



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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132nd IPU Assembly

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



Side event on *Eliminating risks of nuclear war by accident, cyber-attack or conflict escalation*

15:00-16:30: Wednesday April 1, 2015
Room 309, National Convention Centre

Organized by IPU and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament

Concept Note

The risk of nuclear weapons use between the Super Powers diminished at the end of the Cold War.

However, the threat of nuclear war has increased as a result of emerging conflicts involving nuclear-armed States, possibilities of cyber-warfare involving infiltration of nuclear command systems, reliance on computer and cyber systems with nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert, and new roles for nuclear weapons to respond to cyber-attacks.

The 132nd IPU Assembly is considering a draft resolution entitled *Cyber warfare: A serious threat to peace and global security*. The nexus between cyber-threats and nuclear weapons gives rise to specific security concerns that require consideration and action by parliaments.

This workshop will therefore cover policy options to reduce or eliminate:

- Nuclear threats caused by accident or miscalculation;
- The risks of nuclear weapons use in regional conflicts;
- Cyber-attacks involving nuclear weapons command and control systems;
- Reliance on nuclear deterrence in response to cyber-warfare.

Presentations will be brief in order to provide sufficient time for questions, comments or other interventions by delegations.

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Background

Concern by governments at these increasing risks from nuclear weapons use has prompted a series of conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons use.

The 130th IPU Assembly adopted a resolution entitled *Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments*, <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/130/Res-1.htm>, which noted “that any use of nuclear weapons, whether by accident, miscalculation or intent, would have devastating humanitarian and environmental consequences”, affirmed “the key role of parliaments and parliamentarians in addressing nuclear risks” and encouraged parliaments “to work with their governments in the pursuit of confidence-building measures, including by eliminating the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines and policies” in order to build “the legislative and political framework needed to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world.”

The IPU, with the cooperation of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), has organized workshops and sessions at various IPU Assemblies exploring how parliamentarians can further nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament objectives.

The IPU and PNND have published a *Parliamentary Handbook on Supporting Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament* to further assist parliamentarians and parliaments to take effective action. The Handbook is currently available in English, French, Russian and Spanish and has been made available to all parliaments.