



**Parliament of Australia**

**Parliamentary Delegation**  
**to**  
**145th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly**  
**Kigali, Rwanda**

**11 - 15 October 2022**

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Australian Labor Party

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## 145<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly – Kigali, Rwanda

The 145<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly took place in Kigali, Rwanda from 11 to 15 October 2022.

The overall theme of the Assembly was *Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers for a more resilient and peaceful world*. The Assembly was attended by 1000 delegates, 600 of whom were parliamentarians from 120 Member Parliaments. Of the 600 parliamentarians that attended, 35 per cent were women and nearly 32 per cent were young MPs (under 45 years old). Of the 120 delegations which attended the IPU, 35 were gender balanced. Twenty-six Presiding Officers were in attendance and 20 Deputy Presiding Officers. In addition, seven associate members and 25 observers attended the Assembly.

The Australian delegation was led by the Hon Milton Dick MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives and included Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC, the Hon Warren Entsch MP, Senator Fatima Payman and Dr Gordon Reid MP.



*The Australian delegation to the 145<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly: Dr Gordon Reid MP, Senator Fatima Payman, the Hon Milton Dick MP, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds and the Hon Warren Entsch MP.*

## Background

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

- equipping members of parliament and parliamentarians to make changes through their own work;
- building on the expertise of its members;
- encouraging dialogue and bringing together members of parliament from across the world; and
- considering questions of international interest and concern.

Founded in 1889, there are currently 178 parliaments that are members of the IPU and 14 associate members (mostly parliaments drawn from groups of nations, or similar bodies).<sup>1</sup> Most IPU members are affiliated with one of six geopolitical groups that are currently active in the IPU.

The IPU Strategy for 2022-2026 lists five strategic objectives:

- building effective and empowered parliaments
- promoting inclusive and representative parliaments
- supporting resilient and innovative parliaments
- catalysing collective parliamentary action
- strengthening the IPU's accountability.<sup>2</sup>

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.

## Assembly

The 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly was formally opened on Tuesday, 11 October 2022. The Assembly's agenda included the following items:

- General debate on the theme: *Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers for a more resilient and peaceful world;*
- *Parliamentary impetus to local and regional development of countries with high levels of international migration and to stopping all forms, including state-sponsored, of human-trafficking and human rights abuses* (Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights);
- *Parliamentary efforts in achieving negative carbon balances of forests* (Standing Committee on Sustainable Development); and
- Reports of the Standing Committees.

In his opening address to the Assembly, IPU President, Mr Duarte Pacheco of Portugal acknowledged the impact of the COVID pandemic over the past two years, including the deaths of millions of citizens and many parliamentarians. He indicated that the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Rwanda represented the "victory of humankind" against the virus.<sup>3</sup> He noted that this was a victory of cooperation between scientists, countries, contingents, cultures and religions working together to find a solution to the pandemic. He emphasised that such cooperation should serve as an example to parliamentarians as "we should always work together to solve the problems of humankind."

The President highlighted the role that the IPU can play in response to global issues that require immediate action including climate change. Acknowledging the floods in Pakistan, hurricanes in Florida, the Philippines and Venezuela, heat waves and forest fires in Europe and Australia, as well as the growth of deserts in Africa, he noted that these events contribute to greater human suffering, poverty and inequality.

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<sup>1</sup> A list of current members of the IPU is available on the IPU website: <https://www.ipu.org/about-us/members/>

<sup>2</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union, Strategy 2022-2026, available on the IPU website: <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/about-ipu/2022-01/strategy-2022-2026>

<sup>3</sup> Mr Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Speech, 11 October 2022, <https://www.ipu.org/event/145th-assembly-and-related-meetings#event-sub-page-27037/>

The President also highlighted the impact of war and conflict in Yemen, Palestine and Ukraine while noting that any future global economic recession would result in greater poverty and inequality. At the same time, the President drew particular attention to the human rights situation in Afghanistan, Iran as well as Myanmar where repression continues to grow, and members of parliament have been executed. In the context of human rights, he noted that the Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians had received an unprecedented 700 cases from 43 countries concerning MPs whose human rights have allegedly being violated.

Within this global context of change and challenge, the President emphasised the importance of parliamentary action, noting the need for parliamentarians to understand and respond to people's experiences and needs. Drawing on the topic of the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly general debate concerning gender equality, Mr Pacheco concluded by noting the increased representation of women in parliaments worldwide, highlighting the case of Rwanda where more than 61 per cent of the Chamber of Deputies comprises women parliamentarians.

