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131st IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 12 - 16.10.2014

Standing Committee on
Peace and International Security
Item 5

C-I/131/5-Inf.1
16 September 2014

Discussion on *Cyber warfare – A serious threat to peace and global security*

15 October 2014 (2.30 – 5.30 p.m.)
Room 2, level 0, CICC

Concept note

Background: This interactive debate will be organized on the theme of the resolution expected to be adopted by the Committee at the 132nd IPU Assembly in Hanoi.

Specifically, the session will address the following questions:

- What exactly is cyber warfare and what is the difference between cyber warfare and cyber security? What are the real dimensions of the issue and what are the threats to peace and global security?
- What are the different perspectives and ideological views on this subject?
- What are the challenges to defining the nature of cyber attacks and how can an international norm be established?
- What is the role of parliaments in addressing the threat of cyber warfare at the national, regional and global levels?
- What forms can parliamentary action take to promote new policies and closer international cooperation to combat cyber warfare and to support related inter-ministerial collaboration with legislation? What are the options available to decision makers (law enforcement issue vs. national-security legal framework)?
- How can parliaments effectively deal with multiple issues affecting cyber space, such as security, privacy, data protection and freedom of expression, taking into account the multistakholder nature of these issues?

Expected achievement and outcome: The debate will offer the Committee an opportunity to learn about current issues related to cyber warfare and exchange views with key actors in this area. It will also provide the co-Rapporteurs with initial information about how IPU Member Parliaments deal with related issues.

Format: The session will take the form of an interactive debate between parliamentarians and experts on cyber warfare. After introductory remarks by the panellists, the floor will be open for an exchange of views and questions and answers.

