



SESSIONS REPORT

FIRST GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON ACHIEVING **THE SDGs**

Turning the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic into opportunities for parliaments to achieve the SDGs

28-30 September 2021

*Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union
and the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia*

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Turning the Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic into Opportunities for Parliaments to Achieve the SDGs

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Opening Session Report

Session Title	:	Opening Session
Date	:	Tuesday, 28 September 2021
Time	:	15:00 - 15:33 WIB
Place	:	Bali Room, Kempinski Hotel, Jakarta
Coordinator	:	BKSAP DPR
Key Speakers	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani, Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives • Duerte Pacheco, IPU President • Amina Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General
Facilitators / Interveners	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Mercy Juma, BBC Africa • Digital Correspondent: Aleksandra Blagojevic, IPU
Participants	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Parliaments • IPU Representatives • UN Representatives • NGO Representatives • IGO Representatives • Public (Online Streaming)
Objective of the Session	:	Understanding the meeting's goals and objectives, sharing expectations, setting the tone, and highlighting important issues for further discussions.

Summary of the Session

Opening Remark 1

Dr. (H.C.) Puan Maharani, Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives

- Highlighted the devastating effects of COVID-19 pandemic which has not only caused a massive crisis in humanity, but also a significant hindrance in attaining the SDGs goals by 2030. More than 124 millions of people have fallen below the poverty line, and more than 131 millions are on the verge of extreme famine. Thus, this global parliamentary meeting is very timely and important.
- The SDGs have provided key guidance for countries around the world in achieving the global development agenda. Through assessing its implementation, we could see which countries are on-track, struggling, or in dire need of international assistance to meet the expected targets.

- Asserted four important points to be done by the international community in strengthening the implementation of SDGs agenda:
 - 1) Pushing for the acceleration of pandemic recovery. According to WHO—5,7 billion vaccines have been shot worldwide. However, 73% of all vaccines were only received by citizens of 10 countries, whereas the vaccination rate is still less than 2% in Africa. If all those vaccines were inoculated equally to 7,8 billion people worldwide, then 36% of the world population would have been fully vaccinated. Therefore, a global plan to end the pandemic is urgently needed. The plan should include a global vaccination roadmap to guarantee fair and equitable distribution of vaccines, vaccine-sharing mechanism, accelerate global vaccine development and manufacture by assuring the diversification of vaccine production centers, technology transfer and intellectual property rights waiver, and elimination of vaccine discrimination.
 - 2) Economic and fiscal policy coordination to achieve global economic recovery. The IMF has projected the global economy to grow by 6% in 2021, and 4.9% in 2022. However, there are still huge inequalities in the rate of economic growth and recovery among countries, as those with higher vaccination rates tend to grow faster. Post-pandemic recovery must also be carried out by ensuring inclusive and green economic growth.
 - 3) Coordinated efforts to help poor and developing countries overcoming the social impacts of pandemic; such as inequality, hunger, and gender disparity. Despite facing a pandemic, developed countries still have the ability to help poor countries in achieving the SDGs. In fact, the developed countries have been able to provide a pandemic recovery package as much as 28% of their GDP. Meanwhile, emerging countries can only provide 6% of their GDP, and poor countries are only able to allocate 2% of their GDP.
 - 4) Continue to maintain global commitments in tackling climate change, as the climate crisis will have a negative impact on the achievement of SDGs. The world is currently at a tipping point—UNFCCC has recently reported that the vast rise of emission will reach 16% in 2030, causing the earth's temperature to increase up to 2,7°C by the end of this century. Thus, we need strong political will and leadership, including from parliaments, to escalate national ambitions in reducing carbon emission and facilitating adaptation measures.
- A united world is needed to solve these common problems—no country can do it on their own. The global community has sufficient knowledge, technology and resources, but lacks the commitment to work together and help each other. In this case, domestic politics can affect a country's foreign policy, international position and commitment towards transnational cooperation. Therefore, parliaments play a significant role in encouraging government and society to continue to increase efforts for international cooperation, foster mutual trust and global solidarity. Strong political support from the parliaments are also imperative in achieving the SDGs, mainly to ensure that the global commitments are well-translated into

national action, allocate sufficient budgets and resources, as well as provide adequate regulations.

- Despite the pandemic, Indonesia remains strongly committed to implementing the SDGs and focuses on the crucial areas of social protection and safety nets, national health system, industry, tourism, green economy investment, and disaster resilience.
- Conveyed highest appreciation to the IPU for co-hosting this event. Called all participants to show together that parliaments are part of the solution in solving the global problems, including in achieving the SDGs.

Opening Remark 2

Duerte Pacheco, IPU President

- Conveyed appreciation to the Indonesian House of Representatives for their active contribution and collaboration in co-organizing the event, which represents a significant milestone in parliamentary collaboration in the process of enforcing the SDGs outcomes. The presence of parliaments and parliamentarians in this meeting has sent a strong message of their commitments in the implementation of SDGs worldwide. Despite the significant challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the IPU is very proud to still be able to create opportunities for parliamentarians around the world to exchange their experiences, good practices, and lessons learned in this challenging time.
- More than 4 million people have lost their lives to COVID-19 globally, and there are millions more who have fallen into extreme poverty as a result of it. COVID-19 has threatened the development progress that has been made over decades, and has changed our collective priorities. It shows the real face of inequality and delays the crucial transitions to a more inclusive economy. The COVID-19 pandemic is also a major challenge to the implementation progress of SDGs. We must act now, and we must build back better.
- Parliament is the guardian of society and has a crucial role to play in this effort. At the 128th IPU Assembly in 2020, parliaments reassured their commitments and important roles in the implementation of SDGs. Through the IPU declaration on SDGs, parliaments have stepped up their actions for the world, their commitments to attain sustainable development, and to continue those efforts for the people of the world. Parliaments need to do their utmost to strengthen the national ownership of SDGs, translate the goals into domestic regulations, and to hold the government accountable in achieving those global commitments.
- The SDGs commitments are still valid and need to be kept. Parliamentarians have an obligation, privilege, and strategic position to influence the change that they want to see in the world. They are instrumental in the realization of SDGs, mainly through their ability to convert voluntary commitments into enforceable legal instruments, encourage the government taking the right policies and strategic steps, as well as the adoption of the national budget.

- In presuming their mandates to deliver the SDGs, parliamentarians should remember three main points: Commitment, Cooperation, and Coordination. Commitment--because it will be the basis for our action; cooperation--because it will facilitate resources towards the real activities; and coordination for the achievement of efficient efforts.
- IPU commended the efforts made by parliaments during this period which has drastically changed our lives. At the same time, IPU is convinced that only if the SDGs are fully adopted in the hearts of parliaments and governments' works, we can start seeing significant progress. IPU counted on this meeting and on the active engagement of parliamentarians to produce tangible recommendation; which would be a great momentum for the implementation of SDGs.

Keynote Speech

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary General

- Thanking the Indonesian House of Representatives and the IPU for jointly organizing this event, as parliaments have crucial and central roles in promoting the SDGs agenda. The collective efforts to recover from the pandemic has given us the opportunity to formulate better policies to address global issues that are exacerbated by the pandemic, such as poverty, inequality in the health sector, as well as institutional weaknesses.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the importance of the 2030 agenda which has a holistic vision for a healthy and prosperous society. It is very important to help other UN member states to overcome these comprehensive issues included in the SDGs for a better, more peaceful and prosperous society.
- In 2015, the IPU Assembly adopted the Hanoi Declaration on SDGs, declared to turn the words into action. Since then, parliamentarians have worked hard to fulfill this commitment. The IPU and parliamentarians has also regularly contributed in the UN forums to keep the momentum going. At the national level, parliamentarians have aligned their national development strategies with the 2030 agenda, established oversight mechanisms, and adopted legislations to support the implementation of SDGs.
- When the pandemic started and the international community faced the health and socio-economic crisis, parliaments rose to the challenge. They oversaw the government's response measures towards this unprecedented crisis, adopted appropriate budgets to fight the pandemic for the most vulnerable, and ensured that governments are accountable to the public.
- With the pandemic still ongoing, parliamentarians must continue to maintain this role. Parliamentarians are also encouraged to increase their efforts to adopt the changes needed to achieve the SDGs. They must continue to promote a prosperous society, reduce carbon emissions, push for a green economy, create decent jobs—especially for women and youth, and realize a more inclusive world.



First Global Parliamentary Meeting on Achieving the SDGs

Turning the Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic into Opportunities for Parliaments to Achieve the SDGs

28-30 September 2021

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Indonesian House of Representatives

Session 1 Report

Session Title	:	<i>How are parliaments contributing to the realization of the SDGs during the COVID-19 pandemic?</i>
Date	:	Tuesday, 28 September 2021
Time	:	15:33 - 16:15 WIB
Place	:	Bali Room, Kempinski Hotel, Jakarta
Coordinator	:	BKSAP DPR
Key Speakers	:	Kareen Jabre, Director of the Divisions of Programmes, IPU
Facilitators / Interveners	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Mercy Juma, BBC Africa • Digital Correspondent: Aleksandra Blagojevic, IPU • Discussant: Hon. Dr. Mardani Ali Sera, Vice Chair of BKSAP, the Indonesian House of Representatives • Interveners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Inaya Ezzeddin (Lebanon) - Hon. Lork Kheng (Cambodia) - Hon. Rohani Abdul Karim (Malaysia) - Prof. Kraissid Tontisirin (Thailand)
Participants	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Parliaments • IPU Representatives • UN Representatives • NGO Representatives • IGO Representatives • Public (Online Streaming)
Objective of the Session	:	The session focused on how parliament contribute on the realization of SDGs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Summary of the Session

Expert Presentation

Ms. Kareen Jabre, Director of the Divisions of Programmes of the IPU

- We have seen a dramatic change around the world for the past two years, the pandemic has affected everyone. To overcome it is to leave no one behind. The effects of the pandemic have been great and will be long lasting, and the linkage with the SDGs and their realization are therefore obvious. We have heard in the

introductory remarks how both go hand in hand. The effective recovery from this pandemic must go with enforcing efforts to implement the SDGs.

- According to available data, the global extreme poverty rose for the very first time in 20 years. Hundreds of millions of people are pushed back into extreme poverty and facing chronic hunger today. Estimate suggests that in 2020 saw an increase of between 119 - 124 million of the global poor. Based on current projections, the global poverty rate will rise up to 7% or around 600 million people in 2030, missing the target in eradicating poverty.
- The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted various health services and posed major threats beyond the disease itself. Furthermore, we know of the economic impact and downturn due to the crisis, there has been an increase of inequalities within and among countries. This pandemic has disproportionately threatened women and marginal segments of the societies. Violence against women and girls has been intensified, child marriage which was on a declined in recent years is expected to rise and women have suffered a disproportionately higher job loss.
- This crisis will continue to have catastrophic effects on people's life if recovery strategies and development plans do not incorporate SDGs lenses. Policies and legislations are required to address further crises, mitigate risks, and address structural problems in a comprehensive way. The Pandemic is a setback, but we should not use it to divert the attention from the SDGs implementation.
- In the IPU, the views and values of SDGs are more relevant than ever. IPU provides the roadmap that can help countries improve their preparedness response to the pandemic more effectively and implement recovery plans that deliver on social and environmental sustainability in an inclusive manner. Within that framework, Parliament are instrumental and key players, they are in the position to influence policies and budget to ensure that the COVID-19 Pandemic responses and recovery strategies embrace and integrate the SDGs framework in its entirety. Their Legislative, representational, oversight and budgetary responsibilities enables them to improve the health coverage of people they represent, combat inequalities, and build a peaceful and just society.
- IPU has been documenting how parliaments have been organizing their works around the SDGs since 2018. Back then, thanks to the feedback from parliaments, IPU managed to carry out the first overview parliamentary involvement of the SDGs. The overall conclusion is that Parliaments are more engaged in SDGs than the MDGs, raising awareness initiatives within the parliaments to inform MPs on SDGs. Structures, mainstream and coordinate the work of parliament on SDGs exist in the majority of parliament surveyed. IPU also found strong evidence of involvement in overseeing implementation of the SDGs and monitoring of results and participation in country reporting, though this could be improved.
- IPU has also launched a survey to collect information on institutionalized practices of SDGs into parliamentary methods and action to improve access to health and to

- strengthen response to climate change and measures to ensure that the voices of the underrepresented, marginalized and vulnerable groups are taken into account.
- IPU documentation on initiative and best practices of parliament in integrating SDGs in their work and monitoring process, to name just a few—for examples:
 - Parliament of Thailand now examined each draft legislation submitted against certain SDGs criteria. Thailand also established a standing committee on SDGs incorporation with the Office of the Economics and Social Development Council that ensures the national budget allocation meets the criteria of the SDGs in a systematic manner.
 - Parliament of Hungary conducts biannual monitoring reports in reviewing the implementation of SDGs. and These reports provide indicators, qualitative analysis and review on social responses and actions implemented in the past two years. These reports provide valuable information for the parliament to monitor effectively and oversee the SDGs implementation.
 - Parliament of Mexico the senate enhanced the mandate of the existing working group on the follow up of the SDGs and created a special commission for SDGs to follow up the implementation of SDGS, with the support of all parliamentary groups and with the unanimous support of the leaders of the Senate. The objective of this special commission is to follow up on the SDGs implementation, promoting reforms and bills that facilitate their realization.
 - The COVID-19 Pandemic has disrupted parliament's works in many ways. The role of parliament is more vital than ever to pass emergency laws, to scrutinize government action and make sure that despite the challenges faced, actions of the SDGs are promoted and implemented. So, in what ways and to what extent has the COVID-19 Pandemic has disturbed the positive initiatives parliament has been implementing on the SDGs? Have these difficult times triggered discussions or reflections on the best ways to address existing and structural problems in a holistic way? Has the SDGs Pandemic Response offered opportunities to address more structural and holistic reforms that will facilitate the implementation of the SDGs? Have Parliamentary bodies in the SDGs been able to pursue their mandate during the pandemic? Have parliamentarians been able to reach out to the most vulnerable segment of society to better understand their specific needs?
 - Highlighted two points from IPU's initial feedback from the parliament. We have seen an increase of awareness during the COVID-19 period, an increased attention placed on the most vulnerable and gender inequality, such as:
 - Parliament of Canada has conducted meetings that specifically focused on discussing domestic violence during the lockdown. It held extensive debates on the economic impact of the lockdowns which disproportionately affected women who make out for the majority of single parents' household and healthcare workers. This has led to stronger recognition of gender differences and the need to disaggregated data collection in the development

of various government emergency programmes and policies and ensuring gender representation in the parliament.

