



## British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union Newsletter July 2019

This BGIPU newsletter contains summaries and links to events which have occurred since April 2019 including surrounding the 130th anniversary of the IPU on 30 June 2019. BGIPU has also hosted timely inward visits from Kosovo and Italy and sent a delegation to IPU events in New York for the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the Global Goals. We are moving forward with an ambitious 2019 Forward Programme including further opportunities to celebrate the IPU's 130th anniversary year into 2020.

Rick Nimmo  
Director, BGIPU

### IPU rallies record number of MPs to High-level Political Forum

13 July 2019 - by *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Geneva*



The IPU brought together more than 140 parliamentarians from 50 parliaments to review progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the annual High-level Political Forum at the United Nations in New York this week. The main theme of the 2019 session, held under the aegis of the Economic and Social Council, was “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”.

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### New IPU data reveals challenges for parliaments in SDG implementation

11 July 2019 - by *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Geneva*



Parliaments have a key role to play in implementing the SDGs. They can drive sustainable development by translating the SDGs into laws, monitoring implementation of those laws, adopting national budgets, and ensuring that their governments are accountable for progress towards achieving the SDGs by 2030. New IPU data paints a mixed picture of the role of parliaments in implementing the SDGs indicating scope for parliaments to go much further in terms of oversight.

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### IPU celebrates its 130th anniversary on World Parliament Day

30 June 2019 - by *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Geneva*



On 30 June, International Day of Parliamentarism, the IPU celebrated its 130th anniversary in a ‘Quintet’ consisting of the Presidents of the most recent and future IPU Assemblies, the Speakers of Russia, Qatar and Serbia who joined IPU President, Gabriela Cuevas-Barron and IPU Secretary General, Mr. Martin Chungong at the IPU’s Geneva

Headquarters. The Speakers and IPU leadership discussed the ongoing relevance of the founding values and principles of the IPU 130 years on, results achieved at the previous Assemblies, and actions ahead.

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## UK & French Parliamentarians reaffirm enduring commitment to the IPU

26 June 2019 - by *BGIPU*



A delegation of UK parliamentarians from both Houses led by the BGIPU Chair, Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP, visited Paris on 26-27 June to celebrate the 130th anniversary of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) with members of the French IPU Group. This visit recognised the significant role played by both parliaments in the founding of the IPU, created on 30 June 1889. The delegations issued a joint declaration on their continuing commitment to the principles and values of the IPU.

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## UK Parliament marks 130th Anniversary of the IPU

25 June 2019 - by *BGIPU*



With the generous support of the Speaker of the House of Commons, BGIPU invited members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords to attend a diplomatic reception in Speaker's House on 25 June 2019 to celebrate the 130th anniversary of the IPU. BGIPU Chair, Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP, joined the Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition, in paying tribute to the legacy of the IPU's UK co-founder, Sir William Randall Cremer MP saying the IPU's work remained as relevant today as when it was first founded on 30 June 1889.

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## Reinforcing close ties with our Italian counterparts

23 June 2019 - by *BGIPU*



On 23-26 June 2019, BGIPU hosted a delegation of six parliamentarians from Italy to build upon their understanding of Brexit from a range of differing UK perspectives. It was also useful for UK Members to gain knowledge of the key issues at play in Italy and to hear how the UK's activities are perceived abroad. The visit reinforced the already strong UK relationship with Italy and saw willingness on both sides to foster closer bilateral links in the future.

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## Strong links underscored by Kosovo exchange

22 May 2019 - by *BGIPU*



From 22nd-23rd May BGIPU hosted a parliamentary delegation from the Republic of Kosovo, led by the Chairwoman of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, Diaspora and Strategic Investment, Professor Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu, four other colleagues and officials. This visit was a success in consolidating the already strong bilateral relationship enjoyed between the UK and Kosovo and how parliament to parliament

links play a vital role in ensuring that bilateral relations continue to grow and adapt to changing circumstances.

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#### **FORTHCOMING BGIPU ACTIVITIES**

6th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians | Paraguay | 9 to 10 September

International Parliamentary Seminar on Media Freedom | Attlee Suite PCH | 9-11 September

141st IPU Assembly | Belgrade, Serbia | 13-17 October