Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

150th IPU Assembly

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (5–9 April 2025)

Workshop

Parliamentary diplomacy and mediation

Tuesday, 8 April 2025, 16:30–18:00

Concept note

Background and rationale

Building on the 2016 Sustaining Peace agenda, Action 16 of the Pact for the Future emphasizes the promotion of conflict prevention, mediation and peaceful dispute resolution. It outlines key commitments such as strengthening preventive diplomacy and mediation mechanisms, revitalizing conflict resolution frameworks and promoting confidence-building measures. Such peace efforts require a practical approach that prevents violent conflict by addressing its drivers, patterns of human rights violations, and underlying root causes such as exclusion, systemic discrimination and marginalization.

Parliaments play a crucial role in this process. As elected representatives, parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to understand and tackle root causes, foster dialogue, support dispute resolution, and engage in peace efforts both nationally and internationally. By engaging with both governments and civil society, and by representing their constituents in peace efforts, they help uncover root causes of conflict, build trust in democratic institutions and strengthen parliamentary mediation efforts. They also promote parliamentary diplomacy, acting as bridge-builders across borders and facilitating negotiations. Additionally, they advocate for policies that strengthen early warning systems to prevent conflicts from escalating.

Mediation requires specialized knowledge and practice, yet many parliamentarians have limited awareness of mediation as a parliamentary tool. Building the capacities of parliamentarians in dialogue facilitation and mediation would improve their ability to prevent and resolve conflicts. Pairing these skills with the human security and common security approach would allow parliamentarians to adopt a holistic approach to conflict prevention, fostering dialogue, multilateral cooperation and long-term stability.

This workshop will seek to assess MPs' current understanding of mediation, raise awareness of its importance and gauge their interest in further capacity-building initiatives. It will serve as a first step in equipping MPs with the knowledge and tools to enhance their mediation roles, laying the foundation for future capacity-building efforts and institutionalized mediation frameworks. In line with the core purpose of the IPU, this workshop will be another opportunity for parliamentarians to foster and practise parliamentary diplomacy.

Objectives and expected outcomes

The workshop will provide a platform to exchange ideas, develop actionable strategies, and reinforce the critical role of parliaments in mediation and conflict resolution. Through interactive discussions and live polling, participants will gain insights into the following:

- The role of mediation in conflict resolution, including its benefits and practical applications
- The connection between mediation and the human security/common security approach, highlighting its impact on conflict prevention and stability
- Ways to strengthen MPs' engagement in mediation efforts both nationally and internationally

Participants will leave this workshop with the following:

- A clearer understanding of mediation and its relevance to their parliamentary responsibilities
- Greater awareness of the principles and practices of mediation, and of MPs' role in fostering peace and preventing conflicts
- Actionable recommendations for enhancing MPs' mediation capacities and future engagement in peace efforts