



**Conference on
Ensuring Everyone's Right to Nationality:
The Role of Parliaments in Preventing and Ending Statelessness**

Cape Town (South Africa), 26-27 November, 2015

Co-organized by the Parliament of South Africa, the Inter-Parliamentary Union
and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

GENERAL INFORMATION NOTE

This Note provides information about the Meeting and related arrangements

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

The Conference on Nationality and Statelessness, co-organized by the Parliament of South Africa, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 26 and 27 November 2015.

The overarching theme of the Conference on Statelessness will be “Ensuring Everyone’s Right to Nationality: The Role of Parliaments in Preventing and Ending Statelessness”. By focusing on this theme the conference is intended to illustrate contributions made by parliamentarians through the adoption of good practices and to look at emerging and future approaches parliamentarians and their members will need to take to maximize their role in ending statelessness.

The conference is expected to result in an action plan for parliamentary contributions to ending statelessness.

VENUE

The Conference will be held in the Old Assembly Chamber at the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa.

PARTICIPATION

All National Parliaments are invited to send a delegation, preferably composed of male and female parliamentarians who have experience in human rights and international humanitarian law, or who are members of a parliamentary committee dealing with these issues. IPU Associate Members are also invited

The size of the delegation from each parliament and associate Member should not exceed four persons.

Observer delegations should be composed of no more than two persons.



ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS

In accordance with the IPU's practice, all participants will have equal speaking rights. So that the discussions can be as fruitful and enriching as possible, the following arrangements have been foreseen so far:

- (a) There will be no list of speakers on any agenda item. After an agenda item has been introduced by the resource persons, the floor will be opened to participants for questions and comments.
- (b) Experience has shown that this kind of meeting is not suitable for pre-prepared statements to be read out. Subject to arrangements which the Chair may make to suit the circumstances, oral contributions may not exceed three minutes. Participants may, however, speak several times on each item, particularly to respond to other statements.
- (c) A General Rapporteur will be called upon on the last day to sum up the work of the Seminar at its concluding session.

Once presentations are made, the floor will be open for debate.

Observers will be able to intervene once the Speakers' requests to take the floor have been exhausted.

DOCUMENTS

Written texts of the presentations will be distributed to participants as they become available. The Meeting Secretariat will strive to make these documents available in the meeting's official languages.

To the extent possible and for the information of participants, the IPU Secretariat will make available background documentation relevant to the issues under discussion. Participants wishing to distribute to their colleagues relevant documentation will be required to provide it in sufficient quantities and put it on a table set aside for that purpose.

LANGUAGES

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided into and from Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

One additional interpretation booth will be available for participants addressing the meeting in any other language. They should provide their own interpreter; the additional booth will be reserved upon first come-first served basis. These interpreters should contact a member of the Conference staff ahead of time. If at all possible, individual statements written in languages other than the official ones should be translated and given to the IPU Secretariat for distribution.

REGISTRATION

Invited parliaments are requested to send their list of participants attending the Conference no later than **26 October 2015** using the enclosed Registration form, to the following addresses:

**Contact Persons in
Parliament of the RSA:**

Ms Leanne Morrison / Mr Mohau Tsotetsi
P O Box 15
Cape Town
8000
Tel: +27 21 403 8489 (Ms Morrison)
+27 21 403 8384 (Mr Tsotetsi)
E-mail: IPU-UNHCRconf@parliament.gov.za

CC: Inter-Parliamentary Union

5 chemin du Pommier
case postale 330
1218 Grand-Saconnex
Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 919 41 50
Fax: +41 22 919 41 60
E-mail: postbox@ipu.org / vs@ipu.org

For the purpose of identity badges, delegates are kindly requested to send their jpeg format passport-size photographs with white background to the Host Secretariat, along with their travel details via e-mail.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND RESERVATIONS

The Host Group has identified the following hotels with accommodation available during the Meeting period:

