



Parliament of Australia

Parliamentary Delegation
to
135th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly
Geneva, Switzerland

23 – 27 October 2016

Commonwealth of Australia 2016

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Members of the Delegation

Leader of the Delegation

The Hon Tony Smith MP
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Liberal Party of Australia

Deputy Leader of the Delegation

Senator Glenn Sterle
Senator for Western Australia
Australian Labor Party

Ms Nola Marino MP

Member for Forrest (Western Australia)
Chief Government Whip
Liberal Party of Australia

Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald

Senator for Queensland
Liberal Party of Australia

Senator Alex Gallacher

Senator for South Australia
Australian Labor Party

Officials:

Mr Brien Hallett
Delegation Secretary

Ms Toni Matulick
Delegation Secretary

Ms Claressa Surtees
Deputy Clerk of the House of Representatives
(attending ASGP meeting)

Ms Cate Clunies-Ross
Adviser to the Speaker

135th IPU Assembly – Switzerland

The 135th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 23 to 27 October 2016 and was attended by 693 parliamentarians from 141 member countries including 101 presiding or deputy presiding officers. A number of observers also attended.

The Australian delegation to the Assembly was led by the Speaker, the Hon Tony Smith MP, and included Senator Glenn Sterle (Deputy Delegation Leader), Ms Nola Marino MP, Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald and Senator Alex Gallacher.

Background

The IPU is the international organisation of parliaments of sovereign states and provides a focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue. The IPU works for peace and co-operation among peoples and for the establishment of representative democracy. To achieve these aims the IPU:

- fosters contacts, coordination and the exchange of experience among parliaments and parliamentarians for all countries;
- considers questions of international interest and concern;
- contributes to the defence and promotion of human rights; and
- contributes to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action.

There are currently 171 national parliaments who are members of the IPU and 11 regional parliamentary assemblies which are associate members.¹ Most members are affiliated with

¹ A list of current members of the IPU is available on the IPU website:
<http://www.ipu.org/english/membshp.htm>

one of six geopolitical groups that are currently active in the IPU.

While the major focus for the Australian delegation is participation in the twice-yearly assemblies, the IPU is constantly active in promoting democracy throughout the world. Its main areas of activity are:

- representative democracy;
- international peace and security;
- sustainable development;
- human rights and humanitarian law;
- women in politics; and
- education, science and culture.

The Australian Parliament plays an active role in supporting a number of these activities in partnership with the IPU, particularly in the local region.

The IPU Assembly is the principal statutory body of the IPU. It meets bi-annually to bring together parliamentarians to study international problems and make recommendations for action. The assemblies include debates on significant international issues, the regular meeting of the IPU Governing Council, and meetings of specialist committees, working groups and geopolitical groups.



The Australian Delegation at the Assembly: The Hon Tony Smith MP, Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald, Ms Nola Marino, Senator Alex Gallacher and Senator Glenn Sterle

Assembly

The 135th Assembly was formally opened on Monday, 24 October 2016 (though some meetings had commenced the previous day). The Assembly agenda addressed the following items:

- General Debate – *Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict; Parliaments as early responders;*
- Consideration of items for debate as an Emergency Item and the debate;
- Resolution: *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective;*
- Reports of the standing committees;
- Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 137th Assembly; and
- The 199th session of the IPU Governing Council.

Meetings of geopolitical groups

The IPU has six geopolitical groups that meet immediately prior to, and during, each Assembly to consider matters on the IPU agenda and, where possible, agree a group position. Candidatures for positions on IPU committees are also considered and submitted through the geopolitical groups.

Most member countries are members of at least one geopolitical group. Australia is a member of two geopolitical groups: the Asia-Pacific Group and the Twelve Plus Group and participated in meetings of both groups at the 135th IPU Assembly.²

² The IPU Statutes stipulate that Members that belong to more than one geopolitical group should indicate which geopolitical Group they represent for the purposes of submitting candidatures for positions within the IPU. Australia usually exercises its voting rights through the Asia Pacific Group.

