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PARLIAMENTS FOR 2030 AGENDA

Empowering parliamentarians to implement the sustainable development goals

Concept Note, February 2018, Amman

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Title:	Parliaments for 2030 Agenda: Empowering Parliaments to Implement the Sustainable Development Goals.
Outcome:	Parliaments empowered to effectively and transparently enact legislation, adopt budgets, and monitor effective implementation of the SDGs in an inclusive and participatory manner.
Project duration:	April 2018 – March 2019
Implementing partners:	UNDP (- ESCWA)
Budget (USD):	USD 2.086.784
Related Strategic Plan outcome(s):	Outcome 2: Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable development

OVERVIEW

Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) define global, long-term objectives for more sustainable economic, environmental, and social development in all countries. Adopted by all 193 member states of the United Nations on 25 September 2015 the SDGs came into force on 1 January 2016 to be implemented by 2030. A parliament that is representative of all sections of society and is strong enough to hold government to account for the provision of effective, responsive, transparent services, is a lynchpin of the Agenda 2030 vision set out in SDG16.

Agenda 2030 acknowledges the “essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets, and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of the SDGs commitments”. It recognizes that ‘effective, accountable and inclusive institutions’ including parliaments as promoted through SDG16 are a key to domesticate the SDGs and ensure quality and accuracy in monitoring of their implementation at the national level.

Parliamentarians around the world were actively engaged in the process of developing the new 2030 Agenda and in some countries, national legislatures were closely involved in implementing its predecessor the Millennium Development Goals, though parliamentary engagement was quite varied globally. A key lesson from these processes is that parliamentarians can and should play a central role in making sure that policies to implement the SDGs reflect the diverse needs of their constituents, and benefit all groups of people, including the most disadvantaged.

However, to fulfil this role parliaments will require new capacities, sufficient resources, institutional arrangements and internal processes, as well as good coordination and exchange of information with government bodies and other actors. It is crucial to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians as responsive political leaders to foster the environment and momentum to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path as set out in Agenda 2030 and to monitor the progress towards achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Supporting parliaments to effectively and transparently enact legislation, adopt budgets, and monitor implementation of the SDGs while inviting the participation and input from the public in an inclusive and participatory manner can catalyse the achievement of the Goals. Parliament is one of the institutions which can promote the holistic approach of the SDGs in ways

that leverage efforts to advance specific SDGs¹. In their role as representatives of the people, parliamentarians are in a key position, and have special responsibility, to open parliaments and engage the public so government programmes and fiscal policies will benefit the poor and marginalized.

Marginalized and excluded groups, be it due to age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status, often have weak bargaining powers with limited opportunities to influence the institutions and policies that determine their lives². For the Agenda 2030 fulfil its commitment to leave no-one behind, supporting parliaments in advancing the rights and inclusion of disadvantaged groups will be of special importance.

Fragile situations and conflicts pose significant challenges to implementing the SDGs. Parliamentarians can play important roles as peacemakers and mediators to reflect and represent diverse interests within society, including by contributing to national dialogue on development priorities that integrate SDGs. In fragile situations, where international development assistance often constitutes a significant part of the economy, capacitated parliaments can also provide nationally owned monitoring for these funds to reach their intended targets³. This Project takes a conflict-sensitive and risk-informed approach to assist parliaments to implement SDGs and sustain peace.

UNDP AND THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA) COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable development reinforces UNDP's long-standing commitment to human-centered sustainable development. UNDP will ensure and link the implementation of the Project on a national, regional (and inter-regional level) in partnership with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The Project is thus initiated and managed from the Arab region and will be first implemented there, with other regions potentially to be integrated at a later stage.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) is one of five regional commissions under the administrative direction of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). ESCWA promotes economic and social development of Western Asia through regional and sub regional cooperation and integration. It devises, promotes, and executes development assistance activities and projects in tune with the needs and priorities of the region of Western Asia.

