



Global **Network** of Peacebuilders

Founded in 2008 by the EastWest Institute and several of the world's renowned peacemakers, the Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention mobilizes members in parliaments across the globe to find pioneering ways to prevent and end conflicts. This year we celebrate the 5th anniversary of this non-partisan network. As it emerges from its vibrant infancy, the network continues to grow and welcomes current and former parliamentarians in regional, national or supranational parliaments.

The **Beginnings**

The Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention (PN) was formally conceived in the declaration *Making Conflict Prevention Real* of December 2007, issued by the EastWest Institute's (EWI) International Task Force on Preventive Diplomacy. This Task Force was established in May 2007 by the EastWest Institute as the flagship of its Conflict Prevention Program. Composed of 24 outstanding experts and practitioners in the field of conflict preven-

tion and resolution, the Task Force's goal consisted of:

- strengthening practical mechanisms to build political will to shorten time between early warning and effective early response to threats of violent conflict;
- advocating for increased capacity building, mainstreaming and institutionalization of conflict prevention;
- fostering coherence of ideas and instruments.

In order to achieve this goal and its objectives as outlined in the Declaration, the Task Force called for "the establishment of an International Panel on Conflict Prevention and Human Security and a Parliamentarian Network for Conflict Prevention and Human Security, as practical advisory and advocacy mechanisms that will focus attention on key policy issues and help shorten the time between early warning and effective early response."



First Five Years

As the Parliamentarians Network celebrates its 5th anniversary in October 2013, we look back to see what has been achieved so far. Parliamentarians are often well-placed to identify key threats to stability and one of the first areas identified was the increased need for cooperation on shared water resources. This led in 2009 to the adoption of the *Amman Declaration on Regional Cooperation on Water* and to a series of dialogues on water cooperation in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Southwest Asia as a region.

In an effort to bring together expert opinions and political will to lead the way in conflict prevention efforts, we convened the Global Conference on Preventive Action in December 2010. Together with our partners we organized a high-level debate over the course of two days, touching upon conceptual conflict prevention measures, as well as diving deep into the concrete examples of efforts undertaken in different regions across the globe. Several recommendations with concrete policy goals came out of this global conference, providing policy makers with hands-on recommendations.





Women, Peace and Security

The Global Conference on Preventive Action in December 2010 also featured a working group on *Strengthening the Role of Women MPs in Stabilizing and Transforming Afghanistan* as part of the work the Network is doing in the area of Women, Peace and Security. This work focuses on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and related declarations which have paved the way for women to be included in peace negotiations and at the table of power in debates

on security issues.

The women parliamentarians from Afghanistan and Pakistan in our Network and their determination to achieve a spot on the table of power are seen as the flagship for this work. As a result of this determination and following their commitment to a standing dialogue between their respective countries, two historic meetings have taken place under our auspices; we convened the first-ever delegation of Afghan women parlia-

mentarians to Islamabad in 2011 and in April 2012 we convened the first ever official delegation of Pakistani women parliamentarians to visit Kabul. Our ongoing efforts to strengthen female parliamentarians and build their capacity to adequately deal with the challenges a country in transition faces has also resulted in a study visit to Brussels in October 2012 for Afghan parliamentarians. Two years of hard work bore fruits in this field as two-thirds of the delegation existed of women.

Showcasing Individual Efforts



The Network also serves as a platform to showcase the individual efforts and success stories of its members and their commitment to preventing conflict and standing up for their people's interests in peace and security. Other members can follow the activities of their counterparts in different countries and regions, and learn about best practices.

Prominent recent examples are PN member Dr. Donya Aziz, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan, who spearheaded the effort to pass a historic landmark bill on the *Prevention of Anti-Women Practices* in the National Assembly of Pakistan; and PN member Mr. Herman De Croo who's been serving in municipal politics for almost 50 years, while also being active on the national level, as member of the Belgian Federal Parliament, uninterrupted since March 1968.

Network Today

The Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention today is proud to be a body made up of current and former members from regional, national and supranational parliaments, all of whom are trailblazers for conflict prevention measures. As membership is open to any parliamentarian fitting these criteria, the Network includes parliamentarians from across the political spectrum, progressive and conservative members, and

spreads geographically from Bulgaria to Timor-Leste and from Nepal to Mozambique. We are always happy to receive applications for membership from across the globe from (former) parliamentarians ready to dedicate their efforts to increasing the effectiveness of conflict prevention from the very local initiatives, to joining global movements. For more information on how to become member, please visit www.pncp.net/join.



Interact

Learn more about the Network and get in touch with us on our new website: www.pncp.net

on Twitter:
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