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Parliamentary Engagement with VNRs

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Arab Region Parliamentary Forum on the 2030 Agenda

Beirut, 25 January 2019

VNRs and parliaments

- The main objective of VNRs is to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They also **seek to strengthen government policies and institutions** and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs.
- Parliaments are acknowledged in the 2030 Agenda for their **key oversight and legislative role** in advancing the SDGs. Thus, it is important that they are fully engaged in the VNR process



How the IPU helps to support the engagement of parliaments with VNRs

Raising awareness about SDGs

- IPU's regional seminars act as platforms of exchange for parliaments of each region.
- During these seminars, parliaments engage in comprehensive discussions on the results achieved so far and on the parliamentary mechanisms they have created to oversee the implementation of the SDGs.
- Exchange of good practices with VNR engagement takes place.
- At the end of each seminar, an outcome document is created, which summarises discussions from the seminar and subsequent recommendations including on VNRs.



How IPU helps to support the engagement of parliaments with VNRs

Informing parliaments about HLPF and VNRs

- As part of the IPU's efforts to raise awareness about VNRs and strengthen accountability for the SDGs, IPU SG sends a letter in December to all parliaments whose governments are reporting to the HLPF
- The letter alerts parliaments to the upcoming review process, advocate for their action, and to report back on their engagement in the national reviews
- The letter includes a questionnaire about parliamentary involvement in VNR
- Parliaments are also invited to lobby their government to be included in the national delegation
- A letter is also sent closed to the date to inform all parliaments about HLPF



How the IPU helps to support the engagement of parliaments with VNRs

Preparing parliaments for the HLPF

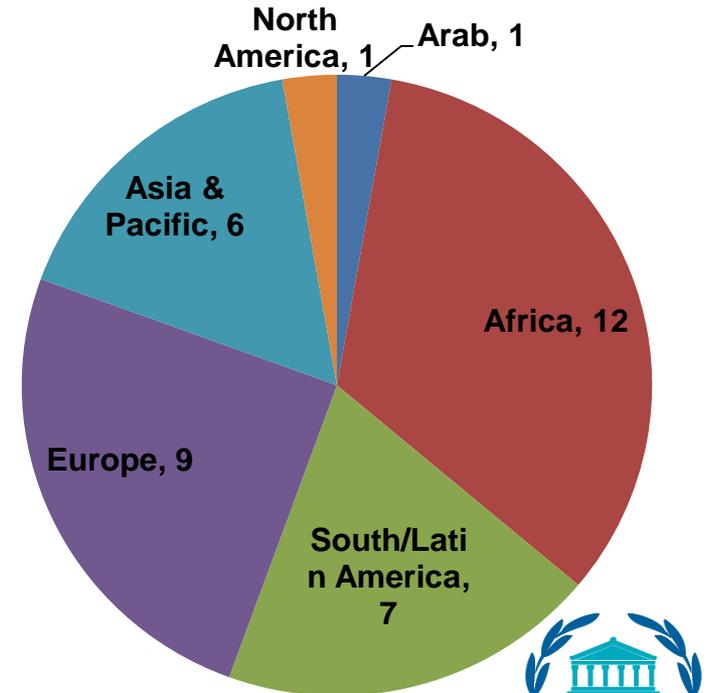
- Special session of the IPU Committee on UN Affairs.
- HLPF introduced, VNRs explained.
- Promotes exchanges of parliamentary practice on SDGs, in particular regarding VNRs.
- Designed to assist all countries and in particular those reporting to the HLPF.



