

Canadian Group
Inter-Parliamentary Union



Groupe canadien
Union interparlementaire

**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
respecting its participation at the Annual
Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations
Canadian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
New York, New York, United States of America
November 28-29, 2011**

Report

1. Background

The IPU's Annual Parliamentary Hearing bring members of parliament to the United Nations Headquarters in New York for an interactive discussion with high-ranking UN officials, representatives of Member States and experts drawn from think tanks and civil society organizations.

In accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly Resolution on cooperation between the UN and the IPU (<http://www.ipu.org/un-e/a-61-L6-e.pdf>), the Hearing is a joint event of the two organizations, heralding a greater political commitment on the part of the United Nations to hear the views of parliaments on some of the most urgent issues of our times. Among other things, the Hearing provides an opportunity for members of parliament to meet and hear from the United Nations management team. The conclusions of the Hearing are circulated to the wider UN community as well as to all national parliaments.¹

2. Programme for the Parliamentary Hearing

The main theme of the Hearing, which took place in New York on 28-29 November 2011, was: *Strengthening political accountability for a more peaceful and prosperous world.*

Panel sessions on this theme addressed the following issues:

1. The role of the United Nations General Assembly in strengthening global accountability;
2. Youth participation in the democratic process – challenges and opportunities;
3. Accountability in the management of public funds – good practices and model legislation for budget transparency;
4. Strengthening the links between national institutions and civil society – toward more open societies.

The full programme, with more details on the theme and the complete list of panellists, may be found online.²

3. The Canadian Delegation

The Parliamentary Hearing was attended by parliamentarians from 49 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 the following parliamentarians: from the Senate of Canada, the **Honourable Donald Oliver H. Oliver, Q.C.** and from the House of Commons, **the Honourable Irwin Cotler, MP** and **Ms. Joyce Bateman, MP**.

¹ Source: www.ipu.org/Splz-e/unga11.htm

² See: www.ipu.org/splz-e/unga11/summary.pdf

4. The Parliamentary Hearing

A detailed summary report of the Parliamentary Hearing produced by the IPU may be found online at: www.ipu.org/splz-e/unga11/smry.pdf.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honourable Salma Ataullahjan, Senator
President, Canadian Group of the IPU

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canadian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
ACTIVITY	Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations
DESTINATION	New York, New York, United States of America
DATES	November 28-29, 2011
DELEGATION	
SENATE	Hon. Donald H. Oliver, Q.C.
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Ms. Joyce Bateman Hon. Irwin Cotler, P.C.
STAFF	Mr. Joseph Jackson, Advisor
TRANSPORTATION	\$ 4,516.34
ACCOMMODATION	\$ 3,282.62
HOSPITALITY	
PER DIEMS	\$ 890.34
OFFICIAL GIFTS	
MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES	\$ 57.78
TOTAL	\$ 8,747.08