



**Parliament of Australia**

**Parliamentary Delegation**

**to Romania**

**8 – 13 October 2018**

**and the**

**139<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

**14 – 18 October 2018**

Commonwealth of Australia 2019

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## **Members of the Delegation**

### **Leader of the Delegation**

Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald  
Senator for Queensland  
Liberal Party of Australia

### **Delegates**

Senator Helen Polley  
Senator for Tasmania  
Australian Labor Party

Hon Mrs Jane Prentice MP  
Member for Ryan (QLD)  
Liberal Party of Australia

Mr Josh Wilson MP  
Member for Fremantle (WA)  
Australian Labor Party

### **Official**

Ms Toni Matulick  
Delegation Secretary



## Bilateral visit to Romania

From 8 – 13 October 2018, members of the delegation participated in a visit to Romania. The visit coincided with 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries and provided an opportunity to strengthen the warm relationship between our two nations. The delegation was led by Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald, and also comprised Senator Helen Polley, the Hon Mrs Jane Prentice MP and Mr Josh Wilson MP. Details of the meetings and activities undertaken by the delegation are set out below.



*Members of the delegation at the Romanian Parliament with Australia's Ambassador to Romania, HE Ms Kate Logan*

## Fifty years of diplomatic relations

The bilateral visit to Romania marked fifty years of diplomatic relations between Australia and Romania, established on 18 March 1968, and formally celebrated at a reception hosted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs His Excellency Mr Teodor-Viorel Meleşcanu.

Guests had the opportunity to inspect an exhibition detailing the historic collaboration between our two nations on Antarctic research and to hear from researchers involved in this project. Since 2005, Australia has provided Romanian scientists with access to the Australian–Romanian scientific research station in the Larsemann Hills of East Antarctica.

The delegation was impressed by work of the artist Ms Mariana Ioanitu, commissioned to mark the bilateral relationship.

The delegation also met with the Prime Minister, Her Excellency, Mrs Viorica Dăncilă and the Minister for Business Environment, Commerce, and Entrepreneurship, His Excellency Mr Ştefan-Radu Oprea. These meetings with the Prime Minister and senior ministers provided the opportunity to learn more about the priorities of the Romanian government especially in light of Romania's presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2019.

Australian delegates, at this and every other opportunity, raised the issue of Australian proposals for a free trade agreement with the European Union.

Shared foreign policy interests and the possibility of exchanging expertise in areas such as cybersecurity, digitisation of government services and IT were explored, with members of the Romanian government expressing a desire to develop these possibilities further.

## Inter-Parliamentary engagement

The delegation was pleased to have the opportunity to visit the Romanian Parliament and engage in dialogue with a number of parliamentary committees, exploring shared experiences of work during parliamentary committee processes, and learning more about issues before Romanian parliamentary committees. Accompanied by Australia's Ambassador to Romania, Her Excellency Ms Kate Logan, the delegation met with the Committee of Foreign Policy and the Joint Committees on European Affairs as well as the Steering Group of the Romanian Inter-Parliamentary Union Group and the Romania-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group.

Delegation members were interested to hear from parliamentarians from across the

political spectrum, particularly in relation to how minority parties are bringing their policy positions before the parliament.

Meeting with the Vice-President of the Romanian Senate, His Excellency Mr Adrian Țuțuianu and the Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies, Her Excellency Mrs Carmen-Ileana Mihălcescu, provided a chance for the delegation to learn more about the oversight role the Romanian parliament plays in legislation and government policy.



*HE Ms Kate Logan, Australia's Ambassador to Romania, Senator Helen Polley, Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald, HE Mrs Carmen-Ileana Mihălcescu, Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies, Hon Mrs Jane Prentice MP and Mr Josh Wilson MP*

### **Geostrategic and security issues**

The delegation received an in depth briefing from security experts—Dr Iulian Fota from Romania's National Intelligence Academy, Dr Iulian Chifu of the Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Centre and Ms Oana Popescu from the think tank Global Focus. Hearing from these experts gave the delegation the opportunity to learn more about geopolitical and strategic factors affecting Romania, as well as consider how issues related to human security are being managed by Romania and its neighbours.

### **Business environment**

With just over 14,000 people living in Australia who were born in Romania, there are significant opportunities for developing

people-to-people and business links between our two countries. Over lunch, the delegation met with Australia's Honorary Consul in Romania, Ms Mihaela Nicola and representatives of the business community—Australians doing business in Romania, or representatives of Romanian companies with links to Australia.

