

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 327

To provide for United States participation in the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 2017

Ms. LEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide for United States participation in the Inter-
Parliamentary Union, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN THE INTER-**

4 **PARLIAMENTARY UNION.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU),
7 founded in 1889, is the world organization of na-
8 tional parliaments comprising 170 parliaments (in-
9 cluding all the major allies of the United States) and

1 working closely with the regional parliamentary or-
2 ganizations on all continents.

3 (2) The core mission of the IPU is the pro-
4 motion of parliamentary democracy, the elaboration
5 of standards and criteria for democratic parliamen-
6 tary practice, the protection of human rights, inter-
7 national peace and security, the political empower-
8 ment of women, sustainable international develop-
9 ment, and greater transparency and accountability
10 at the global level, which are in line with United
11 States interests and priorities.

12 (3) Congress was a founding member of the
13 IPU, and played an active and prominent role for
14 many decades.

15 (4) The main concerns of Congress, including
16 the scheduling of main assembly and arrears, have
17 been fully addressed by the IPU.

18 (5) Through the activities of the IPU, the
19 United States can usefully promote its core values of
20 freedom, democracy, and human rights, and help
21 build stronger parliaments around the world.

22 (b) UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN THE INTER-
23 PARLIAMENTARY UNION.—Notwithstanding section 2503
24 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of

1 1998 (division G of Public Law 105–277; 22 U.S.C. 276
2 note)—

3 (1) the Secretary of State is authorized to—

4 (A) facilitate the readmission and partici-
5 pation of the United States in the Inter-Par-
6 liamentary Union; and

7 (B) pay expenses to meet the annual obli-
8 gations of membership in the Inter-Parliamen-
9 tary Union, in accordance with the assessments
10 determined by the Governing Council; and

11 (2) the majority leader of the Senate, in con-
12 sultation with the minority leader of the Senate, and
13 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in con-
14 sultation with the minority leader of the House of
15 Representatives, are authorized to designate Mem-
16 bers of Congress to serve as delegates to the Assem-
17 bly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

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