



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

131st IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 12 - 16.10.2014

Governing Council
Item 15

CL/195/15-P.2
16 July 2014

Election of the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

(Article 19 of the Statutes and Rules 6, 7 and 8 of
the Rules of the Governing Council)

Candidature

of

Mrs. Bronwyn Bishop (Australia)

On 16 July 2014, the Secretary General received a communication from Mrs. Bronwyn Bishop, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Australia, submitting her candidature for the office of President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which is to be filled at the 195th session of the Governing Council.

The text of this communication and the curriculum vitae of Mrs. B. Bishop are to be found in Annexes I and II.

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THE HON BRONWYN BISHOP MP
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Mr. Martin Chungong
Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Chemin du Pommier 5
Case postale 330
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva
SWITZERLAND

Dear Mr Chungong,

I am writing to advise you of my nomination for the position of President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union with the ballot to be conducted at the upcoming election in October this year.

As a former Member of the Australian Senate and a current Member of the Australian House of Representatives, totalling 27 years in Parliament, I have committed my life to the advent of democracy. A comprehensive understanding of a democratic system, with bi-cameral experience, is critical for leadership in an institution such as the IPU. As Australia's current Speaker of the House of Representatives, I have fought to strengthen parliament to parliament relations, which I believe are crucial to stability and cooperation within our international system.

As a woman and an egalitarian, I am proud to associate myself with the work the IPU is doing to increase gender equality across the institution's member states. If elected President of the IPU, I believe I would be in a strong position to continue the institution's work in this area. I am committed to maintaining the work of the IPU on developing democracy in emerging nations, improving human rights, and continuing to develop the IPU's cooperation with the United Nations, areas that the Australia Government has a strong track record in achieving.

I am humbled to have the strong support of the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. Tony Abbott MP, and the support of the Australian Government, in my nomination for the position of President.

In March this year, the IPU elected its first non-European Secretary-General through its support of you, Mr Chungong. To elect a female Speaker as President this year would show the international community the growth of the IPU into an egalitarian and united institution, committed to the growth of democracy the world over.

I have enclosed a copy of my curriculum vitae for your information.

Yours sincerely,

THE HON. BRONWYN BISHOP MP

16 JUL 2011



The Hon. Bronwyn Bishop MP

Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives



The Hon. Bronwyn Bishop began her political involvement with the Liberal Party while a law student at the University of Sydney. She became Chairman of the Liberal Party Convention Committee from 1981 to 1985, and then State President of the NSW Division from 1985 to 1987.

In 1987, Mrs Bishop was elected to the Australian Senate. Within eighteen months of her election, she was appointed Shadow Minister for Public Administration, Federal Affairs and Local Government. In 1994, Mrs Bishop was appointed Shadow Minister for Urban and Regional Strategy. In May 1994, she was appointed Shadow Minister for Health and in January 1995 she became Shadow Minister for Privatisation and Commonwealth/State Relations.

Mrs Bishop resigned from the Senate in February 1994 to contest the electorate of Mackellar in a by-election in which she was elected to the House of Representatives in March 1994. She has been re-elected to the seat of Mackellar in the 1996, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2013 general elections.

Following the election of the Howard Government in 1996, Mrs Bishop was appointed Minister for Defence Industry, Science and Personnel, where she pioneered a ground breaking Defence Industry Policy framework, a first for Australia.

After the government's re-election in 1998, Mrs Bishop was appointed Minister for Aged Care where she brought a broad and progressive view to the needs of Australia's ageing population. She again led the way by introducing mandatory national standards for aged care providers ensuring that standards were lifted and maintained.

Following the 2007 election, the Speaker was honoured to have been appointed as Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs until late 2008, a portfolio that she embraced with great energy and vigor. In December 2009, she was then appointed to serve as Shadow Minister for Seniors, a portfolio which she believes is critical to Australia's long term planning and interest; she also then added to her portfolio responsibilities, Shadow Special Minister of State in 2010.

After the 2013 election, Mrs Bishop was elected to her position by Members of the House of Representatives on the first sitting of the 44th Parliament, making her the 29th Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Commonwealth of Australia.