### **Environmental management in the Danube Delta**

One of the highlights of the delegation's time in Romania was the opportunity to receive a briefing about environmental water management in the Danube Delta region from Dr Adrian Stanica, Director-General of the Romanian National Institute of Marine Geology and Geoecology; and Dr Iulian Nichersu, President of the Scientific Council of the Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development. The delegation travelled to the Danube Delta region and was able to view the research facilities of the Council and the Institute located on the Danube, and learn about the collaborative activities being undertaken in the region.



*Dr Iulian Nichersu, Senator Helen Polley, Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald, Dr Adrian Stanica, Hon Mrs Jane Prentice MP, Mr Josh Wilson MP and Mr Andrea Carlo Biggi, Australian Deputy Head of Mission to Romania*

### **Municipality of Galati**

Members of the delegation were warmly received by representatives of Galati's local government, learning more about how local

government interacts with the national government. Galati is a regional city in the Danube Delta region and provides important port facilities for the area. The city's economy is based on industry and agriculture, with the port operating as a critical part of the economy, facilitating access to markets and providing the site of some of the largest shipbuilding operations in the world.



*Members of the delegation with the Deputy Mayor of Galati, Mr. Sorin Cristian Enache (centre) and Ms Roxana Magdalena Munteanu (far left)*

### **Antarctic icebreaker RSV Nuyina**

Another highlight of the bilateral visit was a tour of the Damen Shipyards, where Australia's next icebreaker, the RSV Nuyina, a Tasmanian word meaning 'Southern Lights', is being constructed. The icebreaker will provide a state-of-the-art facility to conduct multidisciplinary science, both in sea ice and open water. The RSV Nuyina is designed to deliver personnel, cargo and equipment to and from Antarctic and subantarctic stations, and is expected to be the centrepiece of Australia's Antarctic strategy for the next 20 years.

The delegation was pleased to meet with the Managing Director of Damen Shipyards, Galati, Mr Rino Brugge, and his team, who provided a detailed briefing about the design and construction of the RSV Nuyina. The delegation was able to inspect the ship on site in the wet dock and is grateful to Damen Shipyards for facilitating access to their impressive facilities. The delegation looks

forward to the arrival of the RSV Nuyina in Tasmania in 2020.

The delegation wishes to express its appreciation to Australia's non-resident Ambassador to Romania, Her Excellency Ms Kate Logan who is based in Greece. Along with the Deputy Head of Mission Mr Andrea Carlo Biggi and Ms Louise Kalfagian, Ms Logan provided a very high level of support to the delegation. The delegation is grateful to Ms Logan, Mr Biggi and Ms Kalfagian for their excellent company and for arranging such an interesting program during their time in Romania.

## 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly – Geneva

The 139<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly took place in Geneva, Switzerland from 14 to 18 October 2018. The Assembly was attended by 1,545 delegates, 737 of whom were parliamentarians from 145 member parliaments. Fifty presiding officers and 51 deputy presiding officers were in attendance. Seven associate members were represented, and a number of observers also attended.<sup>1</sup>

The Australian Parliament's delegation to the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly was led by Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald, and included Senator Helen Polley, the Hon Mrs Jane Prentice MP and Mr Josh Wilson MP.



*The Australian delegation to the IPU: Mr Josh Wilson MP, Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald, the Hon Mrs Jane Prentice MP and Senator Helen Polley*

## Background

The IPU is the international organisation of parliaments of sovereign states. It works with parliaments to promote democratic governance, institutions and values and aims to improve lives by building strong national parliaments that can deliver better outcomes for citizens. It does this by:

- equipping members of parliament and parliaments to drive change

<sup>1</sup> A list of member states and observers is available in the *Summary Records of Proceedings* available at : <https://www.ipu.org/sites/default/files/documents/final-summary-records139e.pdf>, p. 4.

- building on the expertise of its members
- encouraging dialogue and bringing together members of parliament from across the world
- considering questions of international interest and concern.

Founded in 1889, there are currently 178 parliaments that are members of the IPU and 12 associate members (mostly parliaments drawn from groups of nations, or similar bodies).<sup>2</sup> Most IPU members are affiliated with one of six geopolitical groups that are currently active in the IPU.

The IPU Strategy for 2017-2021 lists eight objectives:

- build strong, democratic parliaments
- advance gender equality and respect for women's rights
- protect and promote human rights
- contribute to peace building, conflict prevention and security
- promote inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation
- promote youth empowerment
- mobilize parliaments around the global development agenda
- bridge the democracy gap in international relations.

The IPU Assembly is the principal statutory body of the IPU and brings together parliamentarians to consider international issues and make recommendations for action.

