



Together 2030
4th Implementation Series Webinar

The role of Parliamentarians in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

May 17 2016, 9:00 – 10:30am (NY time)

Notes from Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART)

AGENDA	
9:00 – 9:05	<p>Welcome and review of the Agenda</p> <p>Facilitator: Andrew Griffiths, Sightsavers, Member of the Together 2030 Core Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vladimir Cuk, International Disability Alliance (IDA) and International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC)
9:05 – 9:45	<p>The Role of Parliamentarians in the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honorable Nancy Lungahi Abisai, Kenyan Parliament Lord Jack McConnell, Member UK House of Lords (UK Parliament) Mr. Alessandro Motter, Senior Advisor, Economic and Social Affairs, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), NY
9:45 – 10:10	Q&A
10:20 – 10:30	Discussion
10:30	<p>Wrap up and end of webinar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muchiri Nyaggah, African CSO Working Group

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>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Hopefully you can hear me. I think we'll start now if that's all right. And so I'll just introduce myself. My name is Andrew Griffiths. I am from Sightsavers and I am also on the core group of Together 2030. It is my pleasure to welcome to you to the fourth implementation series webinar on the role of Parliament and Parliamentarians and delighted to cohost this seminar with the CFO and the International Disability and Development Consortium. So we have got a -- have got a really interesting webinar lined up. Hopefully, I think we have now -- we have heard from some of the speakers. Hopefully there will be no audio issues. I think people will still join us. We'd like to thank you IDDC and IDA for their making this webinar accessible for the first time since the first of webinars is accessible for people with disabilities through international sign language and closed caption. So yeah, I think that's a really great, great, brilliant, really excited about making these more accessible.

So the questions that we have got to discuss today are around how Parliaments can contribute towards implementation. What level of engagement, what types of structures and mechanisms they need to support acknowledgement between Parliament and how we can engage with Parliamentarians to promote the implementation of the webinar.

We have the Honorable Nancy from the Kenyan Parliament. And she has had a very wide ranging role doing a lot of work with international NGOs, with shelter, looking at poverty reduction and she is an executive Committee member on the Africa platform for sustainable development, Sustainable Development Goals. We also then have Lord Jack McConnell who was Scotland's youngest person from 2001 to 2007 and is currently a member of the House of Lords in the UK. He is the Chair of the Party Parliamentary Group in the great region of Africa and UK Parliament's all party group on Sustainable Development Goals.

And then finally we have Alessandro Motter from the Interparliamentary Union who has been leading the work on, has worked, formulated the ITU input in to the SDGs, is currently working on parliamentary contribution to the HLPF. Fantastic to hear from them. And then we will have an opportunity for questions and answers. And some follow-up from my colleague on the core group, John Patrick from Nigeria, JDPC in Nigeria.

My our friend from the Africa CSO Working Group is going to wrap up the webinar. Before I pass over to the Honorable Nancy for her contribution I would like to pass over to Vlad from the International Disability Alliance, on behalf of the International Disability Alliance and International Disability and Development Consortium. So Vladimir over to you.

>> VLADIMIR CUK: Thank you very much. Let me start by saying thank you Together 2030 for bringing us here today. I really feel very, very privileged to be part of this webinar. I think it is a really great idea. And not like typical idea if I may. It is very interesting that we brought together representatives of Civil Society representatives, of disability organizations and representatives of Parliaments and Parliamentarians. I think this is a unique moment. And I think that we need to cherish this. And thank you very much for coordinating this. And let me just start by saying that we feel that really Parliamentarians have a significant role to play in the implementation of the Agenda 2030. And we would like to see this role be clearly implemented together with Civil Society Organizations at a national, regional global level and I feel that while there is very clear understanding on the national level what this collaboration can be I would like to see more of this collaboration in the coming years. And I am confident this will actually happen.

On a global level we need to find a way that we can work more and coordinate more for the benefit



of a partnership or for a benefit of really implementing the Agenda 2030 without leaving no one behind.

And I am very excited about speakers and I think this would be a very interesting webinar. Once again thank you very much all for coming. And we remain open to real -- to really act upon some of the concrete recommendations that will come out from around this webinar. And please if you can I would raise just a couple of questions such as really how we can concretely work in future on a regional, national and global level. And how we can divide the roles and how best we can inform each other and build this partnership.

Thank you very much and I will not take any more of your time.

>> Andrew: Thank you, Vlad. Without any further ado can I hand over to Honorable Nancy for her contribution? Maybe some of her thoughts on the questions that we were posed by Vladimir.

>> HONORABLE NANCY ABISAI: To start off I must say that I'm very delighted to be part of this Forum. I'm happy that the organizers thought about this. It is very important. And it is about time that we actually start listening to each other. Now even as we go on I'd like to say that one, for a long time and a really long time members of Parliament have not been integrated in to any of these Development Agendas. They always looked as politicians who ideally should be, you know, going out there and doing other things apart from being involved in this very important exercise. Now for me I thought that it is important to even cut the role of Parliament and then now try and find out how best can Parliament then engage. And I start off by even just saying that the existence of Parliament is not synonymous with democracy but democracy cannot existence without Parliament. What am I saying? That a Democratically elected Parliament is the only true voice. It is the only true voice of the people and the accountability to the people it serves is the basic issue on how and on how, you know, can then trickle down to the people themselves.

If one of the core issues is the whole principle of equality, meaning, of course, the political power which should be distributed widely and even as possible amongst people. Now why am I saying this? I am saying this because we need to understand where Parliament is coming from to be able to know that if we do not have participation of Parliament in some of these important agendas, then we are not going to achieve what we need to achieve within the set time frames. Every country has its own challenges. Every country has its own issues. But we need to look at the key concerns when we are talking about sustainable development which recognizes eradicating poverty in all forms and dimensions and combatting inequality within and among countries. And inclusive and sustainable economic growth and fostering social inclusions are interdependent.

