



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

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## Statement by the Executive Committee to commemorate the IPU's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Geneva, 30 June 2014

We, the members of the Executive Committee, have gathered in Geneva on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June to mark a watershed moment - the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the world organization of parliaments and parliamentarians.

We wish to reaffirm the vision of our founders of a world in which peace and stability reigns. We uphold the core values that have underpinned our Organization for over a century: democracy, multilateralism, political dialogue and negotiation. These are the very values that will continue to guide our Organization into the future.

As the oldest political multilateral organization in the world, the IPU was at the origins of today's more structured forms of multilateralism. It was instrumental in the establishment of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, favouring arbitration as an alternative to conflict. This vision inspired in no small way the creation of the League of Nations and later the United Nations.

We are proud of the IPU's many noteworthy achievements over the years, essentially building parliamentary capacity and disseminating parliamentary democracy around the world. Our Organization continues to be a pioneer in several areas, such as the promotion of gender equality, the political representation of minorities and youth participation in the democratic process.

The IPU has developed a solid and mutually beneficial partnership with the United Nations over the years, which it intends to nurture and develop. The Organization has mobilized its Members around the Millennium Development Goals and will continue to do so for the new Sustainable Development Goals, in the post-2015 era. Wherever possible, it will advocate for a parliamentary dimension to or component of major UN processes. It will also encourage parliaments to enhance their oversight function to ensure that governments honour their international commitments.

The Organization will pursue its efforts as a neutral facilitator of talks between different parties, through its specialized bodies and committees. Its Assemblies will continue to provide an unmatched forum for political dialogue and parliamentary diplomacy. The IPU will not waver in its commitment to defend the human rights of parliamentarians who, regrettably, still suffer persecution and see their rights violated even today. It will not rest until gender equality becomes a reality and violence against women comes to an end.

On this auspicious occasion, we pay tribute to our Organization, the IPU, and undertake to further showcase its work, heighten its visibility and enhance its standing on the international arena. With 164 Member Parliaments to date, we intend to make the IPU a truly global organization of parliaments by striving for universal membership and leaving our distinctive mark on the world scene in the furtherance of peace and democracy.