- The Parliament of Columbia has launched a gender sensitive response campaign through social media for gender-based violence
 - The Parliament of Guatemala has adopted an emergency law to protect at-risk communities, specifically low-income groups that are usually left unable to access aid during the pandemic.
 - The Parliament of Morocco created a more inclusive and transparent system in the legislative process, through technology and digitalization. Parliament has taken more time in engaging with the constituents during the pandemic, which also reduces their carbon emissions.
- We know priorities among nations are different between countries, and each country is also struggling in recovering from the COVID-19 crisis. But this is a perfect momentum to tackle the crisis and create concrete efforts to guide nations in pushing more reforms through SDGs.

Moderated Discussion

Hon. Dr. Mardani Sera, Vice Chair of BKSAP, Indonesian House of Representatives

- SDGs is a common responsibility, not only a government task. Parliamentarians play a critical role in accelerating SDGs through budget allocation to pandemic programs related to SDGs and support government programs for SDGs. Parliamentarians also have a role in localization and socializing SDGs along with promoting parliamentary agenda to our constituents. Parliamentarians have a key role in bridging the government and the people in bringing reforms in the SDGs.
- What Indonesian parliament has done for SDGs:
 - Forming a working committee for SDGs.
 - SDGs Dashboard, in supporting Parliamentarian to monitor implementations and achievement in real time at the local level
 - Parliament has also conducted SDGs Days, to localize SDGs in the local government and mobilizing parliaments in supporting the SDGs
 - During the pandemic, parliament played a role in allocating budget for pandemic mitigation.
 - Indonesia also distributed over 136 million doses, where parliamentarians oversee the distribution.
- Parliamentarians must focus on co-innovation and collaboration with other nations and non-parliamentary stakeholders to push more implementation.

Summary of the Interactive Discussion

Intervention 1 – Lebanon

Hon. Inaya Ezzeddin, Member of the Lebanese National Assembly

- The Parliament of Lebanon follows the path of many parliaments in accelerating laws in allocating budget and penalties, in the health sectors and creating safety

net, as well as criminalizing sexual laws. Despite this all, this is short in satisfying the people because of the economic crisis that have occurred before the pandemic. This uncovers the fragility and the unsustainability of these systems in these sectors. Health and food are treated as commodities, and it has created the economic collapse during the pandemic.

- Lebanon's efforts in accelerating the SDGs:
 - Conducting legislative framework analysis in food security that goes across sectors.
 - Create an agenda for legislation that would ensure basic rights for the people.

Intervention 2 – Cambodia

Hon. Lork Kheng, Member of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

- For almost 2 years we have faced an unprecedented pandemic which has hampered social economic development and other areas, both regionally and nationally. As parliament we support government in promoting multilateral system, and respect cooperation with other countries
- Cambodian parliament efforts:
 - Adoption of law against the prevention of COVID-19
 - Extensively raising awareness of COVID-19
 - Taking higher attention for health safety
 - Supporting the Royal Government of Thailand in efforts such as:
 - Establishing of COVID-19 recovery preparedness
 - Strengthening healthcare system and coverage
 - Strengthening strategy, prevention, and vaccination
 - Launching support for workers and businesses affected by the pandemic and lockdowns
 - Strengthening collaboration with various stakeholders
 - Strengthening collaboration with WHO
 - distribution of vaccination
 - Parliament must be active in overseeing government activities and fostering unity and trust with their people

Intervention 3 – Malaysia

Hon. Rohani Abdul Karim, Member of the Parliament of Malaysia

- Malaysian Parliament's efforts in accelerating the SDGs:
 - Parliament of Malaysia has established an all-party commission APPGM SDGs to deliver 2030 agenda on SDGs, it is a bipartisan membership, and the exterior
 - The Role of APPGM SDGs
 - a) Localizing mapping of problems 65-70% require intervention of local government.

- b) Act to facilitate the representatives of the people and review the legislation implementation.
- c) 10 pilot projects for constituencies for monitoring and evaluation projects. The result on the high-level political forum.

Intervention 4 - Thailand

Prof. (Emeritus) Kraissid Tontisirin, Member of the Senate of Thailand

- Thailand Parliament's efforts in accelerating SDGs:
 - 1) Creating Subcommittee in monitoring the implementation of SDGs in the government, supporting in the national report.
 - 2) Formulating a bill in mitigating the impact of COVID-19, for workers and those affected by the pandemic.
 - 3) formulating a bill in protecting food production during the pandemic.
 - 4) Health coverage are sufficient to protect people.
 - 5) Ensuring people's participation in vaccine distribution.



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Session 2 Report

Session Title	:	<i>Leave no one behind: Are we keeping the promise?</i>
Date	:	Tuesday, 28 September 2021
Time	:	16:21 - 16:57 WIB
Place	:	Bali Room, Kempinski Hotel, Jakarta
Coordinator	:	BKSAP DPR
Key Speakers	:	Dr. Fernand de Varennes RP, UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
Facilitators / Interveners	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Mercy Juma, BBC Africa • Digital Correspondent: Aleksandra Blagojevic, IPU • Discussant: Lesia Vasylenko, President of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians • Interveners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sen. Martha Lucía Mícher Camarena (México) - Sen. Sherry Rehman (Pakistan) - Hon. Qin Yuefei (China) - Hon. Maritza del Socorro Espinales (Nicaragua)
Participants	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Parliaments • IPU Representatives • UN Representatives • NGO Representatives • IGO Representatives • Public (Online Streaming)
Objective of the Session	:	This session focused on why and how parliaments should enact laws that effectively promote equal opportunities, reduce inequalities, and eliminate possible discriminations.

Summary of the Session

Expert Presentation

Dr. Fernand de Varennes RP, UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues

- Responding to the main topic of this session, we have yet been able to keep the promise of not leaving anyone behind. The inequalities have been growing significantly in the past years, both at the community level within the country, as well as among countries, exacerbated by the effects of the pandemic. Many more

minorities, indigenous people and marginalized groups are still left behind, despite the strong commitment that has been made through the SDGs.

- Noting that in large part, the failure of keeping this promise is because of the inherent weakness in the SDGs itself, that the targets and indicators set on SDGs are not sufficiently people-centered. If the ultimate goal is to not leave anyone behind, then all the goals and targets must be focused on people and logically oriented towards the most vulnerable—while in fact, they do not.
- In achieving the target, the marginalized groups which include women, immigrants, indigenous communities, and other minority groups, are at risk to be left behind. Despite being the most vulnerable, those groups are in fact not sufficiently prioritized in the SDGs. Hence, it is not surprising that inequality persists, and that in some countries these goals might not be met.
- As the Special Report on Minority Issues will highlight in the upcoming UNGA, only about 30% of 169 SDGs targets are people-centered, and only about 35% of 241 indicators are focused on human, in which the progress is measured in terms of human development and human rights. It is important to keep in mind that the SDGs should not be more about development than the people. This would risk marginalized groups falling even more behind in the human development agenda, exacerbated by the existing systemic discrimination.
- Moreover, the report also states that out of 169 SDGs targets, only 25 targets (15%) focus on gender, and only 17 specific targets (10%) focus on youth and other minority groups. Out of 231 unique SDGs indicators, only 46 indicators (19%) focus on gender, 2 indicators (under 1%) touched indigenous people, and none mentioned minority groups at all.
- The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has urged the transformative agenda to curb inequalities and systemic discrimination, combat economic and political marginalization experienced by minority groups, especially people of the African descent. Countries should ensure that there are no barriers to accessing people's rights.
- Among those who might be left behind are minority groups who also face multi-dimensional discrimination and multiple marginalization, disadvantaged in their position, and are vulnerable to persecution and non-fulfillment of their rights. Will their situation be improved within the framework of the 2030 agenda, or will it fall further behind when the majority of people can fully enjoy their rights in social and economic development? It seems this crucial question has not been considered in the SDGs indicators and targets.
- Highlighting the importance of intersectionality in addressing discrimination problems. There are 16 countries with the poorest groups of women, indigenous people, and minority groups which most likely are not receiving the benefits of development and basic services echoed by the SDGs. Their situation is not improving—in fact it is getting worse in many places—in part due to the pandemic, but most importantly because of the lack of focus. Minority groups do not have equal access to vaccination programs and other health services in general. There is

also a gap in information access, as there are countries which do not consider access to information for indigenous people in their native languages, for instance.

- The truly effective policies must focus on where and how the supports are needed, reach out to those who are already left behind. Parliament should enact laws that promote equal opportunities, reduce inequality, eliminate discrimination, and eradicate poverty in all forms; by considering the special needs of minorities and marginalized people.
- Three key areas for consideration:
 1. Parliaments need to compile data on economic and social indicators, by taking into account the socio-economic impacts on indigenous people to develop appropriate policy responses.
 2. Always consider the impacts experienced by minority groups and indigenous people, which can exacerbate their exclusion and marginalization. All development initiatives should include their opinion by conducting consultation and providing comprehensive analysis on the impacts on their livelihood.
 3. Action plans on how local minorities can be prioritized in the development projects and receive the benefits, which are in line with the human rights approach. It is necessary to prohibit discrimination in the sharing of such benefits.

Moderated Discussion

Dr. Fernand de Varennes RP, UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues

Q: Where should we place the young people? What are your strategic recommendations for parliamentarians to enhance the contribution of young people towards the SDGs?

- The best way to engage with youth is to reach them out and communicate as effectively as possible. This can mainly be achieved by using education and appropriate language, to ensure that they have a meaningful voice and effective presence. It is also important to assure that children receive quality education which reflects their culture, realities, and context. UNESCO has many studies showings that education in children's native languages is the best way to ensure that they receive appropriate quality education and basic skills, achieve their full capacity and be able to function in society. Thus, engaging with children and young people means engaging in their language.

Hon. Lesia Vasylenko, President of Forum of Women Parliamentarians

Q: How far are women from achieving the SDGs relative to men?

- Unfortunately, we are still far away from saying that our decision-making process has been done inclusively. At the end of the day, those decisions cannot be a hundred percent effective as they cannot deal with specific issues that all members of society are facing. If women are not adequately represented in the decision-making process, then their needs and interests will not be accounted for in the same way as the men's. Thus, we cannot build an equal and just society.

- The gender equality issue must be mainstreamed in parliamentary debate and discourse, both at the national and international level. This issue needs to be represented strongly in all political platforms. Only by having such discussion, we could be closer to breaking the glass ceiling—not just for having women representatives in the parliament, but also for achieving an equal and just society. The decisions made must have a positive impact and represent the interests of various elements of society.
- It is very concerning to hear male colleagues who tried to put gender issues aside. As a global society, we are still far away from an equal world where everyone can have equal access to decision-making. Until we achieve that, we cannot allow for the gender equality debate and discussion to be pushed out of the table.

Q: *What do women parliamentarians need to do more?*

- Women parliamentarians have an important role and crucial position as those who have broken the glass ceiling. They represent and set examples for all the girls who are considering a career in politics, and play a significant role in enacting policies which will impact women and other marginalized groups. It is their responsibility to ensure gender equality issues are discussed, and assure a strong position in the decision-making instead of just complementing the political declaration process. Women parliamentarians must unite their efforts, such as by participating in women caucuses at their respective parliaments, provide support at the local level, and guide other women and girls to achieve the desired change.

Summary of the Interactive Discussion

Intervention 1 - Mexico

Sen. Martha Lucía Mícher Camarena, Chair of the Committee for Gender Equality of the Senate of Mexico

- Mexico's current administration has managed to face the pandemic, in which more than 99 million Mexicans have now been vaccinated. They pay focus and attention to the members of population who are so often overlooked and historically forgotten, fight against discrimination and racism, as well as work to support women, children, and indigenous people. All social and development projects were carefully maintained during the pandemic, so that everyone has access, and no one is left behind.
- The Senate of Mexico is proud to say that they are the second country in the world which has modified their constitution to achieve equality and historically achieve gender parity. Mexico has 48,2% of women in the Deputies Chamber and 49,2% in the Senate, an unprecedented stride in realizing gender parity in the parliament.
- Mexican Parliament has passed several legislations related to this issue, including those preventing digital violence, as well as political and gender-based violence to prevent violence against women. The women parliamentarians in Mexico are not only fighting to break the glass ceiling, but also to fix the broken system.

- Some objectives that they want to achieve: i) Economic and welfare equality, as women are usually the last to be hired and the first to be fired during the pandemic; ii) Political autonomy and autonomy for women's bodies. There can be no violence against women—femicide is a crime in Mexico, and no woman should be imprisoned for abortion. This is deemed as one of their victories among Latin American countries, and they are very proud to be able to contribute to the progress of achieving the rights of women and children through the SDGs.

Intervention 2 - Pakistan

Sen. Sherry Rehman, Member of the Public Accounts Committee and National Security Committee of the Senate of Pakistan

- Although they had responded quickly, Pakistan had been affected the most by the impact of pandemic restrictions and the collapse of their public health system. There are four provinces in the country that have been swiftly locked down from the beginning of the pandemic. However, the inability to quickly implement a vaccination program has posed sensitive risks—especially for vulnerable groups.
- The framework and objectives of the SDGs have always been discussed in the Pakistani parliament. Sen. Rehman shared some challenges in attaining those agenda in the post-pandemic setting, including the unemployment problem, which still lingers despite the economic recovery. The femicides and domestic violence cases have also escalated during the pandemic, and sadly the reporting of those cases has been decreasing.
- Women, children, frontline workers and other vulnerable groups were greatly affected during the multiple waves of the pandemic; especially those without sufficient access to banking services. When fiscal incentives and other social assistance are provided by the government—or when local governments have succeeded in mitigating acute economic risks, many people are still left behind. Pakistan has administered at least 79 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine so far and has started to inoculate children aged 12 years old or older, but the delta variant has had a huge impact in the country.
- Existing laws and initiatives to empower women and mitigating the effects of pandemic in the Pakistani Parliament:
 - a. Domestic Violence Bill to tackle the increasing rate of femicide;
 - b. Anti-Harassment Law to protect workers against sexual and any form of harassment in the workplace;
 - c. Domestic Workers Act to regulate the registration of undocumented domestic workers, provide the employment status and prescribe a minimum wage and benefits for domestic workers. This law is very important, as informal economies are one of the worst affected sectors during the pandemic; and
 - d. Sen. Rehman had also introduced an (Amendment) Bill on Child Marriage Restraint, which was passed in 2019 to increase the minimum age of marriage

for female to 18 years old. The bill was aimed at ending child marriage in Pakistan, successfully passed with an overwhelming majority.

