Inter-Parliamentary Union
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How Can Parliaments Secure a Peace Dividend? Allocating for peace

Webinar organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in cooperation with the World Academy for Art and Science and the International Peace Bureau

Online – 27 November 2024
Session 1: Timed for the Asia/Pacific region – 7:00 – 8:30 CET
Session 2: Timed for Africa, Europe and the Americas – 17:00 – 18:30 CET

Background:

Today's rise in global tensions demonstrates that many nations persist in an outdated militaristic understanding of security, leading to escalating military expenditures, heightened tensions, and, in some cases, open conflict. This situation has contributed to a cycle of insecurity, where confrontational postures and arms race sideline the underlying causes of human suffering, such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and health crises.

With the recent release of the Parliamentary Toolkit **"Human Security and Common Security to Build Peace"**, the IPU is organizing the first in a series of follow-up webinars aimed at presenting these approaches to parliamentarians. Human security focuses on protecting individuals from threats and violence, addressing insecurity's root causes before they escalate. Common security underscores cooperation, dialogue, and multilateralism as keys to achieve peace, and that no nation can be secure alone. These approaches offer valuable lenses for reorienting decision-making processes to focus on the human component of security, advocating for policies that are inclusive, preventive, and collaborative.

The concept of a "peace dividend" - the economic and social benefits that arise when military spending is reduced, and the funds reallocated to social programs - offers prospects for change. By redirecting resources from defence budgets to areas like education, healthcare, infrastructure, and environmental protection, nations can address the root causes of insecurity and foster sustainable development. However, while building consensus around the idea of a peace dividend may seem simple, doing so is often a long and complex road filled with political, economic, and security-related realities that need to be addressed.

This webinar seeks to engage participants in discussions on how to implement Human Security and Common Security approaches within their legislative roles, especially in the context of parliamentary budget setting for peace and security.

Objectives:

- Explore the role of parliamentary budget-setting in advancing peace, disarmament and human-centred security.
- Engage parliamentarians in discussions on implementing Human Security and Common Security approaches within the parliamentary functions they have at their disposal.
- Foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among parliamentarians and experts.

Expected Outcomes:

- Strengthened networks leading to the development of a community of practice among parliamentarians committed to promoting peace and security through these new paradigms.
- Momentum towards reshaping national and international security policies to prioritize collaborative and preventive approaches to complement traditional militaristic strategies.
- Enhanced understanding of Human Security and Common Security concepts through direct engagement with experts.

The webinar will take place online. Session 1 will take place in English only and Session 2 in English, French, Arabic and Spanish via simultaneous interpretation. You may register via the following links:
Session 1: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kcuuhqTkvHdOrgYQZMHw9Jn5UuD_Vq6ye
Session 2: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcoduCoqj0oHtRkf2EJSkNSZWav1acE1mjO