A2. To what extent are parliaments engaging with the SDGs?

In 2018, the IPU conducted a global survey of the extent of engagement and institutionalization of the SDGs in the work of parliaments around the world (112). The survey received responses from 89 parliaments all but one of which were members of the IPU.

Fig. 11 shows a few results that might be of interest for identifying the type of activities MPs are doing with regard to the SDGs, including their budget oversight role.

Fig. 11. Responses to selected questions in the IPU survey of the role of parliamentarians in UHC budget oversight

Source: reference 111
The survey does not provide details of the respondents’ answers, and the answers were self-assessed. It is nevertheless interesting that, overall, SDGs appear to permeate legislative debates. Although the majority responded that the SDGs (including SDG3) should be reflected in national budgets, a surprising 30% of respondents reported that this was not the case, and 17% reported that they didn’t know. These negative responses indicate that MPs should be more aware or more engaged in mobilizing their peers in considering the SDGs key legislative actions. In the context of UHC, the engagement of MPs in ensuring that resources are allocated (and well spent) to achieving SDG3 is important.