



129th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 7 – 9.10.2013

PANEL DISCUSSION (STANDING COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY)

TOWARDS A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE WORLD: THE CONTRIBUTION OF PARLIAMENTS

8 October 2013 (2.30 - 6 p.m.)

Room 2, level 0, CICG

Concept note

The panel discussion is the first step in the preparation of a resolution on the subject item chosen at the 128th IPU Assembly in Quito. The purpose of the panel is to present the background papers which the two co-Rapporteurs – Mr. Blaine Calkins of Canada and Ms. Yolanda Ferrer Gómez of Cuba - have prepared, and to garner the initial views of IPU Member Parliaments on this topic. The outcome of this discussion and the subsequent written inputs by the Member Parliaments will help the co-Rapporteurs prepare the draft resolution on this theme. Subsequently, the resolution will be debated and adopted at the 130th IPU Assembly.

The issue of nuclear disarmament has been high on the IPU agenda for several years now:

- In 2009 at its 120th Assembly in Addis Ababa, the IPU adopted a landmark resolution on [Advancing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and securing the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: The role of parliaments](#).
- In July 2010, on the occasion of the 3rd World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, parliamentary leaders adopted a [Declaration](#) commending the United Nations Secretary-General for his five-point nuclear disarmament proposal and pledged to pursue efforts aimed at achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world.
- In 2011, at its 125th Assembly in Bern, the Committee on United Nations Affairs held a high-level panel discussion on Nuclear weapons: The road to zero, which examined concrete parliamentary initiatives to advance full nuclear disarmament.
- The good practices and concrete initiatives highlighted in the series of parliamentary debates served as a basis for the production, in 2012, of a [Handbook for Parliamentarians](#) on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The panel discussion will seek to further build political momentum, explore avenues for new parliamentary initiatives and help parliaments make a meaningful contribution to global efforts to advance nuclear disarmament.

The panel discussion will start with introductory remarks from the co-Rapporteurs and experts, before opening the floor to a general debate and comments from the participants. The panel will aim for an interactive discussion in order to encourage the greatest possible exchange of views and knowledge. Members will be invited to share their perspectives on what specific action their own parliaments could undertake in this area.

Lead speakers:

- Mr. Blaine Calkins, MP, Canada, co-Rapporteur;
- Ms. Yolanda Ferrer Gómez, MP, Cuba, co-Rapporteur;

Panellists:

- Ambassador Manuel Dengo of Costa Rica, Chairman of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament, who will present recent developments and analyse the role of MPs in prompting negotiations on a comprehensive global agreement;
- Baroness Sue Miller, MP, United Kingdom, who will address the responsibility of nuclear-weapon States in achieving nuclear disarmament; and
- Mr. Alyn Ware, Global Coordinator of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), who will provide an overview of new initiatives in this field.