

## **Press release**

Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives

For immediate release: Tuesday 25 August

### **Speakers gather to promote global peace and democracy**

Next week the New Zealand Speaker, Rt Hon David Carter, will join more than 130 fellow Speakers at the Fourth World Conference of Speakers being held at the United Nations in New York. This unique forum is part of a series of high-level meetings leading up to the United Nations Summit in September and the adoption of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The seventeen goals, which underpin the post-2015 Development Agenda, focus attention on what needs to be done globally to achieve sustainable and inclusive development.

The conference is an opportunity for the Speaker to assert New Zealand's and the Pacific Region's perspectives and priorities on a global stage. This includes promoting international cooperation and sharing of our democratic values.

"Speakers are well placed to advocate for democratic ideals of transparency, accountability and oversight, as we lead the institutions of parliament that are central to democratic governance," said David Carter.

As well as discussing the role of parliaments in implementing the SDGs, the Speaker will present one of the key reports on the challenges and opportunities faced by parliaments.

"There is great diversity in our Parliaments and differences between developed and developing countries. Coming together, as we reflect on a new development agenda to end poverty in all its forms, reminds us of the tremendous but not insurmountable challenges that we face," said David Carter.

"I recognise the challenges that smaller and developing democracies have and I see that the institutional capacity of the stronger more established parliaments must be made available and shared with these countries. We have a responsibility to work with our neighbours, in our case in the Pacific region. For this reason, I am also bringing together attending Pacific Speakers during the conference."

The World Conference of Speakers takes place from 31 August to 2 September. The final meeting of the preparatory committee, of which the Speaker is a member, will take place on 30 August.

For further enquiries contact Wendy Hart: + 64 4 817 9153 or [wendy.hart@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:wendy.hart@parliament.govt.nz)

## Notes to Press Gallery:

- The Speaker's provisional programme is provided below and Speaker will be available in the Speaker's Office, Parliament House to answer any questions in person between 4.00pm – 4.30pm on Wednesday 26 August.
- More information can be found at conference website at <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/speakers15.htm>
- Regular updates will be provided @NZParliament on Twitter.

## Provisional Programme

### SUNDAY 30 AUGUST

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- 1.30pm**                      **Briefing with New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations**
- 2.30pm**                      **Proceed to United Nations Headquarters**
- 3.00pm –**  
**6.00pm**                      **Final meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament**

### MONDAY 31 AUGUST

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- 9.30am**                      **Proceed to United Nations Headquarters**
- 10.00am –**  
**10.45am**                      **Opening ceremony in the presence of:**
- Mr. Saber Chowdhury, IPU President
  - Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General
  - Mr. Sam K. Kutesa, President of UN General Assembly
- Keynote address by Mr. Forest Whitaker, artist, humanist and UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation
- 11.00am –**  
**1.00pm**                      **Plenary sitting I**  
Presentation of reports:
- Implementation of major recommendations of previous Speakers' Conferences and the growing parliamentary dimension to international cooperation
- Rapporteur:** Ms. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda

- Mainstreaming gender equality into the work of parliaments

**Co-Rapporteurs:**

Ms. Gabriela Montaña, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Bolivia

Mr. Norbert Lammert, Speaker of the Bundestag, Germany

General debate: *Placing Democracy at the Service of Peace and Sustainable Development: Building the World the People Want*

**2.30pm** **Group photo of Speakers of Parliament**

**3.00pm –** **Plenary sitting II**

**6.00pm**

Presentation of reports:

- Parliamentary involvement in the shaping and implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals

**Rapporteur:** Mr. Saber Chowdhury, President of the IPU

- Challenges facing parliaments today

**Rapporteur:** Mr. David Carter, Speaker of the Parliament of New Zealand

Address by Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Continuation of general debate: *Placing Democracy at the Service of Peace and Sustainable Development: Building the World the People Want*

**6.30pm** **Reception hosted by IPU President, Mr. Saber Chowdhury**

TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

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**8.00am** **Proceed to United Nations Headquarters**

**8.30am –** **UNISDR/IPU Breakfast Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction**

**9.45am**

**10.00am –** **Plenary sitting III**

**1.00pm**

Address by Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women

Continuation of general debate: *Placing Democracy at the Service of Peace and Sustainable Development: Building the World the People Want*

Panel discussion: Parliamentary Oversight: Challenges and Opportunities

**1.15pm –  
3.00pm**                    **Inter-Parliamentary Union working luncheon**

**3.00pm –  
6.00pm**                    **Plenary sitting IV**  
Continuation of general debate: *Placing Democracy at the Service of Peace and Sustainable Development: Building the World the People Want*  
**Speaker Carter's address (1)**

Panel discussion: Translating the SDGs into Action

**4.00pm –  
5.30pm**                    **Meeting of Pacific Speakers and delegations**

**6.30pm**                    **Reception hosted by the United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the United Nations**

WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

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**9.30am**                    **Proceed to United Nations Headquarters**

**10.00am –  
1.00pm**                    **Plenary sitting V**  
Continuation and conclusion of general debate: Placing Democracy at the Service of Peace and Sustainable Development: Building the World the People Want

Presentation of reports from the panel discussions

**1.15pm –  
2.45pm**                    **Lunch and bilateral meetings**

**3.00pm –  
6.00pm**                    **Plenary sitting VI**  
Adoption of the Declaration

Remarks by IPU President and incoming President of UNGA

Mr. Saber Chowdhury and Mr. M. Lykketoft (former Speaker of the Parliament of Denmark), respectively

**Closing of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament**