

The Parliament of the  
Commonwealth of Australia

**129<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly**  
**Geneva, Switzerland**

**Report of the Australian Parliamentary Delegation**

**6 – 10 October 2013**

December 2013

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ISBN 978-1-74229-935-8

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This document was printed by the Senate Printing Unit, Department of the Senate, Parliament House, Canberra.

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# Membership of the Delegation

## **Leader**

Senator the Hon John Hogg  
President of the Senate  
Senator for Queensland  
Australian Labor Party

## **Members**

The Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP  
Representative of the Speaker of the House of  
Representatives  
Member for McKellar, New South Wales  
Liberal Party of Australia

Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens  
Senator for New South Wales  
Australian Labor Party

## **Officials**

Mr Quinton Clements  
Senior Adviser to the President of the Senate

Mr Damien Jones  
Adviser to Mrs Bishop

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe  
Department of the Senate  
Delegation secretary

Mrs Sue Hogg and Mr Bob Stephens also accompanied the delegation.



## Foreword

In October 2013 it was my pleasure to lead the Australian parliamentary delegation that attended the 129th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly which was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 6 to 10 October 2013.

The delegation comprised the Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP, who attended as the representative of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens and me.

The delegation played an active role throughout the Assembly, participating in the consideration of an emergency item, attending the meetings of the three standing committees and a range of panel discussions and holding bilateral discussions with a number of other delegations.

I would like to highlight the following activities by the delegation during the Assembly:

- The delegation attended a number of panel discussions facilitated by the IPU Committee on UN Affairs, including a discussion of implications of and action on the recently adopted arms trade treaty, for which HE Mr Peter Woolcott, Australia's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament, was a panellist;
- I met with the Secretary General, Mr Anders Johnsson and with the Myanmar Delegation led by Mr U Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Union Assembly;
- Mrs Bishop met with the Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament, the Rt Hon Rebecca Kadaga, and Mr Yosiwo George MP, who represented the Micronesian Parliament at the Assembly;
- The delegation held bilateral meetings with delegations from Canada, Chile, Mongolia, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, Philippines, United Kingdom and Vietnam;
- Mrs Bishop participated in a round-table discussion celebrating Word Day Against the Death Penalty;
- Senator Stephens participated in the Tenth Information Seminar on Parliaments and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women; and
- Mrs Bishop and Senator Stephens attended a working luncheon hosted by Ambassador Woolcott with the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.

On behalf of the delegation, I would like to acknowledge the support provided by Australia's Permanent Mission in Geneva which contributed significantly to the success of the delegation. The delegation is grateful to Ambassador Woolcott for the time he devoted to the delegation's visit. Particular thanks are due to Ms Jeffie Kaine

for the high standard of advice and practical assistance she provided to the delegation throughout the Assembly.

I would like to extend the delegation's thanks to officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, AusAID and staff of the Parliamentary Library for providing comprehensive and timely briefing materials prior to the delegation's departure. These materials greatly assisted the delegation in its work during the Assembly.

The delegation also wishes to thank Mr Andres Lomp, Mr Geoff Barnett and other staff of the International Community Relations Office, for their support and assistance, the staff of FCM Travel Solutions and staff of the Finance Section, Department of the Senate.

Finally, I thank my fellow delegates for their commitment to our program of work.



*The Australian delegation to the 129<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly*

**Senator John Hogg**  
**President of the Senate**

# 129<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly

1.1 The 129<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly took place in Geneva from 6 to 9 October 2013 and was attended by representatives from 132 member countries.

## Background

1.2 The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the international organisation of parliaments of sovereign states, providing a focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue. The IPU works for peace and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy. To achieve these aims the IPU:

- fosters contacts, coordination and the exchange of experience among parliaments and parliamentarians for all countries;
- considers questions of international interest and concern;
- contributes to the defence and promotion of human rights; and
- contributes to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action.

1.3 There are currently 162 national parliaments who are members of the IPU and ten regional parliamentary assemblies who are associate members.<sup>1</sup> Most members are affiliated with one of the six geopolitical groups that are currently active in the IPU.

1.4 While the major focus for the Australian delegation is participation in the twice-yearly assemblies, the IPU is constantly active in promoting democracy throughout the world. Its main areas of activity are:

- representative democracy;
- international peace and security;
- sustainable development;
- human rights and humanitarian law;
- women in politics; and
- education, science and culture.