When we talk about the role of Parliament we need to know that Parliament needs to work on several things so that they be -- it can be able to achieve or rather be able to participate meaningfully in the SDGs. And one of these issues that then is of No. 1 importance is that Parliament's capacity to understand and relate with SDGs has to be -- has to be built so that Parliamentarians can be able to articulate clearly and to link them to their own Development Agenda at the very local level because that is where it is then people centered and people felt. If Parliamentarians do not know the inputs of SDGs, then at the lower level they will not integrate it within their own local budgets and within their own local programs. There is need to work on institutional strengthening with partners to ensure that their real support is given to, for example, Committee meetings which should be able to articulate matters of development and SDGs that Parliamentarians can know how to actually be able to implement, you know, their agendas. And we know that would be -- that would entail ensuring there is structures and principles so they can bring



out their sole parliamentary work and how it should be done. There is need to provide expertise from within Parliament and ensure political neutrality is that we know how it is working.

On the representative role, Parliament can be able to hold Forums and deliver -- so that they deliver on its promises made during campaigns. For example, when Parliamentarians are looking for votes they say a lot of things but they need to now hold the Forums that can make them accountable in terms of how they are delivering. And then there is also the oversight role and the proposal would be that it would be important to have parliamentary Committees specifically on SDGs. And this would then be a very, very fundamental platform to ensure that the role of Parliament is being felt. And then there is a Parliament can also ensure participation of the people involvement in terms of how is it people centered. How are we bringing the ordinary citizen on board.

Now if we look at that, then there are two critical aspects of ensuring success. So integrating Parliament's public participation function within its older mechanisms and structures is a key aspect of making sure that Parliament is playing its role in the way that it should be playing its role. There is also need for Parliament in order for Parliament to be able to contribute to the implementation of the universal agenda. Budgets is key. What kind of budgetary allocations is Parliament approving and putting in place in order to implement some of these targets and goals that have been, you know, have been agreed upon. So it is important that Parliaments plan on SDG based on citizen's agenda. Money must be appropriated to Parliament on SDG. And now when you look at the whole linkage this is when you see that whatever happens in, and it doesn't matter, a small least developed country or a country or an island but members of Parliament and their role and their role on SDG is the same. So it is important to ensure that members of Parliament have a well-defined strategy for engagements. This will play a very key role. Their engagement strategy is one that should be able to help members of Parliament move forward in terms of planning, budgeting, being people centered and starting on a platform that has a clear framework of engagement.

Secondly there is need to have Parliaments in donor and Government dialogues. Parliamentarians most of the time are left out and I think if they are involved in these dialogues, then it would ensure that Parliamentarians are expressing in terms of implementation and in terms of how the programs are moved.

Key to this then is also more parliamentary issues on resource implementation. At the low level, at the national level how are we able to go about the whole aspect of domestic resource mobilization. It is important that for us to be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It is important to have a very clear strategy on how we realize domestic resource mobilization and that would then mean that Parliament is clear on what it wants to do and how it wants to engage and how it wants to achieve that.

And then I think it is also important to have concrete policies and actions, especially geared towards SDGs. Now if you look at what Parliaments do, how do we ensure because Parliament is ideally the voice of the citizens. So there is need to be -- to have very clear concrete actions and policies so that members, ordinary citizens nationally, regionally, globally can relate to the SDG agenda whether they -- and know whether they feel it and whether it is actually working. When we talk about inequalities, when we talk about the whole aspect of inclusivity, who are we -- we are talking about our own constituencies. We are talking about our own -- the ordinary people and that is the actually the benchmark that is then used to know how much we have achieved when we are trying to look at performance on the SDGs as we progress forward. And the other thing that then we also I think is important for Parliamentarians to do is to promote accountability and implementation. This is actually mutual trust and accountability. In



terms of utilization of money and funds, planning of programs, setting aside time frames and looking at the implementation strategy that then be able to help achieve these goals. Now I know that many people would then think that Parliament's role is to have oversight and see how the programs and the budgets that have been allocated to the various institutions are working. But I think that Parliament needs to play a more critical role.

There is also -- we need to also have the whole question of capacity building, capacity building of staff of Parliament, capacity building of members of Parliament, capacity building of the various key stakeholders on the SDG, on the planning, on the strategy, and how it should go. Oh, my God. And how it should go.

And that is how it should be. And then there is the whole budgetary involvement. To what extent, to what extent is Parliament involved in the budgets. How do they ensure that the budgetary allocation is, in fact, geared towards achieving these goals. And now when I look at the role of Parliament in terms of becoming -- being proactive in supporting SDGs it has to start with its own budgetary allocation and knowing whether they as Parliamentarians, we as Parliamentarians have played a critical role in terms of allocation. Right now as I am sitting in a session in Parliament we are actually looking at budgets. And one of the key questions we were asking if we are very, very serious about SDGs, are we seeing anything in the budget geared towards implementation. These are some of the questions Parliaments all over can ask and it is important to have these linkages with other Parliaments that we can join hands and ensure that we have the same processes. I believe it is important for Parliament to have partnership also with other key stakeholders like the private sector, Civil Society and all the others that can help strengthen the role of Parliament in terms of how the -- they are able to, you know, engage and move the agenda in terms of SDGs.

If you look at the private sector, for example, private sector can play a very key role in ensuring that citizens are brought up to speed and even being able to be a key stakeholder in terms of domestic resource mobilization and that would be able to help in raising aspects of SDGs in implementation and also having a very clear framework in terms of the financial responsibility but then needs to be them.

I think a parliamentary centered approach to the new Development Agenda is very critical both from the representative, oversight and legislative role. On the legislative role putting down and coming up with laws that can ensure implementation and this can be done both at the national level, the regional level, and continental levels so that members of Parliament can be able to engage and share these commonalities and lobby for some of these policies and some of these laws and passed within their Parliament. On the oversight role, Parliaments all over should be able to look at what is happening within their Governments, within their countries and try and see to what extent and percentage the SDGs are being implemented and what programs, systems, structures are put in place and whether the principles are set out are being followed or not. And this is something that is key and common to all Parliaments everywhere. And then I think it is important for Parliamentarians to monitor accountability based on citizen's feedback. Citizen's feedback is one of the most important things if we have to do anything that is key and fundamental on the SDGs.

