



**A road less travelled:
Parliamentary approaches to conflict prevention,
reconciliation, and peace building**



*Annual Parliamentary Hearing
United Nations Headquarters
6-7 December 2012*

Provisional Programme

Session I: overview and general questions	Dec. 6	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Opening session		30 min
<i>Welcome remarks from the leadership: UN and IPU working together for peace.</i>	Hon. Abdelwahad Radi, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union	
	H.E. Rodney Charles, Vice President of the General Assembly	
	H.E. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations	
General discussion		120 min
<i>The discussion will follow an interview format in the style of the Davos World Economic Forum. No formal presentations will be made. With the help of a moderator, high level personalities will be invited to define the main challenges within the three topics of the hearing - conflict prevention, reconciliation and peace building – both in general and with respect to specific conflict scenarios around the world. This will be followed by a Q&A with the audience.</i>	<i>Leading questions</i>	
	How are the three concepts defined, and how are they interrelated?	
	What determines the success or failure of efforts to prevent conflict, achieve reconciliation, or build a stable peace?	
	Is the United Nations sufficiently well equipped, institutionally and operationally, to respond to such challenges?	
	Should the UN attach greater importance to engaging parliamentarians in peace mediation and national reconciliation exercises?	
	How can the international community and national actors such as parliaments support each other in the common quest for peace?	
	What explains the low representation of women in peace negotiation and mediation missions?	
	<i>Interviewees</i>	
	H.E. Mr. Ranko Villović, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations, Vice-Chair, UN Peace Building Commission	
	Ms. Marta Ruedas, Deputy Director, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP	
Ms. Saraswathi Menon, Director, Policy Division, UN Women		
Mr. Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs		
Pauline Baker, President Emeritus, The Fund for Peace		
Moderator: James Traub, journalist and author		
Session II: Learning from experience		Dec. 6
Case I: Kenya		3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
<i>Video presentation</i>		5 min
<i>Leading questions</i>		80 min

<p><i>This session will illustrate the case of a parliament proactively playing a role in <u>conflict prevention</u> in connection with electoral processes. For background, please consult the hand-out.</i></p> <p><i>The discussion will be “Davos-style,” with no formal presentations and a moderator leading the discussion. It will be followed by an interactive discussion with the audience, led by the moderator.</i></p>	<p>What mechanisms can parliaments establish to prevent violent conflict as a result of its own political processes? What mechanisms can parliaments take to address political developments external to the institutional processes?</p> <p>What measures can parliaments take to prevent violent conflict through a more inclusive decision-making process?</p> <p>How important are mediation efforts by the international community for establishing political stability? How can the process be strengthened through greater engagement of parliament?</p> <p>What measures should the parliament of Kenya take to prevent violence in view of elections in 2013?</p> <p><i>Interviewees</i></p> <p>Hon. Kenneth Marende, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya</p> <p>Hon. Mélégué Traore, Member of Parliament, Burkina Faso</p> <p>Mr. Peter Gastrow, Director of Programs and Senior Fellow, International Peace Institute</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Gayle Lemmon, journalist and author</p>
<p>Case II: Sierra Leone</p>	<p><i>Video presentation</i> 5 min</p> <p><i>Leading questions</i> 80 min</p>
<p><i>This session will illustrate a case in which the parliament has played a role in <u>reconciliation</u>. For background, please consult the hand-out.</i></p> <p><i>The discussion will be “Davos-style,” with no formal presentations and a moderator leading the discussion. It will be followed by an interactive discussion with the audience, led by the moderator.</i></p>	<p>How can parliament strengthen communication and cooperation with constituents and civil society?</p> <p>What more can the international community do to enhance relations between parliament and the people?</p> <p>How can political parties be made to cooperate more effectively? What incentives can be given to political parties to create stronger policy platforms that are not based on ethnic or cultural identities?</p> <p>What are the challenges that countries face in their reconciliation efforts when the flow of international aid decreases?</p> <p><i>Interviewees</i></p> <p>Hon. Edward Amin Soloku, (fmr. Member of parliament), Sierra Leone</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Shekou M. Touray, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations</p> <p>Mr. Eloho Ejeviome Otobo, Director and Deputy Head, Peacebuilding Support Office</p> <p>Lansana Gberie, Research Analyst, Security Council Report</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Gayle Lemmon, journalist and author</p>
<p>Closing</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10 min</p>
<p><i>Summary of the afternoon and overview of the activities the following day [TBD]</i></p>	
<p>Reception 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.</p>	
<p>All welcome: IPU Office, Uganda House, 336 East 45th Street (10th floor)</p>	