### **Debates at the Assembly and other activities**

The two major debates in the Plenary - the general debate and the debate on the emergency item - are a key focus of Assembly business. The topic of the general debate was *Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers for a more resilient and peaceful world*. Australia participated in the debate with two contributions by delegates in the presiding officers segment and young parliamentarians segment respectively.

On 12 October the Hon Milton Dick MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives contributed to the general debate on behalf of the Australian delegation. In his contribution, Mr Speaker drew attention to reforms underway to ensure that the Australian Parliament is a safer, more supportive and gender-sensitive workplace.<sup>4</sup>



*The Hon Milton Dick MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives and delegation leader contributing to the general debate on 12 October on behalf of the Australian delegation.*

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<sup>4</sup> The Hon Milton Dick MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Speech, general debate, 12 October 2022, <https://www.ipu.org/event/145th-assembly-and-related-meetings#event-sub-page-27037/>

On 14 October, Senator Fatima Payman made her contribution as a young parliamentarian on behalf of the Australian delegation. She spoke of the importance of addressing the barriers that prevent young women from recognising politics as a legitimate career option.

The outcome document from the general debate, the Kigali Declaration, was endorsed by the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly on 15 October 2022. The Kigali Declaration commits parliamentarians to take action in five key areas:

1. Achieve parity in political decision-making, including by using electoral gender quotas and ensuring that other electoral quotas always have a gender parity provision.
2. Ensure our law-making, law-enforcement, and budgeting are gender-responsive across all policy fields.
3. Put vulnerable populations at the centre of our parliamentary functions of legislation, oversight, resource allocation and representation.
4. End gender-based discrimination, violence and other harmful practices, and ensure access to sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice for all women and girls.
5. Advance equality in caring responsibilities among men and women and set an example in our societies by undertaking 50% of the daily care work for our families, regardless of whether we are male or female MPs.<sup>5</sup>

## Emergency Item

The IPU rules provide that any member country may propose a topic as an emergency item to be debated during an Assembly. 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 to be accepted for debate.

On 12 October, the President informed the Assembly that three requests for inclusion of an emergency item had been proposed as follows:

- Condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine and of the subsequent annexation of territories, in defence of the territorial integrity of all States (Chile with the support of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC))
- Creation of a global fund or financing facility for climate-vulnerable countries to address loss and damage associated with climate change (Pakistan)
- Preserving Iraq's sovereignty, rejecting repeated attacks and not interfering in its internal affairs (Iraq)

Ukraine had proposed as an emergency item, condemnation of the illegal annexation of the Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk regions by the Russian Federation and the targeting of civilians and other war crimes resulting from the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. However, it withdrew its proposal in support of Chile's proposal. The Assembly proceeded with a roll-call vote on the remaining three proposals, with the proposal for Chile ultimately achieving the required votes.

Following debate on the emergency item, the Assembly adopted a resolution by consensus on 14

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<sup>5</sup> 145<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Kigali Declaration, 15 October 2022, <https://www.ipu.org/event/145th-assembly-and-related-meetings#event-sub-page-28005/>

October.<sup>6</sup> At its 144<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Nusa Dua, Indonesia in March 2022, the IPU had adopted a resolution in favour of a 'Peaceful resolution to the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity'. The 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly resolution reiterated the IPU's call for an immediate end to the Russian military occupation of sovereign Ukrainian territory, the restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity by way of recognition of its internally recognised borders, extending to its territorial waters, and the rule of international law.

The resolution of the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly went further to condemn in the strongest terms the serious violations of human rights perpetrated in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Sumy, Chernihiv and other regions of Ukraine. The resolution supports the creation of courts with special jurisdiction to investigate possible crimes perpetrated in wars of aggression, and to hear cases of war crimes and human rights violations committed on Ukrainian territory. The resolution calls on parliaments to raise awareness among state authorities and civil society of the need to contribute to a solution to the humanitarian crisis involving the migration of six million Ukrainian citizens as refugees, to encourage the support and cooperation of the international community in the process of reconstructing Ukraine, and to progress a commitment to realise climate change reduction targets, recognising that the war is impacting energy supply.



*Mr Speaker presiding over the general debate of the 145<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly on 12 October.*

## **Governing Council**

The Governing Council (GC) is the administrative and policy making body of the IPU and ordinarily meets during the twice-yearly assemblies.

