



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Institutionalization of the Sustainable Development Goals in the work of parliaments

Background

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 comprehensive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) accompanied by 169 specific targets,¹ the ultimate aim of which is to eradicate poverty, end inequality, build peace and tackle climate change by 2030, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

For the SDGs to be met successfully, they need to be firmly embedded in national laws, frameworks and strategies. Parliaments have a key role to play in that regard. They can drive significant change toward sustainable development by: translating the SDGs into enforceable national laws that respond to, and align with, existing country-specific development priorities; monitoring implementation of those laws; adopting national budgets; and ensuring that the government is accountable to the people for national progress towards attaining the SDGs.

The important role of parliaments is clearly recognized in the 2030 Agenda:

*We acknowledge also the **essential role of national parliaments** through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments.*

*2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
New York, 25 September 2015*

The IPU has mobilized strong political support for the SDGs. By adopting a series of declarations and resolutions, IPU Member Parliaments have committed to taking the necessary action to ensure the achievement of the SDGs in their countries. They have also set out to examine their institutions and decision-making processes to ensure that these are fit for purpose and able to deliver on such a major commitment.

The IPU promotes parliamentary action on the SDGs through its activities at the global, regional and national levels. At the global level, the IPU encourages parliamentary engagement with the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the production of voluntary national reviews. The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs holds regular discussions on the SDGs at IPU Assemblies, through which parliamentarians can assess progress

¹ For more information, see <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>.

made, share experiences and develop strategies for national follow-up. At the regional level, the IPU organizes annual seminars, which aim to raise awareness and facilitate sharing of good practices. These seminars culminate in the production of roadmaps and outcome documents that indicate strategic priorities for parliaments in a given region. At the national level, the IPU provides capacity-building support to parliaments seeking to enhance engagement on the SDGs. The IPU has also worked together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to develop a self-assessment toolkit to help parliaments become fit for purpose to play their role in attaining the SDGs.

The IPU global survey

The IPU has been supporting parliamentary engagement with the SDGs since the Goals were adopted. In providing this support, the IPU has observed that many parliaments are taking action on the SDGs, including through institutional arrangements, which are often a necessary first step for effective parliamentary engagement. In order to help the IPU document the ways in which parliaments organize their work around the Goals, a global survey was devised, with the aim of identifying trends and sharing good practices.

Method

- The survey was distributed on 15 June 2018 to parliaments around the world.
- The first half of the survey focuses on parliamentary activities (awareness-raising and training sessions, oversight-related activities such as inquiries and production of reports, budget-related activities, participation in government-led processes).
- The second half of the survey looks into parliamentary mechanisms (establishment of new bodies to deal with the SDGs, mainstreaming of the goals into the existing parliamentary mechanisms).

Response rate

A total of 89 responses were received. The table below shows the response rate for each IPU geopolitical group.²

| Geopolitical group | Number of responses received | Number of IPU Member Parliaments in the group | Percentage of parliaments that responded |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|
| Twelve Plus Group | 35 | 47 | 74.5% |
| Arab Group | 8 | 21 | 38.1% |
| Africa Group | 23 | 52 | 44.2% |
| GRULAC | 10 | 24 | 41.7% |
| Asia-Pacific Group | 10 | 35 | 28.6% |
| Eurasia | 2 | 9 | 22.2% |

² For more information on the IPU's Geopolitical groups, see <https://www.ipu.org/about-us/members/geopolitical-groups>

Analysis

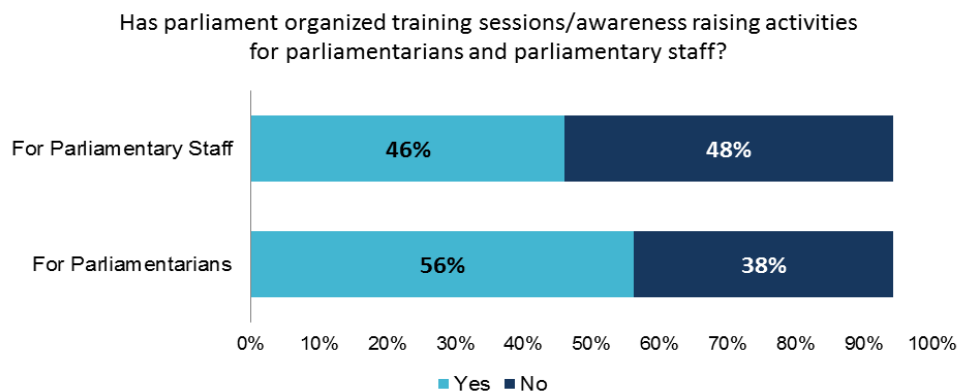
The analysis of parliamentary engagement with the SDGs draws on data collected from responses to the survey and examples of good practices that the IPU has observed through its programme activities. Where information has been taken from sources other than the survey responses, this has been noted.

