



Inter-Parliamentary Union



Draft Concept Note & Agenda

Webinar for Parliamentarians: COVID-19 response and SDGs

June 9, 2020 | 8:00 am to 10:00 am EDT | 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm CEST | [Other Time Zones](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic represents the greatest threat to humanity since World War II. Despite the far-reaching impacts of this crisis, many governments have struggled for access for science-based recommendations to support an effective response, and governance challenges have also led to uncoordinated activities in a number of countries. As the emergency-phase of the epidemic wanes in many regions, with the numbers of new cases and deaths falling, policymakers are looking forward to solutions to reopen economies and begin transitions out of lockdown. Now, more than ever, science-based recommendations are needed alongside effective collaboration, to ensure that additional outbreaks are contained and the economic impacts are minimized.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by all countries in 2015 offer a useful framework for considering these challenges. They can help countries balance social goals, such as protecting public health and reducing inequality, with economic ones, such as ensuring decent work for all and eradicating extreme poverty. Further, they place environmental objectives on equal footing, and ask policymakers to consider how economic stimulus packages can not only support strong economic growth, but sustainable growth, such as fostering the transition to clean energy. While on lockdown, many cities experienced record-setting improvements in air quality and associated health problems; this is a clear demonstration of the rapidity with which ecosystem services can recover, and the improved quality of life which results. As economies reopen, we must preserve these gains while enabling people to return to work and economic growth to resume.

Fortunately, a number of Parliamentarians have shown leadership on these critical issues, and there is a growing body of policy evidence on effective responses. To ensure that good practices from leading countries as well as experts are shared with a wide array of policy makers, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and Parliamentarians for the Global Goals have come together to organize a high-level dialogue on re-opening the economy and achieving the SDGs during the Decade of Action. We invite all Parliamentarians from around the world to participate, and learn about effective solutions that can be adapted to their own national contexts.

This is the first in a series of webinars on COVID-19 response and SDGs designed for and with Parliamentarians around the world. They are meant as a forum for peer-to-peer learning, mutual inspiration and exchange of best practices that can inspire more political action on SDGs.

For this first webinar, a number of leading academics will record lightning talks or share articles on effective recovery measures. These materials will be made available to participants in advance, and will inform the discussion.

The event itself will be discussion-focused, and feature interactions between the experts and Parliamentarians. Speakers are currently being invited and a more detailed agenda will be available shortly.

Draft Agenda

- 7:30 am ETD* *Virtual meeting room opens*
- 8:00 am EDT Opening Remarks
- Jeffrey D. Sachs, President, Sustainable Development Solutions Network
 - Gabriela Cuevas, President, IPU
 - Kirsten Brosbøl, Founder, Parliamentarians for SDGs
- 8:20 am EDT Discussion I: A New Economic System for Prosperity & SDG Achievement
- 9:10 am EDT Discussion II: How do we get SDGs at the center of decision making in COVID-19 response?
- 9:50 am EDT Closing Remarks
- Jeffrey D. Sachs, President, Sustainable Development Solutions Network
 - Gabriela Cuevas, President, IPU
 - Kirsten Brosbøl, Founder, Parliamentarians for SDGs
- 10:00 am EDT* *Adjourn*