



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

Biographies of panellists

Chairperson: Mr. Martin Chungong - Cameroon



Mr. Martin Chungong is the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the first African and first non-European to be elected to the post. After 14 years working in the Cameroonian Parliament, he spent more than 20 years within the IPU where he served as Deputy Secretary General and Director of Programmes before his appointment as Secretary General. Since 2012, Mr. Chungong has made a push to strengthen parliamentary engagement on sustainable development and accountability through his role as Parliamentary

Representative on the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. As part of IPU's commitment to gender parity, Mr. Chungong is an International Gender Champion, part of a network of decision makers, male and female, who have committed to breaking down gender barriers.

Session 1: Parliaments as key actors to the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

Mr. Murray Hunt – United Kingdom



Mr. Murray Hunt has been Director of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law since 2017. He is a practising barrister and one of the founders of Matrix in London where he is an Associate Member. Mr. Hunt was the Legal Adviser to the UK Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights and is a Visiting Professor at the University of Oxford. Since joining the Bingham Centre, Mr. Hunt has established the Expert Working Group on the EU (Withdrawal) Bill and the Rule of Law bringing together parliamentarians, NGOs and academics. He has also become an Adviser to the Scottish Parliament's Equalities and Human Rights Committee.

Ms. Kinley Om – Buthan



Ms. Kinley Om was a Member of Parliament, National Assembly of Bhutan from 2013 to 2018. During that time, she was Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee and Deputy Chairperson of the Legislative Committee of National Assembly of Bhutan and represented the Committee at international conferences worldwide.

Ms. Jamila Debbech Ksiksi - Tunisia



Ms. Jamila Debbech Ksiksi is a member of the Tunisian Assembly of the Representatives of the People. She was elected as member of the Pan African Parliament in 2015, where she presides over the Women Caucus. Ms. Debbech Ksiksi was an active member of worker’s unions and civil society activist in the areas of human rights, women’s rights, the fight against corruption, good governance and transparency. She was the first politician to raise the issue of racial discrimination in Tunisia and strongly championed a legislative initiative on the issue, leading to the adoption of the law on racial discrimination.

Mr. Nassirou Bako Arifari – Benin



Mr. Nassirou Bako-Arifari was elected to the National Assembly of Benin in 2015 and holds the post of President of the Commission on Defence and External Relations. He is a member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. In 2011, Mr. Bako-Arifari was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophonie and Beninese Abroad, a post he held until 2015. He is a Professor in the Department of Sociology-Anthropology at the University of Abomey-Calavi and Associate Lecturer at the University of Cologne in Germany.

Moderator: Mr. Martin Chungong – Cameroon

See biography above.

Session 2: Parliaments facing current global challenges to human rights, democracy and the rule of law

Mr. Momodou Malcolm Jallow – Sweden



Mr. Momodou Malcolm Jallow is a Member of the Swedish Parliament and a member of the Swedish delegation to the Council of Europe. He is the founder and chair of the Pan African Movement for Justice (PMJ) in Sweden and the former vice chair of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR). He has led a landmark campaign against afrophobia and hate crimes against persons of African descent (PAD) resulting in the first guilty verdict for hate crimes against PAD in Sweden. In his capacity as a civil society representative, Mr. Jallow been actively involved in the negotiations at the Durban Review Conference.

Ms. Kimberly Stanton – United States of America



Kimberly Stanton currently serves as Senior Professional Staff and Democratic Staff Director for the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is a former Russell Hemenway Human Rights Fellow and the Senior Democratic Fellow for the Commission. She previously worked for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial managing human rights programmes. Ms Stanton was Deputy Director and Director of Studies at the Washington Office on Latin America and Country Representative and Executive Director of the Project Counselling Service from 2005 to 2013.

Mr. Jean Paul Briere – Guatemala



Mr. Jean Paul Briere is a member of the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala elected for the 2012-2016 legislature and later re-elected for the 2016-2020. He is a member of the Parliamentary Commission for External Relations. He spent four years as Chair of the Commission on Migration. He introduced a legislative initiative to support the regularization of migrants in Guatemala, whose main objective is to allow the migratory regularization of more than 250,000 foreigners who live in the country and who are mostly from the Central American area.

Mr. Kenneth Okoth – Kenya



Mr. Kenneth Okoth is a Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Kenya. He is a founding member of the Kenya Parliamentary Human Rights Association, a bi-partisan caucus of like-minded legislators committed to promoting a rights based society in Kenya. Mr. Okoth is the initiator of the parliamentary Caucus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He has promoted a number of legislative initiatives on human rights, including in relation to the right to housing, education and police accountability. He earned his Masters of Arts Degree from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Washington DC.

Moderator:

Ms. Sandrine Mörch – France



Ms. Sandrine Mörch has been a member of the French National Assembly since 2017. She is an active member of the Commission on cultural affairs and education and member of the French delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean. Ms. Mörch is also a journalist with over 20 years of experience, having worked for national press, as an anchor-woman, and a war correspondent. Since 1990 she has realised a number of documentaries in cooperation with Médecins Sans Frontières aimed at raising awareness on forgotten conflicts.

