



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Chemin du Pommier 5
Case postale 330
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva – Switzerland
www.ipu.org

Speech by Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, IPU President

2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
General Debate

New York, 19 July 2019

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the most ambitious agreement reached by humanity. The most significant challenge is inclusion. The most necessary step is peace. The most urgent commitment is to end exclusion.

While the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals is the task of all – governments, civil society, the private sector – the role of parliamentarians, of legislators, is undeniable. The Inter-Parliamentary Union has 179 member countries; we represent 46,000 parliamentarians worldwide. And yes, it is also our task to transform the planet in the 11 years set for us by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Our task in terms of legislation is to examine every law to make sure no one is left behind. But it is also very important to promote quotas. Since we are talking in particular about institutional design, we need more women and more young people in parliaments.

Budgets are a country's most important public policy tool and this agenda must reflect that. As for the work of monitoring and representation, we, parliamentarians, are the ones closest to the people. We are the ones who know the needs of migrants and refugees. We are the ones who are working with single mothers who are out of work, or with young people who can't get into education.

We, parliamentarians, are working through seminars, workshops, forums, trying to find solutions, trying to solve the problems facing humanity. Yes, we are listening, discussing, working, but also, today, we are reaffirming our commitment to work hand in hand with the United Nations and make this world more inclusive, fair and egalitarian.