

Canadian Group  
Inter-Parliamentary Union



Groupe canadien  
Union interparlementaire

**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation  
respecting its participation at the Parliamentary Meeting of the  
20th International AIDS Conference**

**Canadian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**

**Melbourne, Australia  
July 19 – 24, 2014**

# Report

As Chair of the IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, Ms. Libby Davies, M.P., was invited by Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU, to represent the IPU at the Parliamentary meeting of the XX International Conference in Melbourne, Australia. The following is an extract of the report Ms. Davies provided to the Canadian Group of the IPU upon her return.

## **Report on the Parliamentary Meeting at the XX AIDS Conference, Melbourne, July 21, 2014, and AIDS Conference, July 19-24**

I very much appreciate that the IPU Geneva and IPU Canada gave me the opportunity to participate in the AIDS Conference, and the Parliamentary Session that was held.

The AIDS conference involved about 14,000 delegates in a very impressive venue at the Melbourne Convention Centre.

I was fortunate to attend the opening ceremony on July 19, at which Minister Ambrose was also present, along with Canadian officials. Sadly, the tragic events of the Malaysian Airlines crash, which included 6 delegates including a former president of the IAS, meant that many people experienced grief and loss. It was reflected in the speeches and comments at the opening ceremony.

I attended the conference each day and attended workshops, and participated in the "Global Village" events. It was inspiring to see many Canadians participate as panelists and delegates. I made sure to connect with as many as I could. Of particular note was one workshop that showcased the researches of the special edition of the Lancet Journal, on sex work and HIV. Three of the 6 researches were Canadian.

It was also a highlight to hear Bill Clinton and the work of his foundation to eradicate HIV/AIDS. He inspired us all.

The IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS - MNCH Health met on Tuesday morning, July 21. As chair of this group I was able to assist the members of the group develop a work plan for the coming year. We have an ambitious plan that includes field visits; research; information sharing; and preparing for the UN meeting in 2016 on HIV/AIDS; and the next IAS in Durban, South Africa. Representatives from WHO, Global Fund, UNAIDS, UNDP, also attended our Advisory Group meeting.

In the afternoon IPU with UNAIDS and UNDP hosted its Parliamentary Meeting at the State Parliament of Victoria. The attendance was excellent (approximately 40-50

MPs). The keynote presenters were well received, including, Deputy ED UNAIDS; the head of UNDP; and ED of UNAIDS; and Senior Government Relations of the Global Fund. The presentations focused on the direction of the global AIDS response; the state of the epidemic; the role of Parliamentarians; and follow up work needed. A summary of the session is enclosed (Annex A). I was fortunate to be a panel respondent in this session and also gave the concluding summary for follow up.

The session was very inter-active and the discussion focused on the key role that Parliamentarians can play to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS, particularly concerning key populations that are at risk. It is critical for Parliamentarians to be in a leadership role in their country/community to help combat stigma, discrimination, and harmful policies and legislation. The IPU plays a critical role in this regard, by supporting Parliamentarians to better understand the HIV/AIDS crisis, and the political leadership that is required to attain the vision of ending HIV/AIDS by 2030.

At the conclusion of the special Parliamentary Session, the Global Fund hosted a reception for Parliamentarians in the State Parliament. Unfortunately, this was the same night as the Canadian reception across town, hosted by the Minister, who was aware why I couldn't attend the Canadian event.

Respectfully submitted,

Sen. Salma Ataullahjan  
Chair, Canadian Group of the  
Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

## Travel Costs

<b>ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>Canadian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)</b>
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>Parliamentary Meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference</b>
<b>DESTINATION</b>	<b>Melbourne, Australia</b>
<b>DATES</b>	<b>July 19-21, 2014</b>
<b>DELEGATION</b>	
<b>SENATE</b>	
<b>HOUSE OF COMMONS</b>	<b>Libby Davies, M.P.</b>
<b>STAFF</b>	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>\$ 3,413.88</b>
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>PER DIEMS</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>OFFICIAL GIFTS</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>REGISTRATION FEES</b>	<b>\$ 1,277.76</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,691.64</b>



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

**Parliamentary Meeting at the XX International AIDS Conference  
Melbourne, 21 July 2014**

**FINAL CONCLUSIONS**

**Acknowledge the progress**

We, parliamentarians, meeting at the Parliamentary Meeting at the XX International AIDS Conference, note with appreciation the critical progress made in the HIV response, including:

-The number of people who are newly infected with HIV has declined by 38% since 2001.

-AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 35% since 2005.

-87% of people living with HIV who know their status in sub-Saharan Africa were receiving

antiretroviral therapy under WHO's 2010 treatment guidelines.

-900,000 new HIV infections among children have been averted since 2009 thanks to

expanded access to antiretroviral medicines for pregnant women living with HIV.

-From 2004 to 2012, tuberculosis-related deaths among people living with HIV declined by 36% worldwide.

**... and the fact that many gaps and challenges remain to be addressed, including:**

-15 countries account for nearly 75% of all people living with HIV in the world.

-Three out of four children living with HIV are not accessing antiretroviral treatment.

-15% of all women living with HIV are young women between 15 and 25 years old.

-HIV prevalence among female sex workers is 13.5 times greater than among all women

aged between 15 and 49 years old.

-There are 12.7 million people who use drugs, and 13% of them are living with HIV.

-There were 2.1 million newly infected persons in 2013.

-22 million people eligible for life-saving treatment under WHO's 2013 guidelines are not accessing it.

-Of the 35 million people living with HIV in the world, 19 million do not know their HIV-positive status.

-Stigma, discrimination and the absence of protective laws for people living with HIV and key populations continue to leave millions behind.

### **Vision**

We fully support the vision of ending AIDS by 2030. We therefore adhere to and express support for the target of 90-90-90: 90% of people with HIV are tested and know their status; 90 % of people living with HIV have access to treatment; and 90% of people living with HIV have a suppressed viral load.

### **Commit to supporting the realization of this vision through specific parliamentary actions, including:**

- 1) Removing the political obstacles to effective HIV responses, including legal, social and economic conditions.
- 2) Implementing the IPU-UNAIDS collaboration on advancing Treatment 2015.
- 3) Supporting the dissemination and implementation of good parliamentary practice for addressing the legal barriers to the HIV responses based on the IPU-UNDP guide Effective laws to end HIV and AIDS: Next steps for parliaments.
- 4) Initiate dialogue and support best practice for addressing the barriers of intellectual property law and ensuring that all parliaments understand and can use to the full extent the flexibilities available to facilitate access to HIV-related treatment.
- 5) Supporting parliamentary dialogues on advancing enabling environments based on evidence on challenging issues affecting key populations.
- 6) Supporting parliamentary dialogue on universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and education.
- 7) Supporting funding for the HIV response, particularly by ensuring increase domestic funding for AIDS.

The IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health will continue to work closely with and engage its partners, including UNAIDS, UNDP, WHO and the Global Fund, to move these commitments forward.