The very people that we represent are citizens. Both in Parliament and outside Parliament, Parliamentarians are about citizens because those are their voters and these are the people who they speak for. And Parliamentarians are supposed to be the voice for the voiceless and the voice for those who cannot be able to articulate their issues but to what extent this happens is based on citizen's



feedback. So they have a very clear, very, very clear mechanism that citizens can provide feedback on -- in terms of monitoring and accountability of members of Parliament and what -- how they are getting involved in that. And then I believe that we need to have a good governance architecture for SDGs. Now this governance architecture for SDGs is what would be able to help us, you know, know how to go about it.

I see that I'm running out of time. But as I do that, I just wanted to also say that in terms of the Civil Society who have played a very, very key role and how they have done excellent, it is important that the Civil Society who are a very key stakeholder actually engage in building alliances with key stakeholders and strengthen the useful skills and flexibility of action to build Consensus and so that they can bring constructive policy reform. And secondly have Networks which are, you know, inclusive of the key stakeholders so that this then would ensure the last component which is the consultations and information sharing.

I think I have taken a lot of time. I'm sorry about that. But I just wanted to share some of the very key aspects that I feel are very critical in terms of how we engage and in terms of how we move forward on the SDG platform.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Thank you so much for that fascinating insight in to I guess your work and I guess the role that we can play and the work that we can have together. I really liked the legislative work and oversight, you have summarized Parliament's role and the fact that it needs to be making it local and personal and that's very important to Civil Society Organizations as well and something that we are grappling with. And then you raised the issue of SDG Committees. I would like to hand over to the next speaker and some of his insights in terms of work that he has been doing and the Parliamentary Committee on the SDGs in the UK. Mr. McConnell over to you.

>> JACK MCCONNELL: Thank you very much for organizing this event today. I think it is very timely given that we are about nine months on from the agreement of the SDGs and just over a month away from the high level panel. I think this is a good time to take stock on re-enforcing the parliamentary accountability and accountability generally. Thank you Together 2030, the excellent disability organizations that are involved in sponsoring this and making it accessible as well. And also to the IPU and to the Honorable Nancy for her contribution.

I don't want to repeat anything that the Honorable Nancy has said because I think all of those points were a very good description of the essential role of Parliament and Parliamentarians individually and those three key areas, passing the right laws, representing the people that they represent and also holding Governments to account.

The other thing that I might add would be that I think given the agenda of leave no one behind, that is important that Parliamentarians do that, working with Civil Society Organizations to ensure the way this possible representation, particularly of those groups that are either on the margins or normally perhaps out with the mainstream and central -- certain countries.

I also -- I then want to reflect back on how we got here because I think that helps point the way ahead. I think the Sustainable Development Goals have been important for three main reasons. The first one is that unlike the Millennium Development Goals that has been -- there was as everyone on this call will be aware there was a wide consultation in advance and genuine engagement with the global community and that means that the goals are owned by hundreds of thousands of people around the world rather than simply by a small group of people meeting in the room in New York. And this gives us



all a stake in making sure that these goals are more successful than the MDGs. I think the second thing that's important is that that whole process produced an agreement but it gives us a clear 15-year agenda that can truly transform the lives of those who have the most miserable lives in every corner of the world. And the third thing that's important is how comprehensive these goals are. Not recognizing the issues that were recognized in the MDGs education and health and women's representation and so on but fundamental change including the critical importance of peace and justice in goal 16 which underlines, and I don't need to tell someone from Nigeria at the moment, I suspect the absolute critical nature of peace and justice to the pursuance of sustainable development without leaving someone behind.

We can make a huge difference if we work with speed and clarity on the way ahead. I think if we look at Agenda 2030 now and on that way ahead, I think the fact that these goals are integrated, the fact that the emphasis is still on leaving no one behind and that the goals are about yes, they are about the balance between the North and the South, the global north and the global south but they are also about building the capacity of the -- those countries in the developing world and Parliaments and governments and yes, in Civil Society as well building that capacity to deliver on the way in which this should happen but also on the actual outcomes that will change people's lives. So looking ahead I think that the -- there are a number of really, really important issues. I want to re-emphasize the point that the Honorable Nancy from Nigeria made that Parliaments agree budgets all over the world with very few exceptions. Budgets are approved by Parliaments. And to ensure that budgets are directed towards Agenda 2030. And leaving no one behind Parliaments are going to have a critical role in scrutinizing the way that governments spend the money and agreeing those budgets for the years ahead and within that recognizing the critical role as was accepted at Addis last year of domestic resource mobilization and need to grow the resources over the developing world and not go the nations from the developed world. That's my point No. 1.

The second point I think there is also a critical role in national Parliaments in agreeing and scrutinizing the national plans. This is my first concern about this whole process. I recognize the importance of the high level panel focusing in particular on certain countries in July when it meets in New York. But I am concerned that there is such slow progress on the national Strategic Plans throughout the world after nine months since the Summit last September. And the UK, for example, there are no plans to produce a national Strategic Plan despite the fact that these goals are comprehensive and universal, the UK is not planning to produce a Strategic Plan not just this year but at all. I am sure there are other countries who are thinking the same way. And I think it is critically important that we raise the agenda of these national Strategic Plans and that Civil Society activists, Parliamentarians and others around the world demand that countries deliver on these plans and discuss these plans with Parliaments in say their own national framework. Without the plan we will not get it early enough to make a difference over the next 15 years. One of the problems with the MDGs we lost the first five years. We can't allow that to happen with the SDGs.

The third point is in relation to that early action. I have called on a number of occasions for investment right now in capacity, parliamentary capacity, Civil Society capacity but Government delivery capacity and mobilizing resources and delivering improvements in education and health economic development and in other areas. Again it takes years to build that capacity. It could take the next five years to build the kind of capacity that will be needed to deliver over these 15 years of the Agenda 2030. If we don't start now, technically those countries that we will find it most difficult and particularly for



those groups that are most marginalized there I think we will lose an opportunity and we will spend the 2020s catching up again.