While the IPU is constantly active in promoting democracy, the major focus for the Australian delegation is participation in the twice yearly assemblies.

<sup>2</sup> A list of current members of the IPU is available on the IPU website: <https://www.ipu.org/about-us/members>.

## Assembly



The 139<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly

The 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly was formally opened on Monday 15 October 2018.<sup>3</sup> The Assembly's agenda included the following items:

- Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly
- Consideration of emergency items for inclusion in the agenda
- General Debate: *parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change*
- Special segment to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Reports of the Standing Committees
- Reports of the geopolitical groups.

The opening address of the Assembly, given by the IPU President, Ms Gabriela Cuevas Barron of Mexico, focused on the theme of the general debate. Ms Cuevas Barron encouraged parliamentarians to embrace change and innovation, science and technology and to place those at the service of the policies they formulated and the laws they passed.

The President also noted that parliamentarians have responsibility to set ethical limits on science and technology and

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<sup>3</sup> While the formal opening of the Assembly occurred on Monday 15 October 2018, a number of meetings took place in preceding days.

to ensure appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks.

### Debates in the Assembly and other activities

A key focus of Assembly business is two major debates in the plenary—the general debate, and the debate on an emergency item.

#### The General Debate

The topic of the general debate was *parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change*.<sup>4</sup>

Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald made a contribution to this debate and highlighted Australia's long and proud history of technological and scientific achievements.<sup>5</sup> Senator Macdonald's address also focused on the role that science and technology must play to promote a more peaceful world, and the partnerships promoted by Australia to achieve this outcome.

The outcome document from the general debate was endorsed by the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly on 18 October.



Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald speaking during the general debate

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<sup>4</sup> The outcome document is available at: [https://www.ipu.org/sites/default/files/documents/ite-m-3-outcome\\_general\\_debate-final.pdf](https://www.ipu.org/sites/default/files/documents/ite-m-3-outcome_general_debate-final.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> The Australian delegation's contribution to the general debate is published online—see speaker no. 18: <https://www.ipu.org/event/139th-assembly-and-related-meetings/4529-speeches>

## Emergency Item

The IPU Rules provide that any member country may propose a topic as an emergency item to be debated. The matter must relate to a major event of international concern on which it appears necessary for the IPU to express its opinion. The request must receive a two thirds majority of the votes cast in order to be accepted for debate.<sup>6</sup>

On Monday 15 October 2018, the President informed the Assembly that five requests for an emergency item had been confirmed. The proposals are set out below:

- Restoring peace and security in the Sahel: The role of parliaments (Burkina Faso)
- Cutting off aid to UNRWA – A humanitarian blockade and violation of international law: Addressing the issue of stopping aid to UNRWA and assessing the impact of this decision on Palestinian refugees and the Palestinian issue as a whole (Jordan and Kuwait)
- Climate change – Let us not cross the line (Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia)
- The urgent need to resolve the humanitarian crisis caused by the deterioration of parliamentary democracy in Venezuela (United Kingdom and the Netherlands)
- Addressing the issue of missing persons: The role of Parliaments (Israel)

Two items were withdrawn, leaving the proposals from the following delegations: Burkina Faso; Jordan and Kuwait; and Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and the

Federated States of Micronesia. The Assembly proceeded with a roll-call vote on the three proposals, with the proposal relating to climate change proposed by Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia being selected.

## Altering the agenda of standing committees

The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights proposed a panel discussion, which would not lead to a resolution, on the following theme: *the role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons*. The General Assembly considered a number of objections to the topic and the issue of whether the Committee's work agenda could be altered was put to a roll-call vote. A vote was conducted and the Assembly decided that, on the occasion of the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights would not hold a panel discussion on the issue of discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The Australian delegation voted with the minority on this vote.

## Governing Council

The Governing Council is the administrative and policy making body of the IPU and it meets during the twice yearly assemblies. During the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly the Governing Council noted the IPU's efforts to facilitate the participation of the Parliament of Kiribati in the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly with a view to future affiliation, and of other small island developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean.

The Governing Council received a report on the financial situation of the IPU as at 30 June 2018 and an updated list of unpaid contributions. As at 14 October 2018, four Members (Dominican Republic, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Mauritania) and one

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<sup>6</sup> Assembly Rule 11-2(a).

Associate Member (Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union) had arrears of two full years and were subject to voting sanctions. Two Members (Honduras and Papua New Guinea) were subject to suspension due to Inter-Parliamentary Union arrears of three or more years.

The Governing Council considered and approved the budget proposal for 2019 and approved a package of amendments to the Statutes and Rules proposed by the Executive Committee.

