



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

Webinar for the Parliaments of  
the UN ECE region



**UNECE**

## Putting the wellbeing of people at the centre of COVID-19 recovery strategies: The critical role of parliaments

Thursday, 31 March 2022

14:30–16:30 CET (Geneva time)

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and  
the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

### DRAFT PROGRAMME

14:30 – 14:33	<b>Opening session</b>
14:33 – 14:45	<b>Opening remarks by the co-organizers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General, IPU</i></li><li>- <i>Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE</i></li></ul>
14:45 – 15:18	<b>Segment 1: Setting the scene – The regional status of SDG implementation</b> <p>The segment will provide an update on the progress of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the UNECE region. Findings from the latest regional Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) progress report will be presented to illustrate whether the region is on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Participants will also acquire information on the UNECE Knowledge Hub on SDGs which is a tool that contains relevant data and analysis that they could use to inform their work and monitor progress of SDGs implementation.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>UNECE</i></li><li>- <i>Interactive debate</i></li></ul>
15:18 – 15:50	<b>Segment 2: Promoting inclusive economic growth and decent work for a just and sustainable recovery</b> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly affected the world of work in the region. Unemployment increased, supply chains have been disrupted, and poverty as well as gender, economic and social inequalities have been deteriorating, despite the unprecedented measures taken by governments to protect working people and to support enterprises. According to UNECE's 2021 report "Is the UNECE region on track for 2030? Assessment, stories and insights", already before the pandemic, none of the measured targets on decent work and economic growth were on pace to be achieved.</p> <p>This segment will provide participants with the opportunity to share information on how their countries have addressed these challenges and discuss what are the opportunities for parliaments to promote inclusive economic growth and decent work for all. Special attention will be given to measures taken – or that could be taken – to empower population groups and workers in specific sectors that have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic – for example, women, young people, individuals in the informal economy, migrant workers.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ILO - TBC</li> <li>- <i>Interactive debate</i></li> </ul>
15:50 – 16:22	<b>Segment 3: Experiences from the region with Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)</b>
	<p>In July of each year, a number of countries volunteer to submit SDG progress reports – known as Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) – to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York. The IPU works to support parliamentary oversight of these reports which governments draw up in close consultation with all national stakeholders, from parliaments to civil society and the private sector. Parliamentary involvement in the VNRs is key to monitoring government actions at the national level, strengthening national ownership of sustainable development and building more political support for the SDGs. The aim of this segment is to present the findings of the IPU survey report on parliamentary involvement in the 2021 VNRs and promote a discussion on the importance for parliaments to be engaged in this process. Parliamentarians will have the opportunity to exchange their views and share their experiences on this matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>IPU</i></li> <li>- <i>Interactive debate</i></li> </ul>
16:22 – 16:27	Online poll
16:27 – 16:30	Short summary of key takeaways

DRAFT