Asia Pacific Group³

The Asia Pacific Group met once during the Assembly and received a report from the ASEAN +3 Group as well as a briefing by the executive committee members. The meeting considered nominations for a number of vacancies to be filled during the 135th Assembly.

The Group also considered the various topics proposed for debate as an emergency item by the Assembly and nominations to the drafting committee.

Twelve Plus Group⁴

The Twelve Plus Group met three times during the Assembly. The meeting received a report of the executive committee and its finance and gender partnership sub-committees, reports on the meeting of chairs of geopolitical groups and the IPU President, and considered various nominations for vacancies to be filled during the 135th Assembly. The proposed 2017 budget and work program for the IPU was also reviewed.

Following meetings of the Group at earlier Assemblies, there was further discussion about the venues for the 136th and 137th Assemblies. In particular, the Ukrainian delegation expressed strong concern at the IPU's acceptance of a proposal to host the 137th Assembly in St Petersburg and indicated that it would ask for a roll-call vote at the final meeting of the Governing Council on 27 October to review this decision. (This vote was held at the meeting of the Governing Council on 27 October and the original decision was confirmed.)

The Group considered reports from various IPU meetings including the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, the Advisory Group on

³ The membership of the Asia Pacific Group is available on the IPU website: <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/geopol.htm>

⁴ The membership of the Twelve Plus Group is available on the IPU website: <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/geopol.htm>

HIV/AIDs and Maternal, Newborn Health and Child Health, and the Committee to promote respect for international humanitarian law.

The Group also discussed the e-parliament side event which was attended by 60 participants representing 26 delegations.

The Group considered the proposal for an emergency item which is covered in more detail below, and noted at the last meeting that the item proposed by Germany and Mexico had been adopted.



Mr Smith chairing a session of the Assembly

IPU – debates in the Assembly and other activities

A key focus of Assembly business are two major debates in the plenary: (i) the general debate, and (ii) the debate on an emergency item.

The General Debate

The topic of the general debate was *Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: Parliaments as early responders*. Opening formalities included a segment to mark the 40th anniversary of the of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and the screening of an animated film, *Fight for the rights of persecuted MPs – Fight for strong democratic parliaments serving the people*.

Following a ballot to determine the order of speaking, Mr Smith made his contribution on Tuesday, 25 October. In his speech, the Speaker pointed out that human rights are a

fundamental component of Australian society and discussed how parliamentarians recognise that the electoral process is a key component of human rights which is used by citizens to choose their parliamentary representatives.

Mr Smith drew attention to Australia's founding membership of the United Nations and its strong support for the UN Charter on Human Rights and mentioned the importance of gender equity to realise the full potential of all citizens.

In his speech, the Speaker stated that human rights are not just a series of aspirational targets, but deeply held beliefs of the Australian community and that this is demonstrated by Australia's overseas aid program, the work of the parliament, and the engagement by citizens of both professional and volunteer services at home and abroad.

The Speaker concluded by reflecting on Australia's candidature for the Human Rights Council in 2018 as a natural progression of support for these principles and noted that Australia continues to value the exchange of views and partnerships forged through the IPU.⁵

Following his contribution, Mr Smith was asked to chair a session of the Assembly debate.



Mr Smith participating in the general debate

⁵ Mr Smith's speech has been published on the IPU website at <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/135/speeches/A25-e.pdf>

Emergency Item

The IPU Rules provide that any member country may propose a topic for inclusion as an emergency item to be debated. The matter must:

...relate to a major event of international concern on which it appears necessary for the IPU to express its opinion. Such a request must receive a two thirds majority of the votes cast in order to be accepted [for debate]." (Assembly Rule 11-2(a))

On 24 October, the IPU President informed the Assembly that eight proposals had been received for consideration as emergency items as follows:

Seven topics were considered as follows:

Helping to consolidate international peace and security through the recognition of a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital: The role of parliaments	Morocco
Respecting the separation of powers as an essential element of democratic systems and as a guarantee of the proper functioning of parliaments as unique institutions within democracies	Venezuela
Guaranteeing the safety of migrants on their way to countries of destination	Uganda
Addressing the South Sudan conflict: The role of parliaments in safeguarding peace and security	Kenya
The role of parliamentarians in protecting the principles of State sovereignty and State immunity from prosecution in the national	Parliaments of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain,

courts of another State, and in preventing the adoption of unilateral legislation undermining these principles, which constitutes a violation of international law, international treaties and the Charter of the United Nations	Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates)
The war and the severe humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly in Aleppo [Merged proposal]	Germany and Mexico
The role of parliaments in combating terrorism for sustainable peace, security and development	Bangladesh
Restoring peace and security in Syria: The contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union [Merged proposal]	Russian Federation and Syrian Arab Republic

The proposals put forward by Bangladesh, Uganda and Venezuela were withdrawn before a roll-call vote was held on the remaining five items. The Australian delegation voted in favour of the proposal from Germany and Mexico which was adopted by the Assembly and debated as the emergency item. Mr Smith contributed to this debate in which he expressed the Australian delegation's concern at the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Aleppo.

Following debate, the emergency item was referred to a drafting committee and the final resolution was adopted by consensus.

Forum of Women Parliamentarians

The 24th Forum of Women Parliamentarians met on 23 October and involved 124 delegates from 79 countries. A parity debate organised by the Forum on the topic of *Harassment and violence against parliamentarians: Issues and solutions* was also held on 26 October.

A key item of business for this Forum was consideration of a motion initiated by the Australian delegation at the 133rd Assembly in October 2015 on the topic of *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely, and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective*.

This resolution was an item of business for the Assembly proposed by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights and the Forum of Women Parliamentarians debated the motion from a gender perspective. Ms Marino was one of the rapporteurs for this item and she worked with Kenyan parliamentarian, Mr M. Kilonzo Junior, to introduce this session. After this, the Forum divided into two groups to consider particular aspects of the resolution before proposing amendments which were later included by the Standing Committee in the draft resolution.

Standing Committees

The IPU has four standing committees that met during the Assembly to consider the following matters:

- Expert hearing and development of a resolution on *The role of parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States*; (first Standing Committee on Peace and International Security);
- Debate on *Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development* (second Standing Committee on

Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade);

- Debate on the resolution *The freedom of women to participate in the political processes fully, safely, and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective*. (third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights); and
- Panel discussion on *Funding the United Nations* (fourth Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs).

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

The first standing committee held two sessions on 24 and 26 October which involved an expert hearing and development of a resolution on *The role of parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States*. On 26 October, the committee hosted two panel discussions on (i) *Promoting democratic accountability of the private security sector*; and (ii) *Comprehensive disarmament*

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

The second standing committee held two sessions on 25 and 26 October and debated the subject item of the next resolution *Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development*. The committee also held a panel discussion on *The role of parliaments in countering the activities of vulture funds*. Ms Marino and Senator Macdonald participated in these sessions and Ms Marino also attended a meeting of the standing committee's Bureau of which she is a member.

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

At its first session on 24 October, the third standing committee continued to work on its draft resolution *The freedom of women to*

participate in the political processes fully, safely, and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective. This resolution had been proposed by the Australian delegation at the 133rd Assembly in Geneva in October 2015. Ms Marino took over the role of rapporteur (previously undertaken by Senator Lines) and assisted the Chair (Ms King from New Zealand) to ensure that 102 amendments were dealt with in a timely fashion

At its second session on 26 October, the revised resolution was adopted unanimously by the committee and subsequently by the Assembly.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

The fourth Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs held two sessions to conduct a panel discussion on funding the United Nations, and to consider issues associated with allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeepers.