1.5 The Australian Parliament plays an active role in supporting a number of these activities in partnership with the IPU.

1.6 The IPU Assembly is the principal statutory body of the IPU. It meets bi-annually to bring together parliamentarians to study international problems and make recommendations for action. The assemblies include debates on significant international issues, the regular meeting of the IPU Governing Council, and meetings of specialist committees, working groups and geopolitical groups.

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1 A list of current members of the IPU is available on the IPU website:  
<http://www.ipu.org/english/whatipu.htm>

## Agenda for the 129<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly

1.7 The agenda of the 129<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly addressed the following items:

- debate on an Emergency Item;
- debates within three standing committees on topics chosen at the 128<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Quito, Ecuador in April 2013;
- Committee on United Nations Affairs;
- Amendments to the IPU statutes and rules;
- 193<sup>rd</sup> session of the IPU Governing Council; and
- meetings of the six geopolitical groups.

1.8 In addition to participating in each of these meetings, members of the Australian delegation participated in panel discussions and workshops and bilateral meetings with members of other delegations.

1.9 The Australian delegation's program at the IPU Assembly is at Appendix 1 to this report. A detailed report of the 129<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly and Related Meetings is available online.<sup>2</sup>

### Emergency Item

1.10 At each Assembly a topic is selected for emergency consideration and a resolution is adopted on the topic.<sup>3</sup> Eight requests for the inclusion of an emergency item were received.<sup>4</sup> Following a roll-call vote, the following item put forward by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden was adopted and added to the Assembly agenda: *The role of parliaments in supervising the destruction of chemical weapons and the ban on their use*. Following a debate in the Assembly the draft resolution was adopted by consensus at the Assembly's last sitting on 9 March 2013.

1.11 The resolution asks all parliaments to support and fully comply with the work being done by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The full text of the resolution is available online.<sup>5</sup>

1.12 A number of member countries expressed reservations that the concept of responsibility to protect was not clearly defined in the resolution and that this may

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2 Refer: <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/129/results.pdf>

3 Any member country of the IPU may request the inclusion of an emergency item. The rules of the Assembly provide that only one emergency item may be included on the Assembly agenda. Where more than one topic is proposed the plenary session selects one topic either by consensus or vote.

4 The full text of each of the emergency items can be accessed online at: <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/129agnd.htm>

5 <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/stcnfres.htm#129>

lead to interference in the internal affairs of other States, selective and abusive implementation, and violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.<sup>6</sup>

### **Standing committees**

1.13 Over the course of the Assembly, the three standing committees met to debate themes chosen at the 128<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly. Each committee received a presentation on a draft report prepared by co-rapporteurs before discussing the theme. The co-rapporteurs will now prepare draft resolutions for consideration at the 130<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly to be held in Geneva in March 2014.

1.14 Senator Stephens participated in the discussion within the First Standing Committee on Peace and International Security on the theme: *Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments*. The discussion focused on the need to continue to work towards nuclear disarmament and underscored that, despite international commitments, nuclear weapons continued to proliferate. Speakers agreed that States needed to work as transparently as possible with the International Atomic Energy Agency, particularly to ensure that nuclear weapons did not end up in the hands of terrorist organisations. Many delegates gave examples of best practice and suggested ways in which parliamentarians could advance global nuclear disarmament, noting the usefulness of the IPU-PNND Handbook, *Supporting Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament*.

1.15 The President and Mrs Bishop participated in the Second Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade. The discussion of the theme: *Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints* focused on disaster risk reduction and the extent to which population growth, inadequate planning, unpredictable weather and climate patterns and urban development contributed to a heightened risk of disaster. Delegates proposed that the draft resolution to be considered at the 130<sup>th</sup> Assembly should address issues such as the question of political responsibility for risk governance, the importance of gender-sensitive risk-resilient policies, the role of local governments, and the need for formal and informal education at all levels.

1.16 The Third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights discussed the theme: *The role of parliaments in protecting the rights of children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, and in preventing their exploitation in situations of war and conflict*. The committee heard presentations that provided an overview of the risks faced by children migrating between countries or displaced by conflict. The discussion emphasised the need for children to have proper documentation, particularly birth records.