Some written survey responses have been included in the analysis to provide examples of how parliaments are engaging with the SDGs. These examples will appear in grey text boxes.

Part I – Parliamentary activities on the SDGs

Parliamentary capacity-building and awareness

Awareness and access to information are at the heart of parliamentary engagement with the SDGs. The survey tried to assess how parliaments have exposed their members and staff to the Goals and targets, both through organized capacity-building activities and the dissemination of information about the Goals and how to attain them.



In their responses to the global survey, 56 per cent of respondents stated that their parliament had held training sessions or awareness-raising activities on the SDGs for parliamentarians. Seminars and workshops were the most commonly cited examples. Fewer respondents (46 per cent) had held sessions or activities for parliamentary staff. In order to ensure timely, effective and relevant support for the work of parliament, efforts should be made to continuously enhance knowledge, particularly among committee and research staff, on the SDGs.

In **Sweden**, a seminar was arranged at the Riksdag to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda. The seminar was open both to politicians and to Riksdag staff. This is a simple yet effective way to simultaneously inform parliamentary staff and parliamentarians about the SDGs.

Source: Response from the Parliament of Sweden to the IPU global survey.

In **Serbia**, to raise awareness about the SDGs among parliamentarians, the Foreign Affairs Committee organized a public hearing on implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A series of meetings for parliamentary committees was also organized, with a special focus on the SDGs, in particular on defining future obligations and oversight measures. Future parliamentary activities would include using the media to raise public awareness about the SDGs and launching a campaign through which parliamentarians would engage with young people on the matter.

Source: IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, Sitting of 27 March 2018.

Parliamentary oversight and government accountability for the SDGs

Transparency and accountability are essential elements of a functioning democratic system of government. One of parliament's crucial roles is oversight: this ensures that governments are held accountable for their actions and allows for a functioning democratic system. Key exercises of parliamentary oversight include: ensuring that policies announced by the government are authorized and delivered; holding the government accountable for its use of public funds; detecting and preventing abuse of power by the government; and improving transparency, thereby enhancing public trust in the government.

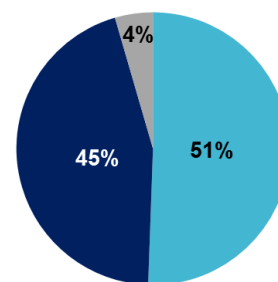
Reporting on the SDGs

To understand how governments remain accountable to parliaments with regard to attaining the SDGs, the global survey asked parliaments whether their governments had submitted ministerial statements or reports on the SDGs.

Government reports

Just over half (51 per cent) of respondents indicated that their governments had submitted reports to parliament on the SDGs. The thematic focus of those reports varied. While in some countries the government had reported on the SDG framework as a whole, in others reports had focused on specific Goals, such as those on health or education.

Has the government submitted reports to parliament about the implementation of the SDGs?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know or N/A

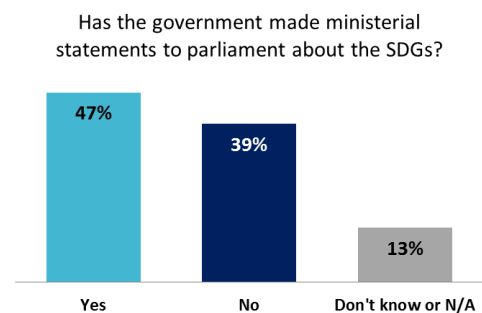
In the **United Arab Emirates**, the Government provides information and data on the SDGs regularly, within the framework of plenary debates, parliamentary questions and the draft laws submitted to Parliament. The government submits reports that display each ministry's progress in implementing the United Arab Emirates National Agenda 2021, which includes various pathways towards attaining the SDGs. There is also a website (<http://uaesdgs.ae/en>) providing information on the Government's efforts to achieve the SDGs.

In 2017 and 2018, the Government of the **Netherlands** reported to Parliament on the SDGs. The Government has also reported on its attendance at United Nations meetings on the SDGs (for example the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2017). The SDGs are also included in the annual budget reports and in debates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Sources: Responses from the parliaments of the United Arab Emirates and the Netherlands to the IPU global survey.

Ministerial statements

Ministerial statements to parliament are generally given when a significant event has occurred, or following the introduction of specific government policies or action. Nearly half of the respondents (47 per cent) had heard ministerial statements about the SDGs, while 39 per cent had not.