- Although the promise of "*no one left behind*" must be upheld, the reality on the ground is greatly challenged by the lack of resources and capacity. Hoping to hear more ideas and experience from other parliamentarians to inspire and motivate each other in achieving the SDGs targets.

Intervention 3 - China

Hon. Qin Yuefei, Member of the 13th National People's Congress

- In February this year, China took important steps to tackle extreme poverty. In the past year alone, China has lifted tens of millions of people out of poverty and transformed many villages into thriving societies. This achievement was made possible through ¥1,6 trillion funding. These measures were also seen and endorsed at the Chinese local congress.
- In addition, there are several policies and initiatives that have been taken by the Chinese Parliament to ensure that no one is left behind. In addressing the economic disparity, the Chinese parliamentarians realize the need for actual knowledge about conditions on the ground, so they are increasingly turning to grassroots groups to identify the problems. They finally focus on how the village products could reach urban consumers.
- To protect the poor, Hon. Yuefei proposed a consumption program within the national budget, which was supported by other grassroots parliamentarians. This program provides incentives to government agencies and other institutions, such as universities and health institutions across China to buy products from the poorest communities. It also includes purchasing produce from small villages, and some trade unions are also starting to employ workers from those area. There are also tax incentives for businesses and private partners for distributing and consuming products from the poorest areas.
- As a result, more than ¥1.3 billion was spent to buy these products across China, as an effort to alleviate poverty. In terms of ensuring inclusivity and keeping the promise of leaving no one behind, parliaments must pay attention and connect to the most underprivileged groups.

Intervention 4 - Nicaragua

Hon. Maritza del Socorro Espinales, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Nicaragua

- Nicaraguan Parliament is committed to not leaving anyone behind. They have established tools and information systems within the National Assembly, including the national plan to eliminate poverty and monitor the achievement of SDGs. They evaluate the indicators both qualitatively and quantitatively, to see how their works impact the most marginalized groups, including women and indigenous people.

- The parliament and government of Nicaragua are highly committed to realizing social justice in our state. They are also committed to eliminate discrimination and ensure the fair distribution of natural resources to eradicate poverty and hunger, as well as strengthen the education and health sectors.
- The information system has allowed parliamentarians to evaluate and monitor quarterly progress of each specific issue and see the suitability of their measures towards the achievement of SDGs targets. At the government and parliamentary level, Nicaragua has three pillars: socialism, christianity, and solidarity—as well as strong commitment to not leaving anyone behind.



First Global Parliamentary Meeting on Achieving the SDGs

Turning the Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic into Opportunities for Parliaments to Achieve the SDGs

28-30 September 2021

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Indonesian House of Representatives

Session 3 Report

Session Title	:	<i>COVID-19: A wakeup call to make investment in universal health coverage and health emergency preparedness a priority</i>
Date	:	Tuesday, 28 September 2021
Time	:	17:00 - 18:00 WIB
Place	:	Bali Room, Kempinski Hotel, Jakarta
Coordinator	:	BKSAP DPR
Key Speakers	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director General • Hon. Dr. Sihar Sitorus, Vice Chair of BKSAP
Facilitators / Interveners	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Mercy Juma, BBC Africa • Digital Correspondent: Aleksandra Blagojevic, IPU • Discussant: Hon. Given Katuta, Zambia MP and Chair of the IPU Advisory Group on Health • Interveners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Nam In-Soon (South Korea) - Hon. Ali Hussein Nasser Al-Ansi (Yemen) • Reflection Contributor: Hon. Dyah Roro Esti
Participants	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Parliaments • IPU Representatives • UN Representatives • NGO Representatives • IGO Representatives • Public (Online Streaming)
Session Description		<p>This session was aimed to be a wakeup call to make investment in the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and prioritizing health and emergency preparedness. The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected efforts towards UHC, and we are recognizing the importance of parliament to help rectify this. Main questions for the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can countries make progress towards UHC, despite the COVID-19 Pandemic? • How can Parliaments take leadership and going beyond mere political commitments to UHC to ensure health

	<p>policies and reforms are backed up by the necessary legal frameworks?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can parliament advocate for the investment of health as part of comprehensive efforts for social reforms despite budgetary constraints?
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Summary of The Session

Keynote Speaker

Mr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the WHO

- The covid 19 is a powerful demonstration of the value of scientific research for curbing global health threats. The development of tests and vaccines in record time has allowed us to diagnose and prevent this disease faster than any in history. But the inequitable distribution of vaccines and diagnostics as well as oxygen and personal protective equipment is driving a two-track pandemic.
- Of the more of 6 billion vaccines distributed globally, more than 75% have gone to high and upper middle-income countries. The longer vaccine inequity persists, the longer the virus will keep circulating and the higher risk of the new variants emerging that evade vaccines. This is short sighted and self-defeating. Vaccines, diagnostic and other results of innovative research are powerful tools, but they're only tools. What matters is how we use them. If they become yet another reason for people to be left behind, then we have failed.
- Even as we respond to COVID-19, we must work to address the underlying structural inequalities that puts so many people at risk. Safeguarding global health begins with safeguarding local health in communities, with strong primary healthcare, are the foundation of Universal Health Coverage. Research and equitable access to the fruits of research is an essential part of WHO mission to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable.

Moderated Discussion

Hon. Given Katuta, Member of Parliament of Zambia and Chair of the IPU Advisory Group on Health

- The IPU Advisory Group on Health serves as the focal point of the legislative issue on health and helps identify strategies for parliaments in the implementation of international commitments. In 2019, the IPU adopted a landmark resolution on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and this is a useful instrument that can support the commitments and guide them in advancing the national health agenda, which is critical to achieve sustainable development goals.
- This is why we are paying particular attention to the implementation of the resolution. No doubt during the COVID-19 pandemic, parliaments have reported a disruption of the health of their citizens, especially various marginalized communities' access to healthcare. But we have hope because parliaments and parliamentarians are stepping up, to the challenge and taking active steps, to

ensure oversight to COVID 19 response and to strengthen health laws, and to adopt increasing health allocation budget.

- We are encouraged by this commitment and to share all the parliament's initiatives, liaisons, and challenges, in this way we can continue learning from each other and crafting solutions for the wellbeing of our society and our people.

Summary of the Interactive Discussion

Intervention 1 – South Korea

Hon. Nam In-Soon, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea

- From the early stage of the pandemic, South Korea has introduced a national health insurance scheme to ensure and broaden health services and coverages for its people. During the pandemic South Korea has also focused on increasing the quality of healthcare, actively working with the WHO to support health initiatives during the pandemic and helping other countries with aid and support during this time of crisis.

Intervention 2 – Yemen

Hon. Ali Hussein Nasser Al-Ansi, Member of the House of Representatives, Yemen

- In Yemen, the SDGs achievement indicators have declined since 2019 due to many debilitating events such as open conflicts and food crisis that occurs before the pandemics. Currently, Yemen does not have a central government and a central bank, so it relies heavily on the aid, support and interventions from countries like Saudi Arabia and also the WHO during the pandemic.
- Yemen has very bad economic indicators and progress. Civil servants in Yemen have not received a salary for one year and we are already having trouble utilizing natural resources to support the economy. The currency exchange rate in Yemen has rose up to 500%, negatively impacted the livelihood of the people
- Yemen suffered many setbacks during the pandemic especially when facing issues such as vaccination and building a healthcare system. There are a few questions that should be put to our attention:
 - In some developed countries, the government are already giving booster shots to its people. Is this unfair to other countries that are still having trouble getting the first vaccine?
 - How could we maintain parliamentary commitments in Universal Healthcare (UHC)? UHC is political in nature and should be on our common agenda. As parliament we are also obliged to amend and shape legislation and objectives in the health sector and collaborate with civil society to identify health priorities to ensure budgets for universal healthcare. It is a long process to build, and this needs strong commitments and political will.

Interactive Discussion 1

Hon. Jose Ignacio Echaniz, Member of Parliament of Spain and Vice Chair of the IPU Advisory Group on Health

- **Question:** *What are your main takeaways on the steps parliamentarians can embrace in their countries, so we make progress towards UHC stronger especially during the COVID-19?*
- **Answer:** UHC is not only about health policies, but it is also a political decision that parliament must take. Just look at the inequity and access through vaccines during the pandemic. We don't speak of inequity only, but also to ensure that everyone could have access to the vaccine and health services. Equity of vaccines is less than 3% and women and children are the most vulnerable to accessing vaccines and healthcare services. It is important for parliaments to look at how they can utilize the tools in the parliament in creating policies related to universal health coverage.

Interactive Discussion 2

Gaudenz Silberschmidt, Director, Health and Multilateral Partnerships of WHO

- **Question 1:** *What can we do to protect the progress and accelerate, especially when we talk about SDGs No. 3? Are there specific things that parliamentarians can use to help them accelerate and to protect their progress for SDGs No. 3?*
- **Answer:** Firstly thanking the collaboration between WHO and the IPU in the framework of MoU signed in 2018. As said before, IPU have adopted a landmark resolution on UHC in 2019 and that actually answer the question from before. UHC and Pandemic preparedness are two sides of the same coin, so it is the same investment, that means through the budgetary process you can invest in health, especially in primary healthcare through the legislative process you can ensure access for all, so really follow what Dr. Tedros have concluded at the end, to keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable.

On the issue of inequity and access to vaccines, we are in a total inequitable situation, this shows from the 5.9 million doses of vaccines, where they have gone and where they have not gone. It's of interest to us all that we don't speak of equity only, but that we start to really share to give access to all and I would encourage parliamentarians to do the same at the national level. because probably you will have similar maps if you look within your nations. Give that equity, serve the vulnerable and give access to all.

WHO will also always stand ready to give more briefings most on the pandemic, but also on the way forward and to really engage and give concrete collaboration on how you can use parliamentary tools to promote health, serve the vulnerable and keep the world safe, and to give the UHC to each citizen.

- **Question 2:** *When you look at countries in the global map, we can see countries that less than 3 % of their population have been vaccinated, yet we have other nations and other countries where people get booster shots. In countries with lower vaccination rates, where women, children and adolescents are the most burden*

during this pandemic, how can parliamentarians help their nation navigate this issue of vaccine access and vaccine equity? or is this something beyond them?

- **Answer:** Vaccine equity has been a global challenge, but first we should look at the positive side, the world has never been this quick in developing and distributing vaccines. However, the inequity is still unacceptable. Thus, we are working with the pharmaceutical companies that are starting to share technology transfer, which has opened in South Africa to boost local production. WHO is also working with countries and asked to share on the COVAX facilities, it is still insufficient on what is happening, the tools are there but we need to push these efforts. WHO has also clearly called for countries not to pursue booster shots except for immunosuppressed people. The vaccine must be evenly distributed especially for the countries where the vulnerable and the healthcare workers have not yet received the vaccine. We must push forward to have 40% coverage by the end of this year, and to really cover the world through next year because no country will be out of the pandemic if some countries are not protected.

Rapporteur's Summary

Hon. Dr. Sihar Sitorus, Vice Chair of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, the Indonesian House of Representatives

- It is encouraging that parliament is answering the call to tackle national problems with SDGs in mind, so in accumulations we are also tackling global problems. We also notice that the presence of COVID-19 has a cross path with our efforts in achieving SDGs by 2030. All speakers have also mentioned that COVID-19 have cost a regression on the positive progress in the implementation of SDGs. We can see that more than 100 million people fall into extreme poverty and go hungry. Our responses into tackling COVID-19 have deferred from one country to another. We acknowledge that resource disparity between developed, emerging, and poor countries have affected the speed of economic recovery. The consequences of this disparity hit the marginalized, underrepresented, vulnerable people the most, especially those in the emerging and poor country. We also notice the notion of building back to better and no one left behind in moving forward into implementing the SDGs.
- Another point is that we go about in achieving the SDGs by embracing the role of parliament at the heart of transformational change in two fronts, one bringing the SDGs to the grassroot level to the constituencies and responses to COVID-19.
- Parliament in most countries plays an important role to boost the government and society to both cooperation and solidarity. parliaments are in unique position whereby they have authority to enact law and legislation and turning voluntary commitments such as SDGs into an enforceable initiative through government policies, as SDGs touched the lives of all people, it is imperative that all parties support the implementation of SDGs and the institutionalization of SDGs as an institutionalize framework in all areas. Parliament proactively uses their

legislation, budgetary, overseeing and monitoring function to ensure the government is accountable for the goals to which they have been subscribed to.

- We also notice that we've touched on many key issues which consist on the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, inequalities and gender disparities, universal health coverage and health emergency preparedness, economic transformation, SDGs financing and education if we look deeper in these key issues, it is all about the people and we need to focus on the people in achieving the SDGs. As a people, we need to act with austerity, care and inclusive society so that our slogan in leaving no one behind comes true.
- Another important point is that climate change becomes a critical issue in attaining the SDGs by 2030. We have seen an estimate of an increase of temperature of 2.7 degrees Celsius by 2030. As a result, gas emissions will go up by 16% in 2030. Therefore, we need to find ways to curb this greenhouse gas emission through focusing in developing green economy such as low carbon, development of renewable energy and blue economy
- Another worrying estimate is the extreme poverty rate of 7% in 2030 which is much higher than our target to reach 0% of extreme poverty in 2030. When we open the makeup of this extreme poverty, then we'll see another distribution of women, children, indigenous people, minorities, marginalized and other underrepresented people.
- Investment of UHC and emergency preparedness is critical in ensuring that everyone will receive good health services. All in all, parliament aspire to build a just and inclusive society through implementation of SDGs.
- The pandemic poses a major threat beyond the disease. this pandemic has disproportionately threatening women, marginal communities, violence against women, child marriage, joblessness and so on.

