



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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138th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 24 – 28.03.2018

Standing Committee on Democracy
and Human Rights

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Preparatory debate on the next resolution: *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*

Monday, 26 March 2018 (9.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

Concept note

At the 137th Assembly in St. Petersburg (Russian Federation), the Standing Committee adopted a proposal by Morocco to prepare a resolution entitled *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*. The decision was subsequently confirmed by the Assembly, which also approved the nomination of a rapporteur from Morocco. Following consultations, the IPU President has subsequently nominated two additional rapporteurs from El Salvador and Spain, to be confirmed at the 138th Assembly.

This preparatory debate provides Members with the opportunity to share their views on ways to strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance. Members can also make suggestions for parliamentary actions to be included in the resolution.

As one of the most pressing issues of our time, migration figures very highly on the IPU's agenda. The general debate of the 138th Assembly will also focus on the global regime for migrants and refugees. At the Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations on 22-23 February 2018, participants observed that the world needs safe, orderly and regular migration. Migration is a reality the world over, too often governed in an ad hoc manner. Migrants need more regular pathways to reduce irregular migration and ensure better integration in their host countries and its labour market.

Migration is also being treated as a priority at the United Nations, which is currently elaborating a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. This Global Compact will be the first intergovernmental agreement prepared under the aegis of the United Nations covering all dimensions of international migration. The first ("zero") draft of the Global Compact was published in February 2018, and is the subject of ongoing inter-governmental negotiations. The Global Compact is scheduled to be formally adopted in Morocco in December 2018.

Through its deliberations and the resolution, the IPU is bringing a parliamentary perspective to the Global Compact process. It is also laying the groundwork for vigorous parliamentary action at the national level. With their important responsibilities to pass laws, hold government to account and lead by example, parliamentarians will have a key role in ensuring the implementation of the Global Compact, ensuring safe, orderly and regular migration, increasing coordination amongst and within states, and in reducing xenophobia.

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After the 138th Assembly, Members can also submit written proposals for the content of the resolution, by 20 April 2018. The rapporteurs will then prepare the draft resolution, taking into account the views expressed by Members during the debate and in written contributions. Members will then have the opportunity to propose amendments to the draft, which will be considered when the Standing Committee meets at the 139th Assembly in October 2018.

Panellists

Co-facilitators of the Global Compact process:

- Mr. Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York
- Mr. Juan José Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations in New York

Rapporteurs of the IPU resolution:

- Mr. Ahmed Touizi, House of Councillors, Morocco
- Ms. Karina Sosa, Legislative Assembly, El Salvador
- Mr. José Ignacio Echániz, Congress of Deputies, Spain

Background documents

Zero draft of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (5 February 2018)
https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180205_gcm_zero_draft_final.pdf

Concept note on the theme of the General Debate of the 138th IPU Assembly: *Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: the need for evidence-based policy solutions*
<https://www.ipu.org/download/4269>

IPU Survey of parliamentarians on migration (to be completed by 15 March)
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9MG8GY>

Report of the Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, New York, 22-23 February 2018
(to be published)

Rapporteur's Summary Statement from the International Conference on Promoting better regional cooperation towards smart and humane migration across the Mediterranean, Valletta (Malta), 16-17 November 2017 <http://archive.ipu.org/splz-e/valletta17/statement.pdf>