



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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131st IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 12 - 16.10.2014

Governing Council
Item 9

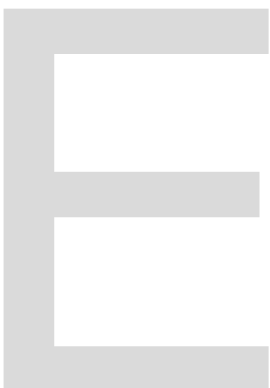
CL/195/9-R.1
4 September 2014

Cooperation with the United Nations system

This document provides a brief overview of the activities undertaken in cooperation with the United Nations system from 15 March to 15 October 2014.

United Nations

1. Following extensive consultations between the IPU and the United Nations, on 19 May 2014, the UN General Assembly adopted its biennial resolution on *Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union*. Sponsored by 87 countries, the resolution invites Member States to work regularly with the IPU to facilitate a parliamentary component to major UN conferences, so as to inform global talks and negotiations from a parliamentary perspective. It welcomes several new initiatives, notably the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, aimed at strengthening the relationship between the United Nations and the IPU and at maximizing political support for the outcome of next year's summit on the post-2015 development agenda. It also applauds the IPU's participation in two other forums: the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Youth Forum of the Economic and Social Council.
2. In a resolution adopted on 27 June 2014, the UN Human Rights Council officially endorsed the practice whereby governments promote the involvement of parliaments in all stages of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the mechanism for evaluating the human rights situation in all UN Member States. Entitled *Contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review*, the resolution also welcomes the IPU's efforts to contribute to the work of the United Nations and invites the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the Council with regular updates on the IPU's activities with regard to the work of the Council and its UPR.
3. Initial consultations were held with various UN officials – including from the offices of the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the Sixth Committee and the Office of Legal Affairs – with regard to the new Cooperation Agreement between the IPU and the United Nations, which, as noted in the General Assembly resolution of 19 May 2014, should reflect progress and developments since 1996 (when the first Cooperation Agreement was signed) and should aim to place the institutional relationship between the two organizations on a stronger footing.
4. The IPU pursued its efforts to bring a parliamentary perspective to the design of the new set of sustainable development goals, advocating the inclusion of a governance goal. It spoke before the UN General Assembly's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which was tasked with preparing a first draft by July 2014, and worked closely with two UN Member States (Costa Rica and Greece) to incorporate the parliamentary perspective into the Open Working Group's recommendations. Although the Open Working Group's outcome document did not mention parliaments, it did deliver much of what the IPU had been asking for in terms of a stand-alone governance goal that contains a strong commitment to strengthening representative and accountable institutions at all levels.



5. The IPU worked closely with high-level UN officials in the lead-up to the Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, which will be held at UN headquarters on 17 and 18 November 2014.
6. Pursuant to the UN General Assembly resolution of 19 May 2014, the IPU organized parliamentary delegations to two forums: the Youth Forum (2-3 June), which was attended by a delegation from the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU, and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (7-9 July). A parliamentary delegation also attended the final session of the Development Cooperation Forum for the 2012-2014 cycle, on 10 and 11 July. The parliamentarians participating in the three forums made presentations and the Secretary General was a lead discussant at the High-level Political Forum and the Development Cooperation Forum.
7. The IPU worked closely with the UN preparatory process for the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples. The IPU Secretary General held discussions with the Forum Chairperson and the President of the UN General Assembly on the World Conference outcome document. The IPU's input for the outcome document was based on consultations held with Member Parliaments. In addition, the IPU planned a side event, on 23 September, at which it was to launch a report on the participation of indigenous peoples in parliament and a joint IPU-UN publication, *Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Handbook for Parliamentarians*.
8. Preparations have started for the 2014 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, a joint IPU-UN event that will take place on 19 and 20 November. The Hearing this year will focus on how to ensure a people-centred approach to the implementation of the new sustainable development goals.
9. Preparations have also started for the one-day parliamentary meeting to be held on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP20/CMP10), which will take place in December 2014 in Lima, Peru. The meeting is intended for parliamentarians attending the Climate Change Conference as part of their national delegations. It will offer them an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the main issues involved and to interact with the government negotiators directly involved in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In addition, the IPU Secretary General informed all Member Parliaments about the Climate Summit 2014, which was held at UN Headquarters in New York on 23 September.
10. The IPU and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) discussed the practical steps the IPU could take to help mobilize parliaments in support of Security Council resolution 1540, adopted in 2004 to stem the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction among non-State actors. A three-year project is under negotiation. It will be funded by UNODA.
11. The Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Youth took part in the First IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, on 10 and 11 October in Geneva. The Conference brought together young parliamentarians in a bid to "take democracy to task". In an effort to establish closer ties with the community of young parliamentarians, the Envoy on Youth was also expected to take part in the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians, on 13 October.
12. The IPU and the UN Department of Political Affairs coordinated efforts to help mark this year's International Day of Democracy on 15 September. The theme for 2014, *Engaging young people in democracy*, was selected in consultation with the United Nations. The President of the IPU Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights participated in a panel discussion convened on 15 September in New York by the IPU, the United Nations, the International Peace Institute and International IDEA.

UN Women

13. The IPU continued to work closely with UN Women on support for the Equal Opportunities Commission of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. The two organizations provided expert advice to the Commission on its review of a series of existing laws from the gender perspective, the aim being to eliminate discriminatory provisions against women and reduce inequality between men and women.

14. The IPU, UNDP, Australian Aid, UN Women and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat organized the first ever Practice Parliament for Women in Tonga, in April 2014. The Practice Parliament was held in preparation for Tonga's general election set for November 2014 and aimed to encourage women's participation in politics and to bring women together in a near-reality parliamentary setting to discuss issues affecting them.

