



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

United Nations Headquarters, New York
31 August to 2 September 2015



Conference
Item 4

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Panel discussion on *Translating the SDGs into action*

3 p.m. – 6 p.m., 1 September 2015
Conference Room 4 (Level -1B)

The Hanoi Declaration, adopted at this year's 132nd IPU Assembly, presents the overall vision of parliamentary engagement in the new era of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Declaration sketches out the practical actions parliaments should consider to operationalize the goals and to track progress in their respective countries - <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/132/Rpt-gendebate.htm>.

Actions recommended by the Hanoi Declaration include: mainstreaming the SDGs in all deliberative processes, eliminating silos and other internal divisions; integrating the SDGs with other key commitments on climate change, disaster risk reduction and financing for development; helping shape national sustainable development plans, translating the global framework into country-specific goals and targets; holding governments to account for the implementation of national sustainable development plans; ensuring sufficient budget allocations to support the implementation of the SDGs, including through tax reforms at national and international levels; and, most critically, engaging actively with citizens to garner their feedback on the actual results of implementation.

All of these actions presuppose strong parliaments endowed with sufficient legal authority and capacities to hold their governments to account.

The draft Declaration of the Fourth World Speakers' Conference reaffirms the role of parliaments in the implementation of the SDGs and of the broader post-2015 development agenda. Holding the highest office in their respective parliaments, and as political leaders in their own right, Speakers have a special responsibility to steer the debate on the SDGs, inspire action within their parliaments, and promote the goals among the wider public. Strong parliamentary engagement will ensure national ownership of the goals and propel governments, civil society, and citizens at large into action.

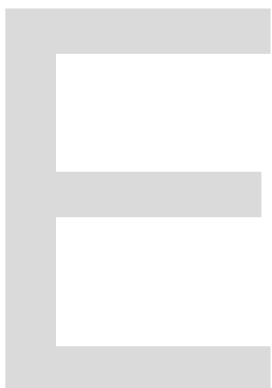
Organization of the panel discussion

This interactive panel discussion will be conducted in interview style, without official statements. After an exchange of questions and reflections between the moderator and panellists, participants will contribute their own thoughts and pose questions for further discussion.

The panel discussion is open to Speakers of Parliament and other registered participants in the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. Participants will be seated according to their country nameplates.

Participants may indicate their wish to speak by pressing on the button at each desk. The line-up will be managed by an electronic system. The list of speakers will appear on a screen in front of the moderator at the podium.

Participants are encouraged to make brief comments or questions that focus on challenges, innovations and good practices. Prepared speeches are strongly discouraged.



Programme of work

3.00 p.m. Welcome remarks by moderator: Mr. Saber Chowdhury, President of the IPU

3.05 p.m. ***National ownership, citizens' participation and domestication of the SDGs***

Panellists

- Ms. Anne Makinda, Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania
- Mr. Patrick Herminie, Speaker of the National Assembly of Seychelles
- Ms. Blanca María Alcalá Ruiz, President of the Latin American Parliament, Senator and former Mayor of Puebla (Mexico)
- Mr. Mitchell Toomey, Executive Director of the UN Millennium Campaign

Leading questions

1. What does "national ownership" of the goals really mean? What role can parliaments play?
2. As formulated do the 17 goals resonate with people? How can parliaments and MPs engage their constituents on the SDGs?
3. How can citizens contribute to monitoring progress on the goals at the national level?
4. How should parliaments be involved in the process of developing their national sustainable development plan? Are there good examples?

4.30 p.m. ***Mainstreaming the SDGs in the budget and legislative process, overcoming silos, monitoring national and global progress through parliaments***

Panellists

- Mr. Norbert Lammert, Speaker of the Bundestag of Germany
- Ms. Donatille Mukabalisa, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Rwanda
- Ms. Lorena Guadelupo Pena Mendoza, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador
- Mr. Atef Altarawneh, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Jordan
- Mr. Sinh Hung Nguyen, Speaker of the National Assembly of Viet Nam

Leading questions

1. How can MPs work together on pro-SDGs policies and across party lines?
2. How can parliaments *institutionalize* the SDGs (duly translated into national goals and targets) so that the goals inform all acts of parliament over the next 15 years?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of creating a dedicated parliamentary body (i.e., committee, caucus, or advisory group) to coordinate work on the SDGs?
4. How can parliaments help secure the required resources (financial and non-financial) for the SDGs?
5. Can national accountability processes support monitoring of the SDGs at the global level? Are parliaments equipped to be involved in global monitoring?

5.55 p.m. Summary points and closing remarks