Session III: Learning from experience		Dec. 7	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Case III: Timor-Leste	<i>Video presentation</i>		5 min
	<i>Leading questions</i>		60 min
<p><i>This session will illustrate the case of a parliament playing a role in <u>peace building</u>. For background, please consult the hand-out.</i></p> <p><i>The discussion will be “Davos-style,” with no formal presentations and a moderator leading the discussion. It will be followed by an interactive discussion with the audience, led by the moderator.</i></p>	<p>What enables effective cooperation toward national progress among political parties with different ideologies?</p> <p>What measures can be taken to prevent possible backlashes resulting from the end of a UN peace mission?</p>		
	<i>Interviewees</i>		
	Hon. Guillaume Kibgafori Soro, President of the National Assembly, Cote d’Ivoire		
	Mr. Anders B. Johnsson, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union		
	UN representative (<i>tbc</i>)		
	<i>Moderator: Nicholas Walbridge, Research Analyst, Security Council Report</i>		
Roundtable discussions	<i>Leading questions (provisional)</i>		120 min
<p><i>Participants will be invited to form group discussions around tables (organized by languages: English, French, Spanish, or Arabic.</i></p> <p><i>Each table, consisting of 6-8 participants, will be assigned one or two questions. The questions taken as a whole will be designed to address both national and international dimensions</i></p> <p><i>Each table will appoint a “rapporteur” who will be given up to 3 minutes to present his/her group’s discussion.</i></p> <p><i>The group discussion is not meant to reach agreement but to simply share views and experiences. The rapporteurs will be asked to highlight points of agreement and disagreement.</i></p>	<p>A. What are the conditions for effective parliamentary involvement in conflict prevention, reconciliation, and peace-building?</p> <p>B. How can regional cooperation support national political stability?</p> <p>C. How can the UN more effectively prevent conflict, and how can the UN more effectively engage parliaments in its peace-building work?</p> <p>D. What can women specifically contribute to long-term stability?</p> <p>E. How can inter-parliamentary diplomacy work to help restore peace?</p> <p>F. What mechanisms can enhance cooperation among political parties?</p> <p>G. How should perpetrators of political violence be held accountable?</p> <p>H. How can post-conflict society achieve just and inclusive reconciliation?</p> <p>I. How can parliaments hold international organizations accountable for the results of their intervention?</p> <p>J. How can economic reforms, both on national and international levels, support reconciliation?</p>		40 min
	Summary of main arguments & reports by group rapporteurs		80 min
	<i>Facilitators</i>		
	Mr. Alessandro Motter (Senior Advisor) and Ms. Karin Riedl (Consultant), IPU		

Session IV: Summary of findings	Dec. 7	3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
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Parliamentary Motion	Debate question	20 min
<p><i>This segment will be in the format of the Doha Debates popularized by the BBC.</i></p> <p><i>Assisted by a moderator, two debaters will argue for the “motion” and two debaters will argue against it. Each debater will have up to four minutes to present his/her argument. This will be followed by direct questions from participants until closing arguments and a final Yes or No vote on the motion by a simple show of hands.</i></p> <p><i>Given the informal nature of the hearing, the “motion” will not be binding. Its main purpose is to help flesh out the various aspects of the matter with the contribution of as many participants as possible.</i></p>	<p>According to the UN Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Resolutions of the Security Council are binding and have the force of international law. Yet, the democratic nature of this body has long been called into question and reform efforts have thus far failed to find a consensus solution. A recent IPU resolution (126th Assembly, Kampala) “<i>demands reform of the membership of the UN Security Council in the near future, particularly regarding its permanent members, that is adapted to the new power balances in the world and gives the Security Council the credibility and effectiveness that it needs in the 21st century to promote peace and international security, as distinct from the post -1945 era.</i>”</p> <p>To explore these issues, the debate will focus on the question:</p> <p><u><i>Would a more inclusive membership of the Security Council lead to greater global stability?</i></u></p>	
	Debaters	
	Hon. Patrice Martin-Lalande, National Assembly of France, Member of the Advisory Group of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs	
	H.E. Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations	
	H.E. Mr. Eduardo Ulibarri, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations	
	Hans Corell, fmr. USG for Legal Affairs and Legal Counsel of the United Nations	
	Moderator: Bruno Stagno Ugarte, Executive Director, Security Council Report	
	Q&A with participants	40 min
	Final vote by all participants (show of hand)	
Review of participants’ input		75 min
<p><i>The answers collected from the morning roundtables will be reviewed in their totality with the help of a presentation on screen.</i></p>	<p>This session will examine whether the arguments brought forward in the previous session find general agreement among the participants, highlighting different experiences or additional insights. The discussion will provide an opportunity for participants to suggest alternative or additional arguments.</p>	
	Facilitator	
	Martin Chungong, Deputy Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Union	
Hearing evaluation		5 min
<i>Participants will be invited to fill out an evaluation questionnaire</i>		
Closing statements		10 min
<i>Concluding remarks by Anders B. Johnsson, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union</i>		