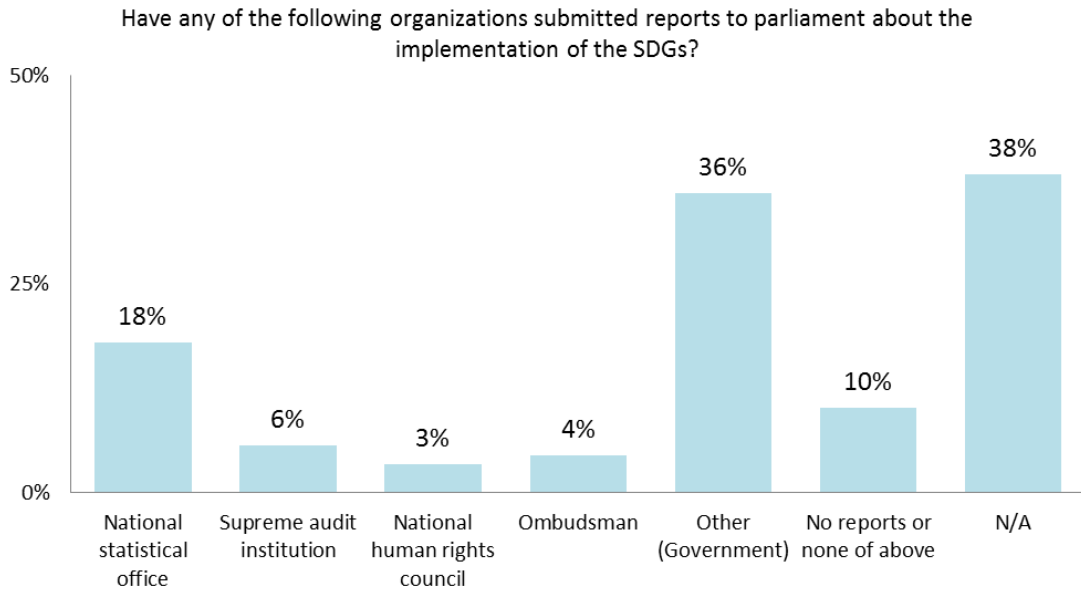
In the **United Arab Emirates**, several ministries provided statements about their progress towards achieving the SDGs, including the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Prevention, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and Ministry of Community Development. At the first parliamentary sitting after elections, the President addresses the Federal National Council in a statement describing the Government's general intentions and agenda, which includes information about the SDGs.

In **Australia**, the Government has made ministerial statements to Parliament regarding issues under the SDG framework, such as economic security and stability, regional assistance, and national and international investment.

Sources: Responses from the parliaments of the United Arab Emirates and Australia to the IPU global survey.

Reports from other bodies

The IPU global survey aimed to find out from which sources, in addition to government, parliaments received information about the SDGs. The results showed that parliaments receive information from a variety of sources, in particular official institutions such as national statistics offices, supreme audit institutions and national human rights bodies. The responses also confirmed that governmental organizations and ministries remained parliaments' main source of reports on the SDGs.



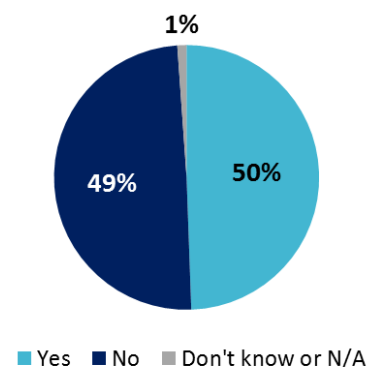
Parliamentary debates and questions

Parliaments around the world exercise their oversight role in different ways. To understand how they perform this function, the survey asked if any parliamentary debates or questions had been held on the subject of the SDGs.

Debates

Parliamentary debates afford an opportunity for members of parliament to express their views on certain topics, and voice the concerns of the party or of their constituents. They are often held when new legislation is proposed. Debates help parliamentarians to make informed decisions about a given subject. The responses to the IPU global survey were evenly divided between parliaments that had and had not held plenary debates on the SDGs (50 per cent and 49 per cent respectively). A small number of the respondents mentioned that such debates normally take place when legislation is being drafted on matters related to the SDGs and their implementation.

Has parliament held plenary debates on the SDGs?



The Parliament of **Fiji** has appointed members as “SDG Champions”, mandated to raise questions about and promote debate on links between government programmes and the SDGs.

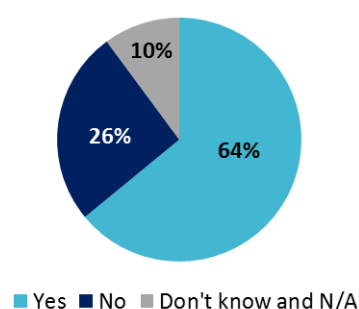
Source: Response from the Parliament of Fiji to the IPU global survey.

Parliamentary questions

Question time is an opportunity for parliamentarians to ask the government about its activities and policies, and therefore constitutes an important aspect of government accountability. When comparing parliamentary debates and parliamentary questions, parliamentary questions were a more common exercise of the oversight role of parliaments. Most respondents (64 per cent), answered "Yes", parliamentary questions had been asked about the SDGs, with just over a quarter (26 per cent) answering "No". Ten per cent either did not know or chose not to answer.

