



# Dupont Summit 2016

*Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy*

December 2, Historic Whittemore House, Washington, DC

## Expert Table Discussion

This expert round table discussion is intended as a follow up discussion among experts to the regular panel proposed by RCLS (see included please). As a part of the Research Committee of Legislative Specialists (RCLS) of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) initiative to help build a closer relationship between parliamentary scholars and practitioners, RCLS invites experts to discuss approaches to evaluating legislatures around the world and what roles legislatures can play in post authoritarian societies to contribute to the process of democratic transition and consolidation. Developmental community has been assisting parliaments around the world in building their institutional capacity. The assumption has been and remains that a democracy in any country requires a strong parliament. Views differ, however, on the characteristics of a strong parliament since the historical, social and political context of each parliament is unique. It is therefore not surprising that there are no meaningful and universally applicable statistical or similar measurements of parliamentary performance. How can we capture parliamentary development, and how do we know, if a legislature has been making a progress in becoming stronger and more effective in performing its roles in the process of democratic transition and democratic consolidation? What factors do need to be in place to allow a legislature to be effective in fostering democratic changes in a post-authoritarian society?

### *Organizer & Panelist*

*Irina Khmelko, University of Tennessee*

### *Panelists*

*Ömer Faruk Gençkaya, Marmara University, Turkey*

*David E. Guinn, SUNY Center for International Development*

*Robert Nakamura, Rockefeller College*

*Greg Power, Global Partners Governance, UK*

*Ellie Valentine, Implementer, Ukraine, Afghanistan*

*Drago Zajc, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia*