



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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148th IPU Assembly

Geneva, 23–27 March 2024

Workshop

Human security: Equipping parliamentarians for peacebuilding and conflict prevention

Organized in cooperation with the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS)

Monday, 25 March 2024, 15:00–16:30

Concept note

This side event will contribute to the drafting process of a comprehensive set of good practices related to peace, security and conflict prevention, as mandated by the resolution [Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace](#), adopted in March 2022 at the 144th IPU Assembly.

This process has led the IPU to promote the human security approach to advance parliamentary work in a direction more conducive to sustainable peace and conflict prevention.

The meeting will be open to all parliamentarians and guests participating in the 148th IPU Assembly.

Background

Today's rapidly evolving global landscape is marked by insecurity rooted in crises such as violent conflicts, natural disasters, climate change, pandemics and economic downturns. There is an urgent need to shift approaches to foster conflict prevention, peace, stability and sustainable development. As the UN's human security approach nears its 30th anniversary, it has become increasingly clear that a people-centred framework that is proactive, empowering and preventive is needed to address the complex challenges that societies face.

This event is part of the IPU's 2024 focus on peace and security. It will present connections between the concept of human security and parliamentary functions to showcase how human security can be integrated as a context-specific approach to decision-making. A particular emphasis will be placed on the sharing of ideas and perspectives regarding the current state of affairs of parliamentary involvement in conflict prevention, peace and security. Ultimately, this event aspires to be a learning ground for parliamentarians and equip them to take a step towards more active participation in preventing conflicts and sustaining peace.

Objective

The primary purpose of this meeting is to raise awareness on the human security approach. To do so, we will encourage participants to share their thoughts, experiences and perspectives on the concept. This learning journey seeks to explore how human security relates to the parliamentary functions of representation, oversight, budget setting, legislation and parliamentary diplomacy. It will show how human security can be integrated into parliamentary procedures to strengthen institutional integrity and foster a solution-oriented approach to public concerns.

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Structure and discussion

The meeting will consist of short presentations by human security experts and practitioners. This will be followed by an interactive discussion where participants can share their experiences and good practices, ask questions, and explore opportunities for implementing the human security approach in their own work.

This event will also include a moderated interactive discussion in which parliamentarians will be asked to reflect on the following guiding questions:

- **Reflecting on the multi-dimensional nature of security:** How do you perceive the concept of “human security” as distinct from traditional notions of national security, especially in the context of the diverse challenges facing your constituents?
- **Understanding interconnected threats:** Can you identify examples from your constituency where different threats like climate change, economic instability, and health crises have intersected? (The IPU is establishing a registry of cross-cutting threats, and examples from IPU Member Parliaments are very welcome.)
- **Evaluating current strategies:** What are the limitations of current parliamentary strategies in addressing complex security threats, and how might integrating a human security approach overcome these limitations?
- **Long-term vision for human security:** What long-term changes do you envision in your parliamentary work if human security were to be adopted as a guiding principle, and how could parliamentarians contribute to this shift?

Expected outcomes

- Enhanced understanding of the human security approach and its relevance in addressing complex and interlinked security threats.
- Increased awareness of the seven dimensions of human security and the importance of their interconnectedness.
- Insight into the methodology for implementing the human security approach.
- Identification of ways in which parliaments can incorporate the human security approach into their work to better respond to the multifaceted challenges faced by their constituents.