



Press Release

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NAMIBIAN PARLIAMENT IPU MEMBERS TO ATTEND 124TH IPU ASSEMBLY IN PANAMA CITY

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) will be holding its 124th Assembly from 15 to 20 April 2011 in Panama City, at the invitation of the Parliament of Panama. The Namibian delegation led by Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams; who is also the Second Vice-President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians; comprises of Members of Parliament: Dr. Moses Amweelo, Mr. Henock Kankoshi, Mr. Heiko Lucks, Ms Ndapewoshali Nambili, Mr. Arnold Tjihuike and Ms Agnes Tjongarero.

The Assembly will be inaugurated by Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli, in a ceremony that will also be attended by the President of the IPU, Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, President of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Joseph Deiss, and the Executive Director of UN Women, Ms. Michelle Bachelet. Over 1,000 delegates - including some 600 legislators and Speakers of parliament from countries around the world are expected, along with a number of special guests.

The principal theme of the Assembly is *Parliamentary accountability: living up to people's expectations*. At a time when calls for more democracy are being heard around the world, this theme strikes a chord with the legislators, who will also be holding a special panel discussion entitled: *Recent political upheavals in the world: what lessons for democracy?*

The Panama Assembly will also provide an opportunity for delegates to hold bilateral meetings and seek means of resolving conflicts in various parts of the world. The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will convene on Friday 15 April. This global gathering of women legislators will discuss both political violence against women and gender sensitive parliaments. The IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians will continue to examine cases involving violations of the human rights of legislators throughout the world. Meanwhile the IPU Standing Committees will continue their examination of ways to prevent electoral violence and ensure transparency and accountability in the funding of political parties and election campaigns.

See the full programme of the Assembly at: <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/124agnd.htm>

Established in 1889 and with Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, the IPU - the oldest multilateral political organization in the world - currently brings together 155 parliaments and nine associated regional assemblies. The world organization of parliaments also has an Office in New York, which acts as its Permanent Observer to the United Nations.

Contact and Information:

Ndahafa S. Kaukungua
Information Officer
n.kaukungua@parliament.gov.na
Tel.: 061- 288 2603
Cell: 08 1270 4054