



**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON THE OCCASION OF THE
6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NEW OR
RESTORED DEMOCRACY**

Doha (Qatar), 29 October – 1 November 2006



Organizational Modalities

Venue of the Forum: Sheraton Hotel

Participation: open to members of Parliaments of all UN member States. Parliamentary representatives will be accredited to the Conference irrespective of their being on their national delegations.

Invitations: The Speaker of the Qatar Advisory Council will issue an invitation to **all** Speakers of Parliaments to invite them to send delegations to Doha. Each delegation will be composed of 4 to 6 members. Except otherwise stated in the invitations, each parliament will be responsible for covering the costs of its delegates.

Various channels, including diplomatic channels, are being used to make sure that the invitations are delivered to the Speakers of Parliaments.

The IPU will send out a convocation with more details on the organization of the Forum as soon as the invitation from the Speaker of the Advisory Council has been sent.

Chair of the Forum: The Forum will be chaired by the Speaker of the Qatari Advisory Council and will be co-chaired by the President of the IPU. Should it become necessary they may designate other senior participants (at the level of Speakers and Deputy Speakers) to deputise for them. Due regard shall be given to geopolitical and gender balance.

Workshops: Each of the workshops will have a Chair and Deputy Chair. The Chair will provide political leadership to the debates and will be designated by the Speaker of the Qatari Advisory Council in consultation with the President of the IPU.

In addition, each workshop will have a resource person/rapporteur who will introduce the discussions and assist the Chairs in guiding the discussions. They will be designated in consultation between the Qatari Advisory Council and the IPU and will be required to prepare a substantive paper as a basis for the discussions. The paper should be circulated to the participants in advance of the workshops. They will also prepare a report on their respective workshops, identifying recommendations for follow-up. They will take part in the drafting committee of the Forum.

Drafting committee: The drafting committee of the Forum should include the members of the advisory panel established to provide guidance in the preparation of and follow-up to the Forum, the resource persons/rapporteurs, as well as representatives of the geopolitical groups (one each) with due regard for gender balance.

Rules governing the proceedings: The rules will be inspired by the rules governing IPU meetings. The IPU will prepare a draft which will be circulated in advance of the Forum. At the beginning of the Forum, participants will be required to formally approve them. These rules will cover among other things, the allocation of speaking time (5 minutes per delegation during the plenary general debate; 3 minutes during workshops). 1 speaker per country and geopolitical group to address the plenary; more than one speaker per country or geopolitical group can take the floor in the workshops since the debates there are meant to be interactive, etc.

Languages of the Forum. Documents shall be prepared and circulated in the two working languages of the IPU (English and French). They will also be made available in Arabic. Interpretation shall be provided into English, French, Spanish and Arabic. Additional booths will be made available for Chinese, Japanese, Russian and Italian. Delegates speaking these languages shall bring their own interpreters and cover their costs.

Procedure for preparing outcome documents: According to the wishes of the Qatari authorities, there should be a unified Declaration and Plan of Action for all three components of the Conference (governmental, parliamentary and civil society). The process for harmonizing the different components needs to be agreed between the three parties. In any case, the Parliamentary Forum should ensure that the final outcome documents adequately reflect parliaments' vision for democracy and practical projects and activities to promote it worldwide.

Depending on the final decision, a framework of the draft declaration and plan of action will be prepared by the IPU/AIPU, circulated to members of the advisory panel for comments and suggestions. The IPU will then prepare new drafts that will be circulated to all parliaments in advance of the Forum. The drafts will then be finalized in light of discussions during the Forum.