

IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs
Item 1

UNC/2012/A.1
5 September 2012

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE IPU COMMITTEE ON UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Committee will adopt its agenda in the light of recent developments, including responses received from UN agencies that have been invited to provide information and respond to questions.

2. Roundtable discussion on Multilateralism and the Role of Parliamentary Diplomacy (Monday 22 October, 14:30 – 17:00)

Participants will examine the key issues inherent to parliamentary diplomacy, including in particular the strengths and weaknesses of parliamentary assemblies in promoting peace and security. They will exchange views on how to improve the efficiency and the capabilities of parliamentary organizations in this area, how to strengthen their coherence, and enhance their cooperation and interaction in an increasingly globalized and interdependent world.

3. Interaction between the United Nations, parliaments and the IPU (Monday 22 October, 17:00 – 18:30)

The Committee will hear a presentation on the report of the recent field mission by the IPU Advisory Group on United Nations Affairs to Albania and Montenegro, aimed at examining implementation of UN reform and system-wide coherence at the national level. The Committee will be invited to a discussion on interaction between national parliaments and UN country teams, as well as challenges and opportunities ahead.

4. Debate: Does the United Nations take 'democracy' seriously enough? (Wednesday 24 October, 9:00 – 12:00)

The Committee will examine how the United Nations strengthens democracy, from the perspectives of UN structures, policy and operations. It will seek to identify strengths, and also gaps where it believes the UN should be doing more, or better. The Committee will consider, inter alia, the work of the UN on the rule of law, electoral assistance, and supporting the development of democratic institutions, particularly in fragile and post-conflict States. The Committee will begin to formulate a focused set of recommendations, including how the IPU and the UN can work together more effectively to advance the mutual goal of stronger democracies.

5. Launch of the Handbook: *Supporting Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament* (Wednesday 24 October, 12:00 – 13:00)

In April 2009, on the occasion of its 120th Assembly, the IPU adopted a landmark Resolution on “Advancing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and securing the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: The role of parliaments”. Based on the experience and good practices shared since then by Member Parliaments and other partners, this Handbook has been developed as a tool to support further parliamentary action towards a nuclear weapons-free world.

6. Rio +20 in perspective: what hope for sustainable development? (Thursday 25 October, 9:00 – 11:00)

The Committee will examine the outcome of the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), including plans for a new generation of sustainable development goals that would replace the current MDGs in 2015, and the adoption of a ten-year framework to help make consumption and production patterns more sustainable. Participants will discuss the role of parliaments in bringing forward the international commitments emerging from Rio and in advancing sustainable development at the national level.

7. UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Five years on (Thursday 25 October, 11:00 – 12:30)

The Committee will take stock of the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2007, after more than 20 years of negotiations. Participants will review the status of the rights of indigenous peoples around the world, assess the involvement of parliaments in the promotion and protection of these rights, and discuss a possible parliamentary contribution to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014.

8. Report of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs to the IPU Assembly

9. Other business