



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Speech by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Learning journey on SDG-compliant legislation

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Parliamentary staff from around the world,

I would like to warmly welcome you to this learning journey on SDG-compliant legislation and thank you for your active engagement and willingness to build a community of practice for the effective realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As this is a new initiative in the IPU, I also thank you for helping us, as an organization, on our own learning journey to better use digital tools for enhanced learning among our Members and ourselves, which in turn contributes to meeting the IPU's Strategic Objective of building effective and empowered parliaments. We look forward to learning from you over the course of this learning journey.

Your participation sends a strong message about your commitment, and the commitment of your parliaments, to the SDGs. The IPU is delighted to be able to facilitate exchanges of good practice to inspire action and help ensure that legislation is effectively scrutinized through an SDG lens in parliaments.

We are committed to providing you with access to examples of good practice, international expertise, peer-to-peer learning, and collaboration on actions and tools that can help you and your parliaments better align legislation with the SDGs and promote their implementation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The deadline to achieve the SDGs is 2030. We are currently only eight years away from the ambitious goal of ending poverty, eradicating inequalities, and making the world a more sustainable place from the economic, social and environmental point of view. It is not going to be an easy task, considering the major challenges we are facing – the COVID-19 pandemic, which has reversed some of the progress made in human development, an economic and financial crisis, and the climate crisis.

To effectively achieve the SDGs, the role of parliaments is essential and business as usual is not an option. A lot has been said about parliamentarians' function in this process, but how about you, parliamentary staff? Thanks to your expertise and the institutional memory you possess, you are the thread of continuity from one legislature to another, and therefore have a crucial role to play in this effort. Thanks to your competencies, you can help parliament and its members integrate the SDG framework into their work in a comprehensive way and thus support the effective realization of the SDGs and greater policy coherence.

As we know, legislation has a direct and tangible impact on the lives of all. It can empower, provide legal certainty, and protect citizens and the environment in which we live. It can also obstruct good governance, produce unwanted effects and lead to corruption if it contains gaps or is formulated in an ambiguous way. Integrating the

SDGs into the lawmaking process not only helps shape a sound, comprehensive and coherent legal framework, but can also ensure that the needs of all segments of society are duly taken into account through inclusive and participatory approaches.

There are various important tasks you can undertake to help build an SDG culture in your parliament and contribute to the change we want to see in the world. For example, you can raise awareness among parliamentarians and other colleagues on the key principles of the SDG framework. You can collect and review data from reliable sources on the progress of SDG implementation and its impact on citizens. You can keep parliamentarians up to date with relevant information on the opportunities and challenges that should be addressed at the local, national or international level. Furthermore, you can provide advice and information on the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups, so that they are systematically taken into account.

I count on your strong commitment, expertise, openness to enhance parliamentary practices, and eagerness to exchange with others to identify possible strategies and practices that could be applied in the context of your own parliament to promote SDG-compliant legislation.

It is my hope that you will use this learning journey to share your experience with your peers, enrich your knowledge and become part of a community of practice that inspires actions to accelerate SDG implementation. I wish you a very successful learning journey with us.