



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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138th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 24 – 28.03.2018

From the UN to Parliaments: Putting the nuclear weapons ban to work

A workshop on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), organized by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), in cooperation with the IPU Standing Committees on United Nations Affairs and on Peace and International Security

Wednesday, 28 March 2018 (2.30 – 4.30 p.m.)
Salle Genève, CCV Annexe building, CICG

Concept note

Background

For many years the IPU has been deeply engaged with nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament efforts, which is reflected in the adoption of a series of related resolutions as well as by the publication in 2012 of the Handbook for Parliamentarians titled *Supporting Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament*. The 2014 IPU Resolution *Towards a nuclear weapon free world: The contribution of parliaments* (130th IPU Assembly) welcomed the three Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, which laid the groundwork for the negotiation and adoption of the historic TPNW in 2017.

Later in 2017, ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its work to raise awareness of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and the groundbreaking achievement of the TPNW.

In light of escalating international tensions and rising risks of a nuclear weapon detonation, progress in nuclear disarmament is more urgent than ever. The TPNW provides a basis for real progress to be achieved. This will require both wide adherence to the Treaty as well as efforts to reframe the narrative of nuclear weapons to fundamentally challenge the justifications for nuclear deterrence. Parliamentarians across the world are uniquely placed to foster this new narrative.

The TPNW will be the first step to reach a safer world, for us and for the next generations. The 2014 IPU Resolution which called for “all Member Parliaments and parliamentarians to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as objectives of the highest priority and urgency” resonates more than ever.

Description

ICAN, in cooperation with the IPU Standing Committees on United Nations Affairs and on Peace and International Security, will convene a workshop at the 138th IPU Assembly in order to share information about the TPNW (status, process, ratification) and hold a discussion with parliamentarians about how the Treaty will complement existing nuclear disarmament machinery, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), to achieve progress in nuclear disarmament.

This workshop will also be an opportunity for parliamentarians to share experiences with their peers about what they have done since the Treaty opened for signature (20 September 2017) and what the next steps are with States and parliamentarians.



#IPU138

Questions to stimulate discussion

- Why should parliamentarians play a central role in the promotion of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons? Why is the future of the Treaty also the responsibility of parliamentarians?
- How can parliamentarians work to ensure their governments join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as quickly as possible?
- How can the IPU, ICAN and partner organizations bolster the work of parliamentarians for nuclear disarmament?
- What measures have been taken in States ready to engage with the Treaty?
- What are the methods and tools available to parliamentarians to foster debate at the national level?
- How can parliamentarians reinforce the work done by colleagues in other countries?

Expected outcome

The workshop will offer parliamentarians the opportunity to exchange views with experts and campaigners who were intimately involved in the negotiations of the Treaty and to develop joint strategies to ensure the Treaty has an impact in motivating new actions in all States – both nuclear weapon States and non-nuclear weapon States alike. Ultimately, what is required is a change in the existing narrative on nuclear weapons, with a view to diminishing the role of nuclear weapons in national security doctrines and discourses.