



PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE IPU COMMITTEE ON UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Committee will adopt its agenda in the light of recent developments, including responses received from UN agencies that have been invited to provide information and respond to questions.

2. Hearing with the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, President Jorge Sampaio (17 October, 9 – 10.15 a.m.)

The Committee will hear a presentation on the main objectives and initiatives of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAoC), and engage in an interactive discussion with the UNAoC High Representative. The Committee will be invited to discuss how parliamentary engagement in the promotion of intercultural dialogue can be enhanced, particularly in the development and implementation of related national strategies. The Committee will also examine progress in the implementation of the IPU Resolution on "Ensuring respect for and peaceful co-existence between all religious communities and beliefs in a globalized world" (Nusa Dua, Bali, 2007).

3. Panel discussion on Nuclear Weapons - The Road to Zero (17 Oct., 10.30 am - 1 p.m.)

As a follow-up to the IPU Resolution on "Advancing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and securing the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)" (Addis Ababa, 2009), the Committee will take stock of progress and examine the new visions, policies and proposals that have been put forward to eliminate nuclear weapons. The Committee will engage in a discussion with prominent figures in the nuclear disarmament community, and seek to identify avenues for further parliamentary action aimed at achieving this overall objective. A preliminary programme for this panel discussion is available in [Annex](#).

4. Parliaments and the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) (17 Oct., 2.30 – 4 p.m.)

The Committee will hear a keynote address by the United Nations High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, and will be briefed on the outcome of the Fourth UN Conference on the LDCs (LDC-IV, May 2011), including the Parliamentary Forum held on that occasion. The Committee will hear a presentation on the joint IPU-UN project proposal on the LDCs, and will be invited to discuss the future engagement of both LDC and non-LDC parliaments in the implementation of the IPoA during the 2011 - 2020 decade (as outlined in the global Parliamentary Action Plan on the IPoA).

5. Cooperation between the United Nations, parliaments and the IPU (17 October, 4-6 p.m.)

The Committee will hear a presentation on the report of the recent field mission by the IPU Advisory Group on United Nations Affairs to Ghana and Sierra Leone, aimed at examining implementation of UN reform and system-wide coherence at the national level. The Committee will be invited to a discussion on interaction between national parliaments and UN country teams, as well as challenges and opportunities. The Committee will take stock of preparations for the forthcoming debate at the UN General Assembly on "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU" (to be held in early 2012), and will seek to identify and propose courses for future action.

6. Panel discussion on The green economy: A breakthrough for sustainable development? (19 October, 9 – 11.30 am)

The Committee will hear a presentation on the state of sustainable development today, the global political and economic context, and the objectives of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) in 2012. The Committee will engage in an interactive discussion and will provide a critical perspective on the green economy, particularly from the standpoint of the following three objectives of the broader sustainable development agenda: (i) changing production and consumption patterns; (ii) decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation; and (iii) achieving equity, poverty reduction and greater well-being for all. The panel discussion will serve to articulate a parliamentary contribution to the Rio +20 preparatory process.

7. State of play in preparations for the forthcoming session of the UN Climate Change Conference (19 October, 11.45 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)

In December 2011, South Africa will host this year's session of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 17/CMP 7). The Committee will be briefed on the current negotiations, challenges and requirements for the conclusion of a global agreement on climate policies encompassing adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology, forests and capacity-building. The Committee will also consider a draft parliamentary message to the UN Conference.

8. Report of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs to the IPU Assembly

9. Other business