ESCWA and UNDP have the mandate and the expertise to support countries of the region in implementing the Agenda and in building the capacity of the different actors and stakeholders. In partnering together to empower Parliamentarians in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the two organizations have a broader long-term aim of addressing the governance-development nexus in the region. Over the course of the 2030 Agenda, this partnership will address the needs of Parliamentarians and related stakeholders, through targeted capacity building activities by country, or by region. This further work would also involve other members of the UN family as relevant. The institutional aim is for a sustainable long-term partnership responsive to the needs of Parliamentarians and the demands of a participatory multi-stakeholder approach to the implementation of the Agenda in the region.

UNDP as the largest provider of technical assistance to parliaments worldwide, supporting approximately one in three parliaments to fulfil their potential as development actors, UNDP can bring national, regional and global experience in support to parliaments. UNDP can provide national, regional and global experience and expertise on implementation of global goals. The support to empower parliaments to implement SDGs will also benefit from being an integrated part of UNDPs SDG work⁴. In strengthening the interlinkage between the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the role of Parliaments, UNDP

¹ UNDP and World Bank (2016), Transitioning from the MDGs to the SDGs.

² UNDP (2016), The Human Development Report 2016 'Human Development for Everyone'.

³ UNDP (2016), UNDP Offer on SDG implementation in Fragile Situations.

⁴ It will capitalize on and contribute to synergies with other efforts such as the UNDP Global Project 'Facilitating Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support (MAPS) for Implementation of the 2010 Agenda for Sustainable Development', which assist the mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda at national and local level as well as with the Global Project for SDG16.

articulates in more concrete terms the governance/development nexus. This approach is well aligned with the new UNDP Strategic Plan (2018 – 2021) that calls for accelerating structural transformations for sustainable development and building more effective governance systems as top three priority area.

OUTCOME AND OUTPUTS

The Project aims to achieve the outcome that parliaments are empowered to effectively and transparently enact legislation, adopt budgets, and monitor effective implementation of the SDGs in an inclusive and participatory manner.

Towards this outcome, starting by four pilot countries, the Project intends to achieve the following outputs at the national and regional level:

1. 4 parliaments have conducted parliamentary SDG capacity assessments, developed parliamentary SDG action plans and strengthened procedures and capacities for SDG implementation and monitoring;
2. 1 region (Arab region) has enhanced peer-to-peer support, dialogue, exchange and documentation on good practices, lessons learned and innovative practices for improved parliamentary capacities to implement and monitor SDGs

The pilot phase will be implemented during the first year (March 2018-February 2019), at national level, in four countries, and at regional level. After the pilot phase (March 2019), the support at national level will be sustained in the four pilot countries and extended to new countries.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Responding to a demand from parliamentarians and parliaments, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) have jointly produced “A Parliamentary Handbook: Parliaments Role in Implementing the SDGs”⁵ (hereafter ‘Handbook’):

- Support parliaments and parliamentarians in identifying their role in legislating for and monitoring the implementation of the SDGs;
- Help parliaments to assess and remedy the capacity and structural gaps that currently exist in national and sub-national parliaments and that must be addressed for these institutions to be effective partners in achieving the SDGs.

The Handbook was published in March 2017. It is intended to provide parliamentarians and parliamentary staff with an overview of the importance of the SDGs and the role of a parliament in achieving the Goals. Given a parliament’s role in law-making and oversight of the implementation of government policies and expenditures, the document attempts to integrate the SDGs into the primary and daily work of the institution.

The Handbook complements A Self-Assessment Toolkit on Parliament and the Sustainable Development Goals⁶ (hereafter ‘Toolkit’) developed by UNDP and the Inter-Parliamentary Union and adds to previous UNDP knowledge products on the role of parliaments in the creating Agenda 2030 and in implementing the MDGs.

The Handbook goes further and provides a series of questions that encourage parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to ask key questions to provoke a discussion about a parliament’s current capacity to effectively implement the SDGs. Given the pervasive nature of the SDGs, this introspective analysis should result in a parliament producing a list of challenges it faces in

⁵ UNDP, IsDB and GOPAC (2017), A Parliamentary Handbook: Parliaments Role in Implementing the SDGs.

⁶ UNDP and IPU (2016), Parliament and the Sustainable Development Goals: A Self-Assessment Toolkit.

not only addressing the SDGs, but in being an inclusive and accountable governance institution, in accordance with the objectives of SDG-16.

