



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

136th IPU Assembly

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1- 5 April 2017



Standing Committee on Democracy
and Human Rights

Debate: *Sharing our diversity: the 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy*

Monday, 3 April 2017 (9.30 a.m. -12.30 p.m.)
Carnival Hall Ground floor, BICC

Concept note

This interactive debate will contribute to the preparation of the resolution, *Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy*. The resolution is scheduled to be adopted at the 137th IPU Assembly in St. Petersburg (Russian Federation) in October 2017.

Since it was established in 1889, the IPU has been staunchly committed to promoting stable and diverse democratic traditions by fostering parliamentary dialogue.

In 2017, the world will celebrate the 20th anniversary of one of the IPU's unique achievements – the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Democracy by the Inter-Parliamentary Council in Cairo in September 1997. In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly reaffirmed the IPU's initiative by instituting the *International Day of Democracy* on 15 September each year. Since then, it has been celebrated by more than 100 parliaments.

The Universal Declaration on Democracy makes it clear that democracy is a universal aspiration, based on a set of common values shared by peoples around the world. Those values include the primacy of the law, the exercise of human rights, free political competition and a genuine partnership between men and women in conducting the affairs of society.

The resolution *Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy* will give IPU Members an opportunity to renew their commitment to peace in the world based on democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Members will also be able to reconfirm the relevance of the Universal Declaration in today's world. Good governance and democracy are fundamental for progress in all areas of life, and parliaments have a critical role to play in promoting a better world.

Participants will be invited to share their views on:

- The state of democracy in the world today;
- The impact on democracy of major developments since the adoption of the Universal Declaration in 1997 (such as the emergence of a new digital environment, the new development agenda, terrorism)
- Rejuvenating democracy in the light of ongoing challenges and threats;
- Recommendations for parliamentary action to further promote the values of democracy and to strengthen the exercise of democratic government.

IPU Members may contribute to the drafting process by submitting brief written inputs (Rules of the Standing Committees, Article 13.1).

#IPU136