And the fourth point I want to make is I think the agenda of leave no one behind should not be underestimated. And I think Civil Society perhaps plays a critical role here. All over the world there are marginalized groups in almost every country of the world. There are groups more vulnerable than others or marginalized or discriminated against. If leave no one behind is something significant over these next 14 years, then early work right now to identify and target those who are most marginalized and most vulnerable will be the only way to turn around the conditions in which they live because it will take a generation to change the very basics of those conditions. I think my main points, Andrew, thank you for this opportunity, would be that critical role of national Parliaments and budgets being agreed by them and the right way.

Secondly, the critical importance of national plans, universally agreed country by country with the right accountabilities and same countries and the right measurements to see if progress is being made and vital investment and capacity. We need investment and capacity right now if we are not going to spend the 2020s catching up. And then finally the agenda of leave no one behind needs targeted work right now and then consistent work over the next 14 years to make sure that those who are most marginalized and most vulnerable actually benefit from the agenda we set out. If we do all those things there then I think the SDGs can result in significantly better outcomes and will change in a way that the MDGs were designed to. And I think by 2030 we might then see a world where extreme poverty is almost gone and some of the discrimination violence and marginalization that takes place around the world has been put in to history and no longer is there in the future.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Thank you so much, Jack McConnell. That was really an insightful intervention there. I was struck by the fact that you really upped the urgency of needing to do things now. Again we speak with one mind on this. I think it is important that we get our acts together and really start working effectively for the implementation of this. And I think partnerships are important to hopefully this call represents the beginning of a partnership around implementation with Parliamentarians. I am going to hand over to Alessandro from the IPU. Get your thoughts in particular. You see the role of Parliaments not from national but the international perspective. Over to you.

>> ALESSANDRO MOTTER: Thank you. Can you hear me?

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Loud and clear.

>> ALESSANDRO MOTTER: Thank you. I am very pleased to join today with the Civil Society community and distinguished members of Parliament from Kenya and the UK. The IPU for those that don't know is the World Organization of Parliament. We have 170 Parliaments in all regions of the world and we have been very active in the SDGs but in the making of SDGs here in New York and provided the input of the Parliament community. Prior to that MDGs though has everyone acknowledged we came quite late to that. The primary mission of the IPU is a democracy. And so I go straight back to the first point to the Honorable Abisai made at the beginning, she talked about the importance of Democratic institutions. Democracy in our view cannot survive for too long without sustainable development and vice versa. Sustainable development is also in a conditional democracy. So that is why by extension we are deeply involved in this sustainable Development Agenda. And, of course, we are very pleased that somehow these intimate connection between the two has been entrenched in the SDGs themselves. If you look at goal 16 when we call the governance goal for us that is a huge breakthrough that was not in



the MDGs and talks about rural law and importance of accountable, inclusive, transparent institutions at all levels, national and global.

So just by way of background, I wanted to explain why we are involved in this and where we are coming, how -- how we are coming to this. If you look at the actual Agenda 2030, of course, you will find several references to the role of Parliament. I have to say we were in the forefront of trying to introduce the language in the negotiations and we are very pleased with the result. Without quoting everything I want to draw your attention to paragraph 45. We acknowledged the central role of Parliament through their national legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for effective implementation of our commitment. Then paragraph 52 refers to We The People and in one stroke of the pen refers explicitly to Governments and Parliaments.

Acknowledging the role of Parliaments as a -- our members just discussed in representing the people and citizens and then paragraph 79 also refers to encourages Member States to conduct regular and inclusive views of progress on some national levels and then refers to national Parliaments having a role in those national reviews. So what I am going to do now is to quickly go over, you know, we heard from the ground level of the MP who spoke before me some of the action they see necessary. So I am just going to go over what the ITU is promoting to support the work of Parliaments in the area of the SDGs to facilitate implementation through Parliaments and in doing so I attach some of the things that the Honorable members just mentioned and add a few comments and I will try to be as quick as possible. So basically we will be operating on three levels, the national, regional and global levels. And at the national level, of course, that is the most critical level where the SDGs actually have to happen. There is no real global agenda unless all countries come together and individually do their part.

So the first order of business is to try to localize the goals at the national level. The global goals do not make sense for each country the way they are formulated. Each goal and target has to be translated to concrete deliverables in those countries with concrete contextualized goals and targets. So what we are -- the concrete actions that we are promoting with Parliament is No. 1, that they ought to have a clear statement in Parliament as to what their role is, what they are going to do. And so that fact we have promoted a model resolution that some Parliaments have already taken on board. It simply says we acknowledge Agenda 2030 and we are having a debate. And this is what we see our role to be and that role should include certain steps. And some of those steps are the ones that we heard from the colleagues before me. We will demand a national plan and we will demand an annual review from the Government of Implementation of the plan. So what we are strongly recommending Parliaments around the world to do is to make sure that the demand that plan and that they are involved in the actual design. Of course, it is a process that's led by the Government in the first instance, but we want this to be an all inclusive process where Parliamentarians and Civil Society, private sector representatives, local authorities, everyone who has a stake in the development of the country should be consulted so that we can in each country integrate the global agenda in to a country agenda. Once that plan is drafted it has to go back to the Parliament for a thorough review and adopt it. So it is truly owned. It is time we dispense with the notion that something at the international agenda is owned only when the Government says it has it. No. It is only owned nationally when the Parliament and the Civil Society also have invested themselves in to their agenda.

So the -- obviously what follows from having the plan is that you have to then institutionalize the goals within the Parliament. That's another task we are very busy with now and we pursue for the years



to come how do you make sure that there is an institutional memory within each Parliament of the SDGs and the plan that comes with it at a national level. So the Honorable Abisai referred to SDGs, Committees, for example. Well, we certainly don't want to recommend every Parliament should have an SDG Committee. What we do because it depends on the specific setup or Committee structure in Parliament and many other things. But what we do recommend is that each Parliament should perform a review of its own institutional setup and its own capacities and asking the question are we fit for purpose to use the much -- much utilized expression here at the UN. Do we have what it takes to implement the SDGs. For that reason we have developed an IPU, a toolkit for our Parliaments that we are now -- for which we are now -- that we are now testing and that would come out in the next couple of months and that we will distribute to all Parliaments in the world. Inviting them to draw up a Focus Group, if you will, a sort of Ad Hoc Committee to sit down and look at a number of questions that will test their capacities, so that particular Parliament so as to integrate the SDGs and make them better prepared to go forward, legislation and budget oversight, et cetera.

