



Invitation

Increasing parliamentary engagement with human rights and the rule of law

Wednesday 15th March 2017. 1300-1500, room XXIV, Palais des Nations

A launch event to showcase worldwide developments which have increased democratic participation in human rights and the rule of law, and to take forward the proposals that emerged from the Panel Discussion in the Human Rights Council on 22nd June 2016.

Programme

1300 - 1330 - Lunch and refreshments

1330 - 1335 - Introduction and welcome by Gianni Magazzeni

Chief of the Americas, Europe, and Central Asia Branch, Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

1335 - 1445 - Panel discussion with questions and answers from the floor:

Speakers include:

- *"Global developments: the emerging consensus"* **Murray Hunt**, Legal Adviser to the Joint Committee on Human Rights of the UK Parliament
- *"Promotion and protection of human rights in Kenya: the approach of the Kenya Parliamentary Human Rights Association"* **Hon. Neto Agostinho MP**, National Assembly of Kenya; Convener of the Kenya Parliamentary Human Rights Association; member of the Commonwealth Africa Parliamentary Human Rights Group
- *"The status of implemented and recommended changes aimed at increasing Parliament's role in human rights strengthening"* **Hon. Eka Beselia MP**, Chairperson of Legal Issues Committee, Parliament of Georgia
- *"The main findings of the UN Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (November 2016), including the role of young parliamentarians in public decision-making"* **Mr. Saeed Al Remeithi, MP**, Member of the Federal National Council, United Arab Emirates; President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Forum of Young Parliamentarians

1445-1500 - Event closes, informal discussion

Two reports will also be available at this event:

- **Oxford University's Parliaments, Rule of Law and Human Rights research project;** Global developments in the role of parliaments in the protection and promotion of human rights and the rule of law – the emerging consensus (summary available in French, Spanish and Arabic)
- **Westminster Foundation for Democracy:** Strengthening parliamentary capacity for the protection and realisation of human rights: a synthesis report

Background information

This event is organised by Oxford University's Parliaments, Rule of Law and Human Rights research project*, in partnership with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

The purpose of this event is to follow up on the Panel Discussion which took place in the Human Rights Council in June 2016 on the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Council and its Universal Periodic Review.

The 2016 Panel discussion took stock of the contribution made by parliaments to date and sought to identify new ways of enhancing that contribution in the future.

Since the discussion there have been a number of developments which show that there is now significant momentum behind the worldwide move to increasing parliamentary engagement with human rights and the rule of law.

This event will see the launch of a new report by Oxford University's Parliaments, Rule of Law and Human Rights research project, which demonstrate this progress. The report surveys the most significant global developments, at both the international and regional level.

Also available at the event will be the report of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, drawing together examples of strengthening parliamentary capacity at the national level.

Against the background of these reports, a panel of experts will lead a participatory discussion of how best to progress to the next stage of development, by finding practical and effective ways of increasing parliamentary involvement.

The discussion will pave the way for the consideration by the Council of the report of last year's Panel Discussion, which is scheduled to take place during the Council's session in June 2017.

*<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/parliaments-rule-of-law-and-human-rights>



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