



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

Governing Council
Item 10

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Reports on recent IPU specialized meetings

(c) Parliamentary Side Event at the 69th World Health Assembly

Geneva, 26 May 2016

The Parliamentary side event took place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 26 May 2016. The event was the first of its kind at the World Health Assembly (WHA). It was held in recognition of the commitment of parliaments and parliamentarians to promote health and well-being at both the national and global levels.

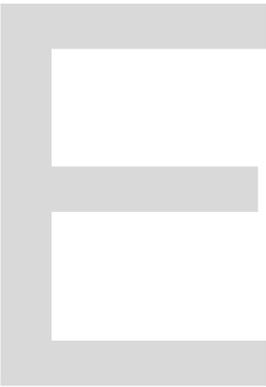
The side event highlighted steps that parliaments can take to ensure accountability for health-related commitments and become advocates for change through their key roles in helping to pass legislation, budgets and oversee government action. It also underlined the importance of using the latest scientific evidence to inform parliamentarians' health-related priorities and actions.

In his welcome remarks, the IPU Secretary General highlighted the importance of the IPU's partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) in efforts to support parliaments in contributing to universal health coverage and to ensuring access to health for the vulnerable and marginalized. He pointed out that health had gained in prominence on the IPU's agenda at its Assemblies over the past 10 years and the historic side event was the result of fruitful collaboration between the IPU and WHO on women's, children's and adolescents' health.

Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General, paid homage to the ongoing collaboration between the two organizations and stressed the centrality of parliaments to delivering on the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Panellists commented on how the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had been implemented at the national level, as well as how parliaments had taken action to ensure access to health for the most vulnerable populations, including migrants, refugees and women and girls experiencing violence.

At the event, many parliamentarians spanning four continents shared examples of bold action they had taken to address the needs and rights of women, children and adolescents and to elevate health to the top of national agendas. They stressed the importance of parliamentarians being part and parcel of the global discussion on health. Parliamentarians also commended the IPU and WHO for the organization of the historic event. They requested that the meeting be institutionalized at future World Health Assemblies.



#IPU135