In this context, it is proposed to work at both the national and regional level to support parliaments. This will allow the parliaments to exchange knowledge and good practices as they will pursue the same efforts simultaneously. The main focus and the allocation of more than two thirds of the budget will be at the national level, where parliaments will be supported to fulfil their potential as SDG actors. This will be supplemented by regional dialogue, exchange, knowledge development and management.

The Project will be implemented with an emphasis on the following guiding principles:

- Ensuring that the parliaments, their members, and administration have access to international good practice to permit them to select the most appropriate tools and processes to effectively play their role; and
- Facilitating long-term sustainability by strengthening overall national parliamentary and civil society engagement capacity

The project is built with a modular approach, allowing to extent the support to additional countries and regions.

A first **pilot phase** will focus on **four pilot countries, in the Arab region**. Embracing the diversity of the region, the four countries are selected to represent LDC/conflict-affected countries and middle-income countries as well as to get a geographical balance between Middle East and North Africa.

Four criteria have been identified on the basis of which the pilot countries are being selected:

- National commitment to the 2030 Ageanda (e.g. reflected in a National Development Plan);
- National parliament readiness (e.g. parliamentarians are discussing SDGs issues, parliament has reached out to national focal point for sustainable development, SDGs considered in budget discussions);
- Institutional preparedness and the capacity to move quickly on the 2030 Agenda (e.g. cross-party mechanisms that focus on SDGs, parliamentary body or structure for coordinating the SDGs, SDGs included in the formal mandate of one or more committees, parliamentary SDG Action Plan);
- Parliamentary buy-in/ownership of the initiative (e.g. countries where UNDP is already a trusted partner of the national parliament and has ensured genuine parliamentary ownership in previous Projects).

It is proposed to select the following four countries for the pilot phase: **Lebanon, Somalia, Tunisia, and Jordan**. This selection of countries allows for a good representation of the diversity in the Arab region and will permit a quick implementation of the pilot phase. Moreover, all countries are at different stages of (parliamentary) SDG engagement, which in sum will allow for the implementation of the broadest possible range of activities during the piloting phase, thus ensuring the gathering of varied experiences and lessons learned.

Lebanon

UNDP is already extensively cooperating with the the Lebanese Parliament within the framework of Parliaments and SDG Implementation. As a result of this partnership, a **parliamentary body** has been established which is primarily concerned primarily with follow-up and monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The body has met twice since its formation in October 2017. Further results include a set of recommendations that has been endorsed by the Speaker of the Parliament. It foresees **extensive support to parliamentary committees**, especially with regard to developing Action Plans and soliciting civil society input through establishing a respective **mechanism**, several trainings in view of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and the establishment of a platform under the auspices of the parliament, which will enable it to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in an integrated way, by employing online and other tools and by building on available information. Fro 2018, it is foreseen to conduct a **mapping and analysis** of all 2017 initiatives undertaken by the Lebanese Parliament in relation to is legislative and oversight roles and placing them according to all 17 SDGs and respective targets. This exercise will also help identifying gaps that need to be addressed by Parliament for the achievement of the SDGs.

Lebanese Parliamentarians presented their progress at the *Regional Seminar for Parliamentarians in the Arab Region on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in November 2017.

Somalia

The **National Development Plan of Somalia** (2017-2019) is fully aligned with the SDGs and acknowledges that “in line with the Federal Government of Somalia’s endorsement, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) act as a guiding framework for the infrastructure sector development priorities with due consideration given to localizing the SDGs with the needs of the Somali people.” **UNDP is a trusted partner of the Somali Parliaments and Assemblies:** Following the establishment of the House of the People in September 2012, UNDP immediately commenced parliamentary development support through the UNDP Parliamentary Support Project (PSP) 2013-16. The Project primarily worked across the NFP (National Federal Parliament), Somaliland and Puntland Parliaments, though in 2016 and 2017 it commenced initial work with the new State Assemblies of the IRAs. Phase II of UNDP’s Parliamentary Support Project in Somalia (PSP – 2018-2021) was recently initiated and endorsed by all national implementing partners. The initiative *inter alia* entails the **specific objective** to “foster the implementation of NDP and SDG 16 in strengthening the capacities for dialogue, research and analysis on inclusive politics in Somalia”. Further commitment of Somali parliamentarians to engage with the 2030 has been demonstrated by the active participation of two NFP MPs at the *Regional Seminar for Parliamentarians in the Arab Region on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in November 2017. Moreover, a **national workshop** on Parliaments Role in Implementing the SDGs is already being planned.

