

# SDG-Toolkit for Parliamentarians for the Global Goals



## What is Parliamentarians for the Global Goals?

Parliamentarians for the Global Goals (PFGG) is an initiative by 2030beyond, a do-tank that accelerates action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We are a global all-party network of more than 100 parliamentarians in almost 50 countries around the world that strengthens peer-to-peer learning, increases knowledge sharing, facilitates collaboration on policy and campaign initiatives, and provides concrete tools to help embed the SDGs in national and local policies. We support and organize SDGs pioneers in parliaments all over the world and act as a convener of national parliamentary groups/committees and individual parliamentarians.

## Why?

The [2030 Agenda](#) was approved by all members of the United Nations in 2015 and consists of 17 goals, known as the SDGs and 169 targets for the UN Member States to achieve by 2030. It is the shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet with the objective to leave no one behind.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Parliamentarians play a crucial role in implementing the SDGs by reviewing and proposing legislation and national budgets, holding the executive branch accountable, and representing constituents. This includes passing sustainable and equitable policy, but also blocking proposals that would slow or reverse progress on the 2030 Agenda.

## How?

PfGG's goal is to engage with parliamentarians, partners, and other organizations, such as inter-parliamentary caucus and regional networks, to facilitate cross-party and global collaboration and knowledge-sharing of best practices for SDG implementation.

We support parliamentarians to be fit to effectively implement structures, processes and legislation that accelerates progress on the 2030 Agenda and do so through:



Webinars with experts



Peer-to-peer learning sessions



The SDGs Chairs Forum for chairs of SDG All-Party Groups/Caucus











Hosting 2030 People's Festivals



Individual sparring and support for Members of Parliament

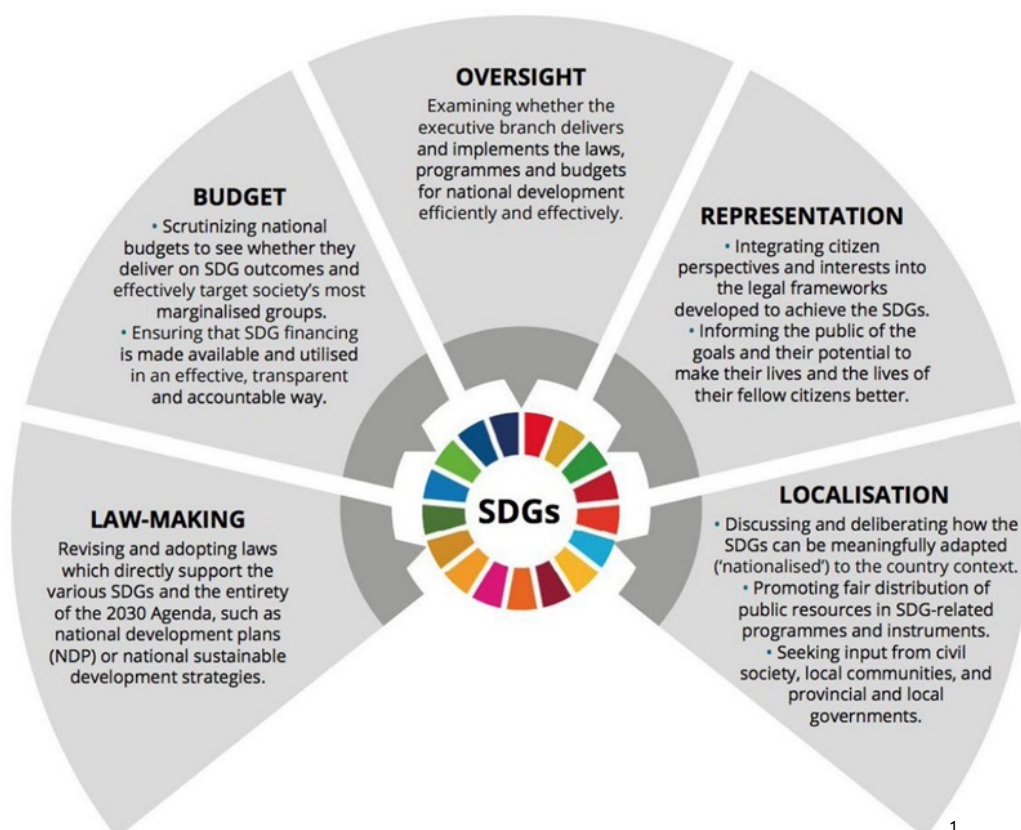
For example, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, PfGG, along with the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and UHC2030 hosted a [webinar](#) focused on designing national budgets to be consistent with achieving the SDGs and ensuring a sustainable COVID-19 recovery. In the spring of 2021, we supported the establishment of the SDG Alliance in the European Parliament. Additionally, each summer 2030beyond/PfGG organizes the SDG Platform at the Danish People's Meeting in Bornholm and in 2022, we supported the SDG village at the Kenyan People Dialogue Festival in Nairobi.

