



2007 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations



**ECOSOC Chamber
20 - 21 November 2007**

Reinforcing the Rule of Law in International Relations: The Key Role of Parliaments

Tuesday, 20 November 2007

9:00 am – 10:30 am Accreditation of participants

10:30 am – 11:00 am **Opening session**

Statements by:

- Hon. Pier Ferdinando Casini, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- H. E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim, President of the UN General Assembly
- H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, United Nations Secretary-General

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Session I Priorities, challenges and objectives of the new United Nations management team

Overview and presentations by:

- Mr. Lynn Pascoe, Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs
- Mr. Nicolas Michel, Under Secretary-General for Legal Affairs

Interaction with participants, Q & A

3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Session II Observing the rule of law in the implementation of key international commitments in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

Over the past decade, there has been a serious loss of momentum in disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. In 2005, the failure of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference and the inability of the World Summit to reach agreement on any disarmament and non-proliferation issue were both signals for alarm.

- Is there political will to tackle these crucial issues?
- How can the current challenges and stumbling blocks be overcome?

- Public opinion is calling for tangible results in disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). What can parliamentarians do?

Discussants:

- Senator Rosario Green Macias, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Senate of Mexico
- Ms. Hannelore Hoppe, Deputy to High Representative for Disarmament
- H.E. Mr. Peter Burian (Slovakia), Chairman of Security Council 1540 Committee (non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction)
- H.E. Mr. Tibor Toth, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)
- Mr. Jonathan Granoff, President, Global Security Institute

6:15 pm – 8:00 pm

Reception in honor of participants (UN West Terrace Dining Room)

Wednesday, 21 November 2007

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Session III The legacy of the international tribunals and the future course of the international criminal justice regime

As the United Nations states, “in the end, in post-conflict countries, the vast majority of perpetrators of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law will never be tried, whether internationally or domestically.”¹ In spite of their success over the years, international tribunals and other forms of transitional justice have their limitations.

- What room should there be, if any, for criminal acts to be settled politically instead of through the existing transitional justice framework?
- Can the pursuit of justice harm the greater good of national reconciliation?
- What is the proper balance between national and international instruments of transitional justice?
- How can parliaments enhance good practices in support of the international criminal justice regime?

Discussants:

- Hon. Abel Stronge, Speaker of Parliament of Sierra Leone
- Mrs. Fatou Bensouda, Deputy Prosecutor, International Criminal Court
- H.E. Mr. Yukio Takasu, Ambassador of Japan to the United Nations, Chairman of the UN Peace-Building Commission
- Mr. Larry Johnson, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs
- Mr. Juan Mendez, President, International Center for Transitional Justice

¹ *The rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies*, Report of the United Nations Secretary-General, p15.

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Session IV Towards a global approach to counter-terrorism based on the rule of law

In September 2006, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously passed a Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as an addition to the international framework on counter-terrorism. Through the Strategy, Member States agreed on the importance of advancing measures to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, to prevent and combat terrorism, to strengthen the role of the UN system in this regards, and to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism. The challenge ahead is to implement these measures across and within States.

- What capacity issues have States faced in implementing counter-terrorism measures?
- What obstacles exist to national efforts to secure the protection of human rights while countering terrorism and how can these be overcome?
- What can parliaments do to improve implementation of the Strategy and of the 13 international conventions and 3 protocols on terrorism?

Discussants:

- Mr. Robert Orr, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Planning, Chair of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force
- Ambassador Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations, President of the UN Security Council for the month of November 2007
- Ambassador Robert Hill, Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations
- Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Member of United States Congress
- Professor Husain Haqqani, Director – Center for International Relations, Boston University

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Presentation of reports on the proceedings of the Parliamentary Hearing. Conclusions and recommendations.