Tunisia

The SDGs are integrated in the on-going **National Development 5-Year Plan** of Tunisia (2016-2020). Tunisia has ranked 65th worldwide and 2nd in the Arab world in the 2017 SDG Index and Dashboards Report⁷. The high score was reached mainly due to the adoption of the new constitution and its provisions. For instance, Tunisia is the first Arab country (and only third in the world) to include an **explicit constitutional commitment** to the preservation of the environment and a safe climate. UNDP remains the main international partner of the Assembly of Representatives of People (ARP). The on-going Parliamentary Support Project aims to strengthen the capacities of the MPs in the monitoring and the implementation of the SDGs. For the year 2018, the Project *inter alia* intends to support the ARP in the **development, adoption and the implementation of an SDG action plan**, aiming at strengthening the capacity of the parliamentary institution in playing its role in the achievement of the SDGs, by creating diverse partnerships and greater cooperation between Government, Parliament, civil society and private sector. In addition, a parliamentary working group on SDGs is being established where each parliamentary committee will be represented via a focal point. Some other workshops are to be held within a larger program, including all MPs, aiming at the integration of the SDGs in their legislative work and government oversight. Among these, capacity-building activities aiming at the gender sensitive budgeting and fostering women political participation are planned for the year 2018. These efforts will be integrated into the here proposed coordinated approach.

Jordan

The Government of Jordan is a key driver of the 2030 Agenda, and is delivering upon a **roadmap** towards achieving the SDGs that ensures their **integration into national development priorities**, as highlighted in the First **Voluntary National Review** that was presented at the UN High Level Political Forum in July 2017. The House of Representatives was involved in the consultative process that led to the development of the roadmap and the VNR. In October 2017, the HoR organized a **workshop** in conjunction with UNDP on the role of Parliaments towards the 2030 Agenda and Jordan’s achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, launching a process during which MPs and UN experts will engage on discussions about the measures to be taken by the House in the realisation, implementation and monitoring of national progress towards the SDGs. For 2018, a **UNDP Parliamentary Support** is discussed, which would aim at further supporting the HoR to be an advocate for the inclusive

⁷ Lebanon: SDG Global Rank 86 (of 157), Jordan SDG Global Rank 80 (of 157). Somalia has not been included due to insufficient data availability. Report available under <http://www.sdgindex.org/assets/files/2017/2017-SDG-Index-and-Dashboards-Report--full.pdf>

and accountable implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, by strengthening parliamentary awareness and capacities on SDGs and enhancing institutional engagement on the SDGs by the HoR.

The project extension and scaling up will benefit from the experience and the lessons learned of this piloting phase which will also be employed to prepare the work with new countries by already developing scoping exercises and regional exchanges beyond the four pilot countries.

A. National level support

In order to allow for flexibility and to accommodate the various needs, it is proposed to establish a Project with a modular approach, starting with four pilot countries. Thanks to this modular approach, the Project will be easily extended to offer support to additional countries. The pilot phase will also serve to get ready for the project extension to other countries and allow a smooth transition to the next phase (scoping and early support). There are two key stages of the context specific support intended at the national level to build more accountable and inclusive parliaments. Budget will be allocated to national support according to the stages they wish to implement.

Stage 1: Assessing Parliamentary Readiness for SDG Implementation and Developing a Parliamentary Action Plan for Effective, Accountable and Inclusive SDG implementation

Initially, the Project will use the Handbook and the Toolkit as the entry point for establishing a dialogue with a parliament, be it national or sub-national, to review its current capacity. This will focus on the parliamentary core functions: law-making; oversight; and representation. As noted above, the Handbook and the Toolkit provides questions regarding these functions and other key topics that can prompt a parliament to consider capacities and capacity gaps.

