



Press Release

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MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ATTENDS 133RD IPU ASSEMBLY IN GENEVA

A delegation of Members of Parliament from Namibia; led by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi are attending the 133rd session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to be held from 17th to 22nd October 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland. The delegation comprises the following Members of Parliament; Ms. Margaret Mensah-Williams (President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians), Mr. Ignatius Shixwameni, Ms. Bernadette Jagger, Ms. Victorine Shikongo, Mr. Barakias Namwandi, Ms. Rosalia Shilenga and Mr. Ambrosius Kandjii.

Meeting at the 133rd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Geneva (17-21 October), more than 680 MPs, including 48 Speakers of Parliament and 219 women parliamentarians, will identify parliamentary action on the moral and economic imperative for fairer, smarter and more humane migration. How to enhance the many benefits of migration for both the countries of origin and destination as well as migrants and their families will be a particular focus.

During a busy five-day IPU Assembly, IPU Members will also adopt a resolution on democracy in the digital era and the threat to privacy and individual freedoms. In addition, they will examine other major global issues such as counter-terrorism, the protection of cultural heritage and will also look at ways to strengthen parliament's ability to oversee government. This will be particularly relevant given the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at a recent UN Summit that include targets on the building of accountable and inclusive institutions needed to ensure peace, justice and the effective implementation of all development objectives.

About Namibia and IPU

The Namibian Parliament has been a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union since 1990 and was host to the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) 99th Assembly in Windhoek from the 2nd -11th April 1998. (122 countries; 1 605 participants (994 delegates, 567 MP's, 44 observers).

The former Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab was elected the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and was the political head of the Organization from 2008 – 2011.

Ms. Margret Mensah-Williams (MP and Vice-Chairperson of the National Council) was elected President of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians for a two-year term in 2014. She also served the IPU in various capacities; including: Member of the IPU Executive Committee (2007-2010); Vice-President of the IPU (2008-2010); Vice-President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians (2010-2011).

About the IPU

Established in 1889 and with Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, the IPU - the oldest multilateral political organization in the world - currently brings together 154 parliaments and eight 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.

Website: <http://www.ipu.org>

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