



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy For everyone.

132nd IPU Assembly

Hanoi (Viet Nam), 28 March - 1 April 2015



Standing Committee on
Democracy and Human Rights

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4 March 2015

Review of implementation of the 2012 IPU resolution on *Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children*

**Interactive debate
Tuesday, 31 March 2015
09.00-11.00**

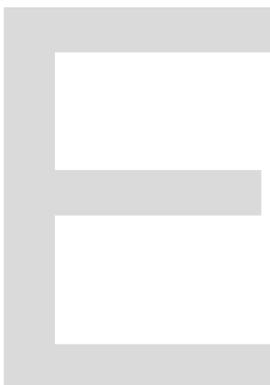
At the 126th IPU Assembly (Kampala, March-April 2012), IPU Member Parliaments adopted a landmark resolution on [*Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children*](#)¹. The resolution highlights the human rights and political and socio-economic imperatives according to which parliamentarians can act to support women's and children's health.

Parliaments in countries most affected by maternal and child deaths have engaged strongly on the issue, sometimes with support from the IPU and partners such as the World Health Organization and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. Parliamentary action has ranged from awareness-raising, budgeting for health, establishing maternal and child health parliamentary caucuses, drafting new legislation and strengthening oversight.

At the 132nd IPU Assembly (Hanoi, April 2015), the IPU Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights will organize an interactive debate to review the progress made towards implementing the IPU resolution. The debate will allow the Committee to highlight good practices in and challenges to parliamentary work on women's and children's health. It will also provide an opportunity to look at how the IPU resolution has been used by parliaments, and how the impact of future IPU resolutions can be enhanced.

The interactive debate will be informed by a short background document about developments in parliamentary action on women's and children's health since 2012. It will be moderated by the President of the IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

¹ Available at: <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/126/Res-3.htm>



The interactive debate will consider the following key questions:

- What action have parliaments taken to improve access to health for women and children since the IPU resolution was adopted in 2012?
- What obstacles remain to improving access to health, and how can they be overcome?
- What did parliaments do with the IPU resolution after it was adopted? What impact did it have on parliamentary work?
- How can the impact of future IPU resolutions be heightened?