And part of this whole process we taught to agree with what was said citizen feedback is going to be very critical and believe it or not there are many Parliaments that somehow somewhat disconnected from their own citizens when there is no capacity to communicate with the citizens. To give an example, (inaudible) represents 2 million people. Where do you start hearing from citizens how they see implementation of the SDGs on the ground. So we are looking at the IPU at innovative approaches together with our colleagues at UN. For example, my world server was very successful during the MDGs to run towards the SDGs, sorry, to get input from people around the world as to what they saw the priorities in the years ahead, is now going to go in to a second phase that will help develop tools for MPs in the server at a national level to hear from their constituents by electronic means.

That's in a nutshell what I wanted to say. I could go on and on, but that's what I want to capture at the national level as some of the key steps and some of the things that we are doing to support SDGs. At the regional level that's an important transition, if you will, level that is often neglected but it is very important because it is within regions and subregions that Parliaments find the common ground. Often regions are more or less at the same level of development and may be exceptions but there is a lot of commonality, often also cultural, ethnic or linguistic commonality. So we are encouraging that kind of a dialogue at the regional level and we have started a series of regional workshops and seminars. We have one in Asia-Pacific and one in Eastern Europe. So we are going to row the world in bringing peace together at the regional level.

Now at the global level this is also very important. It is where we will be able to track progress at the -- overall and then at the end of the day, funny thing about the SDGs is that nobody wins if somebody loses. There is important players that are not doing their part, it doesn't matter how well you do in your country. But overall the scorecard will be -- will fall short of the target, the global scorecard. So it is important at a global level that the pressure on everyone to do their part. There has to be peer pressure, if you will. There has to be a system of accountability, so that if I do my job and you don't then we all fail. Then what happens. There has to be some way for those who are laggard to do better and do their part. The UN has set up this High Level Forum, political Forum on sustainable development and refer to voluntary national reviews and other ways in which countries will talk about what they are individually doing on and their global community will report as well. There will be many ways to compare notes and what we are trying to do is to add the IPU to facilitate Parliamentary involvement A,



in the national and voluntary reviews that will be presented to the HLPF because those reviews if you look at the language in the text is posed to be inclusive, not just meant to be a report written up by some ministry bureaucrat as to how far we have gone in the implementation of the SDGs but they are collective exercises as opposed to highlight and raise awareness of the SDGs in respective countries and bring all the actors together.

So that would be an important thing that we are doing. Finally and generally we will want to report back to the HLPF on the actions that Parliaments around the world are taking to implement the SDGs in their countries. And to hear the story of how well they are doing in all fronts that the parliamentary colleagues just described, how well they are doing in terms of capacity and how they are able to oversee the budget and pass legislation, adopt legislation that conforms to the SDGs as defined in the countries, what they are doing in hearing from the citizens. So to create as a way of sort of catalyzing all that information. And also to get Parliaments ready for this global review process what we decided to do is to devote a session of our Committee on UN affairs that meets twice a year and to devote a session at the spring meeting the Committee to bring all this information together to get our Parliamentarians ready to debate the SDGs when it comes to the July session of the HLPF. In a nutshell the -- I am jumping ahead because I don't want to take too much time, there is three things that we will undertake at IPU. One is to support Parliament and one is to provide policy guidance to Parliaments and Parliamentarians on the implementation of the SDGs, particularly the whole package of the SDGs, particularly goal 3, goal 5, goal 13, and goal 17. So means implementation, climate change, those are key issues that our members said they want to focus on particularly. And for that we will provide studies, we will have a political statement and organized meetings to bring Parliamentarians together and share their experience.

Another prong to do with project work to help institutionalize the SDGs and we call capacity building or technical assistance. We will go and help individual Parliaments review -- say the chair's portfolio Committees that come together once a year to see how they are looking, integrating the national plan for SDGs. There are national models that Parliament can maintain the focus on SDGs and then the tracking process. Third element will be helping Parliament construct progress and we ourselves as a global institution we will provide that overall picture of how Parliaments are able to coordinate their action in this regard.

So all of this is a huge undertaking. It is something that in a way begins slowly at IPU during the era of the MDGs. And now we have learned the role so to speak and we have the Foundation and the support to implement this overall vision. So we count on our members and all of you also to work with us in the years ahead to make sure that we do the -- implement this plan at the best of our capacities. Thank you.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Thank you for that interesting presentation. And it is fantastic to hear about the plans. The question I would have around we can partner with Civil Society, particularly around promoting the toolkit that you mentioned. Unfortunately our colleague John Patrick has been struggling with connections. We seem to have lost him. I guess our loss is also our gain. We have a bit more time for discussion and Q and A. So could I ask if you have a question to ask or a point to raise, if you could put your hand up and I will take a few questions. And then we can go back to the panelists. If you have any questions, please put your hand up. Yes, Rick over to you.

>> Rick: Can you hear me? Hello.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Yeah. Loud and clear.



>> Rick: I want to make the point that all countries are not the same. Some countries are big. Some countries are small. Some countries are rich. Some countries are poor. We need to recognize this within the SDGs. That can only be recognized at the global level. The global level is really the level that recognizes the differences between countries. And the fact of the matter is that big countries have more resources, especially if they are rich than small countries. And this needs to be recognized. This needs to be dealt with if the goals are going to succeed. We can't just put pressure on little countries and expect them to succeed. We need to help them succeed. And we need a global approach to do that. One of the things that big countries have that small countries don't have is something called economies of scale, not just the fact that they are rich. Economies of scale they can do more with less and it is really a question of scaling. You know, they can do -- I don't want to get in to economic terms here but they can do more with resources that small countries can't. The nice thing at a global level if you have got all countries working together, you have got economies of scale there that equate to what a big country has versus a small country that doesn't have. So, you know, working together is what I'm talking about at the global level, sharing of resources and having this global approach to things is going to make it a lot easier for success of the SDGs. That's just the point I wanted to make and feel free to comment on it. Thank you.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Thank you so much. One thing, sorry, I should have said if you could introduce yourself as well so we know who you are and where you are from. So sorry, Rick, where are you from?