Mrs Bishop has been a member of the Australian Committee of the Pacific Basin Economic Council from 1982 to 1997.

Mrs Bishop was the first female to be popularly elected to the Australian Senate for NSW in 1987.

Mrs Bishop is also a solicitor and mother of two daughters and a grandmother of one granddaughter.

Parliamentary service

- Elected to the Australian Senate for New South Wales, 1987 to 1994
- Elected to the Australian House of Representatives as the Federal Member for Mackellar in 1994. Re-elected 1996, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2013.

Parliamentary positions

- Member, Speaker's Panel from 16.11.04 to 17.10.07.
- Speaker of the House of Representatives since 2013

Ministerial appointments

- Minister for Defence Industry, Science and Personnel from 11.3.96 to 21.10.98.
- Minister for Aged Care from 21.10.98 to 26.11.01.

Shadow Ministerial appointments

- Shadow Minister for Public Administration, Federal Affairs and Local Government from 12.5.89 to 11.4.90.
- Shadow Minister for Urban and Regional Strategy from 17.1.94 to 26.5.94.
- Shadow Minister for Health from 26.5.94 to 31.1.95.
- Shadow Minister for Privatisation and Commonwealth/State Relations from 31.1.95 to 11.3.96.
- Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs from 6.12.07 to 22.9.08.
- Shadow Minister for Seniors from 8.12.09 to 7.09.13.
- Shadow Special Minister of State from 14.9.10 to 7.09.13.

Committee service

- Senate Standing Committee: Regulations and Ordinances from 24.9.87 to 18.8.93.
- Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee: Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade from 11.5.90 to 18.8.93.
- Senate Select Committee: Functions, Powers and Operation of the Australian Loan Council from 5.11.92 to 24.2.94.
- Senate Estimates Committees: A from 24.9.87 to 6.5.93; F on 10.9.91; D from 6.5.93 to 24.2.94.
- House of Representatives Standing Committees:
 - Legal and Constitutional Affairs (Chair) from 20.3.02 to 31.8.04
 - Privileges from 20.3.02 to 31.8.04
 - Procedure from 20.3.02 to 17.10.07
 - Communications, Information Technology and the Arts from 1.12.04 to 17.10.07
 - Family and Human Services (Chair) from 1.12.04 to 17.10.07
 - Industry and Resources from 1.12.04 to 17.10.07
 - Health and Ageing from 3.2.10 to 19.7.10.
- Joint Statutory Committees:
 - Public Accounts from 7.10.87 to 24.2.94
 - Public Accounts and Audit from 16.8.05 to 17.10.07 and from 25.9.08 to 19.7.10
 - Corporations and Securities from 27.2.95 to 29.1.96.
- Joint Standing Committee: Electoral Matters from 25.10.10 to 7.09.13.

Conferences, delegations and visits

- Official ministerial visits to Malaysia and the Philippines, August 1996; New Zealand, July 1997; UK and France, August-September 1997; Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand, November-December 1997; Papua New Guinea, August 1998; Hong Kong and Japan, July-August 1999; Singapore and Malaysia, November 2000; Israel, April 2008.
- Member, Parliamentary Delegation to New Zealand, May 2004.
- Member, Parliamentary Delegation to 112th Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference, the Philippines, and bilateral visit to the Solomon Islands, March-April 2005.
- Member, Parliamentary Delegation to Indonesia, June 2005.
- Member, Parliamentary Delegation to Singapore and Indonesia, October-November 2008.
- Member, Inter-Parliamentary Union Delegation to Ethiopia and bilateral visit to Switzerland, April 2009.
- Member, Parliamentary Delegation to Indonesia and Tonga, September 2011.
- Member, Inter-Parliamentary Union Delegation meeting in Geneva, Switzerland 2013.
- Leader of Official Delegation to Mexico for the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum, January 2014.
- Delegate to the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth in New Zealand, January 2014.
- Bilateral visit to the United States of America and Trinidad and Tobago, March-April 2014
- Bilateral visit to Singapore, the United Kingdom, Morocco, Tunisia and France, April-May 2014