### **Meetings of geopolitical groups**

The IPU has six geopolitical groups that meet immediately prior to and during the Assembly to consider IPU agenda items and, where possible, agree a group position. Candidatures for positions on IPU committees are also considered and submitted through the geopolitical groups.

Most member countries are members of at least one geopolitical group. Australia is a member of two geopolitical groups—the Asia Pacific Group and the Twelve Plus Group.<sup>7</sup>

### **Asia Pacific Group<sup>8</sup>**

The Asia Pacific Group met once during the Assembly and received a report from the ASEAN +3 Group as well as a briefing by the executive committee members. The meeting considered nominations for vacancies to be filled during the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

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<sup>7</sup> The IPU Statutes stipulate that members that belong to more than one geopolitical group should indicate which geopolitical Group they represent for the purposes of submitting candidatures for positions within the IPU. Australia usually exercises its voting rights through the Asia Pacific Group.

<sup>8</sup> The membership of the Asia Pacific Group is available on the IPU website: <https://www.ipu.org/about-us/members/geopolitical-groups/asia-pacific-group>.

### **Twelve Plus Group<sup>9</sup>**

The Twelve Plus Group met four times during the Assembly. The group considered reports from the standing committees, discussed positions on debating topics, including the emergency item, and considered nominations for vacancies to be filled during the Assembly.

### **Forum of Women Parliamentarians**

The 28<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians took place on 14 October with 195 participants, including 151 parliamentarians.

The Forum considered the draft resolutions and the general debate topic before the Assembly from a gender-parity point of view, and proposed amendments to the resolutions.

### **Standing Committees**

There are four standing committees of the IPU. A summary of their activities during the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly is below.

### **Standing Committee on Peace and International Security**

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held two sittings during the Assembly. At its sitting on 15 October, the committee examined two items in back-to-back panels—the panel on *comprehensive disarmament and non-proliferation* and the panel on *combating sexual violence in UN peacekeeping operations and beyond*.

On 17 October, the committee held an expert hearing on the theme *non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights*—the topic of a resolution to be adopted by the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly.

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<sup>9</sup> The membership of the Twelve Plus Group is available on the IPU website: <https://www.ipu.org/about-us/members/geopolitical-groups/twelve-plus-group>.

## Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade held two sittings. The committee discussed the subject item of the next resolution to be debated at the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly—the *role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation*. The theme, proposed initially by Mr Wilson MP, and then adapted by the committee, was introduced by the co-rapporteurs, Mr Wilson, Mr Iddrisu from Ghana and Ms Rašković Ivić from Serbia. At the end of the debate, the co-rapporteurs provided an initial overview of how they would incorporate the committee's input into the draft resolution.



Mr Josh Wilson MP participating as co-rapporteur during a meeting of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

The committee also held a panel discussion on the topic: *taking forward the IPU resolution entitled engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy*.

Mr Wilson again represented Mrs Marino MP<sup>10</sup> at the *in camera* meetings of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade. Mrs Marino's term on the committee has now ended.

<sup>10</sup> While Mrs Marino is a member of the committee, she was unable to attend the Assembly due to parliamentary commitments.

## Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

The committee held three sittings and considered the draft resolution, which was on the topic of *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 revised draft resolution was adopted by consensus at the final sitting by the committee, with reservations expressed by Kuwait, Lebanon and Poland.

## Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

The committee held one sitting which consisted of two panels: one on the question of whether an intergovernmental body on international taxation was needed at the United Nations, and another on the work of the World Health Organization and the IPU to advance Sustainable Development Goal 3 on health.

## Other meetings



*Senator Helen Polley and the Hon Mrs Jane Prentice MP attended the parity debate convened by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians*

In addition to the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the four standing committees, a number of other subsidiary bodies to the IPU met during the Assembly:

- Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians
- Committee on Middle East Questions
- Group of Facilitators for Cyprus
- Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law
- Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law
- Advisory Group on Health
- Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU
- High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism.

Mr Wilson MP was elected to the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, representing the Asia Pacific geopolitical group. The Hon Mrs Prentice MP participated in the parity debate, and Mr Wilson attended briefings with Representatives of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as

part of his role as co-rapporteur for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade. Senator Polley attended briefings with Representatives of the World Health Organization in relation to aged care and dementia, and side meetings on human trafficking and child labour.

Bilateral and multilateral meetings complement the Australian delegation's attendance at statutory assemblies. During the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly, meetings were held with delegations from the Arab Parliament, Canada, the United Kingdom and New Zealand. The Australian and New Zealand delegations met with delegates from Pacific Island nations, including delegates from Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Timor-Leste, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

In view of concerns about sugar dumping on world markets, the delegation met with Mr Simon Farbenbloom, Australia's Deputy Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organization to discuss this issue. The delegation also met with delegates from Thailand and Brazil to discuss relevant actions being considered by the major sugar exporting countries.