Hotel and contact details	Contact number/email	Room type	Approximate daily rate (in ZAR)	Includes
Sun Square Hotel	+27 21 465 1311	Single Standard Rooms	1 050.00	Bed and Breakfast
(Note – This is the preferred hotel - delegates are requested to book accommodation at this hotel as first option)				
Taj Hotel	+27 21 819 2000	Standard Room Single	2 750.00	Bed and Breakfast
		Standard Room Double	3 000.00	Bed and Breakfast
		Suite (Single or Double)	8 000.00	Bed and Breakfast
Protea Fire and Ice	+27 21 488 2555	Standard Single Rooms	1 100.00	Bed and Breakfast
		Double Rooms	1 275.00	Bed and Breakfast
		Superior Single Rooms	1 250.00	Bed and Breakfast
		Superior Double Rooms	1 425.00	Bed and Breakfast
Cape Castle Hotel	+27 21 439 1016	Standard Single Rooms	1 265.00	Bed and Breakfast
Protea Hotel Breakwater Lodge	+27 21 430 5300 (international)	Twin Business Suite	1 545.00	Bed and Breakfast, Dinner & Soft Drink
		Double Business Suite	1 545.00	Bed and Breakfast, Dinner & Soft Drink
		Double Family Unit	1 575.00	Bed and Breakfast, Dinner & Soft Drink
Note - As at 14 October 2015, the exchange rate was approximately ZAR 13.32 = US \$ 1.				

Delegates and officials are required to cover the cost of their accommodation in Cape Town and are required to settle their bills directly with the hotel. Delegates and officials are advised to secure accommodation at the above hotels to avoid logistical challenges. Should delegates opt for alternative accommodation, they will be required to make their own transport arrangements.

Due to the demand for accommodation during the period of the conference, delegates and officials are urged to secure accommodation soonest.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

In order to ensure an efficient reception service, all participants are kindly requested to provide the necessary arrival and departure information, including dates, flight numbers and arrival and departure times on the reservation form.

The competent services of the Parliament of South Africa will welcome delegates upon their arrival at the Cape Town International Airport, and arrange their ground transfers to and from the airport. They will also provide transfers for delegates between their hotels and the official meeting venue and related events.

VISAS

Entry visas are required except for citizens of countries which have visa exemption agreements with South Africa.

Each delegate must be in possession of a valid passport and those that require a visa should make the necessary arrangements prior to their arrival in the Republic of South Africa through their High

Commission in the respective countries. Attendees are requested to ensure that they have the required inoculations prior to travelling to South Africa.

Further information pertaining to documentation required for visa applications will follow.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

During the meeting, first aid facilities will be provided at the venue. All other medical facilities and prescriptions will be at the participants' own expense.

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK

A Registration and Information Desk will be available to participants at the above-mentioned hotels and at the meeting venue from 25 to 28 November 2015. It shall operate from 07h00 to 18h00 from 25 to 27 November and from 07h00 to 13h00 on 28 November 2015.

Participants are kindly requested to register with this service as soon as possible after their arrival. It will issue identity badges and deal with enquiries concerning the Conference.

SECURITY

All necessary security measures will be taken by the national authorities. Participants are required to wear their identity badges at all times when they are at the meeting venue and at all official functions during the Conference.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The month of November in Cape Town, South Africa is characterized by *gradually rising* daily high temperatures, with daily highs of around 23°C throughout the month. Daily minimum temperatures range from 12°C to 15°C.

Attendees are advised to ensure that they have a rain jacket / umbrella available during their stay, due to occasional unexpected rainy conditions in Cape Town.

CURRENCY REGULATIONS

The Republic of South Africa's unit currency is the Rand (ZAR). Foreign currency notes of all major currencies are accepted by banks, Forex bureaux and authorised institutions. The United States Dollar, the British Pound Sterling, the Euro are easily convertible.

Delegates are encouraged to exchange currency upon arrival at the airport.

As at 8 October 2015, the exchange rate was approximately ZAR 13.32 = US \$ 1.

PRESS

Journalists wishing to cover the seminar are requested to obtain accreditation from the Host Parliament.

Access to the Conference venue will be restricted to official delegates only. A media operations centre will be established at the venue and an area has been reserved in the galleries for accredited journalists and TV crews.

TRANSPORT

During the Meeting, a shuttle service to and from the hotel(s) and the Conference venue and social event locations will be arranged by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa. Delegates are requested to forward the completed transportation coordination form to IPU-UNHCRconf@parliament.gov.za.

OTHER SERVICES

An internet café will be available to participants at the meeting venue.

RECEPTIONS

The programme of social events will be communicated to participants in due course.