

Canadian Group  
Inter-Parliamentary Union



Groupe canadien  
Union interparlementaire

**Report of the Canadian Delegate  
to the  
Annual Parliamentary Hearing at  
the United Nations  
New York, United Nations Headquarters  
November 13-14, 2006**

Every year during the fall session of the United Nations General Assembly the IPU organises a Parliamentary Hearing as an opportunity for parliamentarians to exchange views with United Nations officials, representatives of United Nations diplomatic community, as well as scholars and leading academics.

These meetings offer members of parliament and, in particular, those who are members of parliamentary standing or select committees on foreign affairs, national security and international development, an opportunity to receive substantive briefings and provide input to current debates at the United Nations.

# Report

## 1. Background

Every year during the fall session of the United Nations General Assembly the IPU organises a Parliamentary Hearing as an opportunity for parliamentarians to exchange views with United Nations officials, representatives of United Nations diplomatic community, as well as scholars and leading academics.

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## 2. Theme and Agenda for the 2006 Parliamentary Hearing

The theme of the 2006 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, which took place in New York on 13 and 14 November 2006, was: “*Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building: Reinforcing the Key Role of the United Nations.*” Panel sessions related to this theme addressed the following issues:

- the main findings of the 2006 United Nations Secretary-General's Report on Conflict Prevention;
- the new UN Peace-Building Commission: challenges and expectations;
- the fight against corruption, nationally and internationally, and implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (October 2003) and other multilateral instruments; and
- follow-up to the 2005 World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments: how to strengthen parliaments in their interaction with the United Nations.
- The IPU's summary and main conclusions from the 2006 Parliamentary Hearing is available online.(2)

## 3. The Canadian Delegate

The Parliamentary Hearing was attended by parliamentarians from some 47 countries as well as several regional parliaments. Representatives of Permanent Missions to the United Nations, as well as of intergovernmental and civil society organizations, also participated. The Canadian IPU Group was represented by Mr. Dean Allison from the House of Commons.

## 4. Contribution made by the Canadian Delegate

Mr Allison was an active and engaged participant in the four panel sessions. During the second panel session he made the following statement to the plenary:

Today as we gather to discuss the vital issues of conflict prevention and peacebuilding, it is important to better anticipate problem areas so that we can work to prevent conflict from erupting.

But we must also reflect on current peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts. Almost 40 of our countries are already involved in peacebuilding efforts in Afghanistan. Along with Canada, the contributions of the United Kingdom, Estonia, Netherlands, Australia, US, Romania, and Denmark in the south, are vital to the success of this mission, and I would encourage others to reflect on their responsibility to the peace and reconstruction process.

Future successes in conflict prevention and peacebuilding depend on national political wills. Unfortunately, the political will to bring stability to southern Afghanistan needs to be stronger. As parliamentarians we must account to our domestic constituencies, but we cannot shy away from challenging international situation such as the Kandahar region in southern Afghanistan.

Challenging peacebuilding scenarios are often not politically popular in our respective homes, but they are vital to security in our shared world. Sending troops to undertake development work in a relatively secure region is not tough to sell domestically. Sending troops to a dangerous region is a much more challenging to sell. As conscientious members of the international community, making a difference to peacebuilding often means that we can't go where its easiest or safest.

As a Canadian parliamentarian, I am proud of the work that Canadian men and women have so bravely undertaken in the dangerous Kandahar region of southern Afghanistan. Unfortunately, more peacekeepers are required in order to make this mission a success.

Successful peacebuilding requires the political will to build peace. As countries committed to promoting peace and preventing conflict, we cannot always pick and choose where our efforts are needed. In order for peace and stability to take hold in Afghanistan, we must show political will and deploy troops where they are most needed. Reconstruction in Afghanistan is key to creating lasting security in that country, in that region, and in our world.

Canada's goal is to help Afghanistan stand on its own as an independent, stable, and prosperous democracy - democracy which the UN Secretary General has identified as vital to conflict prevention. Conflict prevention and peacebuilding are segments in a process. Success at the end of the process demands commitment throughout.

As members of the IPU we have the responsibility of carrying this important message to our respective homes so that we can all effectively contribute to the success of peacebuilding efforts.

I once again would like to thank all the countries involved in peacebuilding efforts in all of Afghanistan, both north and south. It is because of your countries effort, one day we hope to bring peace, prosperity, security and democracy to the people of Afghanistan. Thank you.

## **5. Conclusion**

The Annual Parliamentary Hearing in New York was a constructive forum for debate among parliamentarians and other interested parties to further refine current thinking on

conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The panel sessions drew attention to a number of important matters, most notably the mutual value of cooperation between the IPU and the United Nations to promote action on global initiatives of shared concern. On this latter point, the contribution made by Mr. Allison concerning strategies to ensure future successes in conflict prevention and peacebuilding was an important element of this debate.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mr. Dean Allison, M.P.

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**End notes**

- (1) Source: <http://www.ipu.org/Splz-e/unga06.htm>.
- (2) Ibid.

## Travel Costs

<b>ASSOCIATION</b>	Canadian Group, Inter-Parliamentary Union
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations
<b>DESTINATION</b>	New York, United Nations Headquarters
<b>DATES</b>	November 13-14, 2006
<b>SENATORS</b>	
<b>MEMBERS</b>	Mr. Dean Allison, MP
<b>STAFF</b>	Mr. Joseph Jackson, Advisor
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$ 791.33</b>
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	<b>\$ 1, 912.18</b>
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>PER DIEMS</b>	<b>\$ 570.81</b>
<b>OFFICIAL GIFTS</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS/REGISTRATION FEES</b>	<b>\$ 13.11</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3, 287.43</b>