### **Amendments to IPU Statutes and Rules**

1.17 The Assembly unanimously approved a set of amendments to the Statutes relating to the new format of the IPU Assemblies, the functioning of the standing

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6 The delegations of Belarus, Burkina Faso, Finland, Germany, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Uruguay and Zambia expressed reservations to the resolution on the Emergency Item.

committees and their bureaux, and the status of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs. These amendments were the culmination of initiatives considered at the 127<sup>th</sup> and 128<sup>th</sup> Assemblies. The Assembly also approved a set of related amendments to its own Rules. The full text of adopted amendments to the Statutes and Rules is available online.<sup>7</sup>

### ***Presidential statement on the terrorist attack in Kenya***

1.18 At its final sitting, the Assembly endorsed a statement by the President of the IPU, Mr Abdelwahad Radi expressing deep concern at the terrorist act on Westgate Mall in Kenya. The statement extended the sympathy of the IPU and its Members to the Parliament and people of Kenya and other East African countries, and strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms. The statement is available online.<sup>8</sup>

### **193<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Governing Council**

1.19 The Governing Council is the plenary policy-making body of the IPU. Several committees and working groups fall under the Governing Council and report to it on their work. The Australian delegation attended each of the sessions of the Governing Council and participated in the work of the IPU Committee on UN Affairs, which reports to the Governing Council.

1.20 The Governing Council considered reports on the financial situation of the IPU, the programme and budget for 2014, cooperation with the United Nations System, implementation of the IPU Strategy for 2012-2017 and reports from a range of specialised meetings, plenary bodies and committees.

1.21 The Council noted that as at 4 October 2013 the income and expenditure of the IPU were close to target for the first half of the year. The Council noted that the consolidated budget proposal for 2014 reflected the guidance and oversight provided by the Executive Committee's Sub-Committee on Finance as well as cost savings in the core expenditures on staff, travel, insurance and office costs, the budget included funding for additional activities requested by the Governing Council, including strengthening of the standing committees.

1.22 The IPU is funded by its membership and through voluntary funds provided by donors. The Council considered an updated list of unpaid contributions as at 4 October 2013 and noted that the total amount of contributions in arrears was substantially reduced compared to previous years. The Council noted that the budget had been prepared with no overall increase in the level of assessed contributions and that total contributions from members would be lower in 2014 than they had been in 2007. The IPU scale of contributions had recently been automatically adjusted in line with adjustments to the United Nations scale upon which it is based.

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7 <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/129/results.pdf>

8 Presidential Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Kenya: <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/129/st-president.htm>

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### ***Committee on United Nations Affairs***

1.23 The Committee on United Nations Affairs held three sittings during the Assembly which considered cooperation at the national level between parliaments and UN country teams, the implementation of major commitments in the area of arms control and the human rights of vulnerable groups.

1.24 The delegation attended each of the sessions, including a panel discussion on *Implications of and action on the recently adopted arms trade treaty* for which HE Mr Peter Woolcott, Australia's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament was a panellist. Ambassador Woolcott served as President of the Final UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty held in New York in March 2013. The session reviewed the main provisions of the UN Arms Trade Treaty, examined good practices in regulation of arms flows and considered avenues for parliamentary action aimed at curbing the effects of illegal and irresponsible arms transfers. Ambassador Woolcott reported that since the Treaty opened for signature on 3 June 2013, 113 states had signed, of which seven have already ratified the treaty. He emphasised the essential role of Parliamentarians in supporting the Treaty's signature, ratification and implementation.

### **Meetings of geopolitical groups**

1.25 The IPU has six geopolitical groups that meet during the assemblies to discuss the operation and activities of the IPU. Geopolitical groups play an important role in the functioning of the IPU through consideration of matters on the IPU Agenda and, where possible, agreeing a group position. Candidatures for positions on IPU committees are also considered and submitted through the geopolitical groups.