## PfGG Step-by-Step Guide: Implementing the 2030 Agenda in Parliamentary Work

-  Step 1: Join PfGG by signing up on our website.
-  Step 2: Establish an All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)/Caucus in your parliament by identifying colleagues from various parties who are passionate about the SDGs and host a meeting to identify group focus areas and targets. See examples of Terms of Reference for other All-Party Groups [here](#).
-  Step 3: Map key stakeholders, coordinating bodies and individuals who are responsible for SDG implementation, and establish a multistakeholder forum to support and inspire your APPG/Caucus.
-  Step 4: Organize meetings with relevant ministers to initiate an SDG implementation dialogue.
-  Step 5: Host a workshop with PfGG. Once you have established an APPG/Caucus, the PfGG Secretariat can facilitate and even co-host a workshop with your group.
-  Step 6: Prepare and use parliamentary questions to ask if the government considers the SDGs in their legislation. Request the government to develop an SDG screening mechanism for legislation and provide an annual progress report to parliament.
-  Step 7: Map the responsibilities of each standing committee against the 17 SDGs and 169 targets. Develop a standard operating procedure (SOPs) and/or strategic plan to incorporate the SDGs into the standing committees' work.
-  Step 8: Organize a hearing in a plenary session on monitoring and progress on the SDGs in your parliament and prepare a resolution or motion with concrete steps and recommendations to the government on how to accelerate action on SDG implementation.

Reach out to PfGG if you have questions or need specific support throughout the process! Please contact us at [info@pfgg.org](mailto:info@pfgg.org).

## Good Practices to Align Policy with the SDGs



Since parliamentarians play various roles in government which are outlined in the above figure, it is critical for them to have the necessary tools to excel and align policy with sustainable development in each policy area. Therefore, based on the legislative, oversight, and representative roles they play, we have collected information on some best practices parliamentarians can adopt to push the 2030 Agenda forward in their own governments and for their constituents.

# 14 GOOD PRACTICES

## In Legislation, Accountability and Representation

In the following, we have collected examples of good practices from parliaments on how to implement SDGs.

### Legislation

**Focus on science-based policy:** Parliaments should establish structures and mechanisms to institutionalize dialogue between the scientific community and legislators. This way, the scientific community and policymakers can engage in routine conversation and debate, introduce, and establish evidence-based policy and promote multisectoral collaboration.

- SDSN and EU policymakers worked together to create actionable strategies that EU policymakers used to guide the EU's COVID-19 economic recovery. The recommendations outlined in their report, "[Implementing the European Green Deal Through Transformational Change](#)" provided a model for policymakers to address multiple SDGs while minimizing trade-offs.

**Link the SDGs to the budget and integrate them into the budget planning and control process:** The budget control process should analyze the effectiveness of the government's expenditure on SDG achievement. Committees can ask the government questions about how the budget is implemented to promote the SDGs and they can track expenditure on efforts to achieve the SDGs.

- The Egyptian Parliament established a subcommittee of its budget committee to ensure that the state budget is conducive to achieving the SDGs and is linked to performance indicators. Although the national budget is only reviewed once a year, this is an encouraging first step towards more SDG monitoring in parliament.

**Develop a screening mechanism to evaluate the impact of legislation on the SDGs:** A screening mechanism that allows all legislation to be screened against SDG targets helps parliamentarians better understand the impact of the legislation. This mechanism should also help flag legislation linked to the SDGs and an impact assessment based on positive and negative direct and long-term consequences should be conducted. Based on the results of the assessment, the committee/ministry should decide if the legislation is effectively accelerating progress on the SDGs.