Reflections

Hon. Dyah Roro Esti, Member of the Indonesian House of Representatives

- Given on the COVID-19 Pandemic, there are two main points that we need to take on into consideration, firstly the role of parliamentarians in ensuring that government maintain a higher level of public spending on health this is very much relevant to goal number 3, when we talk about the SDGs concerning good health and wellbeing. We are increasingly aware that tackling the COVID-19 pandemic requires a balance of political will, budget allocation and implementation. in relations of the COVID-19 Pandemic, pandemic have the authority to also oversee tracking, tracing and vaccination. In Indonesia, 42.5% of the population are already vaccinated with the first dosage, and 23.84% are already vaccinated with both doses.
- We've also come to realize the importance of redefining the measurement of economic growth while balancing back the negative impact of the pandemic across the world. As we are nearing 2030, it's vital to put the SDGs at the center when we

speak of growth. Parliaments have a significant role in ensuring that this happens. With the example of Indonesia, we have 11 commissions, all dealing with different sectors and all having relevance with the SDGs. For example, commission 4 overseeing the environment, fisheries and forestry, commission 7 overseeing the energy, industry, research and innovation, commission 9 dealing with the health sectors, commission 10 with education, tourism, culture and so on. So, there are commissions catering to the realization of SDGs and given that every commission within the Indonesian parliament has a unique role when it comes to ensuring that the SDGs goals are being met.

- This pandemic holistically has made us realize more on the importance in creating a more of the importance in creating sustainable future for all, so we are not only concern with how we can grow as a country or as nations across the world, 5 years down the line, but how can we sustain ourselves to continue to grow 20 - 50 years down the line. Essentially through the spirit of Gotong Royong which essentially means collectively working together side by side will we be able to achieve SDGs together.



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Session 4 Report

Session Title	:	<i>Climate change is real and it's intensifying: What are we doing about it?</i>
Date	:	Wednesday, 29 September 2021
Time	:	18:18 - 18:50 WIB
Place	:	Bali Room, Kempinski Hotel, Jakarta
Coordinator	:	BKSAP DPR
Key Speakers	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Fadli Zon, Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (BKSAP), the Indonesian House of Representatives • Ms. Maisa Rojas, Director of the Center for Climate and Resilience Research, University of Chile
Facilitators / Interveners	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Mercy Juma, BBC Africa • Digital Correspondent: Aleksandra Blagojevic, IPU • Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Saber Chowdhury, Honorary President of IPU and Bangladesh MP - Ms. Paula Albritto, Head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Regional (UNDRR) Europe • Interveners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Dr. Kelvin Yii (Malaysia) - Hon. Maritza Espinales (Nicaragua) - Hon. Souleyman Zerkani (Algeria) - Sen. Didier Mumengi Tshikudi (DR Congo) - Hon. Issa Mardo Djabir (Chad) - Member of People's Assembly of Syria
Participants	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Parliaments • IPU Representatives • UN Representatives • NGO Representatives • IGO Representatives • Public (Online Streaming)
Objective of the Session	:	This session focused on showing the latest scientific evidence on climate change and discusses ways for parliamentarians to translate science into policy and political action.

Summary of the Session

Moderated Dialogue - Recap of Day 1

Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon, Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, the Indonesian House of Representatives

Q: What are your highlights and key takeaways from yesterday's sessions?

- Yesterday's meeting was very insightful with more than 100 participants attending, reflecting how parliamentarians are passionate about the SDGs and related matters. Their insights, views, and best practices must be considered for the outcome document to ensure SDGs implementation is going on the right path.
- Highlights from yesterday's sessions:
 - 1) All parliamentarians have unanimously agreed that the ongoing pandemic has led to a worldwide humanitarian crisis, pushing 119-124 million people into extreme poverty, and causing around 132 million people to starve. The global poverty rate rose for the very first time in 20 years and is expected to keep rising up to 7% or around 600 million people—this puts huge risks for vulnerable and marginalized people. Progress towards the SDGs has been halted or even reversed by the pandemic, in which poverty eradication is waging into a major setback.
 - 2) To achieve the SDGs by 2030, parliamentarians have agreed to strengthen partnership and collaboration among all stakeholders, including the non-state actors. Parliaments must be at the forefront of these efforts with their main functions: enacting laws, making a state budget, and supervision.
 - 3) The pandemic is a great momentum for us to build back better, bring back the SDGs targets and move forward. It is time to act more collectively.

Q: On this second day, we are having conversations about climate change. Today we have countries and regions where food security is a big problem, so is health and education and poverty. Is climate change an emergency that is big enough to be taken as seriously as these sectors?

- Climate change should be one of our priorities. If not properly managed, it could cause huge social and economic impacts worldwide. Experts have concluded that climate change is already having detrimental effects towards people, resources, and business activities. Without appropriate adaptation and effective mitigation, physical climate risks will only grow exponentially.
- Parliamentarians should take their responsibility to address climate change by integrating such issues into legislation, state budget and oversight mechanism, in line with the UN Environment Program which stipulates at least seven fields to address the global climate change: food and agriculture, buildings and cities, education, energy, finance, forests and land use, as well as transportation. Parliaments can also facilitate the discussion, especially those at the grassroots level to be aware of climate change. It is urgent for all countries to ensure that global cooperation in tackling climate change is on the right path.

Q: How can the IPU and other international institutions support parliaments as they champion for and help their governments to prepare for the inevitable green energy revolution?

- The slow development of green energy through the development of renewable energy has become a problem, exacerbated by less supportive policies. To that end, the Indonesian House of Representatives is committed to accelerate the process of deliberation of the Sustainable Energy Bill. The bill will provide a set of policies to accelerate green energy, by: i) Encouraging the utilization of green energy for the national energy supply; ii) Providing incentives for renewable energy power plant developers; iii) Human resource development; iv) Setting competitive prices for renewable resources; v) Removing regulation barriers for renewable energy development; and vi) Developing green energy industries.
- The IPU, international institutions and other parliaments—especially the leading countries in green energy sectors are expected to provide their full support for Indonesia in achieving those ends, both technically and substantively.
- It is also important to put the recent energy crisis in Britain and other European countries at our deep attention. The crisis arose from the soaring gas price, which led to its scarcity—while the gas stock in those countries have been gradually reduced within the framework of climate change response. As the price of clean and green energy is higher compared to fossil fuels, its transition needs much more careful preparation to avoid potential crises.

Expert Presentation

Ms. Maisa Rojas, Director of the Center for Climate and Resilience Research at University of Chile

- Presenting the key findings of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report and summary for policy makers. Recent changes in the climate are widespread, rapid, and intensifying, and unprecedented in thousands of years. In looking at this issue, we need to examine the earth's temperature as a main indicator of the changes. The current temperature is not the only unprecedented evolution in the last 2.000 years, but also the rate of warming. It is reported that human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2.000 years. Compared to the average temperature in 1850, the earth has gotten warmer by 1,1 degrees Celsius.
- Besides the temperature, there are other changes which has clearly shown unprecedented and detrimental damages of the climate crisis:
 - a. The CO₂ concentration is currently at the highest rate in 2 million years.
 - b. Global sea level is rising faster in at least the last 3.000 years.
 - c. The Arctic Sea ice area is getting smaller than at any other time in the past 1.000 years.
 - d. Glacier retreat has reached unprecedented levels in the last 2.000 years.
- It is indisputable that human activities are causing these changes, and it is not only about the temperature—which is the common indicator used for IPCC for decades,

but many of the extreme events that we are experiencing today can be attributed to human activities. This include the extreme heat which are getting more frequent and intense, torrential rains, droughts, fire weather, as well as oceans warming and acidifications. Climate change is already affecting every region on earth—not only regions which are inhabited by humans—in multiple ways. The changes we experience will also increase with future emissions and additional warming. Thus, every bit of warming will have larger consequences in the future.

- In predicting future condition and possibilities, climate scientists use models which looks at trajectories and historical temperature rates. The result that will occur towards the end of this century highly depends on which pathway of development that we choose. If we remind ourselves to effectively achieve the ambitious goals of Paris Agreement by limiting the global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, then it would be reach by all the plausible futures in the next decade.
- There is no going back from some changes in the climate system, they are irreversible. Changes in the ocean and sea level rise will continue for thousands of years, the retreat of glaciers and loss of Arctic Sea ice will continue for decades, while Greenland and Antarctica will continue to lose mass. However, some changes could be slowed—and others could even be stopped by limiting global warming.
- Unless there are immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to 1.5 degree Celsius—as we set the goal in Paris Agreement, will be beyond of reach. Limiting global warming will require a strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in CO₂, methane, and other greenhouse gases. This would not only reduce the consequences of climate change, but also improve air quality. As we know, over half of the world population lives in cities, and many of those big cities have very poor air quality—another important co-benefit in addressing climate change.
- As every ton of CO₂ that we put into the atmosphere, the climate condition which we will experience in the future depends highly on our decision as a society today.

Question (from Hon. Bridget Masango, Member of the National Assembly of South Africa): *My question has to do with the notion that was advanced recently by a colleague that while poverty and food insecurity is a reality in many countries, it is distribution channel challenging that are making even the best efforts of producing food futile. I am encouraged by the call to collaborate among players as it might turn this situation around. Am I on the right track about distribution being a challenge?*

- That is correct. As climate change is affecting every region in the world, it is affecting each of them in different ways. The threats and impacts of climate change are differentiated and depend largely on the exposure of our vulnerability, which at the end of the day will have to do with our different social conditions. There can be important differences between countries and even within the country itself. Therefore, indeed this is a global challenge that must be addressed locally with a large global cooperation.

Moderated Discussion

Hon. Saber Chowdhury, Honorary President of IPU and Bangladesh MP

- In Bangladesh and a lot of other countries—especially those which are referred as climate vulnerable countries, we see climate change as an existential threat. It is not just about life choices or livelihood, but also whether we will survive in this planet as human beings. IPCC in their latest report has stated the climate threat is a “code red” to humanity, but it could actually be considered as “code blue.” It is not just a fire or smoke in a hospital, but we could also see it as a patient who just had a cardiac arrest and in a dire need of respiratory support.
- Climate change has affected the entire spectrum of our whole activities, ranging from food security and agriculture, rising sea levels and oceans, and people displacement. It has also posed great consequences for Bangladesh, which is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. The frequency and intensity of disasters are also going to increase, and the Bangladesh is now dealing with a whole issue of fresh water supplies due to the glacier melting from Himalayas, among other things.
- This existential challenge has pushed the Parliament of Bangladesh to adopt a motion on a Planetary Emergency. It is not just a climate emergency response, because there is a whole range of crisis which are seen converging in the horizon over the next twenty to thirty years. The Parliament of Bangladesh has done several steps:
 - 1) Once the motion on Planetary Emergency in Parliament is in place, it can be used as a hook for parliamentary actions which could include legislation and allocation to the budgetary process.
 - 2) Data analysis, uniting data to assess which policies work—and which do not.
 - 3) Renewable energy and the green new deal, moving away from coal into embracing renewable energy resources in a big way.
- Given the broad functions of parliamentarians, which are basically enacting legislation, approving budgetary resources, conducting government oversight, as well as representation—bringing voices of the most marginalized and vulnerable people to the table. How can we be more resilient as a country? How can we insulate our food production and protect the livelihood of our farmers? The solutions to those questions should also be covered in parliamentary roles and functions.
- Parliamentarians in a single country cannot solve it alone—as this global problem requires a global solution and global fix. As we have seen in the IPCC report, it is essentially human activities which are causing it. Thus, we must undo what we have caused—that is really where the challenge lies. What parliamentarians can do and contribute now:
 - 1) Parliamentarians must push the governments to raise the ambition level and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Moreover, given their important leadership role, parliamentarians should not just wait the

government to act and merely react to their actions, but instead setting the tone as representatives of the people to provide real leadership.

- 2) Once there is a real strong leadership within the national parliament, parliamentarians can then look across borders and have a global solidarity by bringing in parliaments from all countries—developed, least developed, developing, and those are most vulnerable.
- It is indeed a huge challenge and a big ask for parliaments. At the same time, it is also an opportunity for parliamentarians to really ensure that they represent the people and that they can deliver them the future that they want.

Ms Paula Albrito, Head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Regional (UNDRR) Office for Europe

- In recent years, the world has experienced a steady increase in climate-related disasters. According to the World Disaster Report in 2020, over the past three years, 83% of all disasters triggered by natural hazards which were caused by extreme weather and climate-related events. The price is not only the human lives, but also according to the data from the World Meteorological Organization, during last 50 years period, USD 202 million in damage has occurred everyday due to disasters related to weather, climate, and water. Quoting the UN Secretary General and previous comments from Hon. Chowdhury, it is a “code red”—possibly “code blue” for humanity, which means that we must act now.
- Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation have traditionally been handled as separate topics, decided by different policy makers. It is time that we connect them into a more coherent strategy that can address these existential challenges for our society. As COVID-19 has reminded us, the risks are systemic, but we continue to work in silos. As it is emerged in the discussion yesterday, we need to act collectively. Further on the importance of coherent strategy for disaster and climate change management, Ms. Albrito drew an example from Somalia. During 2020, Somalia was hit hard by a triple threat of disasters: i) Biological hazard of COVID-19 in a fragile health system; ii) A more traditional natural hazard of locust plague affecting the food production; and ii) Flooding which oversaturated and damaged critical infrastructure such as healthcare facilities.
- Aligning the practices and policies for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation could lead to a more efficient and effective resilience, better use of financial and human resources, as well as clear path to innovation in technology and policy approaches. Parliamentarians are at the center of policy making with a bird’s-eye view of their national strategy and needs, and they are keys for driving this change towards a more integrated approach.
- To achieve that, we must go beyond the short-term political cycle. Long-term thinking is the winning approach. Yet, disaster risk reduction is a multi-year investment, and this is of challenge for parliamentarians who commits to plan with the benefits, that they are not apparent until there is a hazard. However, disaster

risk reduction provides parliamentarians with the opportunity to build a lasting legacy, and awareness on disaster risk is increasing—beginning to rise questions among the voters and constituency. What we have just heard from Bangladesh was very encouraging in terms of a very comprehensive perspective on the disaster resilience, climate change, and overall achievement of the SDGs. This framework for disaster risk reduction is the key role for the parliamentarian actions by developing or amending legislation, setting budget allocation, and holding government accountable for their decisions. Parliamentarians are considered essentials in achieving both this framework for disaster risk reduction and the SDGs.