The assessment of parliamentary readiness for SDG implementation will be a self-assessment, supported by external facilitation. In the recent past, there has been some use of “self-evaluations” where handbooks, toolkits and questionnaires have been presented to parliaments and the institution is asked to self-direct a review of its capacity. Experiences from such self-conducted gap analysis show that the results have tended to be overly positive, underlining the importance of facilitation and technical assistance to identify gaps and challenges as well as how these can be addressed. This Project will use external facilitation to ensure the assessments conducted using the Toolkit and the Handbook will reflect a frank and honest assessment of the parliament’s capacity as well as being action oriented in providing a concrete plan on how parliament can enhance its capacities for SDG implementation. Through a two-day workshop, parliamentarians and parliamentary staff will work through the questions in the Toolkit and the Handbook to consider a full and robust assessment of the institutions current capacity, where it needs to improve and how this can be done.

The following products/outputs are envisaged for each parliament receiving support during this stage of the work of the Project:

- An assessment of the parliamentary SDG structures, processes and capacities;
- A parliamentary SDG Action Plan, using the information and data collected in the workshop to produce a multi-year plan for how a parliament will build its capacity to fully play its part in achieving the SDGs;
- A parliamentary monitoring plan on SDGs implementation, with recommendations that will address integration and complementarity of parliament with the Executive on SDG implementation and monitoring.

Stage 2: Support to Implementation of the SDG Parliamentary Action Plan

Once a parliament has conducted the workshop, produced and endorsed the resulting SDG Action Plan, the Project will support the parliament in implementing the Plan.

To ensure a Parliamentary SDG Action Plan is adequate to receive funding, the Plan must meet certain criteria. The Project will develop clear parameters within which an SDG Action Plan must fit. However, at this stage, it suffices to say that the Plan will address the following:

- **Baseline:** Where is the parliament currently regarding SDGs in relation to key functions, structures, procedures and issues?
- **Indicators:** Identifying annual and final indicators by which progress can be measured
- **Outcomes:** What will the parliament achieve when the Action Plan is implemented?
- **Outputs:** What are the key milestones that must be met to achieve the outcome?
- **Activities:** What are the steps to be taken to meet each output? What innovative measures might be catalytic to meet the outputs?
- **Inputs:** What needs to be provided and by whom to deliver each activity?
- **Costs:** What are the costs associated with each activity?

Elements of an Action Plan could include *inter alia* the establishment of a Parliamentary Committee or body as per Parliament's internal procedures, that is primarily concerned with the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; the establishment of a mechanism to institutionalize the process of using legal and sectoral expertise from think-tanks and CSOs and/or the establishment of a platform a Parliament that enables the monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs. Furthermore, an Action Plan could include a focus on the empowerment of parliamentary committees and parliamentary staff through continuous training programs and through supporting committees in the development of Action Plans and respective mechanisms of their own to integrate SDG implementation in their work and follow up on achievements, which can later be associated with achievements made at both Parliament and national levels.

Based on the delivery of a SMART Parliamentary SDG Action Plan reflecting the key components noted, the Project will provide resources to implement the Plan via:

- **Technical Assistance:** UNDP will provide overall coordination of the Project. Through its network of Country Offices and Regional Service Hubs, UNDP will take the lead in providing technical assistance to support a parliament in implementing its SDG Action Plan. Where there is a GOPAC chapter within a parliament, UNDP will work with that organization to identify technical experts to support the implementation of the Plan.
- **Financial Support:** In addition to technical assistance, the Project will negotiate an MOU with a plan for financial assistance with the parliament to support the SDG parliamentary Action Plan's implementation. Where a parliament has the resources, this will include a cost-sharing agreement for the implementation of the Plan. Each MOU will also include a sustainability plan that will ensure the long-term, sustainable delivery by the parliament of new capacity that has been initially established by the Project.

