



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 131<sup>st</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 12 - 16.10.2014

Standing Committee on  
Sustainable Development,  
Finance and Trade

C-II/131/A.1  
9 June 2014

## Draft agenda

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 130<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (March 2014)**
3. **Elections to the Standing Committee Bureau**

Proposals for new Bureau members will be made by geopolitical groups to the Committee Bureau. The Committee will discuss Bureau recommendations with a view to filling the existing vacancies.

4. **Interactive debate on *Shaping a new system of water governance: Promoting parliamentary action on water***

This interactive debate will be organized around the theme of the future Committee resolution, expected to be adopted at the 132<sup>nd</sup> Assembly in Hanoi. The debate will provide the Committee with an opportunity to learn about current issues related to water governance 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 issues relevant to water governance.

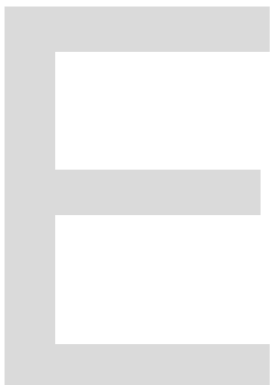
5. **Parliamentary contribution to the 2014 Climate Change Conference**

In the run-up to the Parliamentary Meeting at COP20/CMP10 in Lima, the IPU will hold a consultation on the content of a possible parliamentary message to be addressed to COP20/CMP10. The Committee will discuss a pre-draft of this document, to be prepared by the Peruvian Congress.

6. **Multi-stakeholder dialogue on *Corporate investment in sustainable development* (joint session with the World Investment Forum)**

Through this session, the Committee will have an opportunity to engage with private sector executives and representatives of lead international non-governmental and governmental organizations. It is expected that through their exchange, participants will enhance each other's understanding of the various perspectives that come to play in the context of making parliaments deliver for development through engagement with the private sector, smart regulation and forward-looking legislation.

7. **Any other business**



## **SHAPING A NEW WATER GOVERNANCE: PROMOTING IPU ACTION ON WATER**

### ***Explanatory note submitted by Bhutan / Viet Nam***

#### **I. Political context**

In September 1998, the 100<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Paris) acknowledged that "freshwater resources are essential to basic human needs, health, food production and the preservation of ecosystems".

In March 2010 and September 2010, the UN General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Council and the Rio+20 Declaration officially recognized the "human right to safe drinking water and sanitation" as a condition for sustainable development.

The International Year of Water Cooperation, celebrated in 2013, aimed to provide impetus for and trigger action on water issues.

In March 2013, the UN Human Rights Council "encourage[d] the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as the world organization of national parliaments, to strengthen its contribution to the Human Rights Council, particularly as it related to the Universal Periodic Review".

#### **II. Why promote IPU action on water?**

The challenge is to tackle the inconsistencies of legal frameworks for water management. Indeed, up to 90 per cent of bodies of water are considered to be in poor condition, notably as a result of lax application of the polluter-pays principle and faulty waste-water treatment (UNEP UN-Habitat 2010). What is more, access to drinking water is not always a priority in State allocation systems, and the frequent failure to monitor water pollution has an impact on the quality of water for human consumption.

National and regional legal frameworks for water resources management are not coherent or drawn up with regard to the human right to water. Parliamentarians would be taking much needed action by improving the consistency of such legal frameworks.

#### **III. Why mobilise the Second Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade?**

Water is at the heart of sustainable development; it is essential for both present and future generations. The leadership of parliamentarians is absolutely necessary to implement the right to water as a political priority and promote good integrated water governance that respects human rights.

The Second Standing Committee could appoint regional leaders to assess current legal frameworks and infrastructures and identify the legislative action needed to contribute to the progressive realization of the human right to water. A resolution could be adopted in 2014 to mobilize parliamentarians and initiate IPU action in that respect.