The frequency and number of parliamentary questions varied. One respondent stated that 96 parliamentary questions (written and oral) related to the SDGs had been asked between 1 January 2016 and 30 June 2018. At the other end of the scale, another stated there had been only one question raised in 2016 and one in 2017 (both oral). Overall, it appears that questions about the SDGs are asked regularly.

Have any parliamentary questions been asked about the SDGs?



Committee activities

Committee inquiries

Committees (known in some parliaments as "committees of inquiry") are able to hold inquiries into their area of interest. These inquiries can result in a report being submitted to parliament. During an inquiry, committees seek the views of various stakeholders, to gather detailed information about the subject at hand.

Sixty per cent of survey respondents indicated that parliamentary committees in their countries had held inquiries of various kinds into issues related to the SDGs. Most had consisted of "hearings with ministries" (28 per cent) or "public hearings with experts and others" (27 per cent). Committees had "commissioned studies" in only five parliaments.

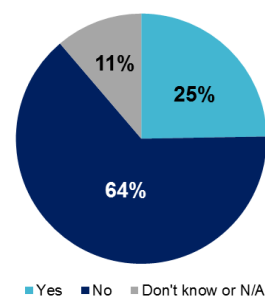
Orders of the Parliament of **Fiji** make it mandatory for parliamentary committees, when conducting an inquiry, to enquire into how the SDGs have been taken into account, with a particular focus on gender. This places an onus on parliamentary committees to report on the SDGs. Inquiries are held through public hearings with experts and others. Committees usually conduct public hearings and seek external input through written submissions as part of the inquiry process. These are then captured in the committee's report to Parliament.

Source: Response from the Parliament of Fiji to the IPU global survey.

Committee reports

Committees are able to publish reports on their particular area of inquiry. Only 25 per cent of respondents answered that their parliamentary committees had published reports on the SDGs. Most of the respondents (65 per cent) answered that no such reports had been published, commenting in some cases that plans had been made to do so shortly. The examples below from Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates illustrate how

Have any parliamentary committees published reports on the SDGs?



parliamentary processes differ globally.

In **Indonesia** reports are published annually on work done and recommendations made regarding the achievement of the SDGs. In the **United Arab Emirates**, several parliamentary committees provide information and data on the SDGs in their reports, in the context of plenary debates and draft laws submitted to Parliament.

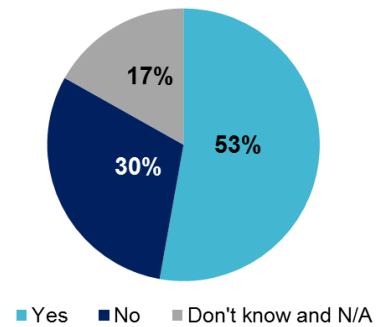
Sources: Responses from the parliaments of Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates to the IPU global survey.

SDGs in the budget

Parliaments are responsible for adopting national budgets and overseeing the use of public funds. This vital role helps to influence government expenditure. Implementing the 2030 Agenda will require investments of various kinds – public and private, national and global – both in capital and in capacity. Parliaments will need to make financial allocations to further their country’s progress towards meeting the SDGs.

The United Nations estimates the gap in financing to achieve the SDGs at US\$ 2.5 trillion per year in developing countries alone (UNCTAD, 2014). To facilitate the attainment of the SDGs, adequate funding must be allocated. At the country level, this would be through the national budget, which is typically proposed by government and approved by parliament. It is important that the SDGs are reflected in the budget. More than half of the parliaments that responded to the survey (53 per cent) indicated that they had taken action to ensure that the SDGs were reflected in their national budget, while 17 per cent did not know whether the SDGs had been reflected, and 30 per cent stated that they had not.

Has parliament taken action to ensure the SDGs are reflected in the national budget?



The way in which countries incorporate the SDGs into their national budgets varies. While some allocate funds to broad areas that relate to the SDGs, such as health and education, others have introduced budget envelopes allocated specifically to the achievement of the SDGs.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of **Suriname** has introduced a special budget, presented to and approved by Parliament, which aims specifically to facilitate and advance the achievement of the SDGs. Similarly, **Indonesia’s** House of Representatives reports that it ensures that the SDGs are reflected in the national budget during its budget meetings with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of National Development Planning. The Parliament of the **Seychelles** conducts an annual examination of the upcoming budget. This is done through the Finance and Public Funds Committee, and in a parliamentary debate. During recent meetings on the SDGs, government departments have been requested to include Goals in their strategic plans/action plans. Doing so will give parliamentarians a better understanding of whether their budget requests take due account of the SDGs.

Sources: Responses from the parliaments of Suriname, Indonesia and the Seychelles to the IPU global survey.