- The Danish government has tried a variety of methods to develop an effective screening mechanism, beginning with only looking at the positive impacts of legislation on achieving the SDGs, but now it examines both positive and negative impacts legislation have on the SDGs. Therefore, if the legislation triggers an alert of potential significant consequences, the ministry must create an impact assessment and thoroughly assess the potential outcomes of the legislation.
- Costa Rica has a dedicated legislative assembly on the SDGs and this assembly has developed a methodology to assess progress toward the SDGs and report the intention to create an online tool for these purposes. It also conducts legal, economic, and social studies of draft legislation to analyze its links to the SDGs.<sup>2</sup>

**Write a letter to each committee in the parliament** to encourage them to implement the SDGs with recommendations on how to integrate the SDGs into their work.

- Parliamentarians in Denmark created the 2030-network and sent such a letter. As a result, several standing committees have now debated the integration of the SDGs, and some have even formed sub-committees to determine how the integration can materialize.

## Accountability

**Establish informal cross-party collaboration in the form of an All-Party Parliamentary Group** or an SDG Caucus, such as Denmark's 2030-Network, the European Parliament's SDG Alliance, or Kenya's SDG Caucus.

- The 2030-Network in Denmark was founded in 2017 and has since established a formal advisory body, the 2030-panel, to support the political work of the network and include more diverse stakeholder profiles to advice on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

**Appoint a Champion of SDGs:** Each parliamentary committee should appoint a rapporteur who champions the SDGs and has the responsibility to make sure the committee keeps the SDGs on their agenda.

<sup>2</sup> Policy Brief by United Nations: [https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/PB\\_114.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/PB_114.pdf)

**Engage the whole government:** Parliamentarians have formal tools, which give them direct access to ministries and government bodies responsible for implementing legislation, such as parliamentary questions to ministers to clarify or discuss policies during committee sessions and public hearings. However, there is a need for informal dialogue between other branches of government and parliamentarians on the ongoing and evolving considerations of sustainable policy, such as during the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process.

**Conduct Voluntary National/Local Reviews (VNR/VLR):** Through VNR/VLR the government evaluates the status of the SDG implementation, and the review facilitates the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a focus on accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

**Monitor progress on SDGs by identifying national indicators:** In order for parliament to monitor progress and hold other branches of governments accountable, the SDGs should be translated into a set of individual national and/or local indicators to supplement the global SDG indicator framework. Monitoring can even be embedded into an existing entity, such as the Standing Committee for the Future of Finland's Parliament or the German Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development

- The [German Federal Statistical Office](#) is developing and updating national indicators specific to the country's context since 2016. Additionally, indicators for municipalities are provided by the working group "[SDG indicators for municipalities](#)" which has members from different research institutes, urban and local associations.

**Establish Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs):** SOPs ensure that the SDGs are used as a lens in all parliamentary activities and strengthen the accountability role of parliaments. SOPs and/or annual and strategic plans can include activities such as site visits or public meetings around SDG related issues as well as workshops with Government and International Agencies for progress updates.

- The Serbian Parliament uses digital tools to support its SDG oversight role. In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), it is developing a budget and expenditures web portal aimed at making government spending more transparent to members of parliament. Coupled with national SDG indicators and routine government hearings, this digital platform has significant potential to closely monitor SDG progress.



- With the support of UNDP and the IPU, the Fiji parliament was the first to carry out a self-assessment exercise on the SDGs. Furthermore, they created a guidance note on different methods and tools on how to effectively engage with the SDGs for the Standing Committees.

**Measure the well-being of society:** There are reliable and valid tools to measure subjective well-being, which can help evaluate the effectiveness of policies, the effects of unemployment and improvements of public goods and services. There is also a strong correlation between populations happiness and achieving the SDGs. Some tools to help evaluate and track well-being include the OECD's *Guidelines of Measuring Subjective Wellbeing* from 2013 and the UK Office for National Statistics' survey on citizens' subjective well-being.

- New Zealand has passed well-being legislation which requires the Minister of Finance to report on the well-being of the country and how it has changed over time in front of parliament every four years. It also requires annual budgets to include a report on how well-being considerations have guided budgetary decisions across economic, social, environmental, and cultural concerns. Additionally, in 2019 New Zealand passed a well-being budget and it is based on various indicators in key areas such as mental health, child wellbeing, supporting the aspirations of the Māori and Pasifika populations, building a productive nation, and transforming the economy.<sup>3</sup>

## Representation

**Host a SDG Peoples Festival:** Engage parliamentarians, governmental representatives, organizations, and civil society in a festival to promote and celebrate the SDGs, and have activities to motivate all participants to embrace the SDG framework.