During the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly, the 210<sup>th</sup> session of the GC was held across two meetings on 12 and 15 October. At its first meeting, the GC successfully proposed the election of the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Rwandan Parliament, Rt. Hon Mukabalisa Donatille as President of the 145<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly.

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<sup>6</sup> 145<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine and of the subsequent annexation of territories, in defence of the territorial integrity of all States, Resolution of 14 October 2022, <https://www.ipu.org/event/145th-assembly-and-related-meetings#event-sub-page-28005/>



At the 12 October meeting, the GC took note of the activities of the IPU President since the 209<sup>th</sup> session of the GC in May 2021 and his report on the activities of the Executive Committee. Mr Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General also reported to the GC on the activities of the IPU since the previous session and provided an overview of progress towards implementation of the IPU Strategy for 2022-2026.

The GC considered the Financial Report and Audited Financial statement for 2022. The GC approved the Secretary General’s financial administration of the IPU and the financial results for 2022. Ms Cecilia Widegren, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Finance, presented an overview of the current financial situation, budget for 2023 and a long term financial proposal from the Sub-Committee on Finance for consideration of the GC to sustain the IPU into the future.

At its 15 October meeting, the GC considered a pilot project to establish two regional IPU offices to work under the authority of the IPU Secretary General and in cooperation with the respective geopolitical group. The GC agreed with the principle of opening regional offices and to minimum requirements regarding their establishment with the Secretary General to conduct a review regarding the location and establishment of these offices, including consideration of proposals from Egypt and Uruguay respectively to host a regional office.

At its 15 October meeting, the GC also elected members to fill various vacancies including three positions on the Executive Committee and two vacancies on the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians. The GC endorsed the recommendations of the Executive Committee regarding several membership matters including granting the Collective Security Treaty Organisation Parliamentary Assembly and the UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health with IPU observer status. The President informed the GC that 69 entities have observer status at the IPU. Of them, 24 organisations will start to pay a fee to the IPU given that observer status provides them with access to IPU assemblies and opportunities to participate in IPU activities. The President clarified that observer status was granted to organisations on a permanent basis with a review of their engagement with the IPU undertaken every four years.

The Secretary General provided an update on developments regarding certain countries where parliaments are not functioning and where the political situation is threatening or impacting the functioning of the parliament which the IPU will closely monitor. They include the following:

<b>Countries where parliament is not functioning</b>	Afghanistan Burkina Faso Guinea-Bissau Myanmar Tunisia
<b>Countries with transitional parliaments</b>	Chad Guinea Mali
<b>Countries where the political situation is impacting the function of parliament</b>	Haiti Libya Palestine South Sudan Venezuela Yemen
<b>Countries where the political situation threatens the function of parliament</b>	Bosnia & Herzegovina Eswatini Sri Lanka Syria

## Meeting of geopolitical groups

The IPU has six geopolitical groups:

- Asia Pacific Group – comprising 36 members including Australia
- Twelve Plus Group – comprising 47 members including Australia, Canada and New Zealand
- Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) – comprising 24 member countries
- Africa Group – comprising 51 members
- Arab Group – comprising 21 members

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

The Asia Pacific Group met on 11 October and received briefings from the Asia-Pacific Group members of the IPU Executive Committee, considered a report of the ASEAN+3 Group meeting, and contemplated requests for inclusion of an Emergency item in the Assembly agenda.

The Group met a second time on 12 October to consider candidates to fill the Asia Pacific vacancy on the IPU Executive Committee. Senator Reynolds served as a scrutineer for the ballot to fill the vacancy. The Indian delegation candidate, Mrs Aparajita Sarangi MP was successful and will take up the position on the Executive Committee in 2023.



*Mr Speaker at the Asia Pacific Group meeting on 12 October listening to an address by Mrs Sarangi MP from the Indian delegation who will fill the Asia Pacific Group vacancy on the Executive Committee from 2023.*

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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.

## Twelve Plus Group

The Twelve Plus Group met three times during the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly on 10, 12 and 13 October.

The group received updates from the standing committees, discussed debating topics for the Assembly, and considered resolutions to the IPU, including the emergency item. The Group considered a proposal prepared by the Swiss delegation to improve the implementation of IPU resolutions. Senator Reynolds will serve on a taskforce with Switzerland to consider and advance the proposal. The Group also confirmed Mr Andries Gryffroy, Senator from Belgium as the President of the Twelve Plus for 2023-2024.

