



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Standing Committee on
United Nations Affairs

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Draft agenda

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka (April 2017)**
3. **Panel discussion: the parliamentary dimension to the United Nations – 20 years in the making**

As trade, finance, and national economies as a whole become more globalized than ever, and as issues such as climate change and poverty underscore the importance of international cooperation, the system of international governance managed by the United Nations and related organizations (World Trade Organization, World Bank etc.) has had to adjust, seeking ways to become more open and accountable.

As the world organization of national parliaments, IPU has led the way in bringing the peoples' representatives closer to the decision-making processes of the United Nations. The idea underlying this is that international affairs are no longer the exclusive domain of the executive branch: involving parliaments in global talks and in the UN decision-making process will help strengthen democratic participation at the global level while facilitating implementation of international commitments within countries. Over the past twenty years, the role of national parliaments in international relations, filling the so-called "democracy gap", has gained strong recognition at the United Nations. This session will take stock of progress and current challenges in building the parliamentary dimension to the United Nations in the lead up to a new resolution of the General Assembly on *interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU* due in spring 2018. Background information is available at <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/un.htm>

4. **Panel discussion: The Role of the UN General Assembly in international governance: What path forward?**

As the principal deliberative and policy-making body of the United Nations, the General Assembly lies at the centre of the system of global governance. It has been defined a "parliament of nations" in which each country participates as equal. Yet, the General Assembly is often seen as less relevant in the management of world affairs than the Security Council or of other, less representative bodies such as the G20. This panel will review recent reforms to strengthen the authority of the General Assembly consistent with the vision of the UN Charter. Among other things, it will look into the modalities of work of the General Assembly, the role of the President of the General Assembly, as well as the legal value of General Assembly resolutions and decisions. Background information is available at <http://www.un.org/en/ga/revitalization/index.shtml>)

5. **Any other business**

#IPU137