



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Chemin du Pommier 5
Case postale 330
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva – Switzerland
www.ipu.org

IPU Statement

Mr. Saber Chowdhury
IPU President

UN Sustainable Development
Summit
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Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,,
Distinguished Heads of State and Governments,
Excellencies,

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aspire to shape the lives of people in every country and never before has the focus on People been so closely woven with themes of Planet, Peace, Prosperity and Partnership.

This Summit thus presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to steer the world towards a safer, sustainable, inclusive and prosperous path.

It is my distinct honour to address you, as President of the Inter Parliamentary Union, the world's organization of Parliaments, as you adopt this challenging, ambitious and transformational agenda – one which marks a defining moment for our collective future and for the world we want.

We are pleased to express the solidarity and full support of the parliamentary community to the adopted SDGs.

The perspectives of parliaments and parliamentarians from across the globe have enriched the formulation and articulation of the SDGs and the IPU is proud to have contributed to this process. We welcome the recognition of IPU's engagement and contribution in the outcome document accompanying the Goals.

In this very Hall earlier this month, Speakers of Parliament from around the world held their Fourth World Conference. They unanimously adopted a Declaration that attests to the strong and growing partnership between the UN and the IPU. The Preamble to the UN Charter begins with the words “We the peoples” and parliaments are the institutions that represent the will of the people.

It is this common focus on people, their rights, dignity, welfare and security that brings the UN and the IPU together as natural partners; and it is this same centrality of people and their interests that binds us as legislators to the executive arms of Governments.

The Declaration of the Speakers of Parliament, entitled “Placing democracy at the service of peace and sustainable development: Building the world the people want”

will help to galvanize political will for the implementation of the new post-2015 development agenda through the active engagement of the parliamentary community.

It provides political guidance to parliaments on the major issues facing the world today – from inequality and poverty to climate change and disaster risk reduction, youth disenchantment, migration and terrorism. It reiterates our commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons, which will be marked again tomorrow, 26th September, International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. These challenges are all interlinked and require coherent and robust action by all States.

In solidarity with the SDGs, the Speakers' Declaration pledges to place the concerns of people across the world at the heart of policy-making.

At the Inter-Parliamentary Union, we are particularly heartened by the inclusion of goals on governance, women's empowerment and addressing inequality.

These goals are part of our core business. We note with satisfaction that the governance goal in particular points to the need for reform in order to make all institutions of government, including parliament, "fit for purpose".

This goal is a huge political breakthrough. It sends a strong signal that we are serious about changing the way we do business at the highest political level.

Through their core functions of representation, appropriation of resources through budgets, law-making and oversight, as well as national ownership of global processes, parliaments have a crucial role to play in translating these goals into reality.

Parliaments are thus critical to the success of the SDGs.

To succeed, we must all act together, in concert and in a coherent, coordinated manner across political divides. All institutions of government, as well as other groups in society such as academia, civil society organizations, community and religious leaders, and youth – must work together to ensure effective implementation.

Parliaments can make a real difference by fulfilling their constitutional role in monitoring progress, holding governments to account and ensuring we deliver locally what is pledged globally.

Ultimately, it is visionary political leadership that will propel these goals forward and translate them from words into action. As world leaders, you have the power to build a better world for our people and for future generations.

The IPU and national parliaments are here to help. Together, we can shape and create the future our citizens want and which we have pledged and are duty bound to deliver.

Thank you.