



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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136th IPU Assembly

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1- 5 April 2017



Standing Committee on Democracy
and Human Rights

Debate: Act Now for Adolescents: the Role of Parliamentarians in Promoting Adolescent Health and Well-being

Tuesday, 4 April 2017 (9.30-12.30)
Carnival Hall (ground floor, BICC)

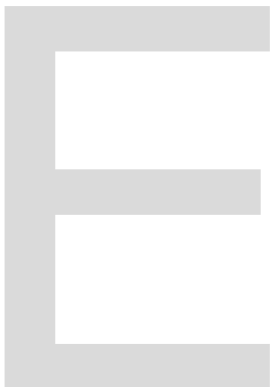
Concept note

Around one in six people in the world are adolescents. That means 1.2 billion people are aged 10 to 19. Adolescence is a critical phase for achieving physical, cognitive, emotional, social and economic capacities. These are the foundations of our future health and well-being, both as individual adults and as members of society. Adolescents are often seen as the healthiest social group. However, WHO estimates that in 2015 alone, 1.3 million adolescents died from preventable causes and millions of others suffered injuries and developed harmful behaviours with short- and long-term health-related and other impacts. Developments in global health, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, have recognized the importance of adolescent health and well-being.

The IPU has already highlighted the importance of maternal and child health. In 2012, it adopted a resolution entitled *Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children*. The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights scrutinized the resolution. While much has been done to make this resolution a reality, the focus on adolescent health has not been as strong in the past. However, adolescents are now becoming a higher priority on the development agenda. This panel will look at good practices and discuss the challenges of ensuring that adolescents are able to realize their right to health and well-being.

Participants will be invited to discuss the following key questions:

- What are the main issues affecting adolescents' health and well-being?
- What can parliaments do to promote healthy practices during adolescence and better protect young people from health risks? What good parliamentary practices exist? What personal experiences can parliamentarians share?
- How can parliaments ensure national and international accountability for adolescent health and well-being?
- How can parliamentarians support a comprehensive response involving different factors, such as education, social protection and nutrition? How can MPs use the Sustainable Development Goals to make progress on adolescent health and well-being?



#IPU136