- The UNDRR works closely with parliamentarians all over the world. Through cooperation with the IPU, the UNDRR also raise awareness and guidance on the intersectional roles of parliamentarians in building a more resilient future for humanity. With this goal in mind and with the IPU, the UNDRR is about to publish a toolkit for parliamentarians which highlights ten actions to be employed to effectively influence and implement disaster risk reduction—policy, legal, financial, and oversight framework to achieve the SDGs. They are looking forward to having the parliamentarians on the launch of that toolkit, and for them to use it in the future.
- Further in the call of action in response to COVID-19 pandemic, many governments have offered recovery packages, accelerated investment in essential infrastructure, and introduced new incentives to enhance resilience and climate change adaptation—from favoring green energy to building more disaster-resilient infrastructure. Highlighted the incredible opportunity to build back better and stated that parliamentarians are uniquely placed to seize it. The UNDRR is ready to help accelerating this change for the benefit of all, and look forward to continuing to work with parliamentarians.

Summary of the Interactive Discussion

Intervention 1 - Malaysia

Hon. Dr. Kelvin Yii, Member of the Parliament of Malaysia

- While we have felt the impact of COVID-19, but the impact and existential danger of the chronic climate change is even more damaging. It is important that we intervene not just at the parliamentary level, but also in every sector within the country, as well as international level.
- Hon. Yii stated that Malaysia is very aware and even exposed to climate changes, whether it is flooding, food security, or meteorological changes. Thus, the Malaysian government has taken steps:
 - 1) Agenda actions to lay foundations for not only the financial, economic, and social recovery—but also to focus on creating a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economy.

- 2) Recently, Malaysia just increased its National Determined Contributions (NDC), as well as strengthened its mitigation and adaptation measures.
 - 3) The Climate Change Tasks has planned by the Ministry of Environment for the upcoming years which includes developing a climate change law, policy framework, and blueprints in reducing greenhouse gases.
 - 4) They have just also recently formed the Malaysian Climate Change Action Council (MyCAC), which met for the first time in April 2021 to activate this whole national approach in addressing issues.
- On the parliamentary level, Malaysian Parliament also has an all-party parliamentary group, as well as caucus championing climate change. Hon. Yii also stated that this has to be happening in all levels.
 - Climate change must be the fundamental focus change in preparation for the future, pandemics, and other disaster risks. Supported the statement by Hon. Chowdhury that this is a global problem which requires a glob fix. At the same time, a global response requires each country and each parliament to show leadership and take control at the local level and from the very start.

Intervention 2 – Nicaragua

Hon. Maritza Espinales, Member of the National Assembly of Nicaragua

- Hon. Espinales noted that the Parliament of Nicaragua has been working to strengthen legal framework to face the climate change. In this regard, Nicaragua has important positions: i) The acknowledgement of the need to match the cause of damage in order to be able to address the cause and work on prevention measures; and ii) The need to ease funding for vulnerable countries.
- Nicaragua is one of the most at-risk countries in terms of climate crisis. During the Conference of State Parties meeting, Nicaragua reiterated the need to strengthen climate justice policy with a declaration. Historically and currently, certain countries have been causing damage towards the climate crisis. This has caused the least developed countries, which must be the most affected and most vulnerable by many different effects of climate change. It is important that within the IPU and this forum, parliamentarians need to take this issue collectively. Further on the climate justice, parliamentarians have to be committed to strengthen legal frameworks around the issue, and ensure that sufficient budget are allocated to cover not only the climate change, but also in the reduction of disaster risks and its mitigation.

Intervention 3 – Algeria

Hon. Souleyman Zerkani, Member of the People's National Assembly of Algeria

- Hon. Zerkani noted the need to ensure that rich countries could take more responsibility in supporting other countries in these issues and sharing the capabilities in tackling the challenges. Hon. Zerkani also highlighted the geographical profile of Algeria, which is a large country with various topography,

ranging from desert area to mountainous area. As a result, Algeria will have very different forms and effects of climate change in various parts of its country.

- Algeria has a new ministry on Renewable Energy, as a part of its national transformation towards green and renewable energy. In 2011, with the adoption of a Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Development Plan, Algeria set an ambitious goal of achieving 40% of national electricity generation via renewable sources by 2030. Additionally, the 1999 Law on the Management of Energy and the 2004 Law on Renewable Energy Promotion in the Framework of Sustainable Development establish frameworks and financial incentive measures to encourage the development of low carbon energy, including establishing Certificates of Origin for renewable energy sources and a National Observatory for the Promotion of Renewable Energies.
- Algeria also has laws to protect the environment. It is also important to work closely with other stakeholders, and it is necessary to work with the government to mitigate the implication of climate change. We need to ensure that there is a collective action and a concerted effort at the global level, as well as initiatives in the national level, so that we can have well-measured impact in all countries.

Intervention 4 – DR Congo

Sen. Didier Mumengi Tshikudi, Senator of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

- Sen. Didier mentioned the importance of environmental issues in DRC, especially given the fact that it holds a large portion of tropical forest and it is among the most biodiverse areas in the world. Its tropical forest, covering more than 130 million hectares, is the second largest in the world, which is just bordered by Saharan desert. The forest stores 7% of the world's forest carbon—making it one of the largest forest carbon stocks in the world. Moreover, 40 million people in DRC rely on the forest for food and fuel.
- DRC is vulnerable to the climate change, and is facing the problem of desertification. Moreover, the desertification will have spreading effects for the hydro power in the African continent, as DRC is the most water-rich country in Africa which accounts for approximately 52% of Africa's surface water reserves and 23% of Africa's internal renewable water resources. The climate-related phenomenon in terms of degradation of soil, destruction of forest, and loss of agricultural activities will thus threaten a very large number of people.
- This problem is transnational in nature, affecting not only one nation alone—but almost an entire region. DRC's neighboring country, Angola, has also been threatened by the desertification. Angola hosts one of the biggest Congo River, and recently a toxic leak from a diamond mine pollutes the river. Angola has already implemented several projects related to water reserve to meet agricultural and industrial needs.
- The Senate of DRC is preparing a risk management plan to mitigate the climate crisis. Furthermore, as desertification is a threat around largest tropical areas, they requested the support of IPU and other international development partners to

support their efforts in fighting the risk of desertification. They also requested further international assistance and cooperation in finding effective actions of national mechanism for early warning system and targeted trainings.

Intervention 5 – Chad

Hon. Issa Mardo Djibir, Member of the National Assembly of Chad

- Chad is currently in the middle of a political transition. In terms of climate change, given its geographical position which is exceptional, Chad is exposed to various external weathers and climate-related phenomena although it is not entirely responsible for the causes. Thus, it is important to take collective action and global cooperation as parliamentarians in addressing this issue.

Intervention 6 - Syria

Member of the Parliament of Syria

- Given the geographic position and variety of geographic and topography profile, the impact of climate change and environmental crisis are considered important issues for Syria. Thus, they have established the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs. The Ministry which became a fully-fledged ministry four years ago, oversees all environmental protection activities, including the fight against climate change, as well as in-charge of water supplies and measures to tackle desertification.
- The People’s Assembly of Syria has worked on climate change issues as well. However, the unilateral sanction imposed by the US and Europe against Syria, and the occupation of Turkish Army in the northern area of their land have hindered their attempts to move forward effectively in fighting the climate change and moving forward in other environmental development. Hence, through this forum, the representatives of Syrian Parliament called the international community to support and stand with Syria.



First Global Parliamentary Meeting on Achieving the SDGs

Turning the Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic into Opportunities for Parliaments to Achieve the SDGs

28-30 September 2021

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Indonesian House of Representatives

Session 5 Report

Session Title	:	<i>Investing in the future: Towards a sustainable and resilient recovery of our economies</i>
Date	:	Wednesday, 29 September 2021
Time	:	18:55 - 19:21 WIB
Place	:	Bali Room, Kempinski Hotel, Jakarta
Coordinator	:	BKSAP DPR
Key Speakers	:	Andrew Raine, Head of International Environmental Law Unit of UNEP
Facilitators / Interveners	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Mercy Juma, BBC Africa • Digital Correspondent: Aleksandra Blagojevic, IPU • Interveners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Waven William (Seychelles) - Mr. Arghya Sinha Roy (ADB) - Hon. Alice Muzana (Rwanda) - Hon. Abdelkader Berriche (Algeria) - Hon. Issa Mardo Djabir (Chad)
Participants	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Parliaments • IPU Representatives • UN Representatives • NGO Representatives • IGO Representatives • Public (Online Streaming)
Objective of the Session	:	Identifying best practices and concrete next steps recovery practices in the climate crisis

Summary of the Session

Expert Presentation

Andrew Raine, Head of International Environmental Law Unit of UNEP

- The world must wake up, we are on the edge of the abyss, we are moving in the wrong direction. The COVID-19 pandemic is an environment at its heart is an environmental issue, it has supersized glaring inequalities, pummeling the planet, air pollution has killed us, and the way we unsustainably exploiting nature, has led us on the brink of extinction. We're in a planetary emergency. To prevent these

crises and prevent the next pandemic. The covid 19 fallout has a negative impact, but this gives us an incomparable chance to transform our relations with nature. By 2025 the IMF has predicted that the world will invest 28 trillion USD into COVID-19 relief efforts. Given the size of this pandemic stimulant package, understandably the focus is bringing back jobs. Moving forward we can't entertain short economic solutions at the expense of nature. We must find solutions that address environmental challenges and the economy. Hence, the only feasible solution is green recovery.

- What is a Green Recovery? Green is geared toward zero carbon, nature positive economy. It requires centralizing nature in our economy. Nature contributed around half of our GDP. Green recovery promotes nature-based solutions, it also includes ending subsidies to fossil fuel, bringing sustainable food system, social protection, commitment to embracing new model of economy, prioritizing jobs in building clean efficient energy system.
- The renewable economic system contributes 2,5 more jobs than fossil fuel, gender balance. Cleaner air contributes a 7% increase of GDP and creates 30 times the economic benefit for the people. With the right policies in place, the green economy can yield 24 million new jobs by the end of this decade.
- Despite the benefits we are seeing, mixed report cards among countries, richer countries can reach pre pandemic growth and they are using 28% of their GDP for economic recovery. While middle income is around 6.5% GDP and least developed countries are 1.8 % of their GDP.
- The IMF predicted a cumulative global economy 7% less than previous. On the positive note the African union has created a green stimulus package and the EU has created the green deal. Only 1/3 recovery measures today are considered green. legislation are key drivers of actions. Parliament is in a unique position to protect the future, development in line with environmental goals. Promoting green recovery is the only pathway to sustainable development, protecting nature is not only smart for economic development but also critical to our survival.

Summary of the Interactive Discussion

Intervention 1 – Seychelles

Hon. Waven William, Member of the National Assembly of Seychelles

- At the beginning of 2021, Seychelles' GDP is over 100%. They just had an election, imagine a new government coming in with very little option to handle the pandemic. The tourism industry was also on its knees. However, due to their leaders' aggressive campaign on vaccination and opening their borders very early, they are able to reach herd immunity. Their GDP has reached 80% after 11 months, their borders are open, and their tourism is booming. They recognize the different approaches in different countries. They are thankful for all the partners that have supported them. Most countries have different countries and should look at the strong points to move forward.

Intervention 2 – ADB

Arghya Sinha Roy, Senior Climate Change Specialist (Climate Change Adaptation), Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

- There are three specific requests for the Parliamentarians in the context of COVID-19 recovery and climate challenges:
 - 1) Putting COVID-19 recovery and Climate change is put on the same urgency. While we are waiting for the pandemic to be over. There will be no normal. Even before the pandemic we as a world are already facing a climate crisis. Climate change has impacted the livelihoods of millions of people in every part of the world, as we are seeing in the world, heatwaves in US and Canada, floods in Germany. Sustainable and resilience COVID recovery can only be achieved with tackling climate change.
 - 2) Recovery process leaves no one behind. pandemic have disproportionately affected marginal and poverty-ridden populations. we will see poverty, migration, and conflicts. It is critical that the recovery process putting women at the center, which means bringing resilience to the people, increasing vocational training in green jobs, as well as community-driven programmes.
 - 3) Ensuring the recovery process really enables transformations. Business as usual is not applicable. Because climate change and pandemic are systemic problems which require systemic interventions. We live in an interconnected world, because this transformation need not compromise with economic development or even cost more. If they are designed carefully in a transformative manner with institutional strengthening backed with sustainable investment, it can provide huge economic benefit.
- As a conclusion, the COVID-19 and economic recovery serves as an opportunity to build a resilient system against future shocks and crises to ensure the process is inclusive and focusing on transitional changes.

Intervention 3 – Rwanda

Hon. Alice Muzana, Member of the Parliament of Rwanda

- As far as SDGs and economic recovery, the government of Rwanda has established economic recovery funds for businesses, agriculture distribution, transportation, tourism, and other businesses heavily affected by the pandemic. They also create support for the SME through small funds and investments. Parliament of Rwanda has a role in oversight of policies and securing the budgets available for the programmes' funds and policies.

Intervention 4 – Thailand

Member of the Parliament of Thailand

- The impact of COVID-19 outbreak continues to take a heavy toll on Thailand's economies and people's welfare, and has turned into one of the worst global

economic turnouts in this decade. The Parliament of Thailand has been supporting the government in financial measures for economic and social rehabilitation, such as the recent raising of the ceiling in public debt to GDP ratio from 60% to 70%, expanding liquidity in the national economy.

- The Parliament of Thailand has also introduced economic response packages to relieve the financial burden in order to boost the economy, such as credit card debt, debt restructure, to promote investment and to reduce interest burden in the public sectors. Thailand has also adjusted many economic regulations aiming to reduce the financial restriction and to promote the funding for SMEs.
- We must admit that the viruses are here to stay for years to come. It is crucial that we must learn to coexist with the COVID-19 and foster a more resilient and sustainable society in the context of the next normal world, so we would not leave no one behind.

Intervention 5 – Algeria

Hon. Abdelkader Berriche, Member of the People’s National Assembly of Algeria

- Algeria have implemented efforts for COVID-19 and economic relief through policies in ensuring food security, promoting vaccination, securing pension funds, and supporting businesses that are severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has also forced collaboration between parliament, government institutions and the public in ensuring the effective distribution of vaccination and economic relief in the country.

