



Engaging Thai Parliament to Advance the Sustainable Development Goals





The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were endorsed by all member states of the United Nations in 2015 as a call to action to eradicate poverty, safeguard the environment, and ensure that no one is left behind in the pursuit of peace and prosperity by 2030. Their achievement requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach and Parliamentarians as well as professional staff working in Parliaments have a key role to play to contribute to their attainment.

UNDP partners with 60 parliaments throughout the world to strengthen these important institutions and the capacities of their staff as well as of elected representatives for them to successfully deliver their legislative, budgetary and accountability functions. UNDP also has a long-established partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to work together to achieve sustainable development through the production of knowledge tools, joint parliamentary programmes, and trainings on the SDGs, ensuring that parliaments can contribute to the Global Goals with effectiveness, inclusiveness, and transparency.

Parliaments contribute significantly to the achievement of the SDGs, can support, and monitor SDG localization through legislation, budget oversight, monitoring, and representation. In Thailand, UNDP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Secretariat of the House of Representatives in August 2020 to support the Thai Parliament's core functions and how these can reinforce progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



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UNDP and the Thai Parliament have institutionalized a close collaboration in a number of sectors to support the work of the Parliament.

Gender Equality



UNDP has worked with the Thai Parliament to promote **gender equality** through advocacy and policy dialogues by organizing events on the occasion of relevant international days such as the International Women's Day and joint parliamentary campaigns such as Pride Month, and through technical advisory services with consultations on draft laws such as the Gender Recognition Law and the Civil Partnership Registration Law.



Climate Action

UNDP convened an inter-parliamentary discussion bringing together multiple stakeholders including the Standing Committee on Land, Natural Resources and Environment to discuss climate financing and key **climate action** initiatives in Thailand. UNDP also organizes capacity building workshops to raise awareness and provide scientific and technical knowledge to Parliamentarians and staff to foster their contribution to improve Thailand's legislation on climate-related issues.



Youth Engagement

Fostering youth engagement and representation is a key area of support from UNDP to ensure the voices of young people are heard in the legislative and budgetary processes. UNDP has organized interactions between the Parliamentarians and youth to discuss challenges related to **governance, climate action** and **addressing inequality and discrimination faced by youth from vulnerable communities such as LGBTI, stateless youth and youth from ethnic minorities.**



Learning and Experience Sharing

UNDP engages with several Standing Committees of the Thai Parliament to facilitate knowledge and experience sharing with parliaments from other countries in the spirit of South-South Cooperation. For example, UNDP invited the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji to share how they incorporated the SDGs in reviewing their annual budget law. A Member of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia was also invited to share experiences on tackling climate change.

Within Thailand, UNDP also facilitated a dialogue between the Standing Committee on Finance, Monetary, Financial Institution and Capital Market and the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre (SBPAC) on the economic impact of COVID-19 in the South of Thailand.

UNDP also leverages its partnership with other UN agencies, such as ILO, UNICEF, UN Women and WHO to organize issue-based discussions and serves as a convener to mobilize civil society organizations and representatives of the private sector to inform the legislative debate on policies related to issues such as the Anti-Discrimination Bill, Decriminalization of Adult Sex Work, HIV, Anti- Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP), and rights of ethnic minorities, to advance the Parliament's work in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Digital Transformation

UNDP and the Thai Parliament have joined hands to promote transparency for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to co-design a digital strategy to enhance public services and deliver better results to serve the peoples' needs. This includes the integration of digital technology into the process of the Annual Budget Appropriations Bill and monitoring of budget utilization.



Looking Forward



UNDP looks forward to further deepening its collaboration with the Thai Parliament and other stakeholders, such as the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the King Prajadhipok's Institute (KPI), to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. These partnerships will amplify voices of youth, women, and other vulnerable groups to enhance participatory democracy and good governance. UNDP will continue to support the Thai Parliament by providing technical assistance and capacity building trainings to strengthen its role as a democratic institution and ensuring no one is left behind.



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