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Standing Committee on
United Nations Affairs

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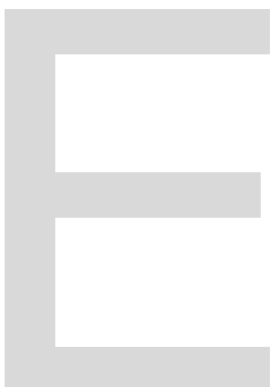
1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 140th IPU Assembly in Doha (April 2019)**
3. **Panel discussion: *Respect for international law in keeping with the UN Charter and other relevant resolutions***

International law is the legal system that governs relations among States. It aims in the first instance to prevent conflicts and disputes between nations and to facilitate the peaceful settlement of disputes whenever they arise. A pillar of international law is provided by the 1945 Charter of the United Nations. As stated in its preamble, the UN Charter seeks "to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained". Other treaties have since come to expand the field of international law. In addition, resolutions of the UN Security Council, which are legally binding, are generally considered part of the system of international law.

While the formal supremacy of international law is well established, compliance with and enforcement of legally binding treaties and resolutions is far from universal. International law is not consistently applied and sanctions and judicial decisions against violators do not always suffice to enforce the law. The "double standard" whereby international law is enforced in some cases but not in others is an all-too common occurrence.

Against this background, the panel will consider the following questions:

- Does the current enforcement regime that includes international tribunals and the Security Council suffice to restore respect for international law?
- What incentives exist for countries to abide by international law and can these incentives be strengthened?
- Can UN sanctions be made more effective and applied more fairly?
- What lessons can be learned from the UN experience in managing conflict in the Balkans in the 1990s?



#IPU141

4. Panel discussion: *The 2019 IPU survey on the relationship between parliaments and the United Nations*

Over the last two decades the IPU has built a close relationship with the United Nations in an effort to ensure a parliamentary contribution to the UN's decision-making processes, strengthen the role of parliaments in the implementation of international agreements, and help parliaments hold governments to account for the decisions they take at the United Nations. The idea was, and remains, to bring the people, through their elected representatives, closer to the United Nations as the key institution of global governance. People everywhere want the decision-making processes of the United Nations to be more representative and transparent, and with greater oversight of such processes through their own parliaments.

In 2019, the IPU launched the first of a biennial survey to gauge the depth to which parliaments are able to oversee the work of the United Nations and provide input to relevant United Nations processes at a national and global level. The survey results provide insight into the larger picture of the parliaments–UN relationship.

This panel will feature the results of the IPU survey and seek to draw recommendations for participants as to how to strengthen parliamentary engagement in UN affairs.

Questions for discussion will include:

- What are the modalities whereby parliaments have a say in UN decision-making processes and how can they be improved?
- Are governments supportive of their own parliaments' engagement in UN affairs?
- How can the IPU further facilitate interaction between parliaments and the United Nations?

5. Overview of major UN-related activities for 2020

The Committee will be briefed on the main UN-related activities for next year, including possible themes for the annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations.

6. Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The Committee will fill the existing vacancies on the Bureau based on proposals received from the geopolitical groups.

7. Any other business