Other meetings

A key benefit of attending the IPU Assembly is the opportunity for Australian parliamentarians to meet their international colleagues in both formal and informal settings. By assembling representatives from such a large number and diverse range of parliaments in one place, the IPU offers a unique opportunity for delegations and individual parliamentarians to discuss issues of mutual interest, to develop an understanding of different parliamentary models and to strengthen parliament-to-parliament relationships.

The opportunities for informal discussions are complemented with bi-lateral meetings and the Australian Delegation held formal meetings with the delegations from Singapore, Bhutan and Lebanon. In addition, Mr Smith paid a call on the IPU Secretary-General, Martin Chungong.

In the meeting between Speaker Smith and Mr Chungong on 25 October, the Secretary-General expressed his appreciation on behalf of the IPU for the high levels of support that the Australian Parliament has shown the IPU over many years. In particular, the Secretary-General drew attention to the work that the IPU was undertaking in outreach activities in the Pacific region. Mr Smith used this opportunity to update the Secretary-General on the capacity-building undertaken by the Australian Parliament to benefit members and staff from Pacific Parliaments.



IPU Secretary-General Martin Chungong with Mr Smith

On the same day, the delegation held a bi-lateral meeting with the Delegation from the Parliament of the Republic of Singapore. This followed the successful visit earlier in October of the Singapore Prime Minister, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, to the Australian Parliament.

The two delegations discussed a wide range of issues including trade, educational exchanges and the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Military Training and Training Area Development in Australia which will see the Singapore Government increase the number of troops and investment in bases in northern Australia.



The Australian and Singapore delegations

On 26 October the delegation met the delegation from the Kingdom of Bhutan, following a meeting in early October between Speaker Smith and the Prime Minister of Bhutan in Canberra.

The Bhutanese Speaker, Mr Zangpo, told the meeting that while Bhutan was a young democracy, ties between the kingdom and Australia were first established in the post-war period. Mr Smith talked about the work that Australia undertook in the 1960s to include Bhutan in the Colombo Plan and explained the capacity building work that the Australian Parliament currently undertakes.



Mr Smith and Ms Marino with delegation from the Kingdom of Bhutan

On the same day the Australian Delegation met with the delegation from the Lebanese Republic and discussed matters of mutual interest including trade, the Lebanese community in Australia, the situation in the region and recent developments in the

political situation as Lebanon heads towards elections scheduled to be held in 2017.

Speaker Smith also met with the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Mr Akbar Kahn, who was at the IPU as an observer on 24 October.

Senators Gallacher and Sterle attended a meeting at the World Health Organisation in Geneva on the issue of global road safety to explore how progress could be made to reduce injuries and harm from road deaths. Senators Gallacher and Sterle shared Australia's experience and success in this area.



Mr Smith and Ms Marino with members of the Delegation from the Parliament of Lebanon

Other functions and receptions

The delegation attended a function hosted by the Swiss Government on 24 October and was pleased that the Australian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament, His Excellency, Mr John Quinn, was able to join the delegation for this function.

Mr Smith and Ms Marino also attended a function hosted by the 12 Plus Group on 23 October which provided a chance to meet other members of this important geo-political group.

Each of these informal gatherings provided further opportunities for the Australian travelling party to continue discussions with a wide range of parliamentary colleagues.

Overall conclusions

Again, the Australian travelling party continued to build on the work of previous delegations. Formal and informal comments received at the Assembly from standing committees, other parliamentarians and IPU officials again proved that the Australian delegation maintains its reputation as an effective contributor to the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. In addition to Mr Smith being asked to chair a session of the Assembly, Ms Marino was asked to move a vote of thanks on behalf of the Asia Pacific Geopolitical Group in the closing session of the Assembly. The Australian travelling party also valued the formal and informal opportunities to participate in the various parts of the IPU program, particularly the chance to meet parliamentary colleagues from a wide range of backgrounds and share experiences and concerns.