B. Regional level support

To ensure that knowledge and innovations are shared between parliaments, UNDP and ESCWA will convene communities of practice for parliaments on the SDGs in the Arab Region. The focus of this network will be to establish a dialogue amongst national parliaments to encourage good practice and engagement on the SDGs. The objective is to strengthen parliamentary structures and oversight capacities to lead to increasing trust in Parliaments as divers of accountable Agenda 2030 implementation and monitoring.

Similar to the national level, it is proposed to establish the Project with a modular approach, thus allowing for its expansion to other regions at a later stage, potentially including cooperation with other UN regional commissions and the respective UNDP Regional Bureaus. Regional focal points will be established who report to and closely coordinate with the UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States in Amman.

At regional level, UNDP envisages connecting national parliaments in the following areas:

Annual regional forum on parliamentary engagement with the 2030 Agenda.

The 2018 annual regional forum aims at bringing parliamentarians together to engage in open dialogue on relevant issues and creating, promoting peer-to-peer exchanges of knowledge, lessons learned and success stories and capacitating and celebrating parliamentary champions for the SDGs. The fora will focus on preparing the parliamentarians for their strong and efficient participation in high-level regional and global meetings, such as the annual Arab Forum for Sustainable Development and the High-Level Political Forum, where they will share experiences on how their countries have responded to the Agenda in terms of alignment and integration of policies, measurement of progress, multi-stakeholder engagement and means of implementation. The fora will additionally serve as discussion platforms to build consensus on findings and recommendations presented to the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, and to convey key messages from the region which will be submitted to and presented at the HLPF.

Development of a virtual exchange platform and communication tools.

To facilitate that knowledge and innovations are shared between parliaments, the Project will convene a regional community of practice for parliaments on the SDGs. The development of virtual exchange platforms and communication tools, including hosting relevant materials on the AGORA Portal for Parliamentary Development (www.agora-parl.org), will facilitate establishing dialogue among national parliaments to encourage good practice and engagement on the SDGs, and promote peer-to-peer exchanges of knowledge, lessons learned and innovative practices.

Capacity development of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to become fit for purpose for the delivery of the 2030 Agenda.

The Project envisages activities to support the capacity development of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff with a view to strengthening their key role on the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. The capacity building support will start with the organization and implementation of a regional training workshop on one key demand issue in order to support targeted and needs-based capacity development of parliamentarians, promote peer-to-peer exchanges of knowledge and foster the sharing of success stories.

Development of Handbook on Parliamentary Strategic Development Plan.

The strategic development planning process is internationally recognized as an outstanding mechanism for fostering tailored sustainable and democratic parliamentary development. The environment of a parliament changes regularly due to political developments, such as elections and changes in government, institutional modifications and various challenges a country may face. Strategic planning assumes that institutions must be responsive to this dynamic environment in order to achieve sustainable development. It is thus a tool for parliaments to determine their long-term goals for development and the best approaches for achieving them, while simultaneously engaging in constant review and reorientation to respond to changing circumstances.

One potential mechanism in this regard is the development of a Parliamentary SDG Roadmap (s. National Level Support), which can be further developed into a full-fledged Parliamentary Strategic Development Plan. The benefits of are numerous: Basing annual work plans on strategic plans helps ensuring that activities are directly linked with strategic objectives and overall institutional development. A Handbook on Parliamentary Strategic Development Planning can be a valuable tool to assist this process. UNDP has supported several strategic development plans of Parliaments over the years. The Handbook would draw on this experience by presenting lessons learned, best practices, current legislative and parliamentary process trends, and guidelines as part of an effort to further improve support to Parliaments and UNDP Country Offices.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The initial work starting in the Arab States will be carried out as part of UNDP-Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS) Regional Program (2018-2021), which is housed in the Regional Hub for Arab States, in close coordination with UNDP’s Country Offices in the region, thus allowing for the support provided to be catalytic and scaled up in synergy with existing country level projects. The Regional Program features an output on the work with parliamentarians as a means to increase civic participation and engagement in the Arab states region (Outcome 2, output 2.2.2).

It is proposed to establish the Project with a modular approach, starting with four pilot countries, thus ensuring that support can be offered to additional countries and in further regions later on. This project will be led by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS) and will be delivered in close collaboration with the other UNDP regional bureaus. The inter-regional project can potentially include cooperation with other UN regional commissions.

