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The role of parliaments in Agenda 2030 and the SDGs

“We acknowledge 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”

Declaration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

“Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”

Goal 16
Some benefits of Parliamentary engagement on the SDGs

- Increased National Ownership
- Platform for national discussion
- Developing debate and consensus
- Allows for formal input from citizens and CSOs
- Provides oversight and accountability to track progress
How parliaments can engage with the SDGs

- Oversight
- Legislation
- representation
- Budget Scrutiny
Challenges to effective parliamentary SDG engagement

- Weak capacities
- Insufficient resources, structures, processes, and lack of political will
- Lack of access to aid and budget information
- Lack of systematic civic engagement

Parliaments’ effectiveness is frequently hampered by
Capacitated parliaments for SDGs partnership

Global partnership to empower parliaments and parliamentarians to be the SDG actors envisaged in Agenda 2030

- WB
- ADB
- AfDB
- IsDB
- UNDP
- GOPAC
- and other partners
Project overview

Agreed number of Parliaments empowered to effectively and transparently enact legislation, adopt budgets, and monitor implementation of the SDGs in an inclusive and participatory manner.

- Direct support for partner parliaments to assess and develop their capacities
- Regional exchange and sharing of good practices and lessons learned
- Global knowledge development and network of practice for parliaments on the SDGs

Parliamentary Handbook on Parliament’s role in implementing of the SDGs.
UNDP is the largest global provider of parliamentary assistance - providing support to around 1 in 3 parliaments worldwide.

UNDP is the chief operational interface of the UN system with national parliaments, including with regard to the SDGs and the Sustaining Peace agenda.

UNDP is a multilateral and impartial partner with experience in supporting implementation of MDGs.
April 2017
Launch of parliamentary handbook.
Partnership formed

July 2017
Launch of project to support parliaments on SDG implementation and regional and global knowledge development and exchange

December 2020
Project fully implemented:
Partner parliaments strengthened;
Regional and Global capacities enhanced.

The project is modular but is anticipated to cost $10m (assuming 20 partner parliaments). IsDB has expressed interest to support on the basis that other IFIs provide matching resources.
Agenda 2030 places accountable institutions and inclusive decision making at the heart of achieving the SDGs.

Parliaments’ effectiveness is frequently hampered by challenges like weak capacities.

UNDP is in a unique position to implement strengthening of parliaments and parliamentarians for SDGs.

In a partnership with IsDB and other IFIs, UNDP proposes a project to empower parliaments to be the SDG actors envisaged in Agenda 2030.

Project is modular but is anticipated to cost $10m (assuming 15-20 partner parliaments): from July 2017 UNDP is ready to support global parliaments on SDG implementation.