



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations



Putting an end to conflicts: Prescriptions for a peaceful future

ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

8 and 9 February 2024

Programme

Moderator: **Dan Dunsky**, Journalist

Thursday, 8 February	
10:00–10:15	Welcome remarks
	<p>H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the United Nations General Assembly</p> <p>Ms. Tulia Ackson, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union</p>
10:15–10:45	Interactive survey
	<p>Participants will be invited to respond to a few questions designed to identify basic positions and trends. The survey will be conducted on Mentimeter.com and will require participants to use their phones or tablets.</p>
10:45 –11:45	The Future of Peace and Security: From good intentions to a renewed collective action
	<p>The upcoming Summit of the Future in September 2024 presents an opportunity to promote global solidarity and cooperation, advance sustainable development and build more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous societies for present and future generations.</p> <p>Leading up to the summit, the UN Secretary-General has published a series of policy briefs including one focused on peace, entitled “New Agenda for Peace”. The UN Secretary-General noted: “We are now at an inflection point. /.../ The post-cold war period is over. A transition is under way to a new global order.”</p> <p>With more than 50 conflicts raging around the world, and the risk of conflict growing further, the New Agenda for Peace places itself within a shifting geopolitical landscape in which long-standing grievances are being compounded by new sources of tensions and new tools of warfare. Placing the emphasis on conflict prevention, the New Agenda includes a number of proposals for UN Member States to consider in the run up to the Summit of the Future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main strategic risks to peace and security? • What is “new” in the New Agenda for Peace? • What role should parliaments have in the New Agenda? <p>Presenters</p> <p>Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General and UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs</p>

	<p>H.E. Ms. Fatima Kyari Mohammed, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations (<i>virtually</i>)</p> <p>Mr. Adam Lupel, Vice President & COO, International Peace Institute (IPI)</p>
11:45 –13:00	<p>Might is <i>not</i> right: International law vs. the law of the jungle</p>
	<p>Upholding the rule of law and respect to international legal obligations is essential to maintaining global peace and security.</p> <p>International law, with the UN Charter at its core, was designed to create a common set of rules to govern international relations, applying to all countries, regardless of their political, economic or military power. Especially for small countries, which comprise more than half of the UN membership, upholding international law is often an existential matter.</p> <p>Still, too often we are faced with systematic human rights violations, a disregard for humanitarian law, and the constant undermining of the rule of law in different corners of the world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we strengthen the international rules-based order and respect for international law? • How can accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law in conflict situations be strengthened? • What is the role for parliaments in championing international law and the rules-based order? <p>Presenters</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Tareq Albanai, Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations, Co-chair of the intergovernmental negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council</p> <p>Ms. Ana Lilia Rivera Rivera, President of the Senate of Mexico</p> <p>Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Head of Office, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR), New York</p> <p>Professor Rebecca Hamilton, American University Washington College of Law (<i>virtually</i>)</p>
13:00–15:00	<p>Lunch break</p>
15:00–16:30	<p>“Security” redefined: from State-centric approach to a "new security paradigm" based on Human Security</p>
	<p>Inequality and other forms of injustice often underpin social unrest and conflict. When entire groups of people lack key human development assets – health care, education, decent livelihoods, and a clean environment – and are denied their basic human rights, or feel alienated from their own governments, conflict situations are more likely to occur.</p> <p>Investing in <i>human security</i> and bringing tangible improvements to people’s daily lives, is therefore essential to conflict prevention. Yet, today, conflict prevention still revolves primarily around the traditional State-centric approach to security which focuses on the territorial integrity of the State and the role of military force. This approach falls short in addressing the different dimensions of security in the life of individual human beings and fails to recognize the</p>