1.26 Most member countries are members of at least one of these groups. Australia is a member of two geopolitical groups: the Asia-Pacific Group and the Twelve Plus Group<sup>9</sup> and participated in meetings of both groups at the 129<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

### ***Asia Pacific Geopolitical Group***

1.27 The Asia-Pacific Group (APG) meeting received reports on the IPU Executive Committee meeting held on 20 March 2013 and the ASEAN+3 Group meeting held immediately prior to the APG meeting. The committee discussed proposals for the Emergency Item but did not reach a decision to endorse a particular proposal. The committee also considered nominations for vacancies on various IPU committees. In considering the Budget proposal for 2014, the APG discussed correspondence from the Canadian Parliament to the Executive Committee of the IPU seeking a reduction in its membership contribution and setting out the risk posed by the current rate of contribution for the Canadian Parliament's future involvement in the IPU. A number of members of the APG expressed similar concerns regarding the scale of contributions.

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9 Pursuant to Article 25 of the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Australia has informed the Secretary General that where it proposes to submit candidatures for positions within the IPU it will do so through the Asia-Pacific Group.

### ***Twelve Plus Group***

1.28 The Twelve Plus Group met three times during the 129<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly and considered a number of matters on the Assembly agenda in detail. The Twelve Plus Group paid particular attention to the following matters:

- reports from Group representatives on the work of the Sub-committee on Finance, the IPU Executive Committee and the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians;
- matters relating to the operation of the IPU, including amendments to the Statutes and Rules; procedures for the selection of the new Secretary-General and implementation of the IPU Strategy, including the Reform of the Standing Committees and Assembly Format; and
- proposals for the Emergency Item and themes for consideration by Standing Committees during the 130<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly.

1.29 The Twelve Plus Group discussed the correspondence from the Canadian Parliament and noted that many members of the IPU had similar concerns regarding the current rate of contributions. The Group considered that the planned review of the budget midway through the 2012-2017 Strategy offered an opportunity to review the activities of the IPU and reconsider priorities.

### **Bilateral meetings**

1.30 The delegation took the opportunity presented by the IPU Assembly to participate in meetings with delegations from Chile, Canada, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, United Kingdom and Vietnam. These meetings allowed the delegation to contribute to the strengthening of bilateral and parliament to parliament relationships and to discuss key themes under consideration at the Assembly. The delegation noted the importance of such meetings in developing understanding between parliaments, particularly as they tend to permit more free-ranging and candid discussions.

1.31 In addition to these meetings, the President met with the Secretary General of the IPU, Mr Anders Johnsson. This meeting provided an opportunity for discussion of a range of initiatives to foster parliament to parliament relationships and to support capacity building in developing parliaments. Both the President and the Secretary General emphasised the need for such initiatives to be appropriately planned and coordinated to minimise duplication and maximise effectiveness. The President also met with the Myanmar Delegation led by Mr U Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Union Assembly.

1.32 Mrs Bishop met with the Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament, the Rt Hon Rebecca Kadaga, and with Mr Yosiwo George, who represented the Micronesian Parliament at the Assembly.

### ***Bilateral meeting with Canadian delegation***

1.33 The delegation's discussions with the Canadian delegation, led by Senator Salma Ataullahjan, were lively and wide ranging and provided an opportunity to consider a number of issues of mutual interest from a range of perspectives. These included governance and accountability within the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), development of the Canadian oil sands industry and elections in both Australia and Canada. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss the concerns raised by the Canadian Parliament regarding the rate of IPU membership contributions. Members of the Canadian delegation stressed the Canadian Parliament's strong support for the work of the IPU and explained the budgetary pressures that had contributed to it raising the issue.

### ***Bilateral meeting with Chilean delegation***

1.34 In its meeting with the Chilean delegation, led by the President of the Chilean Group, Mr Juan Antonio Coloma, the delegation emphasised the strong relationship between the Australian Parliament and Latin America and the importance of Australia's relationship with Chile and the importance of adopting a strategic approach to fostering the relationship between the two Parliaments. The delegation also spoke of the Australian Parliament's work with Pacific Parliaments and encouraged the Chilean Parliament to consider avenues for complementing this work where possible. The two delegations concluded their meeting by reflecting on their respective general elections and electoral systems.