Finally, the delegation acknowledges the support provided by staff from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Geneva, particularly the Australian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament, His Excellency, Mr John Quinn, First Secretary Greer Alblas, and officers Ms Tristen Slade, Mr Simon Farbenbloom, Ms Tanya Bennett and Mr Richard Johnson. Thanks are also due to Ms Natalie Boyes in Canberra who co-ordinated DFAT briefings and Ms Cat Barker from the Parliamentary Library who also provided additional briefing papers for the delegation. The delegation also appreciates the work of Mr Raymond Knight from the International and Parliamentary Relations Office who arranged travel and accommodation for the travelling party.

Tony Smith MP
Delegation Leader

Meetings of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments

Introduction

Ms Claressa Surtees, Deputy Clerk of the House of Representatives, attended the meetings of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), of which she is a member, held in conjunction with the deliberations of the 135th Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. In addition, Ms Surtees participated in the meetings of the ASGP Executive Committee, of which she is a member. The meetings of the ASGP and of its Executive Committee were held from 24 to 26 October 2016.

Relations between the ASGP and the IPU

Ms Kareen Jabre, Director of Division of Programmes, IPU Secretariat, attended a meeting and made an intervention on recent developments in the IPU.

In particular, Ms Jabre identified the priority of making progress in meeting the objectives of the five year strategy 2012-17. The more immediate priority is the recent study specifically on the subject of sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians, with an issues brief being released on 26 October and available on the IPU website

<http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/issuesbrief-e.pdf> .

Consideration of parliamentary matters

General debates

The general meetings of the ASGP continued the format of selected general thematic debates. The chosen subjects for this session were:

- The role of Parliament in international negotiations; and
- Training for participants in, and persons supporting parliamentary proceedings—Ms Surtees proposed this topic and she was the moderator of the debate.

Communications

There were also presentations and related interventions on specific parliamentary topics which proceeded, in general, on a thematic basis.

- Preparations in Parliament for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP22) in Marrakech.

Parliamentary staff

- The creation of an international standard to measure the proficiency and quality of the performance of parliamentary secretariats (from both a technical and administrative perspective); and
- National Assembly organizations for legislative support and strengthening the expertise of their staff members.

The powers and procedures of Parliaments

- The role of Parliamentary Committee on Government Assurances in making the executive accountable;
- The role of the House Steering Committee in Managing the Order of Business in sittings of the Indonesian House of Representatives;
- Constitutional reform and Parliament in Algeria;
- Impeachment of the Brazilian President; and
- Supporting an inclusive Parliament: House of Commons, Canada.

A Parliament for tomorrow

- The Lok Sabha secretariat and its journey towards a paperless office;
- Web TV – improving the score on parliamentary transparency;
- The experience of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies on Open Parliament;
- Deepening democracy through public participation: an overview of the South African Parliament's public participation model;

- The failed coup attempt in Turkey on 15 July;
- External versus internal drivers: parliamentary reforms and development;
- The Swedish Parliament and the European Union: creating the best opportunities for influence at international level;
- The 20th anniversary of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic; and
- Status of enhancement of powers of a regional parliament: evidence from the ECOWAS Parliament.

Other presentations

Members viewed a short film in relation to the next session in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 1 to 5 April 2017.

Administrative matters

New members

A number of new members were admitted to the ASGP, most were replacing previous members who had retired or moved to other employment.

Enhancements to administrative efficiency

From 1 January 2017, no further paper copies of texts other than the agenda will be provided. Members will be able to download all documents from the ASGP's website. To support this process, members were reminded of the importance of meeting the deadlines for submitting proposals and texts to avoid their proposals being deferred to a later session.

Financial matters

A draft budget of the ASGP for 2017 was circulated. The meeting adopted, by consensus, a proposal to increase subscriptions by 10% from 1 January 2017.

Related meetings

Three additional related formal meetings were held and also, there were numerous informal meetings between secretaries general and clerks addressing issues of mutual interest and exploring means of future cooperation with one another.