Intervention 6 – Chad

Hon. Issa Mardo Djabir, Member of Parliament of Chad

- Chad, given its geographic position, is highly exposed to the risk of climate change. In terms of SDGs, Hon. Djabir stated that Chad has developed SDGs programmes that are targeted for economic recovery and on tackling the existing issues for natural recovery. They have efforts in food safety measures that will take on programmes for agriculture, cattle, and fishing industry. During the pandemic, Chad suffered up to 90% loss of jobs and they are working to help the population, as part of recovery to create jobs in the cattle and agriculture industry and securing jobs for the future.
- Chad has participated in the Glasgow Summit where they have supported the creation of a multi-sectoral ad hoc committee for climate change. Chad has also created and presented a proposal regarding their national determined contribution on climate (NDC) change. They are continuing to work with their new leaders, to ensure that all their good work can be sustained during this political transition.



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Session 6 Report

Session Title	:	<i>Mobilizing SDGs financing by maximizing existing revenue streams and budgetary expenditure towards the SDGs</i>
Date	:	Wednesday, 29 September 2021
Time	:	19:21 - 20:10 WIB
Place	:	Bali Room, Kempinski Hotel, Jakarta
Coordinator	:	BKSAP DPR
Key Speakers	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Charles Chauvel, Global Lead, Inclusive Processes and Institutions, UNDP • Ms. Kareen Jabre, Director of the Division of Programmes, IPU • Hon. Dr. Sihar Sitorus, Vice Chair of BKSAP
Facilitators / Interveners	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Mercy Juma, BBC Africa • Digital Correspondent: Aleksandra Blagojevic, IPU • Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sen. Marilou McPhedran, Member of Canadian Senate - Mr. Agung Firman Sampurna, Chair of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia • Interveners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Waven William (Seychelles) - Hon. Maritza Espinales (Nicaragua) - Hon. Abdelkader Berriche (Algeria)
Participants	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Parliaments • IPU Representatives • UN Representatives • NGO Representatives • IGO Representatives • Public (Online Streaming)
Objective of the Session	:	The session's objective is to explore how parliaments can make use of their oversight tools to ensure government responsibilities are being upheld, and that scarce financial resources are used to their greatest benefit. It is essential that parliamentarians ensure the existing resources are made available and used effectively for public benefit.

Summary of the Session

The Launch of IPU Publication

Ms. Kareen Jabre, Director of the Division of Programmes, IPU

- Underlining that COVID-19 has dramatically setback the SDGs progress, a shared view that has been discussed throughout the meeting, affecting all aspect on financing for development. We are experiencing the worst economic recession in decades, and the most vulnerable are paying the effects disproportionately. Around 120 million people have gone back into extreme poverty, 140 million jobs have been lost, while tax revenues, foreign directs investments, trade and remittances have decreased. Many countries are in the process of adjusting their national priorities in the wake of COVID-19 and developing recovery packages. Recognizing that resources and funding are at the heart of achieving the SDGs, the readjustment of national budget will certainly impact progress towards the achievement of the goals. As funds have redirected from longer term development objectives to more immediate recovery measures, the effects on SDGs need to be considered.
- Parliaments have a key responsibility in ensuring that funding and resources are invested effectively to support sustainable development and ensure that budgets are monitored in-line with the SDGs target. They are also responsible for adopting international budget, ensuring governments are held accountable on how resources are spent, and ensuring that the expenditure is in-line with national and international commitments.
- The task is big, and expectations are high. To assist parliaments in this crucial role, IPU has developed guidelines on financing the SDGs—aims to provide parliamentarians with a better understanding of issues related to budgeting, monitoring, and policy choices for the SDGs. They are built from the experience from parliamentary community, as well as benefited from valuable inputs and guidance from UNDP.
- Making the most of limited public resources requires a thoughtful review of a country's budgeting practices and communication with all relevant stakeholders. It is essential to understand the sources of funding that are available in countries and take the time to consider different strategies on how best to prioritize them, both when financial resources are readily available or scarce.
- The publication provides information on key SDGs budgeting topics, current challenges, and provide concrete actions for parliamentarians to advance the achievement of SDGs goals and targets. The IPU hopes that this tool will be useful to secure adequate funding for the realization of SDGs—leaving no one behind.

(*The publication, *Making the Most of Public Resources: A Guidance Note for Parliamentarians on Budgeting for the SDGs*, is available on the IPU website in various languages. The IPU will also send it out to all member countries and parliaments. Further tailored assistance in using this toolkit could also be provided by IPU).

Expert Presentation

Mr. Charles Chauvel, Global Lead, Inclusive Processes and Institutions, UNDP

- Before joining UNDP, Mr. Chauvel was a Member of the Parliament of New Zealand for seven years—so that he understands the unique opportunities and challenges that are inherent in parliamentary roles. He urged parliamentarians not to think the SDGs financing as a whole new topic which is difficult to master, as a lot of them are basically things that they have done. It is largely the work that parliamentarians already do; but directed towards national development plans that are aligned with the SDGs targets and indicators—most countries represented in this meeting have also gone through that line of process.
- To give an idea on the breadth of SDGs financing and how familiar a lot of the concepts will be for parliamentarians—within the process of legislation, oversight, representation, and budget cycle, Mr. Chauvel provided five examples:
 - 1) Indonesia
 - Although this meeting is billed as the first global parliamentary meeting, back in 2017, the Indonesian Parliament hosted the WPFSD (World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development) in Bali. This is a significant fact, as WPFSD was the first global south-led parliamentary engagement on sustainable development. It is great to see now that Indonesia is collaborating with the IPU to take this meeting forward on the annual and collaborative basis; but Mr. Chauvel really wanted to acknowledge that Indonesia was the first.
 - Partnership between UNDP and the Indonesian government: i) Advise on financing labor in Indonesia; ii) Assist the government to issue the world's first green Islamic bond to leverage the Islamic charitable giving (zakat) for the SDGs; and iii) Supports an impact fund. These are three examples of new financial instruments and sources of revenue that can be leveraged towards sustainable human development.
 - Partnership between UNDP and the Indonesian parliament: Producing the guide on green climate financing, previously collaborated with the Parliament of Nepal and Pakistan. This will help parliaments to master the requirements of oversight in respect of green climate finance, ensure that it is properly scrutinized.
 - 2) Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)
 - A joint initiative of UNDP and OECD supporting countries in building tax audit capacity, sharing knowledge and expertise on preventing financial leakage, and strengthen cooperation on tax matters. Since the initiative was began in 2016, it has mobilized more than USD 1 billion in additional tax revenues for developing countries, including some of the least developed. This example shows an intervention to protect parliaments'

role, to ensure that they have access to public revenues during the annual budget cycle.

3) Better oversight through SDGs-aligned development plans in parliamentary committee processes

- Partnership between UNDP and the Government and Parliament of Fiji to align the national development plan with SDGs targets and indicators, worked with parliamentary committees. In a parliament with committee system, there might be temptations to have a lot of committees. Mr. Chauvel suggested that parliaments should keep the committees fewer, align them to the national development plan, agree the targets and indicators with government partner agency of which the committee oversees, agree periodic reporting on meeting those targets and indicators, and provide regular reporting on SDGs in the plenary meetings to improve national ownership of the development plan.

4) Gender-responsive budgeting

- One of the key principles of SDGs is leaving no one behind, and the SDGs 5 mandates the progress of women's and girls' rights. The UNDP has a project in several Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and Timor-Leste, started off as a parliamentary program in Phase I which is now a fiscal program with parliamentary committees and key stakeholders (administrative finance, civil society, and supreme audit institution) to improve the budget cycle, financial knowledge, and knowledge of the community on parliamentary budgeting. The UNDP has trained 1.000 people, and 400 of those have been trained on gender-responsive budgeting—how to ensure it has appropriate markers for communities such as women and girls. Key result: Parliament of Angola in 2018 amended the national budget put this gender to this gender marks, and require similar markers for the rights and welfare of children while committed to a much more open budgetary process.

5) The use of technology

- The UNDP worked with parliament and government of Bangladesh to produce a mobile application called "My Constituency Tracker;" an app that provides MPs and their research staff disaggregated information from their constituency on SDGs-aligned national development plans' targets and indicators. The MPs now have the information at their fingertips, updated regularly. It allows them to have base arguments for the allocation of resources to their constituency. Many other countries also try to harness technology to open the public finance and make the works of members of parliament easier in promoting accountability.

The UNDP and IPU has been working together on these issues, and very proud of the fact that their efforts have put parliaments in the front and center at international recognition in achieving the SDGs.

Moderated Discussion – 1

Sen. Marilou McPhedran, Member of the Senate of Canada

- The COVID-19 pandemic has reduced our chances of achieving the SDGs by 2030. In the alert from the IPCC report, we must also face the truth that missing our SDGs targets will cost us more in the long term. The world cannot afford not investing in sustainable development today. Saluting all parliamentarians coming together to take immediate actions, including Peers for the Planet, cross-party parliamentary group in the UK and Canada.
- To close the financing gap, governments need to leverage the support of private capital investors, philanthropic organizations, and other level of government such as provinces and territories in Canada.
- Canada has pursuing innovation in social finance to enhance their progress on SDGs by seeking to mobilize private capital for the public good, creating opportunities for investors to finance projects that benefit society, and for community organizations to access new sources of funding.
- We cannot blame the global pandemic for this unprecedented climate crisis—as the truth is, governments were failing to lead on climate justice prior to COVID-19. In a few weeks, the COP-26 begins in Glasgow. However, the relative absence of women and youth in leadership will demonstrate one big gap. The OECD warns us that financing for sustainable development is at risk of collapse. In a blunt assessment a few days ago of the young woman leader, Greta Thunberg, governments have traded “*blah-blah-blah*” for effective action. This has to stop. Governments must align and leverage revenue streams to amplify green social financing with non-governmental investors.

Moderated Discussion – 2

Mr. Agung Firman Sampurna, Chair of the Audit Board, Republic of Indonesia

- No single country is ready for COVID-19 pandemic. Its detrimental impact has been destructing many aspects of life, bringing into volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity era, and jeopardizing national and global efforts to achieve the SDGs. This is an urgent call for parliaments, governments, and supreme audit institutions (SAI) to join efforts within their respective roles to help relieving from pandemic and securing the SDGs.
- The pandemic forces the government to reconsider its national development goals and find sources of fund to cover budget shortfalls. Government of Indonesia has some strategies to deal with this:
 - 1) Sharing the pain among government entities by relocating and refocusing state budget and local budget to cover health, social, and economic sectors.
 - 2) Issuing government bonds and sharing the burden between government and Central Bank in interest expenses.

3) Issuing green bond and sharia bond to reaffirm government's commitment on environment and climate change initiative.

- To assure transparency, accountability and effectiveness in managing state financing and handling the COVID-19 pandemic, the Audit Board conducted risk-based comprehensive audit, by: i) Implementing audit universe; ii) Selecting high-risk audit areas; iii) Combining three types of audit: financial, performance, and compliance audits; and iv) Optimizing the use of big data analytics. With this approach, the Audit Board was able to reveal USD65.57 billion worth of fund involved in handling the COVID-19 pandemic—an amount that undeniably has a huge impact on government programs in achieving the SDGs.
- The Audit Board also provides insights on potential risks and their mitigations as an early warning system for government to prevent strategic operational fraud, financial and compliance risk. Their experience shows that during the time of crisis, these risks tend to increase. They are also currently finalizing their foresight entitled Indonesia Remade by COVID-19: Scenario, Opportunities and Challenges for Resilient Government. This foresight facilitated policymaking in situations of high uncertainty in the next five years through the identification of trends, opportunities, and challenges in multiple sectors; exploration of development of strategies for the future, as well as identification of long-term impact of the measures taken.
- To contribute towards the success of SDGs, they adopt four approaches of International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI):
 - 1) Assessing the preparedness of national governments to implement, monitor and report on progress of the SDGs
 - 2) Undertaking performance audits related to the SDGs
 - 3) Assessing and supporting the implementation of SDGs Goal 16 and 17
 - 4) Being a model of transparency and accountability
- In assuring the quality of Indonesia's Voluntary National Review (VNR) on SDGs, they have conducted a review on the 2021 VNR report. This is the first VNR review conducted by any SAI in the world. The Audit Board believes that cooperation, constructive collaboration, and integration among all stakeholders—including parliament, government, and SAI, are the keys of success in ensuring the accountability, transparency, and the effective achievement of SDGs.

Summary of the Interactive Discussion

Intervention 1 – Seychelles

Hon. Waven William, Member of the National Assembly of Seychelles

- The Government of Seychelles is using a new approach in budgeting—resource-based management, in which all government agencies will be given a ceiling to operate under, so that they must ensure that the targets are met. Seychelles also

have an IMF program, whereby they will not be able to have sustained the national economic and social development without it.

- During its oversight process, the Parliament of Seychelles ensure that the targets are met by the government agencies, so that the questions are raised, and motions are put. They ensure that the government is really focusing on getting the economy back on track. Seychelles have been restructuring as a part of pandemic responses and recovery programs. There has been loss of jobs, but in terms of budgeting, they are ensuring that it is being done correctly and in accountable manner.

Intervention 2 – Nicaragua

Hon. Maritza Espinales, Member of the National Assembly of Nicaragua

- The National Assembly of Nicaragua works with the government to approve the budget on the base of the national plan against poverty. The principles of Nicaraguan national budgeting are austerity, efficiency, transparency, financial discipline, social investment in education, health, climate financing, support to ministries, as well as national disaster relief funds.
- They are committed to achieve economic growth which reflects their citizen, with protecting employment as one of the principles. They also contribute to economic and social development, which has an inclusive focus of not leaving anyone behind in SDGs implementation. The government and parliament are committed to keep the responsibility on allocating responsive budget to increase the quality of people's life.

Intervention 3 – Algeria

Hon. Abdelkader Berriche, Member of the People's National Assembly of Algeria

- Hon. Berriche shared the ideas and experience of mobilizing financial resources, both at the international and national level. In terms of mobilizing financial resources at international level, besides foreign aids acquired through donor entities, developed countries might also assist poor/least developed countries, in which the resources will be allocated in a just manner. While in the national level, the role of parliament is fundamental in mobilizing funds and allocate it with a responsive budgeting approach. According to the Algerian constitution, the People's National Assembly has the oversight and budgeting functions, vital roles that the legislative body is responsible for. The budgeting function is done through the allocation of resources.
- As for the SDGs financing, the Algerian constitution states that the budgeting should take into consideration the matters of social and welfare. They also have around USD15 billion on social budget, a large sum which aim for eradication of poverty, welfare of marginalized groups, quality and free education for all, as well as health care services which must be taken into consideration. Algeria also implements the participatory budgeting, in which civil society are included in the budgeting and oversight process.