*The Australian and Chilean Delegations*

### ***Bilateral meeting with Mongolian delegation***

1.35 The delegation's discussions with the Mongolian delegation, led by the Chairman of the State Great Hural, Mr Zandaakhu Enkhbold, centred on the practical assistance Australia has provided to Mongolia's minerals and energy sector. The Leader of the Mongolian delegation, Mr Eckbold, stressed the significance of this assistance in building capacity across a number of sectors including exploration, mining software, infrastructure and transport. The delegation noted the important role

that the parliament to parliament relationship could play in complementing and strengthening the growing relationship between the Australian and Mongolian governments.



*The Australian delegation with Mr Zandaakhu Enkbold and members of the Mongolian delegation*

***Bilateral meeting with New Zealand delegation***

1.36 The delegation's meeting with the New Zealand delegation, led by the Hon Tau Henare MP, provided the two delegations with an opportunity to discuss the concerns raised during the Assembly regarding the scale of member contributions and the forthcoming vote to select an Emergency Item. The two delegations agreed that it was important for the IPU membership to pay close attention to the IPU Budget and Strategy and provide direction in the identification of areas of priority and areas with potential for efficiencies to be realised.



*The Australian and New Zealand Delegations*

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***Bilateral meeting with Russian Federation delegation***

1.37 The meeting with the Russian delegation, led by the Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation, Mr Yury Vorobiev, provided an opportunity for the President to reflect on the productive delegation he had led to Russia in July 2013 and his gratitude to the Presiding Officers of the Russian Parliament for the time they devoted to that visit. The Leader of the Russian delegation, Mr Vorobiev, expressed the Russian Parliament's interest in further strengthening the relationship between the two parliaments and facilitating more frequent meetings to enable an exchange of ideas and best practice across a number of key policy areas of interest to the Russian Parliament. The Russian delegation outlined current initiatives to strengthen the Russian economy, raise living standards, encourage more stable population growth and develop a skilled workforce through education reform and skilled migration. The delegation was interested to gain a perspective on the challenges for parliamentarians in responding to such issues in ways that are meaningful for all generations of Russians: those born in Soviet Russia and those born in free market Russia.

***Bilateral meeting with Philippine delegation***

1.38 In its meeting with the Philippine delegation, led by the President of the Senate, Mr Franklin Drilon, the delegation discussed the Australian Parliament's work with Pacific Parliaments and opportunities for the Australian and Philippine parliaments to cooperate in capacity building in the region. President Hogg stressed the Australian Parliament's success in fostering a bi-partisan approach to the development of parliament to parliament relationships.

***Bilateral meeting with United Kingdom delegation***

1.39 The delegation's meeting with Lord Dholakia OBE and Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger from the United Kingdom delegation focused on a discussion of the factors that had led Australia to withdraw from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). The Australian delegation emphasised the importance of international fora, like the CPA and the IPU, being subject to appropriate standards of accountability and scrutiny. Both delegations expressed confidence that the relationship between the Australian and United Kingdom Parliaments would continue to be important and that the strong level of cooperation between the two parliaments would continue.

***Bilateral meeting with Vietnamese delegation***

1.40 The Australian Parliament's relationship with the National Assembly of Vietnam is underpinned by the Cooperation Agreement signed during the visit to Vietnam in May 2013 by the then Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ms Anna Burke MP. The Leader of the Vietnamese delegation, Mr Huynh Ngoc Son, said that he was pleased to see relations between the two parliaments becoming progressively stronger. He acknowledged the long history of support for the people of Vietnam by Australia, both in the form of economic development in Vietnam and support for Vietnamese migrants and students in Australia. President Hogg emphasised that Vietnamese students in Australia were great ambassadors for Vietnam and observed that when they return to Vietnam they will be great ambassadors of Australia. He said

that this level of understanding was important in developing a greater level of understanding between the two countries.



*The President and Mrs Bishop with the Leader of the Vietnamese delegation, Mr Huynh Hgoc Son*

## **Panel discussions and workshops**

### ***Panel discussion: Parliamentarians, a critical force in promoting the abolition of the death penalty***

1.41 Mrs Bishop participated in a panel discussion organised jointly by the IPU and the International Commission against the Death Penalty in celebration of World Day Against the Death Penalty. The aim of this session was to promote a better understanding of global and regional trends towards the abolition of the death penalty. It provided an opportunity for parliamentarians and others working to promote the abolition of the death penalty to share lessons and discuss case studies and national initiatives as a means of identifying legal and political opportunities for parliamentary involvement in addressing challenges in countries moving towards abolition.

