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135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

Hearing: *The role of parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States*

24 October 2016 (2.30 – 5.30 p.m.)
Room 2, level 0, CICG

Concept note

Background

The hearing will address the theme of a resolution that is expected to be debated by the Committee and adopted by the 136th IPU Assembly.

Non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States is one of the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations. However, it is frequently interpreted in unreliable ways. The principle has also evolved, including through the concepts of humanitarian intervention and responsibility to protect.

The session will address the following questions:

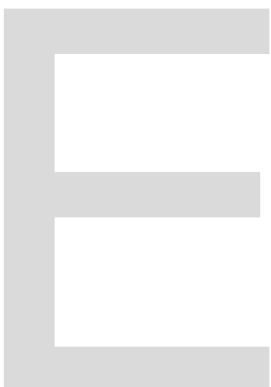
- What exactly is the principle of non-interference? How did it evolve and why?
- What are the challenges and opportunities linked to the principle?
- While non-interference is the norm, what could justify an intervention?
- Are the concepts of humanitarian intervention and responsibility to protect undermining the non-interference principle? How can they co-exist without prejudice to each other?
- What is the role of parliaments in addressing the issue of outside interference?
- What kind of measures and actions can parliaments plan for in terms of legislation, policy development, evaluation and oversight in order to prevent outside interference?

Expected outcome

The hearing will offer the Committee an opportunity to learn about current non-interference issues and related concepts, as well as to exchange views with key actors in this area. The hearing, including Member Parliaments' individual contributions, will provide the co-Rapporteurs with initial information about how IPU Members deal with such issues. That will be the basis for the co-Rapporteurs' explanatory note and draft resolution.

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