



AA19CR12ADD1

AS (2019) CR 12
Addendum 1

2019 ORDINARY SESSION

(Second part)

REPORT

Twelfth sitting

Tuesday 9 April 2019 at 10 a.m.

Joint debate

**Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations in implementing the
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: synergy needed on
the part of all stakeholders, from parliaments to local authorities**

The following texts were submitted for inclusion in the official report by members who were present in the Chamber but were prevented by lack of time from delivering them.

Mr ALTUNYALDIZ (*Turkey*) – I would like to thank the rapporteurs for their awareness-raising reports on this important issue.

The sustainable development goals are a transformative, universal agenda with an imperative of “leaving no one behind” and require each country to commit to its priorities with a monitoring and reporting mechanism. At the same time, the sustainable development goals also create massive challenges for all countries to ensure financing and effective implementation by incorporating them into their national policies.

It is vital for national parliaments to play a significant and informed role for the goals to be achieved in any of our countries. The laws needed to create the legal framework including the annual state budget for sustainable development goals will have to be scrutinized and adopted by national parliaments.

Parliamentarians have an opportunity, and a constitutional responsibility, to play a significant role in supporting and monitoring the implementation of sustainable development goals. Members of parliament are uniquely positioned to act as a bridge between the people and the state, and to promote and adopt people-centered policies and legislation to ensure that “no one is left behind”.

We must also remember that the concept of inclusive development emphasises the social, ecological and political dimensions. In this context, it is vital to use the tools of good governance in achieving the sustainable development goals, especially in eradicating poverty, providing quality education, establishing gender equality, reducing inequalities, promoting affordable and clean energy, creating equal work and fostering economic growth.

Recognising the valuable contribution parliamentarians can make to sustainable development is particularly critical as the world moves towards implementing the new Agenda 2030. I firmly believe that these reports will constitute a valuable guideline for us, the members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, to encourage national governments to exert more effort towards the realisation of these aims.

Ms GÜNAY (*Turkey*) – I thank both rapporteurs for their reports.

The millennium development goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000 were revolutionary, as it achieved a global consensus on a number of goals ranging from ending poverty and hunger to achieving gender equality. With the expiration of the millennium development goals, the sustainable development goals adopted by the General Assembly in 2015 covered broader areas and were far more ambitious goals focusing on the environmental, societal and economic aspects of development.

Since the adoption of millennium development goals in 2000, Turkey has been among the top performers in implementing and achieving these goals, especially in the area of eradicating extreme poverty, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and improving accessibility to drinking water and sanitation. In addition to this remarkable progress at national level, Turkey, as an emerging donor in the field of development co-operation, increased official development assistance over the years; this amounted to over \$8 billion in 2017. With this success and experience in mind, Turkey has adapted itself to the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

As is rightly stated in the report, successful implementation of the sustainable development goals requires involvement of “all relevant stakeholders, including parliaments, local and regional authorities”. Although parliaments do not carry out an executive function, they have their own way of contributing to the achievement of these goals. The oversight function of parliaments provides necessary tools and opportunities for parliamentarians to monitor government progress. Oversight tools such as questions, establishing inquiry committees and general debates are at the disposal of us parliamentarians to scrutinise government work on sustainable development goals. Besides the oversight tools, legislation and budgeting are other areas where parliaments may integrate their perspective on the goals.

All in all, parliaments should assume a proactive role in making sustainable development goals feasible. We should be aware of our unique role on this matter and utilise all the parliamentary tools to urge our governments forward in pursuing sustainable development goals.