Part II – Parliamentary bodies dedicated to the SDGs

IPU activities and the survey responses show that parliaments usually organize their work on the SDGs in one of the following three ways:

1. establishing a new parliamentary body responsible for the SDGs;
2. assigning responsibility for the SDGs to an existing body, such as the committee system; or
3. recognizing that various bodies are working on the SDGs and therefore creating a mechanism responsible for coordinating that work.

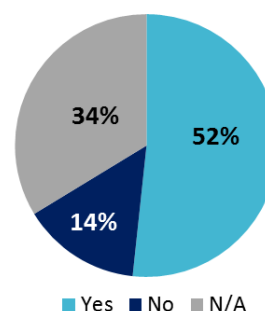
Parliamentary mechanisms on the SDGs

The IPU survey asked how parliaments organize their work on the SDGs – whether new parliamentary mechanisms have been set up to deal with the SDGs and whether the goals have been mainstreamed into the work of existing parliamentary committees. Given the complexity of the SDGs, the survey also inquired after mechanisms set up to coordinate parliament's work on the Goals.

1. New mechanisms established to deal with the SDGs

Of the parliaments that responded to the survey, 52 per cent reported the establishment of at least one parliamentary mechanism on the SDGs. Examples included parliamentary networks, a focal point system, standing committees and subcommittees. The majority of the mechanisms were described as formal and permanent. Fourteen per cent of the respondents indicated that no such mechanism had been established.

Are there any parliamentary mechanisms specifically dedicated to the SDGs?



In October 2017, the Parliament of the **United Arab Emirates** established a system of focal points for the SDGs. In **Mexico**, a parliamentary body on the SDGs known as the working group for legislative monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals was established in October 2015, one month after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. The working group is a formal, ad-hoc body relating to the upper house of Parliament. Its mandate is to “follow-up in a proper manner on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. In **Germany**, the establishment of the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development has heightened parliamentary awareness of sustainability. The guiding principle underpinning policy-making for sustainability is to ensure that that “life today is not at the expense of tomorrow”, assuming responsibility for present and future generations alike. The Advisory Council acts as a “watchdog”, which “barks” whenever an initiative fails to take account of the National Sustainability Strategy. Hearings and position papers allow debates to be initiated, making the Advisory Council an important, active part of Parliament.

Sources: Responses from the parliaments of the United Arab Emirates, Mexico and Germany to the IPU global survey.

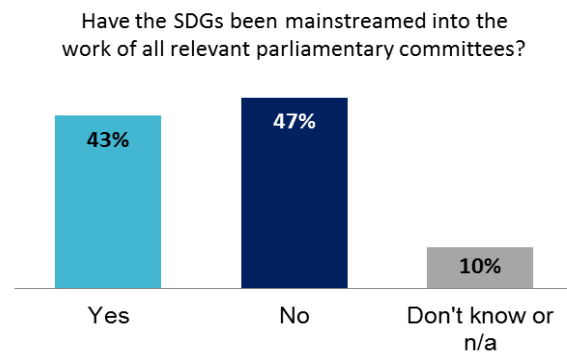
The National Assembly of **Serbia** has developed several mechanisms to monitor SDG attainment, including a focus group established in 2017. The composition of the group is wide-ranging and includes parliamentarians from both the governing party and the opposition, deputy speakers of parliament and the chairpersons of the most relevant parliamentary committees.

Source: IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, sitting of 27 March 2018.

2. Mainstreaming SDGs into the work of existing parliamentary committees

Parliamentary committees perform an important aspect of the work of parliaments. Their functions usually include: scrutinizing draft legislation referred to them; proposing necessary amendments to legislation; ensuring consistency between domestic legislation, international standards and the interests of the people; conducting inquiries; and scrutinizing government. Committees may be temporary (ad hoc committees) or permanent (standing committees). They are well positioned to consider engagement with the SDGs in a more in-depth manner than parliament itself is typically able, focusing on the thematic area under their responsibility.

When looking at responses to the global survey, the percentage of parliaments that had mainstreamed the SDGs into the work of all relevant parliamentary committees (43 per cent) was very similar to the percentage that had not (47 per cent). Less than a third of parliaments reported having both established a new parliamentary mechanism and mainstreamed the SDGs into the work of existing committees. One approach does not preclude the other.



In November 2016, the Parliament of **Sri Lanka** established a parliamentary select committee on the 2030 Agenda. The committee is responsible for coordinating parliamentary activities with ministries responsible for SDG-related activities, issuing recommendations on mainstreaming the SDGs into the national budget, and reviewing the availability of baseline data for SDG indicators

Source: IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, sitting of 9 April 2019.

