1.41 kg per dollar of GDP from 2000 to 2015, indicating that more materials are required to produce a unit of output. DMC in absolute terms is growing globally, with consequences in terms of both resources pressures and associated environmental impacts"

(https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18541SG_SDG_Progress_Report_2018_ECOSOC.pdf).

To keep the discussion focused, participants will be invited to consider the following questions:

1. Are current approaches to change consumption and production patterns, particularly in developed countries, sufficient to restore long-term global environmental sustainability?
2. Can the global economy continue to be built on the assumption of infinite growth despite finite planetary boundaries?
3. Can a new green economy help countries meet people's needs consistent with nature's regenerative capacity, bearing in mind countries' vastly different levels of development?