Regional programme management is defined in RBAS organizational structure and in the Regional Programme Document. A dedicated management team, as part of the Regional Hub, ensures programme management and oversight, and an integrated Management Support Unit (MSU) provides operational and programme management support. Regional hub also houses standing technical capacities to support the quality assurance of the programme. These capacities also facilitate country level delivery and link with global practices, which will be an essential part of this project.

Through the MSU, the regional programme houses a strong results-based management (RBM) capacity, system, and tools, which enables it able to capture programme-wide results and financial information and ensure coherence and corporate compliance. The MSU is responsible for monitoring, tracking, and reporting on results, through a “regional programme dashboard” and “annualized monitoring framework”. A dedicated team is responsible for supporting knowledge, data, and information, communication, and technology (ICT) management.

The project will set up a dedicated team, led by a Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) (P5 level) that will be responsible for technical delivery, day-to-day management and decision-making. The project will be implemented by a team composed of the CTA, one international staff (P3) and one national staff, supported by the Project Support Unit of the UNDP Regional Programme .

The CTA will be accountable for the implementation of all the activities, coordination among the different stakeholders, ensuring adherence to and application of acceptable financial management systems and monitoring and evaluating the project’s overall progress as part of the overall regional programme.

In case the project is scaled up in the Africa and Asia-Pacific regions, the team will be increased by one international staff (P3) and one national staff for each of the two regions.

TIMEFRAME

Project Stage	Timeframe
Inception Stage Initial report to provide detailed implementation plan; hiring of staff.	April 2018- June 2018
Full Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 parliaments will develop an SDG Action Plan and receive technical/financial support in its implementation • Regional level support in the Arab region for peer-to-peer experience and innovations sharing 	May 2018 – March 2019
Evaluation Scaling up of the Project to new countries and regions.	December 2018 - March 2019

