



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

## Statement by the Permanent Observer Hon. Paddy Torsney

### 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

United Nations  
9 May 2014

Mr. Chairman,

I will take just one minute to reiterate the IPU position that, quite simply, the SDGs will only be truly *transformational* if they include a stand-alone goal on democratic governance.

Focus area 16 currently contains three targets that point us in the right direction: targets **B** and **C**, under “creating inclusive societies”, and target **A**, under “rule of law and capable institutions”.

Together, these targets could form the core elements of a democratic governance goal. They point to the need for more accountable, transparent and representative decision-making at all levels – and in *all* countries.

Stronger parliaments as key institutions of oversight and legislation, and political representation, will be pivotal to this endeavour. A target on “strengthening parliaments” will help further articulate the broad targets that are being proposed.

Indicators to assess progress on this target are available, and more can be developed.

The IPU and its 164 national parliaments hope that further consideration will be given to these issues going forward.

Thank you.