- 2030beyond/PfGG is annually hosting the SDG platform at the Danish People's Meeting in Bornholm. On this platform, debates and workshops are conducted by different organisations. Participants from civil society, business and politics join each other to discuss the importance of implementing the SDGs. 2030beyond/PfGG inspired 25 Kenyan SDG pioneers to implement a SDG festival on their People's Dialogue Festival in 2022. Ugandan SDG pioneers are currently planning their festival for 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Report by International Monetary Fund: <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2022/01/26/cf-new-zealand-changing-the-conversation-on-well-being#:~:text=The%20so%2Dcalled%20Wellbeing%20Budget,nation%2C%20and%20transforming%20the%20economy.>

**Increase public education and outreach activities on the SDGs:** As a representative of the people, parliament should increase public education and outreach activities related to the SDGs.

- Dutch parliamentarians launched an “Adopt an SDG” campaign where they selected their favourite SDGs and shared them on social media. In turn, coalitions of civil society organizations provided specific information, expertise, research, and policy advice which helped inform parliamentarians on almost all social, economic, and environmental issues that are addressed in Agenda 2030 in advance of parliamentary debates.<sup>4</sup>
- UNDP in Costa Rica and Ecuador developed orientation guides to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda among political organizations. These guides are practical tools that facilitate integration of the SDGs into political party programs, and they also assist citizens in reviewing the various programs against the commitments articulated in the 2030 Agenda.<sup>5</sup>

**Engage all levels of society in the implementation of the SDGs:** By engaging and involving civil society, organizations, private companies, and local governments, parliamentarians can collaboratively ensure SDG implementation at the community level and gain greater insight into the effects of government policies on citizens.

- In Switzerland, their 2030 Agenda advisory group includes representatives from business, academia, and civil society. The group has several tasks including representing the interests of non-government entities and undertaking consultations on proposed government policies for sustainable development.
- The national branches of government in Costa Rica, as well as civil society and faith-based organizations, public universities, local governments, and the private sector signed a National Pact for the SDGs. The infrastructure to follow up on the National Pact includes a Technical Committee on the SDGs, which is meant to verify the achievements of the specific commitments made by public organizations to meet the SDGs in the country.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Report by Concord: <https://concordeurope.org/2018/09/25/sdg-good-practices-from-across-europe/>

<sup>5</sup> Report by ParlAmericas: [https://www.parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/ENG\\_Publication\\_SDGs.pdf](https://www.parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/ENG_Publication_SDGs.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Report by ParlAmericas: [https://www.parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/2-PPT\\_Paraguay\\_ODS\\_Nielsen\\_P%C3%A9rez\\_FINAL\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/2-PPT_Paraguay_ODS_Nielsen_P%C3%A9rez_FINAL_ENG.pdf)



## Further Reading

Here you can find different papers and platforms to support your work or give inspiration in implementing the SDGs:

- [Parliamentarians for the Global Goals](#) offer regularly updated resources.
- [AGORA Portal for Parliamentary Development](#) is an online learning platform for MPs and staff. Take part in their [online learning program](#) on SDGs, Parliaments and Budget.
- [Apolitical](#) provides articles and online courses for public servants and policymakers.
- Danish government's [Voluntary National Review](#) (VNR) from 2019 with its successes and challenges in implementing the SDGs.
- German Development Institute has a [report on good practices](#) and the role of parliament in SDG accountability.
- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has a [handbook for parliamentarians](#) on the SDGs.
- Statistics Denmark created the [Danish sustainability indicators](#) to supplement the implementation of the SDGs, which was the result of the project Our Goals. This project put the UN Global Goals in a Danish context, and the indicators show what the Danes find important when it comes to social, economic, and resource-related sustainability in Denmark.
- [Sustainable Development Solutions Networks](#) provides research and policy work information.
- The TAP network created the [Global SDG Accountability Report](#), which offers a chapter on parliamentarian and legislative bodies.
- United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) has a [guide for parliaments](#) on the SDGs.