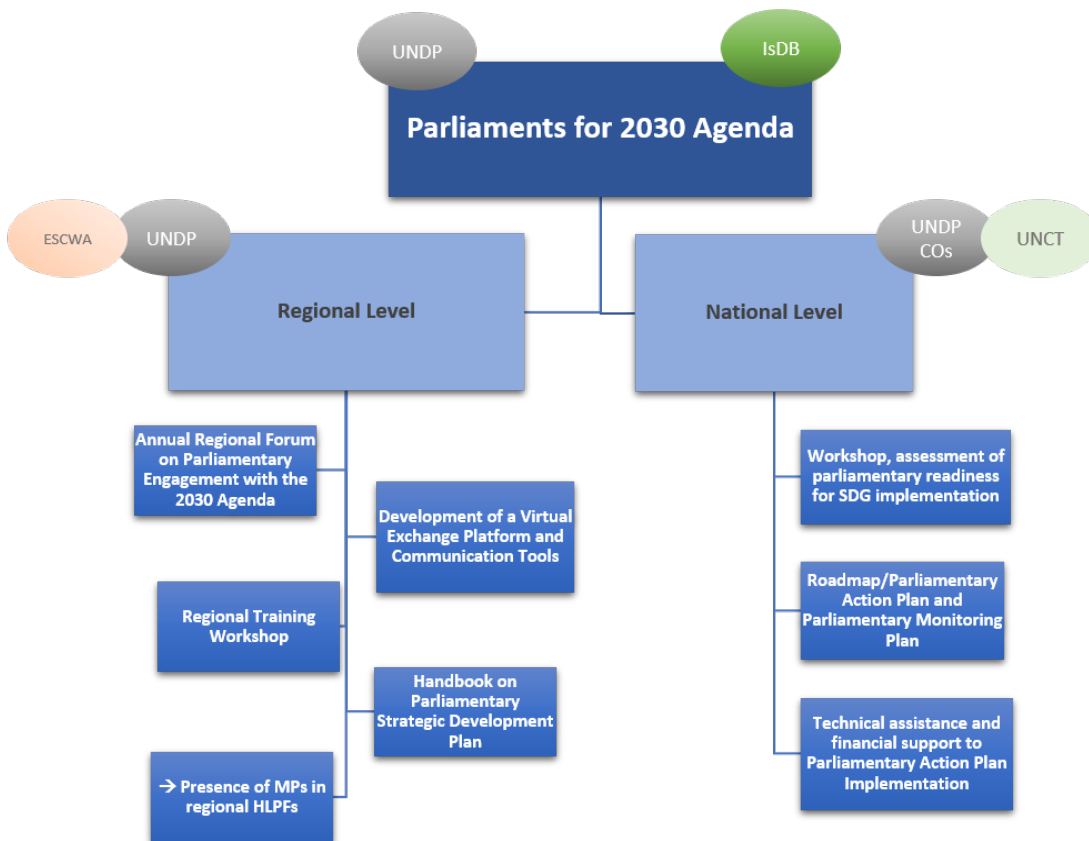
PARTNERSHIPS

The project is envisaged to form a partnership with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to empower parliament to implement SDGs. The Islamic Development Bank was one of the developers of Handbook.

UNDP as main implementer will work in close partnership with ESCWA in the Arab region. Due to the Project's modular character, support can be offered in additional regions. This expansion can potentially include cooperation with other UN regional commissions, such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA or ECA) in Africa, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Asia-Pacific, in addition to the respective UNDP Regional Bureaux. However, the project is initiated from the Arab region and will be first implemented in that region.

This work would also involve other members of the UN family as relevant. The institutional aim is for a sustainable long-term partnership responsive to the needs of Parliamentarians and the demands of a participatory multi-stakeholder approach to the implementation of the Agenda.

Other potential partners include parliamentary associations as the Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption, the Interparliamentary Union, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Women in Parliament Global Forum, Association Parlementaire de la Francophonie) and networks (e.g. Climate Parliament Parliamentarians for Global Action, GLOBE), regional parliamentary associations, and other relevant organizations (e.g. the Open Government Partnership, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, NDI).



BUDGET

Budget for Implementation of pilot phase (Arab Region, 4 Parliaments)

Output	Cost (average per unit)	Cost (USD)
Output 1: 4 parliaments have conducted parliamentary SDG capacity assessments, developed parliamentary SDG action plans and enhanced procedures and capacities for SDG implementation and monitoring.		
Stage 1: Development of Parliamentary SDG Action Plans (including inception phase pilots and full implementation)		
Workshops in 4 parliaments	\$ 26.250,00	\$ 105.000,00
Production & Adoption of 4 SDG Action Plans	\$ 15.750,00	\$ 63.000,00
Sub-total:		\$ 168.000,00
Stage 2: Implementation of SDG Action Plans		
Development of MOUs for 4 parliaments	\$ 5.250,00	\$ 21.000,00
Assistance to 4 parliaments (support at national level up to 300.000 USD)	\$ 210.000,00	\$ 840.000,00
Sub-total:		\$ 861.000,00
Output 1 Sub-total:		\$ 1.029.000,00
Output 2: Regional mechanisms, networks and capacities for strengthened role of parliaments in SDG implementation strengthened (Arab regions).		
Annual Regional Forum (70 participants during 3 days)	\$ 147.000,00	\$ 147.000,00
Development of virtual exchange platforms and communication tools (1 years).	\$ 115.500,00	\$ 115.500,00
Technical assistance – one regional training (40 participants during one week)	\$ 126.000,00	\$ 126.000,00
Development of the Handbook on Parliamentary Strategic Development Plan	\$ 84.000,00	\$ 84.000,00
Output 2 sub-total:		\$ 472.500,00
Programme costs (Staff – MSU)		
CTA (P5) (1 years)	\$ 262.207,15	\$ 262.207,15
Two International Consultant (P2 level) (1years)	\$ 75.000,00	\$ 150.000,00
National Staff (secretariat)	\$ 40.000,00	\$ 40.000,00
M&E (monitoring, reporting, knowledge...)	\$ 60.000,00	\$ 60.000,00
Implementation Support (admin., logistics...)	\$ 50.000,00	\$ 50.000,00
Programme costs sub-total		\$ 562.207,15
General Management Support		\$ 165.096,57
Total:		\$ 2.228.803,72
