



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 131<sup>st</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 12 - 16.10.2014

Governing Council  
Item 15

CL/195/15-P.4  
24 August 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

**Mr. Abdulla Shahid (Maldives)**

On 24 August 2014, the Secretary General received a communication from Mr. Abdulla Shahid, MP (Maldives) submitting his candidature for the office of President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which is to be filled at the 195<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Council.

The text of this communication, the curriculum vitae and the biographical note of Mr. A. Shahid are to be found in Annexes I, II and III.

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Male', August 20, 2014

Mr. Secretary General,

As the term of office of the President of IPU approaches the end, it is important that IPU members give serious thought to the election of a suitable successor. The task of deepening democracy, promoting peace and encouraging dialogue among the people which the IPU has been carrying out so eminently must continue without losing momentum. It underlines the challenges that lie ahead for the IPU leadership.

Having considered these challenges, I wish to submit my candidature for the Presidency of the IPU.

I have had considerable experience as a diplomat first and later as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives.

I have also served as the Executive Secretary to the President of the Maldives for close to ten years proving my administrative and human relations skills.

My parliamentary experience spans over 19 years. Over this period, I have gained the trust and confidence of my colleagues in the People's Majlis and was elected Speaker of the Majlis from 2009-2014. Amid harsh bickering and rancorous debates, I steered the Majlis successfully.

I have served my country in various capacities for over 30 years and I am now keen to transfer my knowledge and experience to the IPU. I am sure my association with human rights, women's rights and climate change issues on the one hand, and my diplomatic service experience and my parliamentary experience on the other, provide the best foundation to lead the IPU from where Mr. Radi leaves it.



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I hold a Master's degree in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, USA, and a Bachelor's degree in politics and economics from the Canberra College of Advanced Education, Canberra, Australia.

I am sending you copies of my CV and my Biographical Note as attachments to this letter. I am sure the IPU members will weigh the candidates carefully in deciding its next President.

I would be grateful if you could circulate my letter and its attachments to all the members of the IPU for their consideration.

Please, accept, Mr. Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Abdulla Shahid, MP  
People's Majlis of the Maldives

Mr. Martin Chungong  
Secretary General  
Inter-Parliamentary Union  
Geneva

# Honourable Abdulla Shahid, MP and Former Speaker

## Parliament of the Maldives

### Personal Data

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Name:	Abdulla Shahid
Nationality	Maldivian
Date and Place of birth	26 May 1962, Male, Maldives
Email:	ashahid@talktalk.net

### Education

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- MA International Relations  
Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy  
Tufts University, Boston, USA, 1991
- BA Political Science and Economics  
Canberra College of Advanced Education, Canberra, Australia, 1987

### Foreign Service Career

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- 2007 – 2008           Minister of Foreign Affairs
  - 2005 – 2007           Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
  - 1993 – 1994           Director, International Affairs
  - 1992 – 1993           Deputy Director, International Affairs
  - 1990 – 1992           Assistant Director, International Affairs
  - 1988 – 1990           Assistant Undersecretary
  - 1983 – 1988           Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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- Raised the Maldives' profile and image in the international community and broadened the Maldives' diplomatic reach by opening new diplomatic missions in the US, China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
  - Participated in the negotiations for the Earth Summit in 1992 and in the Summit itself.
  - Attended all sessions of the UN General Assembly from 1987 to 1994.
  - Participated in the first ever UN Security Council debate on the impact of climate change on peace and security.
  - Represented the Maldives at the preparatory meetings for the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993 and attended the Conference itself.
  - Remained closely associated with the work of the UN Human Rights Commission.

- Attended numerous international meetings to raise awareness of the human impact of global climate change. The advocacy resulted in the adoption of a UN Human Rights Council Resolution calling for a comprehensive study on the adverse effects of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights.
- Led the Maldives delegation to the UN General Assembly twice, to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Uganda in 2007 and also to the 11<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference in Senegal in 2008.

### **Parliamentary Career**

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- 1994 – 1998            Member of the Constitutional Assembly
- 1995 – 2000            MP for the President of Maldives
- 2000 – 2005            MP for Vaavu Atoll Constituency
- 2005 – 2009            MP for Vaavu Atoll Constituency
- 2009 – 2014            MP for Keyodhoo Constituency
- 2014 – Present        MP for Henveiru Uthuru Constituency in the capital, Male’

### **Executive Parliamentary Posts**

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- 2009 – 2013            Speaker of the People’s Majlis (Parliament) of the Maldives
- 2012 – 2013            Executive Committee Member of Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers Conference
- 2013 – 2014            President, Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians Conference
- 2011– 2014            Executive Committee Member of Commonwealth Parliamentarians Conference

### **Special Skills**

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- Administration
- Diplomacy and negotiation
- Oratory

### **Languages**

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- English
- Dhivehi (mother tongue)

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

### **The Honourable Abdulla Shahid, MP and Former Speaker of the People's Majlis Republic of Maldives**



The Honourable Abdulla Shahid started his career as a Foreign Service officer in the Maldives Foreign Ministry in 1983. He rose rapidly through the lower and middle management levels to the senior management level, becoming the Director of the International Organizations and Conferences Department.

Impressed by his many skills, talents and administrative capabilities, he was appointed the Executive Secretary to the President of the Maldives (Chief of Staff) in 1995. That he held the post for over 10 years reflects the degree of distinction and diligence of his service.

His rise gained further momentum in mid-2005 when he was appointed the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and, just two years later, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The appointment occurred at a time of sweeping political change in the country following the introduction of a new democratic constitution.

He streamlined the work of the Foreign Ministry and widened the diplomatic reach of the Maldives by opening up new resident diplomatic missions. Praised by many at home and abroad, his efforts enhanced the image of the country despite formidable challenges and a hostile external environment. He vigorously advocates human rights, rights of the Parliamentarians, and measures to halt global warming and climate change.

He attended numerous meetings of the UN, the Commonwealth, and the Organization for Islamic Cooperation, the SAARC and the Non-aligned Movement at times as a member and often as the head of the Maldives delegation.

His entry into politics dates back to his appointment as a Member of the President to the Constitutional Assembly in 1994 and to the People's Majlis the following year. He was elected MP for the Vaavu Atoll constituency in 2000 which seat he retained in the 2005 parliamentary elections. Subsequently, he contested in the first multi-party parliamentary elections in 2009 and secured the seat for Keyodhoo constituency. In the parliamentary elections in 2014, he succeeded in winning a seat from Male', the capital of the Maldives.

In recognition of his skills in leadership, oratory, diplomacy and sagacity, he was elected Speaker of the People's Majlis on 29 May 2009, creating history as the first ever elected Speaker. He earned the admiration of MPs by skillfully steering the work of the Majlis amid vigorous and not seldom rancorous debates while protecting and promoting the rights and

privileges of MPs and the legislature. Hon. Shahid's association with the Inter-Parliamentary Union began with his parliamentary career. He has attended numerous IPU meetings and events and remains keen to continue his relationship with the IPU.

Having rendered invaluable services to his country for more than 30 years, The Honourable Abdulla Shahid is now seeking the opportunity to work for and transfer his experience and expertise to the Presidency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

He holds a Masters degree in international relations from the famous Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, USA. He completed his undergraduate degree in politics and economics at the Canberra College of Advanced Education, Canberra, Australia.

He is currently the President of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians Conference. In addition, he holds membership in the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Earlier he also held the membership of the Standing Committee of Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding officers Conference.



Born in Male' in May 1962, he is married with 3 children, 2 sons and a daughter.