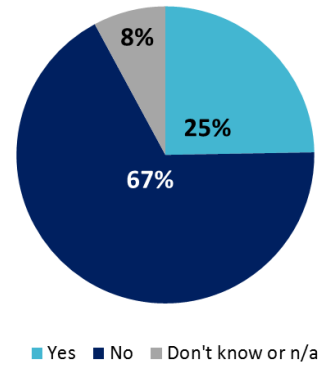
Canada has neither a single parliamentary committee mandated to oversee SDG implementation, nor multiple committees to oversee the implementation of specific SDGs. Instead, the SDGs are addressed by parliamentary committees according to their existing remit and authority.

Source: Response from the Parliament of Canada to the IPU global survey.

3. Coordination body

The SDGs provide a comprehensive and complex framework and many parliaments reported engaging with the Goals in a variety of ways. It is therefore particularly important that efforts in parliament are coordinated to ensure efficient and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To find out how parliaments coordinate their work on the SDGs, the IPU global survey asked whether responsibility for the coordination of the SDGs had been assigned to a specific parliamentary structure. One quarter of the parliaments that responded (25%) had assigned the responsibility for coordinating work on the SDGs to a specific parliamentary body or structure, typically a "sustainable development committee". Most of the respondents do not have a dedicated parliamentary body to coordinate work on the SDGs.

Has the responsibility for coordination of work on the SDGs has been assigned to a specific parliamentary body or structure?



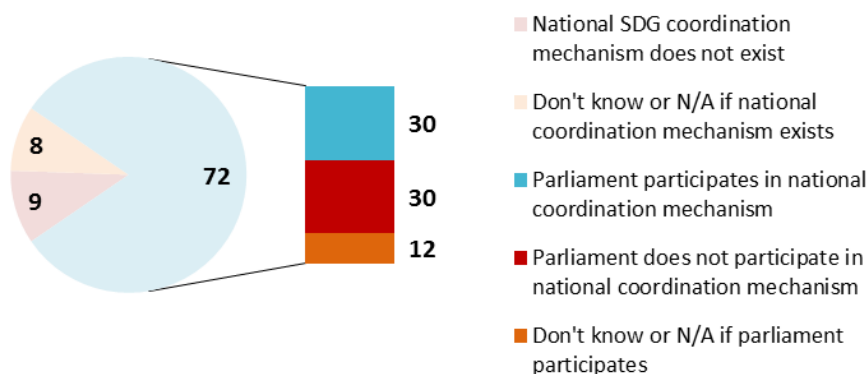
Part III – Parliamentary participation in government-led processes at the national level

Parliamentary participation in SDG national coordination mechanisms

Governments and parliaments comprise a variety of institutions and bodies responsible for a broad range of subject areas. A national body responsible for coordinating those various mechanisms is therefore key to ensuring effective engagement with the SDGs. Lack of coordination can lead to inconsistent laws and regulations that result in policy incoherence.

Most (72) responding parliaments (81 per cent), stated that they have a national SDG coordination mechanism in place. Thirty of those 72 parliaments (42%), reported participating in the work of the national coordination mechanism, while an equal number reported that they did not.

Does your parliament participate in the national SDG coordination mechanism (N°)



In **Sri Lanka**, a national Sustainable Development Council has been established as the national coordinating body for the SDGs, which is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the national policy and strategy for sustainable development. All government institutions are required to align their strategies and plans with the national strategy.

Source: IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, sitting of 9 April 2019.

Voluntary National Reviews

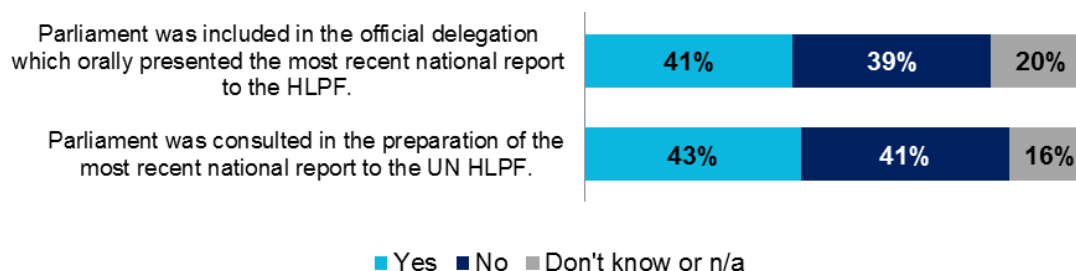
The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development takes place each year, as the principal platform for assessing progress towards the attainment of the SDGs on the basis of voluntary national reviews submitted to it by governments .

The aim of the voluntary national reviews is to assess progress towards meeting the SDGs at the national level. The reviews must be voluntary, State-led, and must include input from a variety of stakeholders. The process of conducting the VNR prompts governments to assess their current level of engagement with the SDGs. This gives the government and various other stakeholders an indication of any areas where improvements have been made and those where

more needs to be done. This process helps to keep governments accountable for the progress, or lack thereof, towards meeting the SDGs. Furthermore, the reviews are presented in a public meeting at the High-level Political Forum. This keeps governments from all over the world accountable to a global audience. Although voluntary national reviews are normally government-driven, parliament should be involved in the review process to help provide a well-rounded view of national progress towards meeting the SDGs and ensure follow-up.

