



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

Panel discussion: *Comprehensive disarmament*

26 October 2016 (10.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.)
Room 1, level 1, CICC

Concept note

Background

The present non-proliferation and disarmament agenda seems to have lost sight of the bigger picture, despite the serious efforts that have been made to: revive nuclear disarmament from a humanitarian perspective; strengthen non-proliferation and counterproliferation regimes; and focus on munitions types such as small arms and light weapons. In fact, current non-proliferation and disarmament efforts tend to be one-dimensional: they often focus on micromanaging very specific problems and disregard the larger spectrum of issues. This compartmentalization of issues does not enable the development of a comprehensive appreciation of what is possible across the world. It hinders our understanding of how issues concerning weapons of mass destruction, conventional weaponry and strategic stability can be addressed by disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and confidence-building.

Description

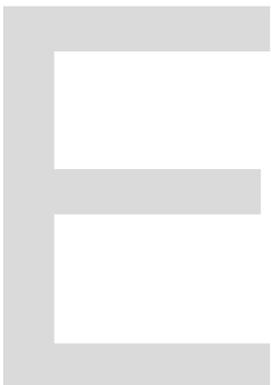
The panel discussion will provide Members of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security with an opportunity to exchange views about challenges to implementing disarmament in a holistic manner, taking into account the broader spectrum of issues. It will address the need to link WMD disarmament and non-proliferation on the one hand with conventional weapons control strategies on the other. Other issues to be discussed will include: comprehensive disarmament in the light of stability and security dynamics, and less traditional aspects, such as development and socio-economic needs.

Questions to stimulate discussion

- Why is it important to prevent the erosion of the disarmament gains made so far?
- How should we challenge conventional thinking that equates national security with both modernization and the build-up of military capabilities?
- Is it possible to rehabilitate disarmament as a cornerstone of national security and international stability?
- How can MPs ensure that disarmament measures are effectively implemented?
- What institutional and legal tools do MPs have for achieving disarmament?

Format

The session will be an interactive discussion between parliamentarians and experts. After introductory remarks by the panellists, the floor will be open for an exchange of views, and for questions and answers.



#IPU135