



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations

19-20 November 2014
United Nations Headquarters
New York



16 September 2014

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to invite you and a delegation from your Parliament to this year's Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, entitled ***Ensuring a people-centred approach to the new SDGs: a shared responsibility***. The event will take place at UN Headquarters in New York on 19 and 20 November.

As you know, a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is in the making at the United Nations. The goals will replace the current MDGs when they expire at the end of next year. The United Nations and the IPU have held extensive consultations with their respective constituencies to provide input to the negotiations. The next phase of negotiations will start in January 2015 on the basis of a first draft of the SDGs that has been elaborated by a Working Group of the United Nations General Assembly.

This year's Hearing will provide a further opportunity to help inform our collective thinking about the future goals. As the title of the event suggests, our intention is to put the spotlight on people as both actors and recipients of the new sustainable development agenda. While the programme of the Hearing is still being developed, we can already anticipate some of the questions that will drive the discussion. They include: ways in which economic and social inequality, as well as discrimination in the law, can undermine a people-centred development; the need to strengthen transparency and accountability to the people in both the public and private sectors; the responsibility of governments vis-à-vis the market; how countries can deal effectively with their human rights responsibilities.

In keeping with past practice, the report of the Hearing will be channelled into the relevant deliberative processes of the United Nations. To allow for a rich and interactive debate, the Hearing will once again follow an interview format with a distinguished panel of parliamentarians, UN permanent representatives, UN officials and experts.

We look forward to a large turnout that would help underscore the need for a new global agenda that truly reflects the interests and concerns of the people. A draft programme will be circulated in the first part of October. Interested participants can already register using the attached form.

Yours sincerely,

Abdelwahad Radi
President
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Sam Kutesa
President
UN General Assembly