



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Breaking down barriers for improved health of young generations: A multisectoral approach

Side event at the 136th IPU Assembly

Sunday 2 April 2017

1.30 – 3.00 p.m.

Windy Town room, first floor, Bangabandhu International Convention Centre (BICC)

A light lunch will be served

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will in large part depend on countries' ability to adequately invest in the health of the largest adolescent cohort the world has ever seen. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development set ambitious targets for improved health and wellbeing as part of a comprehensive approach to eradicating poverty and stimulating development. The *Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) [Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health \(Global Strategy\)](#)*, launched by the UN Secretary-General in September 2015, provides a roadmap for the achievement of the SDG targets related to women's, children's and adolescents' health. The IPU has made a commitment to support the Global Strategy, pledging to engage the global parliamentary community in ensuring national accountability for results and for allocating resources for women's, children's and adolescents' health from domestic sources.

Improving health outcomes is dependent on many factors that fall outside of the health sector; research shows that about half of the gains in the health sector result from investments in other sectors. The EWEC Global Strategy, in line with this evidence, promotes an approach to ensuring adolescent health and well-being that includes multisectoral approaches and innovative partnerships that account for social determinants and health-enhancing sectors. While the evidence demonstrates that multisectoral policies and interventions are essential to achieving better health and wellbeing for adolescents, siloed structures, programmes and financing in most countries, and globally, often render this difficult.

This side event will identify concrete measures that parliaments can take to overcome the barriers to coordinated design and implementation of policies that facilitate multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral action for improved adolescent health outcomes.

Participants will be invited to discuss the following key questions:

- What can parliaments do to help develop and implement policies and interventions across sectors? How can parliamentarians use their government's commitment to implement the Global Strategy to advance progress on addressing adolescents' needs?
- Which critical partners should parliaments engage with to implement these actions?
- How can parliamentarians advocate the determinants of adolescent health? What good parliamentary practices exist? What personal experiences can parliamentarians share?