>> Rick: Rick Osser, Vancouver Canada, member of world federalist movement Canada.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Thank you. Over to you.

>> Rick: Sorry. Did you say my name?

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Yes, I did. Sorry. I said Verity. She doesn't seem to be connecting. Anna, if you want to go.

>> Anna: This is Anna from Safer World and I had a point following Rick's comment. And I do think there are a lot of work -- there is a lot of work to be done at the global level and working together as he said. However I do think there are a lot of actions that need to be taken at the national level as well if it comes to corruption and domestic resource mobilizations. These two levels need to be work -- need to work together. Thank you.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Thank you. I will try Verity again and see if I can -- nope, I'm sorry. I can't hear you. It must be a problem with your audio. Hopefully I can come back to you once that has been sorted out. Any other questions or I will pass back to our panelists. Yes, Durga.

>> DURGA SANKAR: Hello. I am from India. It was nice to -- being part of this call. Specifically the major thing that I recall seeing online (inaudible), currently we know that there will be a process where the national level targets including (inaudible) (lots of background noise) Parliamentarians work on it. Is there any specific time frame for this? What will be there and what we want (inaudible) designed to involve with Civil Society Organizations.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Thank you. Again sorry, I think I was struggling to hear you, but I think I understood your question to be around the involvement of Civil Society in the planning processes and how we can work with parliamentary colleagues around that. So Verity, sorry, back to you. Sorry. We can't hear you. I don't know if your microphone is set up.

>> Can you hear me now?



>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Yes.

>> Thanks. It was just a -- it was a similar question about the advice that we can give to our members at a national level about how they can encourage Parliamentarians to engage.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Thank you. Back to the panelists now. So, first of all, Honorable Nancy, any thoughts or any comeback on some of the questions?

>> HONORABLE NANCY ABISAI: On some of the issues -- hello? Can you hear me?

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Yes, we can.

>> HONORABLE NANCY ABISAI: I was saying that I think I'm -- that some of the issues that have been raised with the, you know, the -- everyone else I think they are very good issues and maybe just to add, I want to comment on what Rick said that all countries are not the same. Indeed this is very true. And that's why, for example, within Africa there was need to then look at the regional Parliaments to play a key role. So, for example, I serve in the East African Regional Parliament. So you look at the five countries and then now see what, you know, how -- what kind of strategy that you can even use at that regional level before it trickles down to the national level. And that's why even as our colleague said from that IPU, at the IPU level we feel that maybe it may not be necessary to set out different Committees, but on the other hand, you find that there are some countries who will only be able to achieve if they have specific Committees on SDGs. So it depends and I think that what matters is what kind of plans and budgets, I agree with you totally, but then when it comes to these national plans, then now at the global level yes, I agree with Rick that you need to look at how do we then address these issues at or especially of the small country, big country. We have them even within the regional integration processes, there -- there are issues of concern that you bring on board, but you must always take in to account that all countries even at that regional level are not the same. So you come up with very strategic interventions that then can help both the big and small have a win-win in terms of how they engage with their -- with their agenda. And one of the key aspects that had come out in an earlier discussion I had was that even people proposing to have, you know, a desk office within Parliament on some of these things and how we can be able to develop the strategic frameworks. So I believe that it is important to have different strategies within different regional Parliaments or national Parliaments on the engagement and implementation of SDGs. So I couldn't agree more with the suggestions. Yeah. Thank you.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Thanks for that. Jack McConnell.

>> JACK MCCONNELL: Of the -- sorry, is that me just coming in now? Yes. I think on the issues that have just been raised I think that both re-enforce the importance of the national Strategic Plans because I think if we are going to get this relationship right between the more developed countries and the least developed countries and ensure that support from one to the other is directed properly, then I think that has to be on the agenda set out and agreed by the developing or least developed countries, not on the agenda of the donors and the more developed countries. I think part of the problem with the MDGs was that partly because of frustration and lack of progress, but partly because of all historic problems that we know of that relationship between donors and receivers that I think there was far too much spending money on service improvements and changing lives directly rather than building the capacity of countries and organizations both Governmental and Nongovernmental in the developing world in order to sustainably deliver those improvements over the long term.

So I think if we are going to get this relationship right and I agree with the first contributor who said



that countries are very different and some have a duty and a responsibility to make the contribution to development elsewhere because of the unequal distribution of resources as the world stands right now, I think the best way to do that in the short term is focus on investment which for want of a better description the donor countries and capacity in other countries so that in the longer term as domestic resource mobilization and so on improves, then the capacity is there to actually deliver the services and the work that has been set out. And I think the other reason that these national strategies are important is I think they are absolutely central to the engagement of the wider population beyond Parliament and Civil Society Organizations and holding Governments and to some extent Parliaments to account. It is only really possible to take what would be a campaign and other circumstances in to a real process of accountability if an agreed strategy has been set out with targets and reporting mechanisms.

First of all, so that strategy can then be scrutinized and those agreeing and voting on the strategy can be held to account but also further down the line are the targets being met. Is the money being spent in the right way and does the Government mean what it says and I mean I just -- I do have a worry here. Both in the developed world and in the developing world I think that a lot of Governments said things in New York last year and in the run-up to New York last year that were easy to say in the international arena, but they are not working on those commitments with urgency either in their countries or what they need cooperation from their neighbors to the North or South. I know that July is a move in that direction. But only when these plans are in place will Parliaments really be actively engaged in decisions and society will be able to hold Governments to account.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Thank you. I wanted to get one more round of questions in. I have got a few hands up. Alessandro, I hope you don't mind if I come first to you in the next round. And I can address any of the issues that have been raised. Let's say Orsolya again. Orsolya, yep, you are on. Please. We seem to be having some technical issues here. So -- Pascal, sorry.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Lauro, can I invite your comment? Yes.

