

Effective Human Rights Engagement for Parliamentary Bodies

Toolkit launch event

20 September 2022

14:00 - 16:30 CEST

Virtual seminar



INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnership
EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments



INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnership – *EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments* aims to strengthen representative and inclusive democracy through support to the effective functioning of parliaments in partner countries, by enhancing their legislative, oversight, representative, budgetary and administrative functions. It puts a special focus on six cross-cutting themes, including human rights.

As part of its activities to promote research, knowledge-sharing and parliamentary innovation, INTER PARES brought on board Kirsten Roberts Lyer, PhD, expert on parliaments and human rights and associate professor at the Central European University, to develop a toolkit on effective human rights engagement for parliamentary bodies.

The toolkit will be published in conjunction with a launch event that aims to reinforce the position of parliaments as key human rights actors. The dialogue is structured around three panels that focus on different key actors in the human-rights ecosystem: 1) members of parliamentary human-rights committee; 2) national and regional human-rights stakeholders that engage with parliaments; and 3) intergovernmental organisations that promote standards for parliamentary human rights engagement.

Date: Tuesday, 20 September 2022

Time: 14:00 to 16:30 CEST

Format: Zoom Webinar

Event languages: English, Spanish, French

Audience: The launch event is focused on parliamentary human rights engagement, with a particular focus on INTER PARES EU Member State Parliaments, partner Parliaments and their human rights committees. Additionally, actors part of the human rights ecosystem will be invited, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union, EU Parliament, Council of Europe, OHCHR, EU Fundamental Rights Agency, OSCE Human Rights office, and CSOs that engage with parliaments on human rights. INTER PARES welcomes participation from parliaments in emerging democracies around the world. Also invited will be diplomatic mission to the EU and academics working on parliaments and human rights.

Programme	
14:00 - 14:15 CEST	<p style="text-align: center;">Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jonathan Van Meerbeeck, <i>Head of sector – Human Rights, INTPA G1, Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance, European Commission</i> ▪ Jonathan Murphy, <i>Head of Programme, INTER PARES</i>
14:15 - 14:25 CEST	<p style="text-align: center;">Introduction to the Toolkit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kirsten Roberts Lyer, <i>Associate Professor, Central European University</i>
14:25 - 15:00 CEST	<p style="text-align: center;">Discussion panel I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">How do parliaments engage on human rights and what challenges do they face?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Moderated by Kirsten Roberts Lyer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laura Berja Vega, <i>Member and spokesperson, Equality Commission, Congreso de los Diputados, Spain</i> ▪ Passang Dorji, <i>Member, Human Rights and Foreign Relations Committee, National Assembly of Bhutan</i> ▪ Jeehan Mahmood, <i>Chairperson, Committee on Human Rights and Gender, People’s Majlis, The Maldives</i> ▪ Isabel Alves Moreira, <i>President, Subcomissão para a Igualdade e Não Discriminação, Assembleia da República, Portugal</i> ▪ Gastón Saavedra Chandía, <i>President, Committee on Human Rights, Nationality and Citizenship, Senado, Chile</i>
15:00 - 15:10 CEST	Q&A
15:10 - 15:35 CEST	<p style="text-align: center;">Discussion panel II</p> <p style="text-align: center;">How can human rights stakeholders support parliaments to effectively engage on human rights?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Moderated by Kirsten Roberts Lyer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tina Đaković, <i>Organisational Coordinator, Human Rights House Zagreb, Croatia</i> ▪ Alice Donald, <i>Associate Professor of Human Rights Law, Middlesex University, United Kingdom</i> ▪ Beate Rudolf, <i>Director, German Institute for Human Rights, Former Chairperson, Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)</i>

15:35 - 15:45 CEST	Q&A
15:45 - 16:10 CEST	<p style="text-align: center;">Discussion panel III</p> <p>What are the future perspectives on human rights engagement by parliaments?</p> <p><i><u>Moderated by Kirsten Roberts Lyer</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rogier Huizenga, <i>Head of Human Rights Programme, Inter-Parliamentary Union</i> ▪ Gianni Magazzeni, <i>Chief, Universal Periodic Review branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</i> ▪ Konstantine Vardzelashvili, <i>Head, Democratization Department, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe</i>
16:10 - 16:20 CEST	Q&A
16:20 - 16:30 CEST	<p style="text-align: center;">Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kirsten Roberts Lyer, <i>Associate Professor, Central European University</i> ▪ Jonathan Murphy, <i>Head of Programme, INTER PARES</i>