A total of 56 respondents reported that their governments had submitted a voluntary national review to the High-level Political Forum. Of those 56 governments, 43 per cent had consulted with parliament in preparing the review. A very similar percentage (41%), however, had not. Sixteen per cent of the respondents either did not know if parliament had been consulted or did not answer. These results indicate that parliamentary engagement in the preparation of voluntary national reviews could be higher.

Each country is entitled to send a delegation to the High-level Political Forum. The IPU promotes the inclusion of parliamentarians in national delegations to this major global gathering on the SDGs. Of those countries that have submitted a voluntary national review, 41 per cent included parliamentarians in their national delegations to the Forum, while 39 per cent did not.



The Government of **Serbia** will submit its voluntary national review to the High-level Political Forum in 2019. In preparing the review, the Parliament scheduled a public hearing on 11 June 2019, which was open to parliamentarians and to representatives of civil society and the private sector. During the hearing, participants were informed about progress towards the attainment of all 17 SDGs, with a particular focus on the six SDGs selected by the Government for priority action. The Government also informed Parliament that it would be placing a special emphasis on youth and local government involvement in SDG attainment.

Source: Website of the Parliament of Serbia:

http://www.parlament.gov.rs/Public_Hearing_on_First_Voluntary_National_Review_on_Implementation_of_Sustainable_Development_Goals.36670.537.html

Annex 1 – SDG self-assessment toolkit

In 2016, the IPU and UNDP launched a self-assessment toolkit designed to assist parliaments in their engagement with the SDGs and attainment of the Goals at the national level. The toolkit enables parliaments to identify good practices, gaps, opportunities and lessons learned to effectively institutionalize the SDGs and mainstream the Goals into the legislative process. It is not prescriptive; rather it helps parliaments to ask the right questions to understand how they are interacting with the SDGs. The ultimate objective of the toolkit is to help parliaments accelerate their progress towards implementing the 2030 Agenda.

The IPU had to create a tool that would be relevant to all parliaments, whatever their political system and stage of development. The toolkit was therefore designed to be suitable in a global context and useful to parliaments worldwide.

The self-assessment process helps parliaments assess their current engagement with the SDGs and identify additional strategies, mechanisms and partnerships to meet the Goals more effectively. After completing the self-assessment, parliaments can strengthen their response to the SDGs by setting priorities for action and starting a process of internal benchmarking.

The toolkit enables parliaments to learn from their own experiences and recognise how existing structures can be used more effectively to work towards meeting the SDGs. The toolkit can be transformative, empowering parliaments to identify the practices they need to modify or introduce to implement the 2030 Agenda effectively.

Parliaments from several countries have participated in workshops on the IPU self-assessment toolkit, held, at their request, by IPU and UNDP. Some of the experiences of some of those countries are described below, with examples of how they are engaging with the SDGs. This information has been taken from various sources and is not exhaustive.

Fiji

Fiji held the first IPU-UNDP self-assessment workshop in October 2017. The exercise highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of the Fijian Parliament's capacity to engage with the SDGs.

Recommendations from the workshop included: enhancing understanding of the SDGs among parliamentarians and parliamentary staff; bringing the SDGs from the global to local level through a national action plan; mainstreaming the SDGs into parliamentary mechanisms, either through a committee or working group; and engaging with the public about the SDGs to raise awareness about the Goals at the local level.

Serbia

In November 2017, the National Assembly of Serbia undertook a self-assessment exercise, facilitated by the IPU and UNDP. The Serbian parliamentary focus group on SDGs was responsible for answering the questions in the toolkit. The answers were subsequently considered in an open debate and used to formulate an action plan.

Mali

In January 2018, A self-assessment exercise was conducted in Mali, which reflected on the opportunities and challenges related to attaining the SDGs in the national context. National priorities for the short and medium term were identified. The workshop resulted in new ideas for engaging with the SDGs. The recommendations made by the participants included: allocating a budget for the implementation of the SDGs; appointing an SDG focal point; and carrying out capacity-building exercises for relevant staff.

Georgia

In June 2018, the Parliament of Georgia conducted a self-assessment exercise, which culminated in the adoption of an action plan with various points of focus, including: ensuring efficient coordination and implementation of the SDGs by appointing one member of parliament and one parliamentary staff member to each parliamentary committee to be responsible for all SDG-related content and mainstreaming the SDGs into parliamentary committee activities.