>> LAURO PURCIL: Hello, can you hear me?

>> Christine: This is Christine, voiceover, from Asean Disability Forum. Lauro says that I am glad to hear that one amongst said that nobody wins if someone loses. In this context may I ask everyone what mechanism is now being created to ensure that sectors who are left behind are identified. The next question if they are already identified what mechanism is being created to ensure their inclusion and participation and what training are given to these left behind sectors so that they are provided the necessary skills to meaningfully contribute. That's all. Thank you.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Thank you so much. Erika over to you.

>> Erika: Hi. My name is Erika. I am part of the participate network. And actually based at IDS in England. However we work with groups which are highly marginalized and left behind. So it is -- my comment comes in relation to the previous intervention. What I have not yet heard is what are the Parliamentarians thinking on using, what avenues and channels to connect to the citizens and at the end Parliamentarians are representing constituencies as it has been mentioned and they are the ones who in a way are bringing the voices of these people in to the decision making spaces. Yes, at local or national levels but also now even in global levels or there is a call for more action at the global level at this point. So for me I would like to hear more about how you are going to scope or innovations or ways where Parliamentarians are links, innovatives to citizens and particularly to citizens that are normally left behind.



>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Yes. Please.

>> JACK MCCONNELL: I wanted to say that when we established the -- we have a script in Parliament. It is not a formal Parliament connected but all party parliamentary group is a group of a hundred Parliamentarians across the House of Lords and Parliament. And we established the group last year just before the UN Summit in September. And so far we have held meetings that were, for example, held in Clark in July for covering UNDP and UN plans on implementation with our own Secretary of State in October with the EU commissioner for Development Commissioner Mimosa in January. And -- but since then we have had a meeting with business leaders, an open meeting with Civil Society participating as well as Parliamentarians with business leaders to talk about how they can engage with and business practice are working with the green of the SDGs and how they can implement or take on board the SDGs and their business planning. And in June we plan a youth event with development and others where we plan to engage with dozens of young people from around the country who will -- basically they are the people who are going to provide the energy and the drive on this over the next 15 years. And out of that meeting we propose to produce some action pack for want of a better description which we hope that members of Parliament would take home that their constituencies and set up a similar event with young people to engage with them at the local level. So we are trying to think of this as a step by step process.

We had six months making decisions and knowing what the big plans were for the big multi-level organizations. Also to engage with their individual constituents and if this pack is prepared for June I would be very happy to share that with Together 2030 because it might then provide maybe with the IPU as well because it might provide a model that could be useful elsewhere.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Okay. Thanks for that. Brilliant to hear the sense and as a member of the Civil Society in UK I know you have been active in supporting Civil Society's role in pushing for the strong implementation plans. I am going to ask just one more, try with Alessandro. See if we can get your comment in at the last minute. No, I think we might have failed on that account. Apologies. So I am just going to ask Alessandro and Honorable Nancy if they have any final comments.

>> ALESSANDRO MOTTER: A couple of comments. I will go first to the question that was asked what else can on the -- leaving no one behind and I think that's an important question. And I want to say how important it is that we begin with the notion that Parliaments themselves have to be all an inclusive representative of all groups. That's where people are often left behind right there at the starting line. So women youth disabled people, Indigenous People are among the most marginalized within Parliament itself in countries. So we need to start with and we have a huge program, of course, to move that agenda forward. Concretely we heard also there are a million things and practices that Parliaments can do to work more closely with Civil Society and citizens. And we are very keen at IPU not only promoting the culture of participation and inclusion at that level through hearings and incorporating those consultations in all of the work of Parliaments, especially at the Committee level but also a whole program for e-Parliament. Meant to broadcast the work of Parliament and make sure that people who are not present there can actually hear or read afterwards what went on in intersession. I mentioned in my world exercise as well, the survey that will be a large survey for Parliamentarians to hear from the citizens. So there is a lot of promise there that it can be improved and we are to work harder on. Something about the importance of means.

Implementation and resources that has been mentioned. You talked about domestic utilization. I



couldn't agree more that is where the agenda will rise or fall in a way. Whether we actually determine to invest in it and I have to say the signals are, I agree with the Honorable member, the signal, there is rhetoric, a lot of rhetoric and a lot of promises but not yet strong evidence of commitment when it comes to means of implementation. We just had a meeting here in New York to Forum for development and basic conclusion there was nothing done. It was a big disappointment. As you know there is the UN Development Cooperation Forum. We bring Parliamentarians to discussion and Government representatives, to rethink the whole development cooperation undertaking and then members of global partnership for effective development cooperation that has more of a focus on implementation within countries. And sure the Honorable Abisai is aware there is a major meeting in Nairobi where we will review the existing architecture of this global partnership and catalyze the partners to work closer together.

On that score I want to say we mentioned so far the national development cooperation plans but I want to refer also to another important plan that we think every country should -- each country should have and that national eight policy or partnership policy or for lack of a better word a national development cooperation policy which is a document that -- where the partners for development cooperation including representatives from Parliament, Civil Society and private sectors, the one that are members of the global partnership come together in each country and agree on specific commitments for which they will then hold each other accountable and that includes eight commitments, but also domestic resource mobilization commitments where the action required does not only come from the recipient countryside but also from the outside partners. If you want to stop elicit capital flows it takes the cooperation of international community and not just the individual country that is suffering the consequence. We would need to keep our eye on this discussion on myths of implementation and development cooperation and to make sure that things happen.

On the SDGs question we have a favorable view of their approach. But we are simply saying it cannot be commandeered from the global level down to the national level. Each Parliament has to do a review of its own structure and determine what is the best setup for such a Committee and may transpire that a Committee is not necessarily some Parliaments are telling we don't want a new commitment. We already have too many. What we need to rearrange the architecture we have there and it may only takes a working group to keep things -- to connect the dots. So I just wanted to clarify that. So otherwise I think that's my final comment.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Thank you so much. So Honorable Nancy, I don't know if you have any final comments or thoughts that you would like to share.

