



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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137th IPU Assembly

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 14–18 October 2017



Hearing: *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development*

*Wednesday, 18 October 2017 (10 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)
Hall no. 1 (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace*

Concept note

Background

The hearing will address the theme of a resolution that is expected to be debated by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and adopted by the 138th IPU Assembly.

Building and promoting lasting peace is clearly a more effective strategy than trying to contain or manage conflict. Both the UN General Assembly resolutions on sustaining peace and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development share that common vision for peaceful societies. These complementary global frameworks are mutually reinforcing and can be understood as the two sides of the same coin. Sustainable development leads to peaceful and inclusive societies, while sustainable peace ensures a favourable environment for sustainable development. Effective implementation of SDGs will not only prevent the outbreak of conflict but also lead to peaceful and inclusive societies; and sustainable peace, in turn, guarantees an environment where people from all walks of life and with diverging interests can work together for their country's development.

The session will address the following questions:

- What are the challenges and opportunities linked to the two concepts of SDGs and sustaining peace, and what are their inter-relations?
- What is the role of parliaments in addressing SDGs and sustaining peace?
- What kind of measures and actions can parliaments undertake in terms of legislation, policy development, evaluation and oversight, in order to take a comprehensive approach to sustainable development and sustaining peace?

Expected outcome

The hearing will offer the Committee an opportunity to exchange views with key actors in this area in order to elicit their understanding on how “sustaining peace” relates to the 2030 Agenda in its entirety. It will also be an opportunity to highlight country examples and good practices and to discuss the linkages between sustaining peace and the 2030 Agenda across the SDGs, in particular Goal 16 on the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies. The hearing, together with individual contributions from Member Parliaments, will provide the co-Rapporteurs with initial information about how the IPU Members deal with such issues. This information will serve as the basis for the co-Rapporteurs' explanatory memorandum 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.

#IPU137