



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Second Regional Seminar for African Parliaments on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Djibouti, 5 - 7 December 2022

Organized jointly by the National Assembly of Djibouti
and the Inter-Parliamentary Union



PROGRAMME

Sunday, 4 December 2022

Arrival of delegates

Monday, 5 December 2022

09:00-09:45 Registration

09:45-10:15 **Inaugural session**

Master of ceremony: Ms Fatouma Mahdi, Officer, National Assembly, Djibouti

Special address:

Ms Emma N'Gouan-Anoh, Representative, UNDP, Djibouti

Mr. José Barahona, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Djibouti

Welcoming remarks:

Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President, Inter-Parliamentary Union

Mr. Mohamed Ali Houmed, Speaker, National Assembly of Djibouti

Group photo

10:15 – 10:30 Tea-break

What progress has been achieved in Africa? How are parliaments contributing to the implementation of the SDGs

10:30-11:45 **Setting the scene:**

This session will provide an overview of the status of SDG implementation in the African continent, as well as the initiatives that have been put in place by parliaments all around the world to contribute to their effective realization. Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff will receive up-to-date information on the main areas of progress and obstacles that should be urgently addressed. Delegations will be invited to share updates on how they are promoting the implementation of the SDGs at the political level and through their parliamentary functions.

Speakers:

- Ms. Aleksandra Blagojevic, Programme Manager for International Development, IPU
- Ms. Deka Moussa Ragueh, Senior Regional Adviser, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- Ms. Angela Kiconco, Statistician, UNECA

Tour de table with participants (one person from each delegation)

Guiding questions:

- What initiatives and/or practices has your parliament put in place to contribute to the implementation of SDGs?
- How are you promoting the implementation of the SDGs through your political manifesto?

What are the existing challenges? How can SDGs help parliaments find sustainable solutions?

11:45-13:00

Session I: Promoting stability and democratic governance for development – The role of parliaments

Conflict and instability remain a great threat to sustainable development. According to UN ECA data, the situation of peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16) has deteriorated since 2000 and represents the biggest challenge in the continent. It is essential to reverse the current trends, and parliaments can play a crucial role in this effort. By promoting the establishment of democratic political systems and inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, parliaments can help secure stability, peace and sustainable development for all.

Moderator: Ms. Aleksandra Blagojevic, Programme Manager for International Development, IPU

Speakers:

- Ms. Tamar Chugoshvili, Programme Officer, Public Engagement, IPU (*remote participation*)
- Mr. Hamidou Traoré, Member of the CNT, Mali (*remote participation*)
- Ms. Sanogo, Member of the CNT, Mali (*remote participation*)
- M. Nuur Sheekh, Spokesperson for the Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

The presentation will be followed by an exchange with delegates on the importance of promoting democracy as this could also help implementing the SDGs.

13:00-14:00

Lunch break

14:00-15:15

Session II: Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for inclusive sustainable development

The SDG call to “leave no one behind” requires a particular emphasis on addressing inequalities, including those that are gender-based, as they are a societal problem. In the Kigali Declaration adopted at the 145th IPU Assembly in October 2022, members of parliament from around the world acknowledged that gender equality is a right for everyone, committed to achieving parity in political decision-making, and ensuring law-making, law-enforcement and budgeting are gender-responsive across all policy fields. To advance on such transformational priorities, they committed to step up their efforts to be more gender-sensitive institutions in line with the IPU's *Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments*. According to available UN data, African countries should accelerate the progress of SDG 5, and in particular increase the number of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments. This session will focus on the role of parliaments in accelerating progress towards gender equality, including by addressing gender-based discrimination and violence, being gender-sensitive institutions, ensuring that gender mainstreaming and budgeting guide parliament's work and engaging men MPs to act as allies for gender equality.

Moderator: Mr. Hassan Omar Mohamed Kamil, Member of the National Assembly, Djibouti

Speakers:

- Ms. Espérance Nyirasafari, Vice-President of the Senate of Rwanda

- Ms. Franceline Toe-Bouda, Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (video message)
- Ms. Roda 'Ali, Member of the National Assembly, Djibouti

The presentation will be followed by an interactive discussion during which delegates can share their experience, insights and recommendations

15:30-15:35 **PARLIAMENTS FOR THE PLANET** - Teaser for a future IPU campaign to mobilize parliaments to take action on the climate emergency.

15:35-16:50 **Session III: Climate change – An existential threat**

Africa accounts for less than 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions but suffers disproportionately from climate change. Natural hazards, disrupted livelihoods and climate-induced migration are increasingly threatening African countries and their populations, with significant social and economic implications, including at the cultural level. In this session participants will discuss how parliaments are addressing climate change by reducing emissions and supporting adaptation, including by strengthening climate legislation, and how they can make sure that the interlinkages between climate action and sustainable development are systematically taken into consideration.

