



# 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly

Belgrade (Serbia)  
13-17 October 2019



Standing Committee on  
Sustainable Development,  
Finance and Trade

12 September 2019

## Debate on follow-up to the IPU resolution adopted in March 2014: *Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints*

*Wednesday, 16 October 2019 (2.30 – 4.30 p.m.)  
Amphitheatre (ground floor), Building B, Sava Centre*

### **Concept note**

The 130<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, which was held in 2014, adopted a resolution that provided important guidance to parliaments on the kind of role they could play in addressing the underlying causes of disaster risk. They could ensure that stronger linkages are built between policies and programmes relating to disaster risk reduction and recovery, climate change, long-term economic and social development, urban planning, demographic dynamics and environmental protection. In order to be able to do so the IPU urged parliaments to, inter alia, enhance their oversight role and take immediate action to review existing legislation related to disaster risk reduction. It further emphasized that reducing disaster risk and protecting people's lives were the legal responsibility of all public representatives.

The post-2015 development agenda has seen significant progress since the adoption of the above-mentioned resolution, notably through the agreement on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Goals and targets as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, an international agreement on climate change, the Paris Agreement, has been reached and a new framework for disaster risk reduction, the Sendai Framework, has been agreed. The latter contains an important shift from disaster management to disaster risk management, focusses on people-centred preventive approaches and recognizes that the State has the primary responsibility to reduce disaster risk. Nonetheless, disaster impacts continue to rise, thus threatening people's lives and livelihoods, derailing socio-economic development and damaging the environment.

The panel discussion will address the following questions:

- What are the most important developments since the adoption of the resolution in ensuring that demographic dynamics and natural constraints are taken into consideration as part of risk-resilient development approaches?
- What kind of parliamentary action has proven to be effective in supporting a transition to risk-resilient development? What examples of good practice can be shared?
- What approaches have not worked and/or in which areas has progress not yet been achieved? What still needs to be done and what role can parliamentarians play?

**Chair:** Ms. Veronica Muzenda Tsitsi, President, Standing Committee

**Speakers:** Ms. Kirsi Madi, Director, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

Ms. Alanna Armitage, Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)