Session 3: Parliaments working with others: is there room for more engagement?

Ms. Irene Khan – Bangladesh



Irene Khan is Director-General of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO). The first woman to hold this office, she was elected in November 2011 and took up her position in January 2012. Ms Khan was Secretary General of Amnesty International from 2001 to 2009. Prior to that, she worked for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for 21 years at headquarters and in various field operations. She was Visiting Professor at the State University of New York Law School (Buffalo) in 2011. Ms. Khan sits on the boards of several international human rights and development organizations.

Ms. Sarah McGrath – Australia



Sarah McGrath is the Director of International Engagement, Business and Human Rights at the Australian Human Rights Commission. At the Commission, Sarah is responsible for the leadership and management of multiple large-scale international human rights programs and oversees the Commission's business and human rights strategy and projects. Ms. McGrath returned to the Commission in July 2018 after spending nearly three years working at the forefront of business and human rights issues at the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR). At ICAR, she oversaw a range of initiatives aimed at ensuring governments create and enforce rules over corporations that promote and protect human rights.

Mr. Danilo Kalezic – Montenegro



Mr. Danilo Kalezic is the Coordinator of the parliamentary programme of the Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS) in Montenegro and is responsible for the monitoring of the Parliament's work and related political affairs. Mr. Kalezic is a member of the Parliament's committee for improving election legislation. Before joining MANS, Mr. Kalezic was working as a Teaching and Research assistant at Jacobs University Bremen, where he obtained MA degree in International Relations. His main field of expertise relate to transformations of states, transition, and democratization in Eastern Europe.

Ms. Norma Morandini – Argentina



Ms. Norma Morandini is the Director of the Observatory for Human Rights of the Senate of Argentina. She was a member of the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina between 2005 and 2009 and was a Senator between 2009 and 2015. As a parliamentarian, she was an active member of the Commissions on Human Rights, Freedom of Expression, Constitutional Affairs, Environment and Sustainable Development. She was also the President of the Commission on Population and Human Development. She is a journalist and writer and has worked for Argentinian, Spanish and Brazilian press covering human rights and democracy issues, including the trial of the Argentine Junta.

Moderator:

Mr. Sergio Piazzi – Italy



Mr. Sergio Piazzi was elected in 2008 as the first PAM Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM). He is a Senior Executive Officer of the United Nations, having served in senior positions for over 20 years, including as Senior Advisor on European Affairs and Chief of UN OCHA External Affairs. In his PAM capacity, he regularly conducts, at the request of the EU and the UN, peace-support and confidence-building missions to, among others, Syria, Libya, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cyprus, Israel and Palestine. In 2014, the UN Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee requested his cooperation to launch a major ongoing legislative support programme to implement relevant UNSC's resolutions dealing with ISIS and Foreign Terrorist Fighters.

Session 4: Enhancing the involvement of parliaments in international human rights mechanisms

Ms. Sophie Kiladze – Georgia



Ms. Sophie Kiladze is a Member of the Parliament of Georgia and Chair of the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee. In this role, she promoted the engagement of the Parliament of Georgia in the Universal Periodic Review of Georgia. She was previously Secretary of the State Commission Supporting Suppression of Distributing New Psychoactive Substances and Deputy Head of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

Ms. Nicole Ameline – France



Ms. Nicole Ameline has been a Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) since 2008 and is a member of the CEDAW-IPU Working Group. From 1991 to 2017 she was a member of the French National Assembly where she was a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the National Advisory Committee on Human Rights. Ms. Ameline was French Minister for Parity and Equality in the Workplace in 2014-2015. She also previously held the post of representative of the French Government to the International Labour Organisation and former Ambassador for Social and Gender Issues in International Relations.

Ms. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka – Cameroon



Ms. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka is the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). She was elected to the National Assembly of Cameroon in 2002 and has held the post of Deputy Speaker since 2009. She has served her Parliament in a large number of sub Committees including as Member of the Executive Committee of Good Governance of the National Assembly and as Member of the National Commission of Human Rights and Freedom. Highly active within the CPA since 2007, Ms. Monjowa Lifaka has served in various capacities including being alternate Vice President 2012 – 2013 and alternate President 2013 – 2014.

Mr. Stefan Krauss – Germany



Mr. Stefan Krauss currently heads the Human Rights Action Unit in the Directorate-General for External Policies of the European Parliament. This includes supporting parliaments in mainstreaming human rights into legislation and overseeing their implementation, linking civil society to parliaments and government authorities. The scope of his work also covers the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought and activities engaging Members of Parliament and the Sakharov Prize laureates in a dedicated Network. Mr. Krauss holds a PhD in political science and worked as a lecturer on EU integration at Regensburg University before joining the European Commission in 2000. Since 2005, he has filled different positions in the General Secretariat of the European Parliament.

Moderator:

Mr. Murray Hunt – United Kingdom

See biography above.