



## British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union Newsletter December 2012

The BGIPU Secretariat will be closed from 21 December 2012 to 2 January 2013 inclusive over the Christmas/New Year holiday season. On behalf of all BGIPU staff, may I wish all BGIPU Members and our colleagues in the UK Parliament and contacts elsewhere our very best regards for the festive season and a safe, healthy and happy start to 2013.

Rick Nimmo, Director, BGIPU

### UK Parliament Hosts International Parliamentary Conference on Gender and Politics

6 November 2012 - by *BGIPU*



Jointly hosted by the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK, the conference took place in the Houses of Parliament 6-8 November 2012, and was attended by parliamentarians from 50 countries.

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### Back to basics: Connecting Politics and Trade, 2012 session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO

15 November 2012 - by *Lord Harrison*



The annual 2012 session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO was held in Geneva on 15-16 November 2012. An interactive debate with exceptional speakers took place on the following issues: Trade as a tool of economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation; Analysing 21st century trade challenges; Trade in services: time for political decisions.

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### President of Tunisia discusses democratic transition with UK Parliamentarians

26 November 2012 - by *BGIPU*



The President of Tunisia, HE Dr Moncef Marzouki, visited Parliament on Monday 26 November to meet with UK Parliamentarians for a BGIPU-hosted discussion entitled "Perspectives on Tunisia's Democratic transition". With the President providing a brief opening statement but preferring to respond directly to questions from the floor, the event was highly interactive and provided a unique opportunity to

engage with a pivotal figure in the evolution of political transition following the events of the Arab Spring in Tunisia and the wider region.

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## 2012 Annual General Meeting

5 December 2012 - by *BGIPU*



The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, presided over by the Speaker of the House of Commons, The Rt Hon John Bercow MP, Honorary President of the Group, was held on Wednesday 5 December 2012. The 2012 Annual Report and the Financial Statements was adopted and the Officers and Members of the Executive Committee for 2012/2013 were elected. Amendments to the Rules of the BGIPU were also adopted.

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## Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations

6 December 2012 - by *Craig Whittaker, Lord McConnell*



**'A road less travelled: parliamentary approaches to conflict prevention, reconciliation and peace building'**. By focusing on the role that Parliamentarians and Parliaments can play in conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction, the Conference dealt with an element of peacebuilding that receives too little attention in the normal course of events.

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## Good COP / Bad COP: Parliamentary Perspectives from COP18

11 December 2012 - by *BGIPU*



The two week long climate talks in Doha came to a close on 8 December with 194 countries agreeing to implement a second phase of the Kyoto Protocol, from 2013 through 2020. The Doha round of talks mark the beginning of a transition to a new global climate change regime that will come into effect from 2020 and include within its ambit all countries. The BGIPU held a lecture to discuss: Good COP / Bad COP: Parliamentary Perspectives from COP18.

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### **WHAT THE BGIPU IS PLANNING FOR 2013**

The BGIPU is planning a busy programme for 2013 including formal bilateral visits, capacity building projects, thematic conferences and IPU Assemblies which will be discussed further when the Executive Committee next meets. Exact details and dates are still to be confirmed, however, we are already exploring activities involving:

**INWARD DELEGATIONS FROM KEY ARAB STATES, LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND EMERGING POWERS IN ASIA AND EUROPE**

**OUTWARD DELEGATIONS TO ASIA, AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA AND THE MENA REGION**

**KEY UK APPROACHES TO THE AGENDA OF THE 128<sup>TH</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY IN QUITO, ECUADOR**

**THEMATIC CONFERENCES AT THE WTO IN GENEVA AND THE UN IN NEW YORK**

**LUNCHTIME LECTURES ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND KEY PEACE AND SECURITY CHALLENGES**

If you are interested in any of these events or have further suggestions for our programme you wish to discuss please contact the BGIPU on x3011 or by email to [bgipu@parliament.uk](mailto:bgipu@parliament.uk).