- Besides being the legislative power as lawmakers, the crucial role of parliaments is also in assuring effective oversight mechanism to hold government accountable, ensuring that the resources are allocated fairly and correctly within the budget, in-line with the targets and indicators in achieving SDGs. The Parliament of Algeria also concerns on women empowerment and children's rights issues. Moreover, the SDGs and 2030 Agenda have all been mainstreamed into the government plans and national development agenda, which include climate change and other integrated economic policies.

Rapporteur's Summary

Hon. Dr. Sihar Sitorus, Vice Chair of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, the Indonesian House of Representatives

- There are a lot of important points from today's three sessions, including a shared commitment that climate change should be one of priorities for parliamentarians. Climate change, if not managed, could cause huge social and economic impacts around the world. As representatives of the people, parliamentarians should take their responsibility to address the climate change and global warming by integrating such issues into legislation, state budget allocation, and oversight processes in-line with the United Nations Environment Program, the Paris Climate Agreement, as well as the SDGs targets and indicators.
- It is recognized that clean or green energy is still more expensive than fossil energy. Therefore, clean energy transition needs a more careful preparedness to avoid potential crisis. Climate change is a common challenge to all countries worldwide as the MPs from Algeria, Malaysia, Mexico, Chad, Congo, Seychelles, Syria, and other parliamentarians has shown in their interventions and discussions. Climate-related crisis were discussed during the meeting, such as the threat of desertification in Africa due to exponential degradation of soil, and implementation of several water catchment projects along by several countries along the Congo River; a threat to glacier in Himalaya; and degradation of water quality in India. Extreme weather phenomenon is also experienced by Malaysia and Chad.
- Political stability could also be considered as a significant factor, as shown in Syria, which has established the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs overseeing all environmental protection activities, including the fight against climate change, water supplies, and measures to tackle desertification. However, the political turmoil in the country has put a pause to the efforts to mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change.
- Green economy can facilitate new jobs creation and economic growth. It is irreputable in economic sense. Study shows that implementation of clean energy generates more jobs and with the right policy, as the clean energy can create 24 million new jobs by the end of this decade. There is a mix report card among

nations on the implementation of green energy—however, the view has been optimistic. Green recovery is the only viable option to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

- It is important to align and integrate COVID-19 recovery, disaster risk reduction, and climate change policies. In the process, it is also important to ensure that no one left behind. It is very critical that COVID-19 put people, especially women, children, and marginalized communities at the heart of the recovery towards building resilience. This could be done through social protection program, vocational education on green technology and investment in community driven program. As we are living in an interconnected world, it important to ensure that recovery process enable a transformation that encompasses a system-wide intervention.
- Funding is very important, as mentioned by some MPs through their interventions and discussed in the chat. Funding facilitates the means of implementation, which are the key for climate change mitigation and adaptation actions.



First Global Parliamentary Meeting on Achieving the SDGs

Turning the Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic into Opportunities for Parliaments to Achieve the SDGs

28-30 September 2021

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Indonesian House of Representatives

Session 7 Report

Session Title	:	<i>The way forward: Let's share ideas of possible actions parliaments could put in place to achieve the SDGs without further delay!</i>
Date	:	Thursday, 30 September 2021
Time	:	15:10 - 15:48 WIB
Place	:	Bali Room, Kempinski Hotel, Jakarta
Coordinator	:	BKSAP DPR
Key Speakers	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon, Chair of BKSAP • Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General
Facilitators / Interveners	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Mercy Juma, BBC Africa • Digital Correspondent: Aleksandra Blagojevic, IPU • Interveners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon. Cyriaque Nshimirimana (Burundi) - Hon. Hoda Al-Helaissi (Saudi Arabia) - Hon. Luchmun Roy Subhasnee (Mauritius) - Hon. Ali Hussein Nasser Al-Ansi (Yemen) - Hon. Farida Ilimi (Algeria) - Hon. Prof. Kraisid Tontisirin (Thailand) - Hon. Ty Sokhum (Cambodia) - Hon. Rohani Abdul Karim (Malaysia)
Participants	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Parliaments • IPU Representatives • UN Representatives • NGO Representatives • IGO Representatives • Public (Online Streaming)
Objective of the Session	:	The aim of this session is to encourage parliament to identify and reflect on concrete actions to advance the SDGs implementation through their work. Parliamentarians will have the opportunity to ask questions, share final comments and ideas on possible parliamentary actions that should be put in place to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

Summary of the Session

Moderated Dialogue - Recap of Day 2

Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon, Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, the Indonesian House of Representatives

Q: *What are your highlights for day two of the meeting?*

- It is day three for being here among my colleagues from global parliamentarians and prominent public figures. The two consecutive days were valuable time for flexing our utmost commitment to ensure the SDGs achievement by 2030.
- Notes and summary of the second day's strategic matters from the three topics on climate change, sustainable and resilient recovery of economies, and mobilizing SDGs financing:
 - 1) *First*, the global communities must be fully aware that recent changes in the climate are widespread, rapid, and intensifying, and unprecedented in thousands of years. It is real and happening. Human activities are causing climate change which is already affecting every region on earth in multiple ways, and the changes we experience will increase with future emissions and additional warming.
 - 2) *Second*, in response to climate change, the world must collectively do side by side in taking concrete measures based on the United Nations Environment Program, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals in support of mitigating severe climate change effects. Some ideas should be considered such as green economic recovery and green energy. A study shows that implementation of clean energy generates more jobs and with the right policy. It can create 24 million new jobs by the end of this decade. It is really in line to end global employment and poverty as one of main targets of the SDGs by 2030. In this regard, parliaments are pivotal by integrating climate change into their legislation, state budget formulation and funding, as well as the scrutiny processes.
 - 3) *Third*, the COVID-19 fallout has a negative impact, but it gives us an incomparable chance to transform our relations with nature. By 2025, the IMF has predicted that the world will invest 28 trillion USD into the COVID-19 relief efforts. Given the huge size of this pandemic stimulant package, understandably the focus is to bring jobs back. Moving forward, we cannot entertain short economic solutions at the expense of nature. We have to find solutions that address the economy in line with environmental challenges. So, the only feasible jobs are green recovery.

Q: *As we finalize our three-day summit today, we are looking at the way forward and actions we can put in place to achieve the SDGs. One thing we cannot run away from is that we need huge finances to act on our commitments. Based on your experience as the Vice Chair of the SDG task force in Indonesia, how key is a magnificent financing strategy to the successful implementation of the 2030 agenda?*

- Without any doubt, the implementation of the SDGs needs to be funded by a sufficient budget. In fact, the SDGs financing will mostly depend on a state budget. However, the current SDGs financing is challenged by the pandemic as almost all state budgets are allocated to tackle the health sector. On the other hand, most states have severely suffered from less state revenues due to the economic downturn caused by the pandemic. Thus, financial posture in the state budget gets unbalanced. The situation is getting worse due to the unending pandemic that puts the SDGs at risk. As such, it is essential to take the necessary stride to ensure that the posture of the state budget is in line with the SDGs.
- Let us turn the pandemic into greater opportunities in support of more financing the SDGs viewed as a suitable guide path out of the crisis. More budgetary state allocation to the SDGs should be consensually deemed as the fastest trajectory to escape from the unfolding crisis. Parliamentarians are able to play their role in convincing the governments to adhere to such a viewpoint through the state budget cycle approach. Almost all states around the globe severely suffer from state budget deficits affected by shortages of state revenue. Parliaments further have a responsibility to do tighter scrutiny on state money spending to be utilized in the most prudent and effective manner.
- Parliaments can provide national legal instruments to make sure that non-state financial resources such as ODA, CSR, and religious philanthropy (zakat) are legally protected and possible to contribute to achieve the SDGs. Nowadays, Indonesian philanthropy and digital donations have become increasingly important in addressing pressing needs and contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many Indonesians have been expressing their generosity and supporting each other. The 2018 World Giving Index has acknowledged Indonesians as among the most generous countries in the world. According to the Outlook Zakat Indonesia 2020, the total potential value of zakat donations from Indonesia's Muslim citizens has been calculated at Rp 233 trillion (US\$16.6 billion), while the current amount of zakat donations is estimated to be around Rp 8 trillion or 3.4 percent of the total potential.
- To conclude, the most possible actions that could be exerted by parliaments are:
 - The urgent need to strengthen awareness of the SDGs among MPs and their supporting systems (Staffs).
 - The urgent need to formalize a specific body on the SDGs in the Parliament with a stronger legal basis.
 - The urgent need to set a comprehensive parliamentary legal framework that enables parliamentarians to exercise all aspects of the SDGs.

Moderated Dialogue

Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of IPU

Q: Six years after the adoption of Hanoi declaration, where do you see the gaps in the implementation of SDGs?

- The aim of the Hanoi Declaration is putting words to actions, there is much more awareness of SDGs and commitment for parliament to act. There has been progress, especially those put in the high-level political forum, but that progress is very slow, only 58% of parliament is involved in SDGs, this is not enough, we need more parliament to be more involved in SDGs.
- We need more accountability. Parliament needs to be more active in monitoring the implementation of SDGs from the government. There is a gap in terms of data, the government has data but not all accessible to the parliament. parliament should have data to put the government to account. this data is very lacking.
- Our development agenda needs to change. We need more cooperation and multilateralism in implementing the SDGs.
- Money is very important for the implementation of SDGs. We need the parliament and gov to work together in innovative ways to fund SDGs. engaging private sectors, those gaps are there but we have to be more realistic.

Q: How important is the role of SDGs in bridging the gender gap?

- This agenda is not about women, but about women and man SDGs are intended to leave no one behind. There are challenges in vulnerable groups, especially women and children in the current pandemic. We need to be more robust in gender issues. we are looking at the rise of violence against women, we are looking at disruption of sexual health services we need to empower women, politically, economically, and financially.
- When women are involved in decision making, it improves significantly. the result there. We need to have a coalition between men and women for gender equality. I would like to stress in building capacity, to track the commitment we have made, tracking in monitoring are important.
- Mechanism example on gender equality: Creating COVID-19 committee gender balance, investigation and inquiries on gender sensitive policies, and law making. Stressing the need of gender sensitive budgeting.

Q: How essential is it for parliament to conduct SDGs forum at the national level?

- This type of forum is important, but this needs to be taken to the grassroot level. we need to transition from global, national to local level. We need a three-stage approach at the global, national, and regional or local level. So, we can see how the global priorities can be adapted at the national and local level
- IPU also fosters inter regional programmes for example with the parliament in China. But we have to be realistic, we are assuming all parliament could follow these goals. What we need to do is to help parliament who are struggling on SDGs at the national level. We in the international communities are helping with capacity building for integrating SDGs at the national level.
- We need parliament to mirror the needs of society. IPU assessment toolkit could help parliament assess, address, and identify gaps in the capacity of parliament for SDGs.

Q: As we know—only 14% of African countries are vaccinated and only 10% of the population. What can parliament do to fill the gaps on vaccine issues related to the pandemic?

- We are leaving lots of people behind when we look at vaccination. the inequalities are so glaring. We see this as a symptom of a failing of our international cooperation architecture, to fulfill basic human rights. not only inequalities, but there is also vaccination resistance because of all misconceptions. Parliament has a strong role as political leaders and opinion makers to promote vaccination.
- We need to make sure parliament encourages and shows solidarity in the rest of the international world. India is donating vaccines to multiple countries. These are symbols of solidarity. If we don't have vaccine equality, we will not solve this pandemic. As long as there is a weak link, we will not solve this global challenge.
- We need parliament to put a mechanism in the UHC in an affordable manner. Parliament should be the mirror of society for all. We encourage parliament to use their power of law making, budget making and representation for vaccines equity for all.

Moderated Discussion

Mr. Barry Anders, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the Sustainable Development Goals Alliance

- We are trying to achieve SDGs goals and raise more awareness in implementation. The countries in Europe are only up to 75% in achieving the SDGs goals.
- We also want to put the Sustainable Development Goals Alliance at a permanent position hopefully by the next election, which at the moment is an informal group.
- We are trying to have an annual debate and reporting in the European Parliament, targeted from next March. So far, we only have two meetings at our alliance.

Q: What are parliamentarians' thoughts regarding debt relief and debt initiatives for middle income countries that are not captured by the G20 initiative on debt suspension?

- The importance of financing and capitalizing multilateral development banks. We had a conversation with Jeffrey Sachs from the sustainable solution network. He is developing a proposal in financing a multilateral development bank which might help bridge the gaps in financing in implementing SDGs programmes.

Summary of the Interactive Discussion

Intervention 1 – Burundi

Hon. Cyriaque Nshimirimana, Member of the National Assembly of Burundi

- In Burundi, the SDGs are taken into account on national development plans until the 2027 development plan. and the assessment of the implementation. Hon. Cyriaque opened the discourse on what parliaments should do in the implementation of SDGs, and shared that the main constraint include the funding of the implementation and the demographic constraint. He stated that in order to

feed the world now, we must use fertilizer, which at the same time has significant residue which compromises the implementation of SDGs Goals of 2, 3, 13, and 14.

- How can we feed the world and use the resources we have, without disrupting biodiversity and the environment? I would like this meeting to find the solutions.

Intervention 2 – Saudi Arabia

Hon. Hoda Al-Helaissi, Member of the Shura Council of Saudi Arabia

- With regards to the damage of climate change that will bring poverty and hunger. Unlike the COVID-19 pandemic which affects everyone equally, climate change does not affect equally, as vulnerable communities and many people who are already in crisis will be left behind. Saudi Arabia is very vulnerable to climate change. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is doing efforts to mitigate climate change, including reducing carbon and encouraging people to make lifestyle changes. We need the world to work together to find the solution.

