



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Parliamentary Forum at the 5th UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5)



4 March 2023, Doha, Qatar
Thematic Roundtables Hall, QNCC

10:00 – 10:30 Opening Session

Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

H.E. Hassan bin Abdullah Al-Ghanim, Shura Speaker, Shura Council of the State of Qatar

Ms. Rabab Fatima, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President of the 77th session of the General Assembly

10:30 – 12:30 The LDCs in perspective: unresolved challenges, untapped opportunities

Drawing on the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) adopted during the first part of the LDC 5 conference (March 2022), and with a focus on commitments to build productive capacities, increase productivity, support inclusive growth, and reduce economic and environmental vulnerabilities, this session will provide an overview of the structural economic issues that LDCs continue to deal with as well as the opportunities these countries may have to free up their own development potential. The discussion will take the cue from the Parliamentary Message to the LDC 5 adopted at the 143rd IPU Assembly in Madrid (November 2021), and reflect on how parliamentarians can help implement the far-reaching economic and social justice agenda of the DPoA.

Leading questions

- Is the global economic system sufficiently supportive of the LDCs?
- How can the LDCs diversify their economies and improve productivity?
- How can the LDCs scale up investments in infrastructure, health, education and other public goods?
- How can the LDCs fend off the growing threat of climate change?

Moderator

Mr. Alessandro Motter, Senior Advisor for Economic and Social Affairs, IPU

Presenters

- **Hon. Mr. Saber Chowdhury**, Honorary President of the IPU, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh
- **Mr. Taffere Tesfachew**, Member of the UN Committee for Development Policy, Acting Managing Director, UN Technology Bank for the LDCs
- **Dr. Arjun Kumar Karki**, Global Coordinator, LDC Watch

12:30 – 13:00 Women and youth representation in LDC parliaments: the current state of play

The DPoA includes specific targets on the inclusion of women and youth at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. These same objectives have long been central to the IPU's democracy mission..

Drawing on IPU reports, this short segment will highlight the evolution of women and youth representation in LDC parliaments over the past decade.

Moderator

Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU

Presenter

- **Ms. Clara Affun-Adegbulu**, IPU consultant, author of IPU reports on women and youth representation in LDC parliaments

13:00 – 14:30 Luncheon offered by the Shura Council of Qatar

14:30 – 15:45 Multi-stakeholder partnerships and aid in LDCs: toward more effective development cooperation

Most LDCs remain highly dependent on foreign aid for their infrastructure and social budgets. Escaping the traditional “donor-recipient” relationship and making aid part of a larger framework for *effective development cooperation* involving multiple stakeholders is particularly challenging for the LDCs. At the same time that the actual results of aid in LDCs may be wanting, developed countries’ commitments to scaling up good quality aid remain unrealized. Parliamentary oversight of aid and engagement in national and global development cooperation processes remain weak. This session will explore these and other such issues of development finance highlighted in the DPoA through a parliamentary lens and in the light of a recent IPU case study in Rwanda.

Leading questions

- How can aid and development cooperation to the LDCs be made more effective?
- How can aid be used to leverage other sources of development finance in the LDCs?
- What national and global constraints are there to mobilizing domestic resources in the LDCs?
- How can parliamentary oversight of development cooperation be strengthened in both developed and developing countries?

Moderator

Mr. Alessandro Motter, Senior Advisor for Economic and Social Affairs, IPU

Presenters

- **Hon. Mrs Nelly Kashumba Butete Mutti**, Speaker, National Assembly of Zambia
- **Mr. Vitalice Meja**, Executive Director of Reality of Aid Africa, and Co-Chair of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
- **Mr. Alexander O’Riordan**, IPU consultant, author *Parliamentary Oversight of Development Cooperation: Case Study of the Parliament of Rwanda*

15:50 – 17:20 The LDCs and governance : the challenge of institutional reforms

Ensuring good and effective governance at all levels, including by increasing democratic participation and enhancing institutional capacity, is an important objective of the DPoA as well as a top priority for the IPU,

Good governance is a necessary condition to peace and development everywhere, including in the LDCs. Governance requires first and foremost that all decision-making at both national and international levels

be fully transparent and accountable, immune to corruption, representative of all constituencies and social classes, and properly equipped to deliver to the people. Parliaments are a key institution of governance with great oversight and representative authority. Yet many LDC parliaments remain under-capacitated to exercise their constitutional functions and tend to exclude important groups, such as women and youth, as well as the marginalized. This session will reflect on governance reforms that are most critical to the LDCs, beginning with the institution of parliament

Leading questions

- What are the key governance challenges that LDCs must contend with, including within the confines of international institutions?
- What are the main obstacles to governance reforms in the LDCs?
- How can LDC parliaments become more representative of women, youth and other groups, while strengthening their oversight role?
- What role do actors such as political parties, the media, and civil society play in governance reforms in the LDCs?

Moderator

Hon. Mr. Saber Chowdhury, Honorary President of the IPU, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh

Presenters

- **Hon. Ms. Maria Angelina Sarmento**, Vice President of Parliament, Timor Leste
- **Hon. Ms. Sara Žibrat**, Member of Parliament, National Assembly of Slovenia
- **Ms. Sara Margrethe Sekkenes-Tollefsen**, UN Resident Coordinator, Lao PDR

17:20 – 17:30 Closing session: main takeaways

Ambassador Courtenay Rattray, Chief of Staff to the United Nations Secretary-General

Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union