>> HONORABLE NANCY ABISAI: Can you hear me?

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Yes.

>> HONORABLE NANCY ABISAI: Okay. Yeah. First of all, I think I concur with what the Honorable member from IPU has said and I don't know want to belabor the point because I think he has mentioned very key issues. When we look at the concerns that were raised earlier on and the questions that came up I just want to say that indeed that all the ideas and suggestions are actually as a way to guide all the key stakeholders in their actions and engagements and all at the regional level and the national level. The practical applications actually must be based on collaboration and discussion and keep paying, of course, in context of the national, national level and also keeping the needs and capacities. I think it is important that this whole process will be built within increased coordination and collaboration through



Networks. And yes, a lot has been discussed, a lot is going to still be discussed and I couldn't agree more that they have to be different interventions from different sectors and from different countries but geared towards achieving the same goals. As long as they work forward and they have a framework and mechanism that is going to respond to the needs of its citizens because at the end of the day those are the people that we need to feel that the ones -- the benchmark that will be used to know and this is really happening and something is going on. Because human beings are the center and concerns of SDGs and different strategies can be explored and through networking and collaboration and inclusive processes I believe that, you know, we would be on the same track and achieve the same goal. Thank you.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Thank you. Thanks so much. So I want to make sure that everyone can participate and we have managed to get Adishar's comment. I want to suggest that we need to institutionalize a tripartite arrangement at the national, state and local levels and I think that's a good idea. And the challenge is with us to try and think about how we would go about building up a bit of a partnership around that.

Thank you to the panelists and Honorable Nancy and Alessandro for your input. We had at height 60 attendants on this webinar. And I also want to thank you, IDA and IDDC, for making this accessible and this is just the beginning. And this is being recorded. So it will be on the website for -- those who couldn't join for whatever reason, including the accessibility features. And I am just going to hand over to my colleague, Muchiri from the African CSO Working Group. He is going to wrap up and close.

>> MUCHIRI NYAGGAH: Thank you very much, Andrew. It is an honor. Can everyone hear me?

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: I can.

>> MUCHIRI NYAGGAH: Thank you, Honorable Nancy and Honorable McConnell and Alessandro for the valuable input. I do have the inevitable task of wrapping this up without sounding to summarize. I do think in terms of wrapping up this conversation as we go forward, it is important I think to highlight some of the things that have come up in this call and other places. Before I go let me do the one thing that Andrew asked at the beginning is a brief introduction. My name is Muchiri and I am with the local research institute, think tank in Nairobi, Kenya. Currently we are looking at the comprehensive Africa development program but also within the context of the SDGs. We are members of the Africa Civil Society Organization Working Group. And this acts as a great opportunity to continue to strengthen our partnerships with our colleagues from around the world and it is excellent for us to do this in collaboration with Together 2030 and international alliance. And this is a model that can be shared, can be copied by other partners around the world. And it did come up at some point, one of the interventions was on the need to improve partnerships of this nature. There was one thing that came up quite a bit and it is Parliament, as part of the SDG Kenya Forum, there is local Civil Society Organizations looking at how SDGs will be implemented in Kenya. We did highlight locally the need for something similar but I want to flag the facts on the African continent countries are looking at multiple plans. We have agenda (inaudible) that has gone in to implementation. It has a ten year framework for plan -- for implementation, which Member States shall now and should probably have already begun to domesticate their own national planning processes and will be the entry point for the SDGs.

Honorable Nancy will bear witness they are working on a long-term vision and plan, 2050 I believe it is. This -- all these I speak in to the Sustainable Development Agenda. For Parliamentarians our view is any conversation around the Committee, especially for the African Group should take in to account that



there are other similar, you know, and interconnected processes in play. So we may be better of the thinking about Parliamentary Committees or sustainable development or caucuses. That's not necessarily about Agenda 2030 but about the broader Sustainable Development Agenda. And this speaks in to the conversation for Parliament fit for purpose and also come up from the questions on the conversation around citizen engagement and closing the feedback loop. How do we get citizen voices to the table and make sure they are not being left behind and how do we make sure that those being left behind are engaged. And I think this will remain a big area of work for all stakeholders. There are some examples that are beginning to emerge. I came across an example from Ghana. The Committee on assurances in Ghana has some very innovative approaches now from getting feedback from citizens and I -- our colleagues at IPU would know about that other Parliamentarians could pick up and attempt in their own countries. And it is this learning from peers that I think presents an opportunity to leapfrog some of the things that would have taken us years. So I'm pretty pleased to see the interest in making sure that multi-stakeholderism continues to be at the forefront. And we leave no one behind and just to emphasize that as we continue to think about how to keep everyone at the table and we need to figure out how to make sure that people who are left behind it is known who is being left behind but the role of Parliamentarians especially around resource allocation plays a big part here. So I would like to encourage everyone to look at opportunities to support national statistics offices. And if they don't have the right resources and the right capacity there won't be able to get the kind of data that's disaggregated enough for us to know where to target resources. So interplay between the Parliament and other institutions needs to be strengthened. And we like -- has come up quite a bit today, focus on how institutions are being strengthened to deliver on this agenda. And this is an area that the Africa Working Group is very keen on continuing to support and continue to speak in. And we look forward to continue collaboration with our partners around the continent and, of course, from around the world.

So we are out of time. So I just want to say that we are looking forward to doing this again. Parliamentarians at the table is a big agenda and make sure it doesn't get forgotten. And we look forward to taking some outputs that have come out from this call and pushing them along. Let this not be an agenda through people have been left behind and has a legacy of exclusivity like the MDGs did. Let this be an inclusive journey and one that will contribute as stakeholders from all over the world. So thank you very much. Have a fantastic week and we look forward to watching this again online. The details I am sure will be provided by Andrew. And our colleagues at (inaudible) who I forgot to say a big thank you for to making this platform available. Andrew.

>> ANDREW GRIFFITHS: Thank you everyone for joining and look forward to continuing to work with you all and see you on the next implementation webinar, if not before. Thanks, everyone.

>> Thank you, Andrew. Have a fantastic week, everyone.

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