UNDP

15. *MY World*, a global survey led by the UN Millennium Campaign to obtain people's views on the new sustainable development goals, is being redesigned as a facility to track the goals' future implementation. The IPU and the Millennium Campaign explored the possibility of applying the survey to parliaments around the world. IPU representatives also participated in a workshop on 14 July, in New York, to help flesh out new ideas for the second phase of *MY World*.

16. The IPU joined the dialogue on strengthening capacities and building effective institutions being spearheaded by UNDP and the International Labour Organization in the lead-up to the adoption of new sustainable development goals next year. The dialogue consists of a worldwide series of consultations with experts, development practitioners and policymakers on the institutional capacities that will be needed to advance the sustainable development goals post-2015. As part of this process, the IPU participated in an expert group meeting on 29 and 30 September 2014 in Germany.

17. Leading a group of parliamentary development practitioners that includes UNDP, the IPU is promoting the adoption of a set of common principles for parliamentary development, a series of guidelines enabling parliamentary development partners to improve the suitability and effectiveness of assistance to parliaments. As a key step towards finalization of the common principles, the IPU solicited the input of parliaments and interested practitioners via an online form. A consultation was held in Manila, Philippines, on 28 and 29 August, to which UNDP contributed.

18. The IPU continued to work closely with UNDP country offices, providing technical assistance and organizing capacity-building programmes for national parliaments. In the past six months this concerned the parliaments of Bangladesh, Guinea-Bissau, Myanmar, Pakistan, Trinidad and Tobago and Tunisia.

19. The IPU and UNDP supported the work of the Parliament of Bangladesh to enhance its gender-mainstreaming efforts, inter alia by setting up a technical research unit on gender issues.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),

20. In collaboration with OHCHR, the IPU and the Parliament of Uruguay organized a meeting for the Latin American parliaments to help mobilize stronger parliamentary involvement in the work of the UN Human Rights Council and its evaluation mechanism, the UPR. Held on 15 and 16 July in Montevideo, Uruguay, the meeting served to identify good parliamentary practice for working with the Council and for the promotion of human rights in general. It was organized pursuant to the Human Rights Council resolution of 27 June 2014 calling on governments to involve parliaments more actively in all stages of the UPR. The IPU and the OHCHR also organized a similar seminar for African parliaments on 29 and 30 September in Rabat, Morocco.

21. In keeping with usual practice, the IPU presented its report on women in politics and the involvement of parliament in the reporting process in the countries reviewed by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at the Committee's Fifty-eighth Session, held in July 2014.

Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

22. The IPU and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees launched the second edition of *Nationality and Statelessness: Handbook for Parliamentarians*, which was prepared with the cooperation of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law. The Handbook highlights the main causes of statelessness and provides parliamentarians with a broad description of the international principles governing nationality and statelessness.

UNAIDS

23. Together with UNAIDS and UNDP, the IPU organized a parliamentary meeting at the XX International AIDS Conference, which took place from 20 to 25 July in Melbourne, Australia. About 70 parliamentarians participated in the meeting, which was held on 21 July, along with the heads of UNAIDS and UNDP and the Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives. The meeting adopted a set of ambitious recommendations to help guide the IPU's AIDS-related work in the years to come. The IPU-UNDP handbook, *Effective Laws to End HIV and AIDS: Next Steps for Parliaments*, was officially launched at the meeting.

24. In June, the IPU and UNAIDS signed a programme funding agreement, establishing a renewed framework for IPU-UNAIDS cooperation on strengthening parliamentary leadership for accelerated access to HIV treatment. The programme is building on successful examples of parliamentary work on HIV, including treatment, the aim being to heighten parliamentary engagement and capacity-building. It runs from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

25. In April 2014, the IPU took part in the Sixth International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action. The Conference, which took place in Stockholm, was organized by UNFPA, the Swedish Parliament and the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development. The IPU Secretary General spoke at a plenary panel on how best to translate global visions and commitments into national law.

World Health Organization (WHO)

26. In April 2014, the IPU provided input for the annual report by the independent Expert Review Group on Women's and Children's Health (iERG). It highlighted its work with parliaments on maternal, newborn and child health in the previous 12 months at the country and regional levels. The iERG is an independent group of experts set up in 2011 by the UN Secretary-General to follow up implementation of the *Every Woman, Every Child* Strategy.

27. From 6 to 9 May 2014, the IPU, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), Save the Children and Family Care International together ran, under the auspices of Harmonization for Health in Africa, a capacity-building workshop for French-speaking African countries on budgeting for women's and children's health. The workshop was attended by more than 75 representatives of parliamentary health and budget committees, civil society, ministries of health and finance, the media and development agencies.

28. In September 2014, the IPU and the Parliament of Bangladesh organized a seminar in Dhaka for Asia-Pacific parliaments on *Ending the cycle of violence against girls in Asia-Pacific*. The seminar drew on a WHO study of existing legislation in Asia-Pacific countries related to violence against girls, including early marriage. Its deliberations will inform the study's final conclusions.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

29. Together with the European Parliament, on 1 October 2014 the IPU organized a parliamentary session within the framework of the annual Public Forum of the WTO). The theme of the session was *Post-Bali agenda: Where does parliamentary oversight fit in?* The WTO Public Forum is an annual public event at which participants from government, parliament, civil society, the business sector, academia and the media reflect on how the multilateral trading system works and analyse the institutional state of the WTO.

30. On 2 October 2014, the IPU hosted the 32nd Session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO.