



SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENTS

United Nations Headquarters, New York, 7 to 9 September 2005



PROGRAMME (version 29.08.05)

Wednesday, 7 September 2005

- 3 p.m. Inaugural ceremony, with statements by:
- The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Senator Sergio Páez
 - The President of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Jean Ping
 - The Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Mr. Dennis Hastert
- 3.30 p.m. Item 1: Adoption of the agenda and rules of the Conference
- Item 2: Report on *Parliamentary involvement in international affairs*
Presentation by Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Kéita, President of the National Assembly of Mali
- Item 3: Progress report on *meeting the Millennium Development Goals*
Presentation by Mr. Kemal Dervis, UNDP Administrator
- Item 4: Parliaments' contribution to democracy
Report on *Parliament and Democracy in the 21st Century*
Presentation by Senator Dulce María Sauri (Mexico)
- 4 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. Item 5: General debate: *Parliaments and multilateral cooperation: Meeting the challenges of the 21st century*
- 6.30 p.m.- 8.30 p.m. Reception for participants (Delegates' Dining Room, fourth floor)*

Thursday, 8 September 2005

- 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Group photo (for Speakers of parliament only)
- 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Item 5: General debate (continuation)
- 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Panel discussion on *Parliament's contribution to democracy* (Room 1)
- 3 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. Address by Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, followed by continuation of Item 5: General debate
- 3.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. Panel discussion on *Role and responsibilities of parliaments as regards the work of the United Nations* (Room 1)

Friday, 9 September 2005

- 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Item 5: General debate (continuation)
- 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament (Room 7)
- 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Item 5: General debate (continuation)
- 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. Item 6: Adoption of the Declaration
Rapporteur: Ms. Ingrida Udre, Speaker of the Parliament of Latvia

* The reception on 7 September, hosted by the President and Secretary General of the IPU, is the only official reception that is taking place during the Speakers' Conference.

INFORMATION ON PANEL DISCUSSIONS SCHEDULED FOR 8 SEPTEMBER 2005

Parliaments' contribution to democracy

Room 1 (UN Conference Building), 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

While parliament is widely acknowledged as a key institution of democracy and the international community generally agrees on what its broad functions are, deeper reflection is required on how parliaments exercise or should exercise that role.

This panel discussion should help to broaden the plenary debate and provide further thoughts for the project which the IPU has launched to clarify the contribution parliaments make to democracy. The project analyses the various functions of parliaments and the institutional practices and requirements for the institution to function effectively. It is expected to identify a set of good parliamentary practices which should be encouraged and supported not only by parliaments themselves but also by the donor community and the community of democracy practitioners in general.

The panel discussion will be open to the participants in the Second World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments and to the diplomatic and NGO community at the United Nations in New York. Leading figures from these three backgrounds will deliver keynote statements at the opening of the panel discussion, to be followed by an open debate.

No outcome document will be issued. Rather, the rapporteur of the working group on the above-mentioned project will summarize the highlights of the proceedings. He will use the inputs from the participants to enrich the text of the manual on parliamentary good practice that will be issued in March 2006 in the context of this project.

Moderator:

Ms. Baleka Mbete, MP
Speaker of the National Assembly of South Africa

Panellists:

Ms. Nino Burdjanadze
Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia

Dr. Hachim Al-Hassani
Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly of Iraq

Mr. Rodolfo Nin Novoa, President of the Parliament of Uruguay

Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren
Member of the State Great Hural of Mongolia

Congressman Tom Lantos (invited)

Professor David Beetham (United Kingdom)

Role and responsibilities of parliaments as regards the work of the United Nations

Room 1 (UN Conference Building), 3.30 to 6.30 p.m.

At a time when the United Nations is in the throes of reform, it is natural that parliaments should wish to help make the exercise a success. At the same time, the argument is increasingly heard that the United Nations needs to consolidate its links with the people for whom it works. The world body, it is said, should be more democratic and more attuned to the wishes of the voiceless masses. The people's elected representatives in parliament seem to have a legitimate place in the business of the United Nations, but what is their role? Is there an argument for a more assertive presence? To what extent should the relationship be channeled through the IPU? What, in sum, are the responsibilities that the legislatures of the world should be shouldering in the multilateral arena?

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Moderator:

Mr. Juan Somavía
Director-General, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Panellists

Mr. Björn von Sydow
Speaker of the Riksdag, Sweden

Mr. Alexander Lambsdorff
Member, European Parliament

Ms. Ann Veneman
Executive Director, UNICEF

Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Kéïta
President of the National Assembly, former Prime Minister of Mali

Mr. Jeffrey D. Sachs (invited)
Director, UN Millennium Project

H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson
President-elect of the United Nations General Assembly