



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## Briefing session

### IPU's support to parliaments to strengthen their work on the SDGs: the self-assessment exercise and other activities

#### CONCEPT NOTE

##### Background

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The accompanying resolution *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* acknowledges the essential role of national parliaments for the effective implementation of the goals. Under the auspices of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), parliaments committed to translate the SDGs into enforceable domestic law, hold governments accountable for the SDGs implementation, and align budgets with national sustainable development plans.

The 2030 Agenda and its SDGs offer a unique framework that can help develop, implement and coordinate policies towards the achievement of inclusive development. They can also help countries improve their preparedness and response to the pandemic, and implement recovery plans that deliver social and environmental sustainability in a comprehensive manner. The SDGs should be the foundation on which to develop COVID-19 pandemic recovery strategies at all levels. Now more than ever, there is a need for parliaments to strengthen their actions to effectively contribute to SDGs implementation.

In order to assist parliaments in engaging with the SDGs and contributing to their implementation, in 2016 the IPU and UNDP developed the [self-assessment toolkit \*Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals\*](#). The toolkit is designed to enable parliaments to identify good practices, gaps, opportunities and lessons learned to effectively institutionalize and mainstream the various goals into parliamentary work. The conclusions of the self-assessment exercise allow parliaments to set action priorities to strengthen their response to the SDGs in all circumstances. Since October 2017, a number of parliaments have undertaken the self-assessment exercise using the IPU-UNDP toolkit. Thanks to this process they have been able to define their specific strategy or action plan to better deliver on the SDGs. Up to now, the SDGs self-assessment toolkit has been translated into 13 languages, enabling greater ownership and appropriation by national parliaments and making it the IPU's most translated publication.

Assisting parliaments in using the SDGs self-assessment toolkit and undertaking other capacity building activities to strengthen actions for the implementation of the SDGs by 2030 is one of IPU's priorities. Now that the world has entered the final decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, parliaments must be fit for purpose to effectively deliver on the SDGs and accelerate their efforts to reach their common vision by 2030. The IPU promotes the implementation of the SDGs through a holistic approach that is based on the interconnectedness of the Global Goals and focuses on their joint advancement. It also concentrates on specific goals that are aligned with its core work and that are instrumental for the implementation of the overall SDGs framework, namely health and climate change.

The IPU remains strongly committed to mobilizing parliaments to take action on the SDGs, and to providing support, platforms, information and tools so they can carry out their work effectively despite the severe challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, including in the areas of health and climate change. For example, the IPU in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme recently released the [Green Approaches to COVID-19 recovery: Policy note for parliamentarians](#) which aims to help build parliamentarians' capacity to contribute to an environmentally-sustainable recovery post-pandemic that is aligned with climate goals.

## **Objectives of the briefing session**

The briefing session aims to:

1. Provide information on the IPU-UNDP self-assessment toolkit *Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals*, and related exercise.
2. Provide information on capacity building activities to strengthen parliaments' work on the SDGs, as well as on virtual platforms to promote parliamentary exchanges and peer-to-peer learning.
3. Discuss the kind of support that can be provided in specific areas. In the area of health, support would focus on universal health coverage and health emergency preparedness, with particular attention to women's, children's and adolescents' health and barriers to access to health for vulnerable and marginalized populations; in the area of climate change, support can be provided to parliamentarians on strengthening climate legislation focused on clean and renewable energy and the implementation of green COVID-19 recovery strategies.
4. Discuss how the IPU could provide support to parliaments in the SDGs area (on-site or virtually) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Date:** Thursday, 1 July 2021

**Participation:** The briefing session is open to all parliaments.

**Languages:** The working languages will be English, French and Spanish.

**Virtual platform:** Zoom

**Registration :** <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvd-CorjorEtccbq40PtWnVZUPi66kA3Ww>