



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

Geneva, 7 – 9.10.2013

PANEL DISCUSSION (STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS)

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN, IN PARTICULAR UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDREN, AND IN PREVENTING THEIR EXPLOITATION IN SITUATIONS OF WAR AND CONFLICT

8 October 2013 (9 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)
Room 2, level 0, CICC

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 enable IPU Member Parliaments to express their initial views on this topic. The discussion and subsequent written inputs by Member Parliaments will assist the co-Rapporteurs in preparing the draft resolution on the above-mentioned theme. The resolution will be subsequently debated and adopted at the 130th IPU Assembly.

This is the first time the IPU Assembly has considered the rights of children since the adoption of a [resolution at the 106th Inter-Parliamentary Conference](#) in 2001. The panel discussion will provide an opportunity to take stock of progress in implementing the recommendations of that resolution and, more broadly, in implementing the [1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#).

The panel discussion will also consider the protection of children's rights as they relate to two specific groups: unaccompanied migrant children; and children in situations of war and conflict. Neither of these situations is, unfortunately, new. However, these issues continue to resonate as loudly as ever. Children are among the most vulnerable groups and specific legislative and policy measures are required to ensure their protection. Increasingly, these measures need to be harmonized and coordinated between States in order to be effective.

The panel will start with introductory remarks from the co-Rapporteurs and experts before opening the floor to a general debate and comments from the participants. It will aim for an interactive discussion in order to encourage the greatest possible exchange of knowledge. The following panellists are foreseen:

Lead speakers:

- Senator Gabriela Cuevas, MP, Mexico (co-Rapporteur);
- Ms. Jameela Nasaif, MP, Bahrain (co-Rapporteur);

Panellists:

- Dr. Mohamed Mattar, Executive Director, The Protection Project, The Johns Hopkins University SAIS.
- Ms. Louise Aubin, Global Protection Cluster Coordinator, UNHCR.