How the IPU helps to support the engagement of parliaments at HLPF

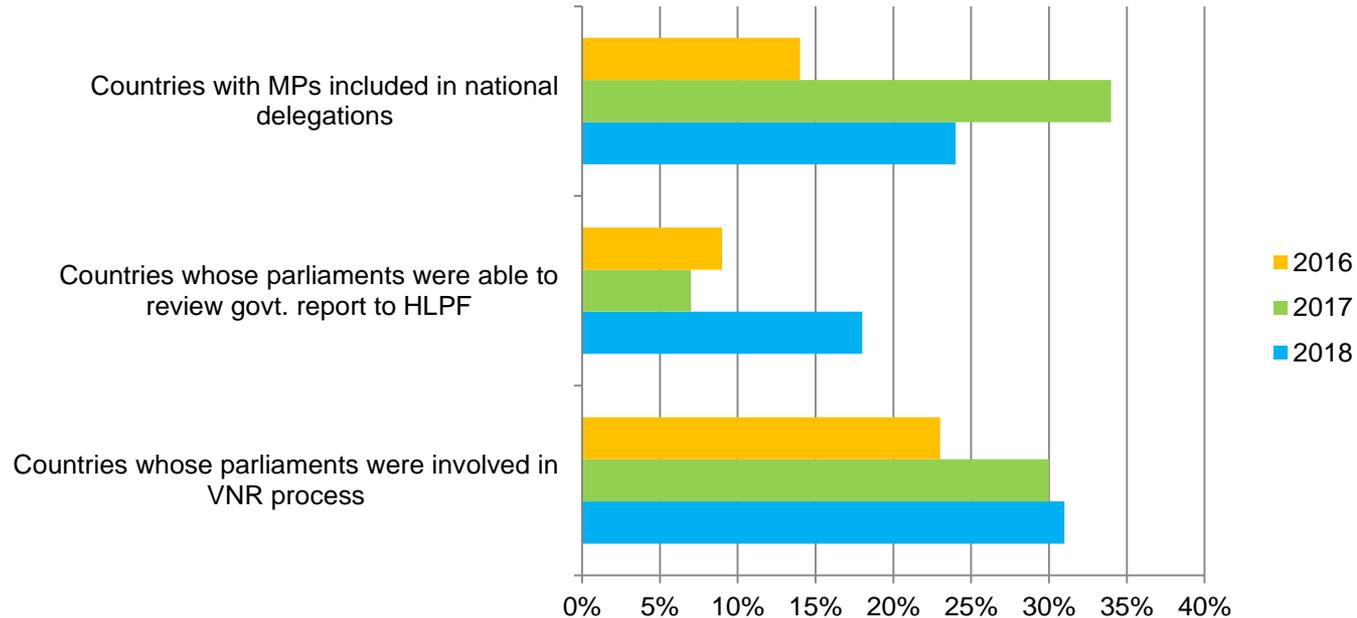
- Official parliamentary side event at the HLPF.
- Target: all parliaments.
- Snapshot 2018:
 - 84 MPs from 36 national delegations were in attendance. Including 2 MPs from one Arab State
 - The event was designed as an opportunity for parliamentarians participating in the HLPF to discuss the main theme of the session.
 - A parliamentary workshop was also held in cooperation with UNDP - mock self-assessment exercise.

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY MPS AT 2018 HLPF SIDE EVENT BY REGION



Findings from the IPU Questionnaire 2016-2018

Target: countries presenting VNRs



Conclusions

- Parliamentary participation in the VNR process it is increasing.
 - The number of countries whose parliaments were able to review government report to HLPF has increased, as well as the percentage of countries whose parliaments were involved in the VNR process.
- Still, a relatively small number of parliaments is consulted as the national report was being prepared and few of them have an opportunity to review the report before it is submitted to the HLPF
- Only one third of the national reports presented to the HLPF included some kind of parliamentary input, and less than half of national delegations to the HLPF included at least one MP
- This makes national follow up to VNRs difficult



Improving Parliamentary Engagement with VNRs

- Countries should be encouraged to:
 - Consult parliament as the national report is prepared and invite MPs to provide input
 - Give parliament the opportunity to review the report before it is submitted to the HLPF
 - At least one MP from each country should attend the HLPF and report back to parliament
 - debate conclusions of the HLPF review in parliament after the HLPF
 - Countries are encouraged to put regular review follow up processes into place at the national level after they are presented at the global level
- These steps are important to ensure VNRs are prepared by government in a consultative, inclusive and participatory manner and that there is follow up.

