



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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137th IPU Assembly

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 14–18 October 2017



Panel discussion on *The role of parliament in monitoring the action of national armed forces participating in UN peacekeeping operations*

Tuesday, 17 October 2017 (9 – 11 a.m.)
Multi-functional Hall (2nd floor), Parliamentary Centre

Concept note

Background

The United Nations has no army: it depends on contributions from Member States which second members of their own national services to work with the UN. Each peacekeeping operation must be designed to meet the requirements of each new situation; and each time the Security Council calls for the creation of a new operation its components must be assembled from the very beginning. Every deployment has to be in accordance with international rules and principles, the most important of which are set out in Chapter 5 (“National security policy and international regulations”) of the IPU handbook *Parliamentary oversight of the security sector: Principles, mechanisms and practices* (2003). From a good governance perspective, it is proper and advisable that, within the system of checks and balances between parliament and government, the parliament should have the opportunity to participate in the decision of engaging armed forces abroad, and to monitor the performance of these troops abroad.

The session will address the following questions:

- To what extent are parliaments involved in authorizing the dispatch of troops abroad? Do they have the possibility to assess the appropriateness of sending troops? Can they define the rules of engagement?
- To what extent do parliaments make use of parliamentary procedures in connection with peace missions?
- What specific steps can parliamentarians take to ensure democratic oversight of national armed forces participating in UN peacekeeping operations?

Expected achievement and outcome:

Specifically, the panel will aim to discuss the challenges to implementing parliamentary monitoring and oversight of the actions of national armed forces participating in UN peacekeeping operations. It should show that such oversight is aimed at enforcing the democratic legitimacy of humanitarian interventions and peacekeeping missions and at making sure that the highest standards of accountability as well as due process under the law are followed.

Format

The session will be an interactive discussion between parliamentarians and experts. After introductory remarks by the panellists, the floor will be open for an exchange of views, and for questions and answers.

#IPU137