



Second Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference
26-28 August 2026, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia

Concept Note

I. Background and Context

The global order is increasingly shaped by profound geopolitical transformations, strategic competition, ongoing armed conflicts and wars, economic uncertainty, technological disruption, climate-related challenges, and the erosion of multilateral systems. These evolving global challenges continue to undermine international peace, stability, and cooperation, underscoring the urgent need for renewed collective commitment to international law and multilateralism.

While governments remain central actors in international affairs, the increasingly complex international environment requires broader, more inclusive, and complementary forms of engagement capable of addressing the concerns and aspirations of peoples. In this regard, parliamentary diplomacy has taken a centre stage in galvanizing solidarity among states and stakeholders toward a stable, just, and peaceful world order.

Against this backdrop, the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) holds particular strategic significance. Parliament leaders are uniquely positioned to facilitate dialogue across political and cultural differences, build national consensus, encourage mutual understanding, strengthen cooperation among legislative bodies, and uphold international law. Moreover, Parliaments play a critical role in transforming commitments into practical and sustainable outcomes through their legislative, oversight, and representative functions, as well as through proactive parliamentary diplomacy.

In this sense, the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) has progressively evolved as a platform responding to global transformations through a clear and forward-looking trajectory:

- **ISC in Seoul (April 2025):** *Building Global Unity through Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue* — Establishing Dialogue and Trust;
- **ISC in Islamabad (November 2025):** *Peace, Security, and Development* — Addressing Pressing Global Challenges;
- **ISC in Phnom Penh (August 2026):** *Solidarity for Peace and Shared Prosperity* — Strengthening International Law and Resolving Conflicts Peacefully.

The ISC in Phnom Penh aims to translate dialogue into institutionalized parliamentary action for peace and shared prosperity. It seeks to reinforce collective responses to global fragmentation and instability while promoting greater cooperation, strategic confidence, and policy coordination among parliamentary institutions.

For Cambodia, hosting the ISC would build upon its growing role in promoting inter-parliamentary engagement and dialogue for peace, security, and development. The successful hosting of the meeting of the Political Commission of Assemblée Parliamantaire de la Francophonie (APF) in 2026, AIPA Partnership Building during the 16th AIPA Caucus in 2025 with ASEAN parliamentary dialogue partners, particularly the 11th Plenary Session of the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace (IPTP) in 2024, during which the Universal Peace Charter: For People and the Planet was adopted, reflects Cambodia's commitment to peaceful co-existence, constructive international engagement, multilateralism, and respect for international law.

The Conference will bring together parliamentary leaders from across the regions to discuss and exchange knowledge, experience, and expertise on strengthening the international rule of law as a foundation for achieving sustainable peace, stability, and prosperity. Cambodia's historical experience can offer meaningful lessons through its homegrown peace process and national reconciliation under the Win-Win Policy, which serves as a best-practice example in peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.

The Conference will provide a platform for Speakers of Parliament, parliamentary leaders, representatives of inter-parliamentary and international organizations, scholars, experts, and other relevant stakeholders to share forward-looking strategies and practices on the following questions:

- How can parliaments reinforce multilateralism in the face of growing geopolitical divisions and global uncertainties?
- What coordinated parliamentary approaches can be advanced to address the root causes of conflict and support prevention, mitigation, and good offices?
- What options are available for parliamentary institutions to strengthen their response capacity in upholding the rules-based international order and advancing inclusive, long-term prosperity?
- How can interfaith dialogue bridge human civilizations and strengthen the peaceful co-existence of humanity in the digital era?

II. Goal and Objectives

The ISC in Phnom Penh aims to:

- **Strengthen parliamentary solidarity** through enhanced cooperation and dialogue, emphasizing the role of parliament in conflict prevention and good offices;
- Reinforce commitment to **multilateralism and a rules-based international order** by advancing legislative cooperation on **human security, economic security, and sustainable development**;
- Adopt a forward-looking **Phnom Penh Declaration** outlining shared priorities and pathways for a stable and just world order.

III. Proposed date and venue

The Second Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference is scheduled to take place from 26 to 28 August 2026 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.