

Canadian Group
Inter-Parliamentary Union



Groupe canadien
Union interparlementaire

**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
respecting its participation at Meetings of the Bureau of the
IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs**

Canadian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

**New York, New York
May 19, 2014**

Report

1. Overview

On the 19th of May, as a delegate for the Canadian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the **Honourable Dennis Dawson** travelled to New York to attend the 86th plenary meeting of the sixty-eight session of the United Nations General Assembly.

He was the only Canadian parliamentarian delegate at this conference but met with the IPU secretariat and other delegates of the General Assembly meeting. The United Nations office of foreign affairs was there and participated in sponsoring the resolution. The main objective was lobbying for wide ranging support to resolution 68/272: **Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.**

The aim of the resolution was to encourage both parties to work closely in various fields, in particular, peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights and gender issues. It also aimed to mobilize parliamentary action towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015, as well as to bring a parliamentary contribution to the design of the next generation of global development goals. After many interventions the resolution was adopted unanimously. It reaffirms the commitment of national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to support the work of the United Nations and continue the efforts to bridge the democracy gap in international relations.

This report provides an overview of the IPU-UN parliamentary hearing.

2. Background

The IPU is the international organization of parliaments of sovereign states. It was established in 1889, is “the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue,” and “works for peace and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy.” The IPU “supports the efforts of and works in close co-operation with the United Nations, whose objectives it shares.”

In addition to this meeting, the IPU’s annual parliamentary hearing bring parliamentarians to the UN headquarters in New York “for an interactive discussion with high-ranking UN officials, representatives of [UN] Member States and experts drawn from think tanks and civil society organizations.” As a joint event of the IPU and UN, the hearings reflect a commitment by the UN to hear the views of parliamentarians with regards to urgent issues facing policy-makers and legislators around the world and on the key issues on the UN agenda.

This resolution

Recalled its previous 2010 resolution deciding “to pursue a more systematic engagement with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in organizing and integrating a parliamentary component of and contribution to major United Nations deliberative processes and the review of international commitments”;

and

Called for “the annual parliamentary hearing at the United Nations to be more closely linked to major United Nations processes, including the preparation of global conferences, so as to help to inform such deliberations from a parliamentary perspective.”

The conclusions of the hearing are circulated to the wider UN community as well as to all national parliaments.

3. Programme of the Parliamentary Hearing

The main theme of the hearing that took place in New York on the 19 of May 2014 was: **Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union**. The meeting with the delegates started at 10 a.m. and rose at 11.25 a.m.

The full programme, which includes details on the themes and case studies explored during the hearing, and the complete list of panellists, may be found online.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canadian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
ACTIVITY	Meetings of the Bureau of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs
DESTINATION	New York, New York, United States of America
DATES	May 19, 2014
DELEGATION	
SENATE	Sen. Dennis Dawson
HOUSE OF COMMONS	
STAFF	
TRANSPORTATION	\$ 619.15
ACCOMMODATION	\$ 830.72
HOSPITALITY	
PER DIEMS	\$ 245.23
OFFICIAL GIFTS	
MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES	
TOTAL	\$ 1,695.10