Moderator: Ms. Aleksandra Blagojevic, Programme Manager for International Development, IPU

Speakers:

- Mr. Andrew Harper, Special Advisor on Climate Action, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency (*remote participation*)
- Ms. Maria Mousmouti, Associate Research Fellow, Sir William Dale Centre for Legislative Studies, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London (*remote participation*)
- Ms. Amira Saber, Member of the House of Representatives, Egypt
- Mr. Waven William, Member of Parliament, Vice-President of the IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Seychelles

The presentation will be followed by an interactive discussion during which delegates can share their practices and experiences of effective adaptation and mitigation strategies and lessons learned.

16:45-17:00 **Plenary session – Conclusions of Day 1**

Master of ceremony: Ms Fatouma Mahdi, Officer, National Assembly, Djibouti

[Media Interviews with delegates - organised throughout the seminar - on why they came and what they are hoping to achieve from the seminar]

Tuesday, 6 December 2022

09:30-10:00 Recap of day 1 proceedings

Master of ceremony: Ms Fatouma Mahdi, Officer, National Assembly, Djibouti

10:00-11:15 **Session IV: Advancing sustainable development through human rights**

The 2030 Agenda is firmly grounded in international human rights standards and aspires to realize human rights for all by emphasizing the principles of equality, non-discrimination and inclusion. By promoting, protecting and fulfilling human rights, parliamentarians are also working to achieve the SDGs, and vice versa. This session will explore the role of parliaments in advancing human rights, in coordination with other national and international actors. Emphasis will be placed on tools that parliaments can use to assess institutional human rights performance and take further action, the role of human rights bodies in parliament, and cooperation with external partners.

Moderator: Mr. Fabrice Basile, Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the EU Delegation to Djibouti

Speakers:

- Mr. Miloon Kothari, human rights expert and former UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing (video message)
- Member of the National Assembly of Djibouti
- Ms. Malungo A. Chisangano, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia

The presentation will be followed by an interactive discussion during which delegates can share their experience, insights and recommendations

11:15-11:30

Tea break

11:30-12:45

Session V: Strengthening the role of parliaments in health emergency preparedness

Africa has made good progress on health indicators and should maintain this progress to meet the relevant SDG targets by 2030. However, it remains vulnerable to health emergencies. Alongside the COVID-19 pandemic, disease outbreaks are also driving the region's emergency burden, with significant consequences for people's lives, well-being and access to health services, especially for those living in rural areas where poor road networks make access to health care a challenge. Better preparedness requires building a country's capacities to detect and respond to health risks and emergencies. Legal frameworks are needed to strengthen health systems and ensure vulnerable and marginalized groups are not left behind. Capacities and resources to successfully implement such frameworks are also required. The session will include a discussion of how parliaments can strengthen engagement in health security and a presentation of the IPU-WHO handbook on health security preparedness, with practical guidance on legislation, budget alignment, oversight and representation of people's and communities' needs in preparedness processes.

Moderator: Mr. Reinhilde Van de Weerd, WHO Representative in Djibouti - TBC

Speakers

- Mr. Ludy Suryantoro, Head of Multisectoral Engagement for Health Security Unit, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, (video message)
- Mr. Mohamed Khouildi, Member of the Council of the Nation, Algeria
- Testimonial – Rural Community

The presentation will be followed by an interactive discussion during which delegates can share their experience, insights and recommendations

12:45-14:00

Lunch

14:00-15:15

Session VI: Strengthening parliaments and parliamentarians' role in SDG financing and monitoring

Parliamentarians have a key role to play in ensuring that funding and resources are invested effectively to support sustainable development. They are responsible for adopting national budgets, making sure that they address the needs of all and ensuring that their governments are held accountable on how resources are spent, and if they are in line with the national and international commitments they made. This session will focus on the importance of making sure that governments are putting their money where their mouths are.

Moderator: Ms. Angela Kiconco, Statistician, UNECA

Speaker:

- Ms. Kristen Heim, University of Stellenbosch, IPU Consultant (remote participation)
- Representative from UNDP, Djibouti

The presentation will be followed by an interactive discussion during which delegates can share their experience, insights and recommendations

Let's turn words into action! Let's achieve SDGs for all!

15:15-16:00

Closing session

Presentation of meeting report, including recommendations proposed by participants during each session of the seminar

Master of ceremony: Ms Fatouma Mahdi, Officer, National Assembly, Djibouti

Closing remarks

Mr. Mohamed Ali Houmed, Speaker, National Assembly of Djibouti

[Interviews with delegates on the conclusions of the seminar and their personal commitment to implement the SDGs]

Wednesday, 7 December 2022

08:00-14:00

Field visit

Organized by the National Assembly of Djibouti. Participants will visit Lake Assal, which is the lowest point on land in Africa, and the National Observatory on Climate.