Brainstorming session – e-Parliaments: new forms of cooperation and partnership in the area of 'parliaments, technology and democracy'

On Wednesday, 26 October, Ms Surtees participated in an evening meeting, convened by Mr Andy Richardson, of the IPU Secretariat, to explore issues around supporting core parliamentary business and enhancing communication with citizens in a digital era. Previously, the UN Global Centre for Information and Communication Technologies in Parliament (2006-13) provided an umbrella for a range of activities on the use of technology in parliament including, conferences, reports, guidelines, capacity building and regional networking. Following the recent World e-Parliament Conference in Chile in June 2016, the IPU is seeking to establish a new project to support parliaments in making effective use of technology and this session sought to draw on the knowledge and experience from parliaments in identifying priority needs to inform the project.

Panel discussion – How parliaments change: developing recommendations for strengthening parliamentary oversight

On Thursday, 27 October, Ms Surtees attended a session organized jointly by the IPU and the ASGP for their members to consider how change actually happens and parliaments reform, identifying obstacles to reform and how they can be overcome. Participants passed on valuable insights from lessons learnt about trying to reform parliaments including the need for political will to introduce changes. The outcomes from this session are to be reflected in the next

edition of the Global Parliamentary Report, scheduled for publication in early 2017.

Roundtable on the Common Principles for Support to Parliaments – Building to last: Parliamentary support aims for sustainable outcomes

On Friday, 28 October, Ms Surtees participated in a roundtable organized by the IPU to consider Common Principle 3: Parliamentary support aims for sustainable outcomes. The inaugural roundtable enabled participants to share experiences, lessons learnt and challenges faced in bringing greater sustainability to parliamentary support projects.

Through these discussions the role of institutionalized central planning at parliaments was recognised as key to achieving results and sustainable outcomes, as was the need for a shared understanding of parliaments and partners in the activities undertaken.

There are 10 Common Principles, which were formally adopted in October 2014 and they have received the endorsement of 108 parliaments and organizations that provide support to parliaments

http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/principles_en.pdf .This first session and future exchanges of experiences are aimed at providing focused insight on specific elements of the Common Principles and to inform the development of tools which would better facilitate their application.

Next meetings

A draft agenda for the next session, from 1 to 5 April 2017 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, was circulated. When further developed it is to be placed on the ASGP website

<http://www.asgp.co>

Attendance at the 135th IPU Assembly

23 – 27 October 2016

The Hon Tony Smith MP, Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald, Ms Nola Marino, Senator Glenn Sterle, and Senator Alex Gallacher

Friday 22 October 2016

Delegation arrived in Geneva

Briefing by staff from the Australian Post in Geneva

Sunday 23 October 2016

Forum of Women Parliamentarians

Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Geopolitical Group

Meeting of the 12 Plus Geopolitical Group

Meeting of delegation advisers and secretaries

Reception hosted by the 12 Plus Geopolitical Group

Monday 24 October 2016

Meeting of the Governing Council

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

Assembly – Start of the general debate on *Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: parliaments as early responders*

Mr Smith met with Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Secretary-General, Mr Akbar Khan

Senators Gallacher and Sterle received a briefing on road safety at the World Health Organisation

Assembly – decision on the emergency item

Reception hosted by the Swiss Government

Tuesday 25 October 2016

Meeting of the 12 Plus Geopolitical Group

Meeting of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Assembly: Continuation of the general debate on *Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: parliaments as early responders*; contribution by Mr Smith

Meeting of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

Mr Smith met with the IPU Secretary-General, Mr Chungong

Bi-lateral meeting with the Singapore Delegation

Wednesday 26 October 2016

Bi-lateral meeting with the Bhutan Delegation

Bi-lateral meeting with the Lebanon Delegation

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

Assembly – Adoption of the emergency item

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Thursday 27 October 2016

Meeting of the 12 Plus Geopolitical Group

Governing Council

Assembly – adoption of resolutions, reports of the Standing Committees, Outcome Document of the General Debate, and Closing Sitting

Departure of Mr Smith

Friday 28 October 2016

Departure of rest of the delegation from Geneva

