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Inter-Parliamentary Union Regional Seminar on Engaging Parliaments of the Pacific Region in the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540

18-20 September 2019
Wellington, New Zealand

Joint Statement

1. The New Zealand House of Representatives and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) hosted a regional seminar on “Engaging Parliaments of the Pacific Region in the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540” during 18-20 September 2019, in Wellington, New Zealand attended by parliamentarians from the Republic of Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Kingdom of Tonga, and Republic of Vanuatu.
2. The Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Group of Experts to the 1540 Committee, the Caribbean Community, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Customs Organization, the World Health Organization; government officials from Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Romania; and civil society organisations the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre attended as observers and speakers.
3. The parliamentarians held constructive discussions on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004) and on its relevance to the Pacific Region.
4. The parliamentarians **acknowledged** the crucial role of parliamentarians in supporting implementation of UNSCR 1540 through their legislative, oversight, budgetary and representation functions and in being champions for the resolution within their States.
5. The parliamentarians **highlighted** the synergies between UNSCR 1540 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and **recognized** the value of UNSCR 1540 implementation in achieving relevant actions under the Boe Declaration on regional security and other regional and global priorities for sustainable development, health, safety and security.
6. The parliamentarians **acknowledged** the value in contextualizing the approach to fulfilling obligations under the resolution in the Pacific due to state specificities, and **emphasized** the benefits in maximizing efficiencies and strengthening existing governance and enforcement structures and legislative frameworks in implementing UNSCR 1540.
7. The parliamentarians **agreed on** the need for further dialogue and parliamentary engagement at the regional level on issues related to UNSCR 1540, and on the need to further build parliamentary capacity to carry out their functions in the context of the resolution.
8. The parliamentarians **expressed** their desire that the IPU will continue to promote and support parliamentary engagement on and build capacity for cooperation with UNSCR 1540 in the Pacific region.
9. The parliamentarians **welcome** the possibility to engage with regional governance structures, including the regional coordination mechanism for the Boe Declaration, on implementation of UNSCR 1540.