



United Nations Forum on
**HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY
and the RULE OF LAW**

GENEVA, 22-23 NOVEMBER 2018

**Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law
Second session**

“Parliaments as promoters of human rights, democracy and the rule of law”

Room XVII, Palais des Nations

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Thursday, 22 November 2018

I. 10:00 - 10:30 Opening meeting

Statement by the Vice President of the Human Rights Council, **H.E. Ambassador Mr. François Xavier Ngarabe, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva**

Statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, **Ms. Michelle Bachelet**

Remarks by the Chairperson of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law **Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

II. 10:30 - 13:00 Parliaments as key actors to the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

Discussions will focus on the capacity and willingness of parliaments to ensure that legislation complies with the human rights obligations of States. Discussions will identify the different ways in which parliaments hold policymakers to account. Discussions will consider the challenges parliaments may face in fulfilling their functions and therefore in promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Participants will also explore the

discrimination and structural inequalities, affecting the capacity of women and groups that are marginalised or discriminated against to participate in parliamentary work and stand for parliamentary office. Participants will reflect on the need for members of parliament to enjoy their human rights as a prerequisite for promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Presentations by:

- **Mr. Murray Hunt**, Director, Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, British Institute of International and Comparative Law
- **Ms. Kinley Om**, former Member, National Assembly of Bhutan
- **Ms. Jamila Debbech Ksiksi**, Member, Assembly of the Representatives of the People, Tunisia
- **Mr. Nassirou Bako Arifari**, Member, National Assembly of Benin, and member of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

Moderator: Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Discussion

13:00 - 15:00 Lunch Break and Side Events

III. 15:00 - 18:00 Parliaments facing current global challenges to human rights, democracy and the rule of law

Discussions will include a reflection on the actions available to parliaments in light of current global challenges to human rights, democracy and the rule of law, including those affecting democratic institutions and principles, such as: undue restrictions on public freedoms, the use of hate speech, attacks against journalists and the rise of populism. Discussions will also examine the challenges and opportunities posed by migration, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Presentations by:

- **Mr. Momodou Malcolm Jallow**, Member, Riksdag - Parliament of Sweden
- **Ms. Kimberly Stanton**, Democratic Staff, Senior Professional Staff, Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, United States Congress
- **Mr. Jean Paul Briere**, Member, Congress of the Republic of Guatemala
- **Mr. Kenneth Okoth**, Member, National Assembly of the Republic of Kenya

Moderator: Ms. Sandrine Mörch, Member, National Assembly of France (Députée de la 9ème circonscription de la Haute-Garonne)

Discussion

Friday, 23 November 2018

IV. 10:00 - 13:00 Parliaments working with others: is there room for more engagement?

Discussions will focus on existing practices to make parliaments more transparent, open and accountable, and on how parliaments can better interact with other State institutions. Discussions will turn to the relationship between parliaments and the judiciary, and how these two institutions can complement each other to ensure better protection of human rights and the rule of law, while respecting their respective independence. Discussions will examine co-operation between parliaments and national human rights institutions (NHRIs), specifically how NHRIs can help ensure that parliaments take into account human rights considerations during the law-making process. Discussions will also consider cooperation between civil society organisations, the media and parliaments, in particular, how civil society can help set the legislative agenda and encourage parliaments to champion human rights issues.

Presentations by:

- **Ms. Irene Khan**, Director-General, International Development Law Organization
- **Ms. Sarah McGrath**, Director of International Engagement, Australian Human Rights Commission
- **Mr. Danilo Kalezic**, Coordinator of the parliamentary programme, Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector, Montenegro
- **Ms. Norma Morandini**, Director, Senate Human Rights Observatory, Argentina

Moderator: Mr. Sergio Piazzi, Secretary General, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

Discussion

13:00 - 15:00 Lunch Break and Side Events

V. 15:00 - 17:45 Enhancing the involvement of parliaments in international human rights mechanisms

Discussions will focus on the measures necessary to ensure structured and regular participation by national and regional parliaments in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review. Participants will identify measures to increase collaboration between parliaments and human rights treaty bodies for the implementation of recommendations made by these bodies. Discussions will also reflect on the human rights work of international and regional parliamentary organisations. Participants will examine successful initiatives taken by these organisations to strengthen the attention paid to human rights issues.

Presentations by:

- **Ms. Sophie Kiladze**, Member, Parliament of Georgia
- **Ms. Nicole Ameline**, Member, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and member of the CEDAW-IPU Working Group
- **Ms. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka**, Chairperson, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Cameroon
- **Mr. Stefan Krauss**, Acting Head of Human Rights Action Unit, Directorate for Democracy Support, Directorate-General for External Policies of the Union, European Parliament

Moderator: Mr. Murray Hunt, Director, Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, British Institute of International and Comparative Law

Discussion

VI. 17:45 - 18:00 Concluding Remarks by the Chairperson of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law

Session Closes

***** The Programme of Work may be subject to change *****