*Meeting of Australia, New Zealand and Pacific nations' delegates*

The delegation attended a function hosted by the government of Switzerland.

## **Concluding remarks**

The delegation appreciates the opportunity to continue Australia's long-standing commitment to attend IPU Assemblies and associated meetings. It provides the chance to develop and progress parliament-to-parliament relations, build on a number of bilateral and multilateral relationships and promote parliamentary democracy.

The delegation wishes to acknowledge the work of staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra and in Geneva, who provided advice and briefing materials. The committee appreciated the work of Ms Lisa Gittos who supported the delegation at the Assembly. Once again, the delegation was able to rely on excellent briefing materials prepared by the Parliamentary Library and acknowledges the work of Ms Cat Barker and her colleagues. Thanks are also due to Mr Raymond Knight and colleagues from the International and Parliamentary Relations Office who arranged travel and accommodation.

*Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald  
Delegation Leader*

## **Bilateral visit to Romania**

### **Monday 8 October**

Delegation arrives in Bucharest

Meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs, HE Mr Teodor-Viorel Meleşcanu

Ceremony to mark 50 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and Romania

### **Tuesday 9 October**

Meeting with Minister for Business Environment, Commerce, and Entrepreneurship, Ştefan-Radu Oprea

Meeting with the Vice-President of the Romanian Senate, HE Mr Adrian Țuțuianu

Meeting with the Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies, HE Mrs Carmen-Ileana Mihălcescu

Meeting with Committee of Foreign Policy

Lunch hosted by Vice-Chair of the Committee on Foreign Policy, Senator Radu-Mihai Mihail

Meeting with Joint Committees on European Affairs

Meeting with Steering Group of the Romanian IPU Group and members of the Romania-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group

### **Wednesday 10 October**

Meeting and lunch with business representatives of enterprises with links to Australia

Meeting with the Prime Minister of Romania, HE Mrs Viorica Dăncilă

Tour of Bucharest

Dinner and roundtable discussion with local experts on geostrategic and security issues

### **Thursday 11 October**

Travel to Murighiol; briefing from Dr Adrian Stanica, Director-General of the Romanian National Institute of Marine Geology and Geoecology; and Dr Iulian Nichersu, President of the Scientific Council of the Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development

Tour of Danube Delta lakes and research facilities

### **Friday 12 October**

Meeting with Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Galati, Mr. Sorin Cristian Enache

Visit to Damen Shipyards and inspection of RSV Nuyina

Return to Bucharest

**Saturday 13 October**

Delegation departs for Geneva

**Attendance at the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly**

**Saturday 13 October**

Delegation arrives in Geneva

First meeting of Twelve Plus Group

**Sunday 14 October**

Meeting of Twelve Plus Group

Meeting of Advisers and Secretaries to delegations

Meeting of Asia Pacific Group

Forum of Women Parliamentarians

**Monday 15 October**

Meeting of Twelve Plus Group

Meeting of Asia Pacific Group

Governing Council

Assembly: General Debate on the theme *parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change*

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

Assembly: decision on the emergency item

Meeting of co-rapporteurs (Mr Wilson), Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade with Mr James Zhan, Director of Investment and Enterprise United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Reception hosted by Switzerland

**Tuesday 16 October**

Meeting of Twelve Plus Group

Assembly: debate on the emergency item, and continuation of the General Debate

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Meeting with Pacific nations and New Zealand

Meeting with Arab delegation

Meeting of co-rapporteurs (Mr Wilson), Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade with representatives from the World Trade Organisation

Mr Wilson departs Geneva

### **Wednesday 17 October**

Meeting of Twelve Plus Group

Forum of Women Parliamentarians parity debate: *ensuring that all children enjoy their rights and grow up protected from violence*

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

Meeting between Canada, United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia

Assembly: adoption of the resolution on the emergency item, and conclusion of the General Debate

### **Thursday 18 October**

Governing Council

Meeting with Mr Simon Farbenbloom, Australian Deputy Permanent Representative to the WTO

Assembly: adoption of resolutions, reports of the Standing Committees, outcome document of the General Debate, and closing sitting

Meeting with World Health Organization: Dr Tarun Dua, Dementia Programme Manager, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse and Dr Mark Van Ommeron, Director, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (Senator Polley)

### **Friday 19 October**

Departure of remaining delegation members from Geneva