	<p>structural causes of conflicts in terms of social, economic and political exclusion, grievances and inequalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can the concept of <i>human security</i> be made more prominent in public discourse?• What are the concrete avenues for the application of the human security approach at the national and international level?• How can the UN support regional bodies in advancing their conflict-prevention and peace-building goals in line with the human security framework? <p>Presenters</p> <p>H.E. Ms. Maritza Chan Valverde, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations</p> <p>Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, United Nations Special Coordinator for development in the Sahel</p> <p>Mr. Jonathan Granoff, President, Global Security Institute and Representative to the United Nations World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates</p>
16:30–18:00	Lowering the temperature: Climate change and conflict
	<p>Increasingly, climate change poses a threat to people, particularly in developing countries highly dependent on the land for their livelihood. Rising temperatures cause droughts and decrease soil fertility, leading to food insecurity. They are a major driver of displacement of communities within and across national boundaries. In several parts of the world, competition for limited resources linked to climate change is already fueling tensions, violent extremism, or outright conflicts.</p> <p>Despite these risks, the core provisions of the Paris Agreement on climate change are falling by the wayside and only a very small share of climate finance is flowing to vulnerable countries.</p> <p>Increasingly, conflict causes enormous environmental degradation with tremendous repercussion to human life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can countries and local communities prevent climate-related conflict?• How can international humanitarian law be applied to better protect the environment during armed conflict?• Would criminalizing “ecocide” be an effective tool in preventing environmental destruction and climate-related conflicts? <p>Presenters</p> <p>H.E. Ms. Margo Debye, Permanent Representative of Nauru to the United Nations, Co-chair of Group of Friends on Climate and Security</p> <p>Mr. Issa Mardo, MP, Transitional National Council of Chad</p> <p>Ms. Ligia Noronha, Assistant Secretary-General, Head of Office, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), New York</p> <p>Ms. Nisreen Elsaïm, Former Chair of the UN Secretary-General’s Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change (<i>virtually</i>)</p>

Friday, 9 February	
10:00–11:30	“Not in my name”: Women, youth and other groups working for peace
	<p>It is widely recognized that women and youth in particular can bring a fresh perspective to help diffuse tensions or resolve conflict situations. However, all too often these and other groups are severely under-represented in peace negotiations and dialogue structures in both national and international settings.</p> <p>The under-representation of women and youth is the more striking given the fact that these same groups are often the first victims of conflict. Women in particular are most vulnerable to violence and compounding forms of discrimination that make it harder for them to make their voices heard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are most peace negotiations male dominated? • What role can women and youth play concretely in conflict prevention and resolution? • How can women MPs and young MPs contribute to sustainable peace? <p>Presenters</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Michael Imran Kanu, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations and Co-Chair, Informal Group of Experts of the Security Council on Women, Peace and Security</p> <p>Mr. Dan Carden, MP, House of Commons of the United Kingdom, and President, IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians</p> <p>Ms. Cynthia Lopez Castro, MP, Chamber of Deputies of Mexico, and President, IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians</p> <p>Ms. Sarah Hendriks, Director of Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Division, UN Women</p> <p>Ms. Sara Wahedi, Human Rights Activist and Founder, Ehtesab</p>
11:30–12:45	SPECIAL SEGMENT Parliamentary diplomacy for peace: Good practices and common challenges
	<p>This segment will discuss the role of inter-parliamentary diplomacy in conflict prevention and resolution. Drawing from the IPU’s own work, concrete illustrations of good practices and challenges will be provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the conditions for parliamentary diplomacy to succeed? • How can parliamentary diplomacy complement UN peace efforts? <p>Presenters</p> <p>Senator Stéphanie D’Hose, Speaker of the Senate of Belgium and Member, IPU Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine</p> <p>Mr. David McGuinty, MP, House of Commons of Canada, and President, IPU Standing Committee on UN Affairs</p> <p>Ms. Khaddouj Slassi, MP, House of Representatives of Morocco</p> <p>Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU</p>

12:45- 13:00	Introduction to the Summit of the Future
	<p>Mr. Guy Ryder, UN Under-Secretary-General for Policy</p> <p>For background, please refer to the note on the Summit that was circulated to all participants.</p>
13:00–15:00	Lunch break
15:00–16:45	Emerging threats to peace: Technology for evil vs. human progress
	<p>Technology and scientific discovery can be at once humanity’s best friend or worst enemy. Applied to peace and security, technological innovation can help countries to become more resilient and fend off possible attacks from State or non-State actors while also creating new and unpredictable vulnerabilities. New technologies have emerged which, in a single strike, can inflict unspeakable damage to millions of people and undermine the international order at its core.</p> <p>There is an urgent need for the international community to address the risks involved in the development and use of emerging new technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), lethal autonomous weapons systems, and outer space weapons systems, among others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What criteria should be used to assess the peaceful or harmful impacts of new technologies? • Can existing international law effectively respond to the challenges posed by the military use of new technologies? • How can governments ensure regulatory processes for new technologies are fit for purpose? <p>Presenters</p> <p>Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, UN Under-Secretary-General, Special Envoy on Technology</p> <p>Mr. Jim Balsillie, Co-founder, Center for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Canada</p> <p>Ms. Alexandra Givens, President & CEO, Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT) (<i>virtually</i>)</p>
16:45 –17:00	Closing
	Ms. Tulia Ackson , President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union