### ***Tenth Information Seminar on Parliaments and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).***

1.42 Senator Stephens participated in this seminar which sought to strengthen the role of parliaments in the reporting process of the CEDAW. The seminar considered nationality rights and economic rights. The discussion of nationality rights included an overview of the nationality rights covered by CEDAW and focussed on the challenges to ending discrimination against women in accessing and transmitting nationality, on recent trends and the role parliamentarians can play. The discussion of how economic rights are dealt with by CEDAW focussed on issues of economic empowerment and independence, access to land, property, credit and inheritance.

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***Working luncheon hosted by HE Ambassador Peter Woolcott***

1.43 Mrs Bishop and Senator Stephens attended a luncheon hosted by Ambassador Woolcott with representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (the HD Centre). This was an opportunity for delegation members to hear first-hand of the important work undertaken by these organisations and to participate in a candid discussion of the challenges they face. Mr David Harland from the HD Centre spoke of the organisation's private diplomacy work. The delegation heard of the HD Centre's reputation for successfully undertaking difficult talks in difficult areas to help prevent, mitigate and resolve armed conflict through dialogue and mediation. The HD Centre is currently working to help establish and sustain peace through dialogue in fifteen areas of conflict around the world. Mr Regis Savioz, Deputy Director of Operations, ICRC, spoke of the ICRC's activities on behalf of people affected by war and natural disasters and the challenge such organisation face in gaining both access and acceptance from groups who may not be familiar with the humanitarian work of the ICRC.

1.44 Ms Malika Ait-Mohamed Parent, Under-Secretary General for Governance and Management Services, IFRC, provided a briefing on the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the International Federation and the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Sydney in November 2013. The delegation noted that the selection of Sydney to host this international meeting of the Movement was an important recognition of the standing of the Australian Red Cross in the International Movement.

**Conclusion and acknowledgements**

1.45 The delegation expresses its sincere thanks to the Executive Committee of the Assembly and the IPU secretariat for its organisation of the 129<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly. The Assembly provided an effective forum for parliamentarians to engage and increase their understanding of a range of issues of global interest and concern and to establish contacts with parliamentary colleagues and exchange information and experience. The Assembly also afforded the delegation an important opportunity to strengthen its relationships with other parliaments through bilateral meetings and informal discussions.



# Appendix 1

## Delegation program - attendance at the 129<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Geneva, Switzerland

### 129<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly (Geneva)

*Saturday, 5 October 2013*

Delegation's arrival in Geneva

*Sunday, 6 October 2013*

Twelve Plus Geopolitical Group Meeting

Asia Pacific Group Meeting

Asia Pacific Group Luncheon

Meeting of Network of Advisers and Secretaries to delegations

Twelve Plus Group Reception

*Monday, 7 October 2013 (Day1)*

Governing Council

Assembly: selection of Emergency Item

IPU Committee on UN Affairs panel discussions:

- Interaction between national parliaments and UN country teams
- Follow-up of the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV)
- Implications of and action on the recently adopted Arms Trade Treaty
- Implementing UN Security Council resolution 1540 (Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction)

Second Standing Committee (Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)

*Tuesday, 8 October 2013 (Day 2)*

Twelve Plus Geopolitical Group Meeting

President's meeting with IPU Secretary General

Assembly: Debate on emergency item

Third Standing Committee (Democracy and Human Rights)

First Standing committee (Peace and International Security)

Panel Discussion: Internally Displaced Persons

Panel Discussion: Political Party Control over MPs

***Wednesday, 9 October 2013 (Day 3)***

Twelve Plus Geopolitical Group Meeting

Governing Council: adoption of the budget and adoption of reports of IPU committees

IPU Committee on UN Affairs: Promoting international commitments and defending the rights of vulnerable groups

- Indigenous peoples
- Persons with disabilities

Assembly: adoption of resolution and closing session.

***Thursday 10 October 2013***

Round-table discussion celebrating World Day Against the Death Penalty

Tenth Information Seminar on Parliaments and CEDAW

Working lunch hosted by HE Ambassador Peter Woolcott with International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.

President and Mrs Hogg depart Geneva

***Friday 11 October 2013***

Remaining delegation members depart Geneva