



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



Third Regional Seminar on Achieving the SDGs for the IPU's Twelve Plus Geopolitical Group

18–19 January 2024, Paris, France

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 17 January 2024

Delegates arrive

Thursday, 18 January 2024

08:15	Meet at entrance to Novotel Tour Eiffel hotel
08:20	Bus departs from Novotel Tour Eiffel hotel to the Senate
09:00	Recommended arrival time for participants travelling directly to the Senate (entrance at 15 rue de Vaugirard)
09:00–09:30	<u>Welcome and settling-in (Médicis Room, Senate)</u>
09:30–10:00	Opening remarks Mr. Gérard Larcher , President of the Senate, France Mr. Martin Chungong , IPU Secretary General Mr. Xavier Iacovelli , Executive President of the French IPU Group
10:00–10:15	Group photo
10:15–10:30	Coffee break

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

10:30–10:35	Video message from Mr. Andries Gryffroy (Belgium), President of the Twelve Plus Group
10:35–12:00	Session 1: Running for sustainable development and the green transition

In its most recent report on progress on the Sustainable Development Goals entitled *Growing Challenges for Sustainable Development: Can the UNECE Region Turn the Tide in 2023?*, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe presented alarming data indicating that the region will only be able to achieve 21 targets (18% of the 115 measurable targets) by 2030. Significant action is therefore urgently required to address existing challenges at their root.

This session will provide an overview of the status of SDG implementation in the Twelve Plus countries, as well as information on initiatives parliaments have put in place to accelerate their achievement. The session will focus on key areas where improvements can be made and on the challenges that demand urgent action. Delegates will hear about the need for increased investment in the collection and processing of data and statistics, which would enable them to comprehensively monitor the impact of policy actions and legislation.

As the Twelve Plus countries are severely impacted by climate change, which represents the most pervasive threat to the environment and society, special attention will be given to this topic and to the steps parliaments have taken, or will need to take, in order to address this threat.

Moderator: Mr. Louis-Jean de Nicolaÿ, Senator, Sarthe (France)

- **Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin**, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- **Mr. Thomas Lesueur**, Commissioner-General for Sustainable Development, Interministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development, Ministry for Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, France
- **Ms. M.S. Al Suwaidi**, Vice-President of the IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, United Arab Emirates (video)
- **Mr. Thibaud Voïta**, Associate Research Fellow, Centre for Energy and Climate, French Institute of International Relations (Ifri)
- **Ms. Maria Mousmouti**, Associate Research Fellow, Sir William Dale Centre for Legislative Studies, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of the University of London

Following the presentations, the floor will be opened to parliamentarians for an interactive session, in which they will be invited to share their experiences and recommendations.

12:00–14:00

Lunch at the Senate

14:00–15:30

Session 2: Racing for equal opportunities for all and building resilient health systems

Global health crises impact all segments of society, and no community in the world is fully protected against them. Women, as well as other population groups such as older people, migrants and refugees, and people with disabilities, are often hit the hardest. Health crises can lead to significant socioeconomic losses for both individuals and society as a whole. As the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated, resilient health systems are essential in such crises and in guaranteeing health security, i.e. ensuring the continuity of basic care and handling unpredictable shocks. The International Health Regulations (2005) are an important tool of international law, reflecting the commitment by States to prevent, detect and respond to emergency health risks.

This session will aim to promote the importance of strengthening health security and ensuring that the needs of those who are underserved and in marginalized

and/or vulnerable situations are duly addressed, thanks to resilient health systems.

Moderator: Ms. Laetitia Saint-Paul, Deputy, Maine-et-Loire, France

- **Mr. Gerard Schmets**, Deputy Director of the Primary Health Care Special Programme, World Health Organization (WHO)

- **Ms. Agnès Soucat**, Director of Health and Social Protection, French Development Agency

- **Mr. Martin Hirsch**, President of the *Institut de l'Engagement*, former Director-General of *Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP)*

- **Ms. Joanna Herat**, Chief, Health and Education Sector, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The presentations will be followed by an interactive discussion during which delegates will have an opportunity to share their experiences and recommendations.