Intervention 3 - Mauritius

Hon. Luchmun Roy Subhasnee, Member of the National Assembly of Mauritius

- As of now, Mauritius has vaccinated 64% of its population, and they also have the youngsters vaccinated. The government has a series of measures to leave no one behind. The government is doing the best it can, since the first of October, to open borders and welcome international tourists back, because Mauritius's economy depends heavily on its tourism.
- Highlighting the gender gap, in which the figures are quite alarming – as they previously had 2 lockdowns, children and women were affected with domestic abuse. They have developed an application with a panic button for victims of abuse. The government of Mauritius also developed loans to females and business shelters and ensuring
- Question: Where do we get the financing, especially for small island countries with limited corporations, so we can fight COVID-19 and achieve SDGs?

Intervention 4 – Yemen

Hon. Ali Hussein Nasser Al-Ansi, Member of the Yemeni House of Representatives

- Yemen is still in conflict and still behind on all the SDGs indicators. Yemen also does not have funds to support programs for the environment, women issues, and food due to conflict.
- Question: How could we gain help from the international community to support in solving the issues in Yemen which include the conflict, the aftermath of the conflict, the pandemic crisis and in achieving the SDGs?

Intervention 5 – Algeria

Hon. Farida Ilimi, Member of the People’s National Assembly of Algeria

- Algeria has reached vaccine production to distribute in African countries.
- Algeria has committed to make vaccine available in Africa, in terms of the donation.

Intervention 6 – Thailand

Prof. (Emeritus) Kraisid Tontisirin, Member of the Senate of Thailand

- With regards to the way forward, Thailand shared their possible efforts to the fellow parliaments and the IPU. Their conclusion points and takeaways from this First Global Meeting are:
 - Members of Parliaments are encouraged to put SDGs objectives in the consideration of their work plans and action plans, and mechanisms to fulfill those plans based on their commanding, which are legislations, budget allocation, oversight, and representation of their constituents.
 - The Parliaments and parliamentarians could and should promote and facilitate the multi stakeholder, multi strategic and multilevel approach from global, national, and local down to the community, to localize SDGs. Urgent issues require action including in health, food security, gender, and social equality in vulnerable and disadvantaged population groups. As a global threat, climate change requires vicarious and collected efforts at all levels.
 - The parliament oversight the preparation of the Voluntary National Reports or VNR on SDGs to foster the collaboration and learning process in creating the report among the multi stakeholder forum including the public, the private sectors, academia, and civil society organization.
 - Enacting or amending or scrutinizing laws if it has negative effects on SDGs. Critical issues should be considered by the parliament to deal with COVID-19 and beyond, such as universal health coverage, since all people should be able to access basic and good quality health services, including vaccination. Law related to food security at the grassroot level related to inputs in agriculture and the economy at the grassroot level. And laws should be considered at the contextual factors.

Intervention 7 – Cambodia

Hon. Ty Sokhum, Member of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

- There are three key actions that we should pursue to achieve the SDGs:
 - 1) Adopting the law in the prevention measures of COVID-19 and other severely contagious and dangerous diseases in the future. As we look to keep all the population safe and create a safe environment for the economic activity of our people. Cambodia has created preventive measures for COVID-19 through vaccination for all the population.
 - 2) We should build a conducive environment for investors by formulating new investment laws and new competition law. Cambodia has adopted key initiatives including incentives as well as simplification of proceeding format, noticeably sectors such as logistics, clean energy, innovative technology, and SME have received special incentives. And also more protective provisions, particularly those concerning copyright protection,

have also been introduced. Moreover, Cambodia has taken further steps to promote investments from other foreign entities by signing an agreement with EU as well as a free trade agreement with China.

- 3) Accelerating digitalization. Cambodia is in a process in implementing a digital economy and social policy framework from 2021 to 2025 with identifying the digitalization of a catalyst of economic growth, responses and resilience to change. the framework focused on 5 major framework priorities: developing digital infrastructure, fostering digital trust and confidence, creating digital citizens, building digital governance, and promoting digital businesses. And many initiatives have also been introduced to strengthen our SME capabilities through enhancing entrepreneurship. In early 2021, Cambodia online banking users rose up to 25% from 2020 as a result of the strategic implementation of our digital technology to combat COVID-19. We do believe that this initiative would allow us not only to find the necessary SDGs budget, but simultaneously enable us to further our efforts in achieving the SDGs both domestically and together with our foreign partners.

Intervention 8 – Malaysia

Hon. Rohani Abdul Karim, Member of the Parliament of Malaysia

- Stated the agreement with Hon. Dr. Fadli Zon, that out of this forum there must be increasing awareness from all the countries on SDGs, a body inside the parliament on SDGs and a legal framework to exercise implementation of SDGs.
- Explaining the All-Party Parliamentary Group of Malaysia (APPGM) on SDGs. The importance of the APPGM on SDGs in advocating and incorporating the SDGs as a practical model for MPs and their parliamentary constituencies. It is a bipartisan platform for localizing and capacity building of SDGs. Its model includes multiple stakeholders at the grassroots level, providing channels for communication, and offers a decentralized approach in the policymaking through partnership. The APPGM facilitated inter-agency collaboration for a multi-dimensional approach by incorporating local communities for solutions while providing education for sustainable development, through a lifelong community learning.
- By mainstreaming SDGs, it provides a model of government and leadership in a way of strategizing the approach to issues and solutions for the participating MPs, in their political constituencies. Ultimately the APPGM hopes to offer a new perspective to the development model in terms of the meaning of development itself and the delivery mechanism. We are very fortunate because we receive funding from the Ministry of Finance of Malaysia, and the stress here is to all MPs that are champions to the SDGs and at the same time we are all together inviting the COVID-19 in our respective constituencies in leaving no one behind.



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Closing Session Report

Session Title	:	Closing Session
Date	:	Thursday, 30 September 2021
Time	:	15:26 - 16:30 WIB
Place	:	Bali Room, Kempinski Hotel, Jakarta
Coordinator	:	BKSAP DPR
Key Speakers	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Rachmat Gobel, Vice Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives • Hon. Dr. Sihar Sitorus, Vice Chair of BKSAP, the Indonesian House of Representatives • Mr. Martin Cungong, Secretary General of IPU
Facilitators / Interveners	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Mercy Juma, BBC Africa • Digital Correspondent: Aleksandra Blagojevic, IPU
Participants	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of Parliaments • IPU Representatives • UN Representatives • NGO Representatives • IGO Representatives • Public (Online Streaming)
Objective of the Session	:	This final session provided an opportunity for attending parliamentarians to adopt the Outcome Document of the First Global Parliamentary Meeting on Achieving the SDGs, and reiterate collective commitments made during the forum.

Summary of the Session

Adoption of the Outcome Document

Hon. Dr. Sihar Sitorus, Chair of SDGs Task Force and Vice Chair of BKSAP, the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia

- Welcoming all parliamentarians and participants to the last round of sessions, reflecting on the three consecutive days of exchanging views, best practices, and constructive debates in supporting the SDGs achievement by 2030. The challenging discourse and fruitful discussions during the past three days have been greatly valuable for global parliamentarians to positively contribute to the advancement of sustainable development worldwide.

- People globally are living in the hardest modern time challenged by the severe pandemic impacts. We are facing the unprecedented challenges, as almost every sphere of human life has changed and shifted. Every commitment that has been adopted globally needs to entirely reset and adjusted, including our SDGs. The pandemic has led the achievement of the SDGs to further backsliding in a massive scale, particularly the goal to end poverty in all its forms and leaving no one behind.
- However, the SDGs is very essential for the human life on the planet. It is a set to be common global framework to come together to make the world better. Our stronger collaborative actions—governments, parliaments, civil society organizations, academics, private sector, and media—can make a real difference. It is the time to come together, act more, and turn the pandemic into an opportunity: bringing the parliaments at the forefront of advancing the accomplishment of the SDGs.
- At the end of the day, achieving the SDGs is about strong leadership and political will. The global cooperation is also highly important on this matter, driven by parliamentary efforts in enacting laws, formulating state budgets, and conducting government supervisions. The SDGs are the most comprehensive and integrative aspiration of global community and people that the parliaments represent. Parliaments must lead this process—as they are more than procedures, they are the custodian of the people’s will.
- Hon. Sitorus proceeded to present the Outcome Document and led its adoption. He reiterated that the document is only a beginning, which should be translated into tangible efforts on the ground in respect to each country represented in this meeting. By 16.05 (UTC/GMT+7), the document which consists of parliamentary commitments to advance the achievement of SDGs, was officially adopted by the forum.

*(*The Outcome Document is attached as an Annex to this report, and it is accessible on the IPU website—available in English and French.)*

Closing Speech

H.E. Rachmat Gobel, Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia

- Noting that today we mark six years since the world leaders from 193 countries confirmed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) document in 2015. This document defined 17 goals and 169 targets to achieve by 2030. This 15-year span is the same deadline the global community, under the United Nations, set for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000. At the time world leaders, through the MDGs, agreed to achieve 8 goals and 50 targets by 2015. Thus, these SDGs are a continuation from the prior MDGs.
- The adoption of SDGs commitment reflects the global awareness that a problem in one area becomes the responsibility of the world. Mankind is interconnected. What

is done in one part of the world impacts other regions. What is done by one person impacts another individual, despite being separated geographically by thousands of kilometers and disconnected by culture. Progress in science and technology has connected communities around the world at an unprecedented, accelerated pace and level. Consequently, poverty, gender equality, maternal and infant mortality, infectious diseases, gaps, lags, and environmental destruction is the responsibility of all mankind. It cannot be thrust as the responsibility of only one ethnic group or nation.

- Through the MDGs, the global community can formulate issues, goals, and targets that are measurable and clear. Within 15 years, life quality and the environment improved and increased. Not all nations and countries were able to achieve their targets, but we must acknowledge there has been progress. To further improve and pursue targets left behind, SDGs and targets need to be more clearly and comprehensively defined. Quantitative and qualitative indicators need to be improved. Approaches also need to be more participative and inclusive, involving all stakeholders. The actors cannot be limited to government and bureaucracy, but must involve academia, NGOs, the private sector, and others. This global parliament meeting is a part of our inclusive and participatory efforts. Parliament is equally as important as the government because it is an extraction of the many diverse political interests and an aggregation of the people's aspiration. In modern times, there is no government without parliament.
- Amidst the global effort to overcome poverty, gaps, improve the environment, eradicate starvation, improve the quality of education and health, provide access to clean water and energy, create worthy jobs, boost the economy, and other programs to achieve SDGs, the world was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic last year, 2020. This is the most devastating pandemic to impact mankind. It has caused suffering at immense levels, led to high death tolls, and hindered attempts to achieve all the targets that were formulated. On the other hand, we also witnessed superpowers escalating competition amongst themselves. Additionally, war, terrorism, and violence continued to plague humanity.
- The COVID-19 pandemic increased our awareness of how important it is to maintain ecological balance. The corona virus evolved and adapted to its new environment. The pandemic also pushed us to collaborate and help each other more. There needs to be an equitable access to vaccines and medicine. The medical, pharmaceutical, and microbiological fields must share their science and findings. It should not be monopolized by only certain nations. Held closely and exclusively. This is about humanity. Obviously, we do not want our parents, children, siblings, partners, friends remain vulnerable because of no access to vaccines, medicines, and other health equipment
- Yet, from the COVID-19 pandemic, the world should feel grateful and proud. In such a short span of time, health science and technology has leapt far. The world was able to produce vaccines in less than one year. A feat that has never been

achieved before. The pandemic also revealed the noble willingness of mankind to reach out and help each other.

- Calling parliamentarians to work hand-in-hand, collaborate, as well as share and help one another. Believed that over the past three days parliamentarians have agreed on many positive points and built a common understanding that will help us collectively achieve the SDGs targets and indicators.
- With the conclusion of his remark, H.E. Rachmat Gobel representing the Indonesian House of Representatives (co-host) officially closed the First Global Parliamentary Meeting on Achieving the SDGs.

Closing Remark

Mr. Martin Cungong, Secretary General of IPU

- Arriving at the end of the First Global Parliamentary Meeting on Achieving the SDGs, Mr. Chungong highlighted that the conference was a very important message that parliaments and parliamentarians worldwide are putting the SDGs and people at the center of the action. This is the only way to ensure that parliamentarians are not improving wellbeing and prosperity for a privileged few, but for each and everyone. That parliamentarians are not just pursuing economic growth, but finding ways to achieve green economies. That parliamentarians are not taking short term measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, but thinking of the future generation and the future of the planet.
- Expressed reassurance of the Outcome Document that has been presented by Hon. Sitorus, which is very clear about the message that parliamentarians are conveying to the global community. We have heard it loud and clear that this generation of policy makers has the great responsibilities of putting us on the right track for equity, inclusion, and sustainability. This is why the IPU's works continue to be relevant and topical, and that the IPU will continue to be at parliaments' side to facilitate learning among parliaments and parliamentarians, as well as provide tools and guidance to make the SDGs part of parliamentary work. The IPU has taken good note of the emphasis that was laid today, including from the Burundian MP on the need for capacity building in addressing the SDGs.
- Conveyed gratitude to all parties who have made this meeting possible—especially the co-host, the Indonesian House of Representatives for the precious collaboration and contribution. Thanking all panelists and partners who have provided such insightful presentations, the moderator who has navigated through the discussions over the past three days, and the interpreters who have greatly assisted in breaking the language barrier and allowing all participants to understand and learn from one another. Thanking all attending and participating parliamentarians who have been actively involved and gracious enough to share their very rich experiences.

- Mr. Chungong has taken note of all requests for the IPU to continue to support parliaments, and that the conclusion of this meeting could be brought to the attention of the IPU governing bodies, which will be done in the upcoming Assembly in Madrid, November-December 2021. Noting that the outcome and other supporting documents will also be disseminated to all participants, and available on their website for all to access.
- Hoping that as they are leaving this meeting, the parliamentarians will be well-equipped with a toolbox in which they have put interesting initiatives taken by fellow parliamentarians; useful policy advice from experts; concrete actions that they can take in their respective countries; as well as a lot of perseverance, political will, and strong commitment. Hoping that parliamentarians will open this toolbox and make use of what they have taken away from this meeting.
- With the conclusion of his remark, Mr. Martin Chungong on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee officially closed the First Global Parliamentary Meeting on Achieving the SDGs.

2021

Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Bureau

The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia

DPR/MPR Building, Nusantara III, 2nd Floor

Jl. Jend. Gatot Subroto, Central Jakarta 10270

E: biro_ksap@dpr.go.id | P: 021-5715814/ 907 | F: 021-5734460