Chad

In December 2018, the Parliament of Chad conducted a self-assessment exercise, following which, parliamentarians drafted an action plan for the domestication of the SDGs. The plan identified short- and long-term priorities and recommendations. Prior to the workshop, the Parliament of Chad had set up a special committee on the SDGs. One of the recommendations from the workshop was to grant that committee permanent status. Other recommendations included: allocating a budget to the SDG committee for the implementation of the action plan; referring draft and proposed laws on matters related to the SDGs to the SDG committee for its consideration; and facilitating an information-sharing session between the Government and the Parliament before each budget session.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has taken several initiatives to implement the 2030 Agenda and Parliament has played a central role in making those changes. In October 2018, the parliamentary select committee held a self-assessment exercise, which resulted in identifying strategies to strengthen SDG engagement in the future both through the SDG committee and through parliament as a whole.

Annex 2

The table below shows the responses to question 2A of the global survey: Are there any parliamentary mechanisms specifically dedicated to the SDGs?

| Country | Parliamentary body (committee, subcommittee) | Informal group or network (parliamentary network, caucus, working group) | A system of focal points | Other | None or N/A | No information |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|-------|----------------|----------------|
| Albania | | | | • | | |
| Algeria | | | | • | | |
| Andorra | | | | | | • |
| Angola | | | | | • ³ | |
| Argentina | | | | • | | |
| Australia | | | | • | | |
| Austria | | | | | • | |
| Bahrain | | | | • | | |
| Belarus | | • | | | | |
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| Brazil | • | | | | | |
| Burkina Faso | • | | | | | |
| Burundi | | | | | | • |
| Canada | | | | | | • |
| Central African Republic | | | | | • | |
| Chad | • | | | | | |
| Chile | | | • | | | |
| Comoros | • | | | | | |
| Congo | | | | | | • |
| Costa Rica | | | | • | | |
| Croatia | | | | | | |
| Cyprus | | | | | • | |
| Czech Republic | • | | | | | |
| Denmark | | • | | | | |
| Djibouti | | • | | | | |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | | | | | | • |
| Ecuador | | | | • | | |
| Egypt | | | | | | • |
| Fiji | • | | • | | | |

³ At the time of submission, Angola was working on establishing a parliamentary mechanism that was not yet functional.

| Country | Parliamentary body (committee, subcommittee) | Informal group or network (parliamentary network, caucus, working group) | A system of focal points | Other | None or N/A | No information |
|--------------------|---|---|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Finland | | | | | • | |
| France | | • | | | | |
| Germany | • | | | | | |
| Greece | | | | | | • |
| Guinea | | • | | | | |
| Hungary | | | | • | | |
| Iceland | | | | | | • |
| India | | | | | | • |
| Indonesia | • | | | | | |
| Ireland | | | | | • | |
| Israel | | | | | • ⁴ | |
| Italy | • | | | | | |
| Jamaica | | | | | | • |
| Japan | | • | | | | |
| Jordan | | | | | | • |
| Kenya | | • | | | | |
| Kuwait | | | • | | | |
| Latvia | • | | | | | |
| Lesotho | • | | | | | |
| Liechtenstein | | | | | | • |
| Madagascar | | | | | | • |
| Malaysia | | | | | • | |
| Mali | • | | | | | |
| Malta | | | | | • | |
| Mexico | • | | | | | |
| Montenegro | | | | | • | |
| Namibia | | | | • ⁵ | | |
| Netherlands | | | | | | • |
| New Zealand | | | | | | • |
| North Macedonia | | | | | | • |
| Oman | | | | • | | |
| Pakistan | | | | • | | |
| Peru | | | | | • | |
| Poland | | | | | | • |
| Romania | • | • | | | | |
| Russian Federation | | | • | | | |

⁴ At the time of submission, the Parliament of Israel was in the process of setting up a parliamentary mechanism.

⁵ At the time of submission, the Parliament of Namibia had plans to establish a committee/platform to deal with the SDGs.

| Country | Parliamentary body (committee, subcommittee) | Informal group or network (parliamentary network, caucus, working group) | A system of focal points | Other | None or N/A | No information |
|----------------------|---|---|--------------------------|-------|-------------|----------------|
| San Marino | | | | | | • |
| Senegal | | | | • | | |
| Serbia | | • | | | | |
| Seychelles | | | | | | • |
| Sierra Leone | | | | | | • |
| Slovenia | | | | | | • |
| Somalia | | | | | | • |
| Spain | | | | | | • |
| Sri Lanka | • | | | | | |
| Sudan | | • | | | | |
| Suriname | | | | • | | |
| Sweden | | | | | | • |
| Switzerland | • | • | | | | |
| Tanzania | | • | | | | |
| Thailand | • | | | | | |
| Tunisia | • | • | | | | |
| Ukraine | | • | | | | |
| United Arab Emirates | | | • | | | |
| United Kingdom | • | • | | | | |
| Uruguay | | | | | | • |
| Venezuela | | • | | | | |
| Zambia | | • | | | | |
| Zimbabwe | • | | | | | |