



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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140th IPU Assembly

Doha (Qatar), 6 – 10 April 2019



Standing Committee on
Democracy and Human Rights

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11 March 2019

Preparatory debate on the next resolution: *Achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*

Tuesday, 9 April 2019 (9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)
Salwa 2, Sheraton Convention Center

Concept note

At the 139th Assembly in Geneva, the Standing Committee adopted a proposal by Bangladesh to prepare a resolution entitled *Achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*. The decision was subsequently confirmed by the Assembly, which also approved the nomination of two rapporteurs, one from Bangladesh and the other from Switzerland. The IPU President announced that she would continue consultations with a view to nominating a third rapporteur at the 140th Assembly.

This preparatory debate will enable Members to share their views on ways to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030 and propose specific parliamentary actions to be included in the resolution.

At least half of the world's population still has no access to full coverage of essential health services and about 100 million people are being pushed into extreme poverty because they have to pay for health care. Over 800 million people spend at least 10 per cent of their household budgets on health care.

UHC has arisen as an antidote to this problem. UHC means that all people and communities can use the health services they need, that these services are of sufficient quality to be effective, and that accessing them does not expose the user to financial hardship. The international community has agreed to achieve UHC by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Through its deliberations and the resolution, the IPU is laying the groundwork for vigorous parliamentary action in this area. With their important responsibilities to pass laws, hold government to account and allocate adequate resources, parliamentarians will have a key role in achieving universal health coverage in their respective countries by 2030.

This preparatory debate will inform the preparation of the resolution. It will also underpin a parliamentary contribution to the high-level meeting on UHC at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019.

After the 140th Assembly, Members can also submit written proposals on the content of the resolution; the deadline is 30 April 2019. The rapporteurs will then prepare the draft resolution, taking into account Members' views expressed during the debate and in written contributions. The Standing Committee will consider the draft when it next meets at the 141st Assembly in October 2019.

#IPU140