During consideration of the emergency item and preparations for the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly, the Twelve Plus Group debated its response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Mr Speaker and Senator Reynolds contributed to the debate, voicing their support for and solidarity with Ukraine.



*Australian delegates Mr Speaker, Senator Reynolds, Mr Entsch, Senator Payman and Dr Reid with other country delegates of the Twelve Plus Group standing in support of Ukraine.*

The Twelve Plus Group held a side event 11 October in collaboration with UNDP titled: Inclusion for leaving no one behind: A Handbook for Parliamentarians on advancing the human rights and inclusion of LGBTI People.<sup>8</sup>

On 13 October, Dr Azeem Ibrahim presented on a report of the New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy titled, An Independent Legal Analysis of the Russian Federation's Breaches of the Genocide Convention in Ukraine and the Duty to Prevent.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Advancing the Human Rights and Inclusion of LGBTI People: A Handbook for Parliamentarians, 2022, [https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-03/UNDP\\_LGBTI\\_Handbook\\_EN.pdf](https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-03/UNDP_LGBTI_Handbook_EN.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy, An Independent Legal Analysis of the Russian Federation's Breaches of the Genocide Convention in Ukraine and the Duty to Prevent, May 2022, [https://newlinesinstitute.org/an-independent-legal-analysis-of-the-russian-federations-breaches-of-the-genocide-convention-in-ukraine-and-the-duty-to-prevent/?\\_sm\\_au=iVVQsH05v5NMs2qr](https://newlinesinstitute.org/an-independent-legal-analysis-of-the-russian-federations-breaches-of-the-genocide-convention-in-ukraine-and-the-duty-to-prevent/?_sm_au=iVVQsH05v5NMs2qr)



*Mr Entsch served as a scrutineer for the Twelve Plus Group on two occasions. First in relation to the vote to fill a vacancy on the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and second, to fill a vacancy on the Working Group on Science and Technology.*

## Forum of Women Parliamentarians

The 34<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians met on 11 October to consider recent activities to advance gender equality, hold elections and to consider contributions to the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly from a gender-perspective. The session was attended by 191 participants (of whom 11 were men) representing 139 parliamentary chambers.

The Forum debated the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights titled *Parliamentary impetus to local and regional development in countries with high levels of international migration and to stopping all forms, including state-sponsored, of human trafficking and human rights abuses*. Participants considered a rights-based, gender-responsive approach to migration as well as methods to address the root causes of human trafficking and to ensure survivor-centred anti-trafficking legislation and its enforcement.

The Forum also held a discussion on gender-sensitive parliaments with focus on *Parliaments free from sexism, harassment and violence against women*.



*Senator Reynolds preparing to speak at the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.*

*During the 145<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Senator Reynolds spoke on behalf of the Australian delegation on the importance of addressing orphan trafficking at the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and at the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.*

## Standing Committees

There are four standing committees of the IPU. A summary of their activities during the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly follows.

## Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights (SCDHR) met on 12, 13 and 14 October to prepare, debate and adopt a resolution titled *Parliamentary impetus to local and regional development of countries with high levels of international migration and to stopping all forms, including state-sponsored, of human-trafficking and human rights abuses*.

The Assembly adopted the SCDHR resolution on 15 October by consensus, calling on the UN to make the topic of human trafficking, people smuggling and modern-day slavery a specific focus of the next UN General Assembly. The resolution also urges governments and parliaments to address the demand side of trafficking, including trafficking in women and girls for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

Australia put forward a proposal regarding measures to combat orphan trafficking and tourism which was accepted for consideration by the SCDHR. The proposal will be put forward as a resolution to the SCDHR for debate at the 146<sup>th</sup> IPU in Bahrain in March 2023 and for subsequent adoption at the 147<sup>th</sup> Assembly in October 2023. With the support of the Australian delegation, Senator Reynolds will act as co-rapporteur for the resolution, and thereby seek to raise awareness of the issue and work with parliamentary colleagues globally to reduce the harm of orphan trafficking.



*Senator Payman addressing the Committee on Democracy and Human Rights Bureau on 13 October on the issue of orphan trafficking on behalf of the Australian delegation.*

## Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security met on 13 October to conduct elections and hold panel discussions on the following themes:

- The impact of war and atrocity on civilian populations
- War and climate change as triggers of global food insecurity.

On 15 October, the committee met to hold an expert hearing on the theme *Cyberattacks and cybercrimes: The new risks to global security*.

## Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development met on 12 October to debate the theme of its next resolution, *Parliamentary efforts in achieving negative carbon balances of forests*. It also held a segment on preparations for the Parliamentary Meeting at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27).

On 14 October the committee met to hold elections and a panel discussion on the theme: *Reconnecting local communities with a local sustainable inclusive economy to achieve the targets of SDG 8.*

## **Standing Committee on the United Nations Affairs**

The committee met on 14 October for the purposes of elections and panel discussions on the themes:

- The UN response to growing hunger and famine
- The UN field presence in support of national development: The case of Rwanda.

## **Other meetings**

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 including:

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

### **Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU**

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians met on 12 October to receive an update on youth participating nationally and internationally as well as to consider contributions from a youth perspective on the work of the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

The Forum considered the draft resolution regarding migration and trafficking from a youth-perspective under consideration by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights. It also held a Q&A session on mentoring and empowering young aspirants to parliament and how to put the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign into action.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> IPU, *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* <https://www.ipu.org/i-say-yes>



Senator Payman, the fifth-youngest senator in Australian history and youngest in the current Parliament, making the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* pledge at the 145<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Kigali.

### **Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law**

The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL Committee) met on 12 October and was briefed on recent developments with regard to specific IHL concerns and the situation of internally displaced persons and refugees in Ukraine, Afghanistan and Myanmar by representatives from the ICRC and UNHCR.

Dr Gordon Reid MP attended the meeting as a substitute observer and Senator Deborah O’Neill attended via videoconference. Senator O’Neill was elected to the IHL Committee at the 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly in May 2021 as a representative of the Asia Pacific Group.

Senator O’Neill contributed to the discussion on the humanitarian impact of internal displacement and refugee movements as a member of the committee following the briefing provided by the ICRC and UNHCR.

On 13 October, the IHL Committee conducted a field visit to a community centre and held an open session on good practices in refugee inclusion on 14 October. Dr Reid participated in the field visit to the Gikondo Community Centre in Kigali.



*Dr Reid serving as a substitute observer at the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law alongside Senator O’Neill who participated in the session via videoconference.*

## **Bilateral and multilateral meetings**

A key benefit of attending the IPU Assembly is the opportunity for Australian parliamentarians to meet their international colleagues in both formal and informal settings. By assembling representatives from such a large number and diverse range of parliaments in one place, the IPU offers a unique opportunity for delegations and individual parliamentarians to discuss issues of mutual interest, to develop an understanding of different parliamentary models and to strengthen parliament-to-parliament relationships.

The opportunities for informal discussions are complemented with bilateral meetings and multilateral meetings. During the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly, the Australian delegation met with delegations from New Zealand, Fiji, Timor-Leste, Canada and Britain. The Australian delegation also held bilateral meetings with delegations from Afghanistan, Georgia and Serbia.

## **Other functions**

The delegation attended a reception hosted by the Twelve Plus Group on Monday 10 October. Mr Speaker together with Senator Reynolds and Dr Reid attended a reception for Heads of Delegations on Tuesday 11 October and Senator Payman attended a reception hosted by the President of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians for Women Parliamentarians on Wednesday 12 October. Mr Entsch and Senator Payman attended a reception hosted by the Parliament of India for the Asia Pacific Group on 14 October.

Each of these gatherings and events provided further opportunities for the Australian delegation to continue discussions with a wide range of parliamentary colleagues.

## **Acknowledgements and concluding remarks**

The Australian delegation acknowledges the support provided by Mr Dominique Vigié, First Secretary, Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat based at the Australian High Commission in Nairobi, Kenya.

The delegation also wishes to acknowledge the work of staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in Canberra who provided background briefing materials including Mr Greg Klemm and Ms Jennifer Groch who coordinated the provision of the materials.

The Parliamentary Library also provided briefing materials to the delegation which were extremely helpful and informative. The delegation acknowledges the work of Mr Nigel Brew and his colleagues at the Parliamentary Library for providing this material and thanks them for it.

The delegation appreciates the assistance and support of the International and Parliamentary Relations Office (IPRO) with Ms Aleshia Westgate and Ms Kim Bulman deserving special mention for their tireless efforts to arrange travel and accommodation.

Finally, the delegation would like to acknowledge and thank Ms Toni Matulick, Clerk Assistant (Committees) who has served as delegation secretary for many years with considerable commitment and dynamism.

The Hon Milton Dick MP  
Delegation Leader