15:30–15:45

Break

15:45–17:15

Session 3: Open parliaments and innovation

In an international context marked by growing public mistrust of public institutions and heightened doubts about representative democracy, parliaments are obliged to reflect on the way they operate and how their role and the exercise of their constitutional missions are perceived by the people. This is why renewed attention needs to be paid to the "Open Parliament" approach, which several parliaments have decided to adopt in the framework of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative, launched in 2011.

While the OGP has led to increased reflection on the openness of parliaments to civil society, such concerns have been around for some time. In its guide to good practice entitled *Parliament and democracy in the twenty-first century* (2006), the IPU stressed the importance of parliaments being both "open and transparent" on the one hand and "accessible" on the other. The publication in 2022 by the IPU and the UNDP of the Global Parliamentary Report on *Public engagement in the work of parliament* deepened these reflections and identified new good parliamentary practices. Several criteria for assessing transparency are also included in the new Indicators for Democratic Parliaments (2023).

The aim of this session is to provide a reminder of the main requirements for an open parliament – from a technological point of view but also in terms of public accessibility to the work of parliament – and to present and examine some of the initiatives implemented by parliaments in the Twelve Plus countries, as well as possible challenges arising.

Moderator: Mr. Xavier Iacovelli, Senator, Hauts-de-Seine, Executive President of the French IPU Group (France)

- **Ms. Laurence Marzal**, Senior Programme Officer, IPU

- **Mr. Olivier Rozenberg**, Associate Professor at the Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics, Sciences Po, Paris, France
- **Mr. Christophe Pallez**, former Compliance Officer at the National Assembly of France (2021-2022)
- **Ms. Margareta Cederfelt**, Chair of the Swedish Delegation to the IPU

The presentations will be followed by an interactive discussion during which delegates will have an opportunity to share their experiences and recommendations.

17:15–17:30 **Conclusion of day 1**

17:30 Return to hotel and free evening

Friday, 19 January 2024

08:15 Meet at entrance to Novotel Tour Eiffel hotel

08:20 Bus departs from Novotel Tour Eiffel hotel to the Senate

09:00 Recommended arrival time for participants travelling directly to the Senate (entrance at 15 rue de Vaugirard)

09:00–09:30 Welcome and settling-in (Médicis Room, Senate)

The 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games: Promoting sustainable development through sport

09:30–10:30 **Panel discussion** on the Olympic Games and sustainable development, organized by the Parliament of France

Moderator: **Mr. Xavier Iacovelli**, Senator, Hauts-de-Seine, Executive President of the French IPU Group (France)

- **Mr. Hugues Ravenel**, Environmental and Sustainable Development Advisor to the Interministerial Delegation on the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2024 (DIJOP)
- **Mr. Antoine du Souich**, Director of Strategy and Innovation, Olympic Delivery Authority (SOLIDEO)
- **Ms. Georgina Grenon**, Director for Environmental Excellence, Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organizing Committee (COJOP)
- **Ms. Lila Durix**, Head of Mission, Director for Ecological Transition and Climate, City of Paris

10:30–11:00 Coffee break

11:00–12:00 **Continuation and conclusion of the panel discussion** organized by the Parliament of France

12:00–12:30	<p>Wrap-up</p> <p>This session will summarize the main conclusions of the Seminar and the recommendations proposed by participants and experts. The floor will then be opened to participants, who will be invited to share ideas or plans they would like to implement in the short and medium terms. Since the achievement of the SDGs is a global challenge that shows how countries are closely interconnected, this session will also enable participants to identify possible allies and partnership opportunities in order to amplify actions at the regional level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Xavier Iacovelli, Executive President of the French IPU Group - Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General <p><i>Participants will also be invited to respond to an online evaluation questionnaire.</i></p>
12:45–14:15	Lunch at the Senate
14:15	<p>Departure for field visits Organized by the Parliament of France</p>
15:00–16:00	Tour of the Athletes' Village of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games
16:30–18:00	Tour of the Olympic Aquatic Centre (welcome by Mr. Patrick Ollier , President of the Grand Paris metropolitan area)
19:00	End of the Seminar – Return to hotel