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07 MAR 2023	TUESDAY
HON. JOHN KIARIE, MP	MEMBER OF DELEGATION
INZOFU	SWALE

**REPORT OF THE KENYAN DELEGATION TO THE
144TH ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS OF THE
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)**

20TH – 24TH MARCH 2022

NUSA DUA, INDONESIA

MARCH 2023

1 Report of the Kenya delegation to the 144th Assembly of the IPU

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FOREWORD

Hon. Speaker,

The IPU was founded in 1889 to promote inter-parliamentary dialogue and diplomacy between nations. Since then, the IPU has become a unique global convening power for parliamentary networking, especially through its Assemblies.

The Assembly is the IPU's main political body through which the IPU Member parliaments adopt parliamentary resolutions on global issues. It plays a pivotal role in addressing the issues which threaten peace, democracy and sustainable development, including through its four thematic standing committees

At the Assemblies, MPs from around the world can come together to exchange good practice and build bridges at the parliamentary level.

Hon. Speaker,

The National Assembly has consistently participated in the Assemblies of the IPU. The 144th Assembly was held in Nusa Dua, Indonesia from 20th – 24th March 2022. The Kenya delegation to the Assembly comprised the following Members:

	NAME	ROLE
i.	Rt. Hon. Sen. Kenneth M. Lusaka, EGH, MP	Speaker of the Senate and Leader of the Delegation
ii.	Sen. Susan Kihika, MP	Delegate/immediate former President of IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians
iii.	Hon. Sophia Abdi Noor, MP	President, IPU Standing Committee on UN Affairs
iv.	Hon. Prof. Jacqueline Oduol, MP	President, IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

iii.	Hon. John Waweru Kiarie, MP	Member, IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law
iv.	Mr. Lawrence Amolo	Principal Clerk Assistant/Delegation Secretary (Senate)
v.	Ms. Rose Natecho	Principal Research Officer, Speaker's Office (Senate)
vi.	Ms. Anna Musandu	Senior Clerk Assistant/Delegation Secretary (National Assembly)

Hon. Speaker,

The National Assembly delegation to the Assembly and related meetings played significant roles in their various capacities.

In her capacity as the President of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, **the Hon. Sophia Abdi Noor, MP** chaired the meetings of the Committee and presented its report to the Assembly.

The Hon. Prof. Jacqueline Oduol, MP having served as Vice President, was elected President of the IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism. In this capacity, the Hon. Member chaired meetings of the Committee and presented its report to the Assembly.

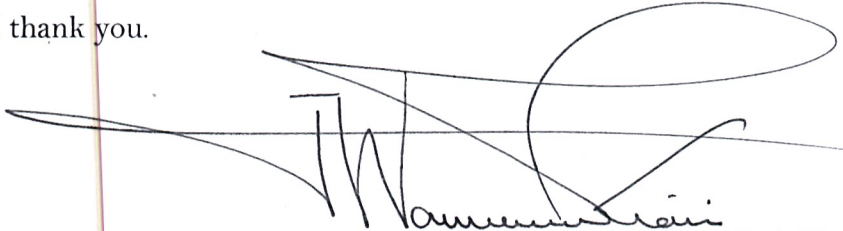
I, in my capacity as a Member of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law chaired meetings of the Committee in the absence of the substantive President and had the honour to present its report to the Assembly.

On behalf of the delegation, may I take this opportunity to thank the Speaker of the National Assembly for conferring the honourable role of representing the National Assembly at the 144th IPU Assembly and related meetings.

Hon. Speaker,

In accordance with Article 7 of the Statutes of the IPU, it is my pleasure and obligation to submit to the House this report, summarizing the proceedings and resolutions of the 144th IPU Assembly and related meetings held from 20th – 24th March 2022 in Nusa Dua, Indonesia.

I thank you.



HON. JOHN WAWERU KIARIE, MP

MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION

7th March 2023

1. BACKGROUND

The IPU is the global organization of national parliaments. It began in 1889 as a small group of parliamentarians, dedicated to promoting peace through parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue and has since grown into a truly global organization with 178 Members and 14 Associate Members.

The IPU facilitates parliamentary diplomacy and empowers parliaments and parliamentarians to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development around the world.

The IPU's **vision** is: *'We want a world where every voice counts, where democracy and parliaments are at the service of the people for peace and development'*.

The IPU **mission** is: *'The IPU is the global organization of national parliaments. We promote democratic governance, institutions and values, working with parliaments and parliamentarians to articulate and respond to the needs and aspirations of the people. We work for peace, democracy, human rights, gender equality, youth empowerment, climate action and sustainable development through political dialogue, cooperation and parliamentary action'*.

The objectives of the IPU are:

- i. Building effective and empowered parliaments;
- ii. Promoting inclusive and representative parliaments;
- iii. Supporting resilient and innovative parliaments;
- iv. Catalysing collective parliamentary action;
- v. Strengthening the IPU's accountability.

The IPU is financed primarily by Members through subscription fees paid out of public funds.

The headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland while there are other offices in New York, United States of America and Vienna, Austria.

2. THE IPU IN THE PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

In the Parliament of Kenya, the IPU is domiciled in the Senate. This essentially designates the Speaker of the Senate as head of the Kenya delegation to the IPU.

3. THE 144TH ASSEMBLY OF THE IPU AND RELATED MEETINGS

The 144th Assembly of the IPU and related meetings took place from 20th – 24th March 2022 at the Bali International Convention Centre in Nusa Dua, Indonesia.

Delegations from 101 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly.

The following four Associate Members also took part in the Assembly: the Arab Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF).

Observers included representatives of: (i) the United Nations and related organizations: United Nations, Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), World Health Organization (WHO), the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

Parliamentary assemblies and associations that participated included: African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), International Parliamentary Network for Education (IPNEd), Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TurkPA), Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC), Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF).

Of the 778 delegates who attended the Assembly, 404 were members of parliament (393 from Member Parliaments and 11 from Associate Member delegations). Those parliamentarians included 30 Presiding Officers, 28 Deputy Presiding Officers, 154 women MPs (38.1%) and 110 young MPs (27.2%).

4. THE AGENDA OF THE 144TH IPU AND RELATED MEETINGS

- i. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 144th Assembly
- ii. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda.
- iii. General Debate on the theme Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change.
- iv. Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace (Standing Committee on Peace and International Security).
- v. Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic (Standing Committee on Sustainable Development).
- vi. Reports of the Standing Committees
- vii. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development for the 146th Assembly and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs.
- viii. Emergency item: Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity

5. INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE 144TH ASSEMBLY

The inaugural ceremony of the 144th Assembly took place on **Sunday, 20th March 2022** at the Bali International Convention Centre. The highlight of the ceremony was the address by *His Excellency Mr. Joko Widodo (President of the Republic of Indonesia)*. He welcomed delegates to Indonesia and noted that the challenges evoked

by the other speakers would only become greater in the years to come. The world had struggled to keep up with the pace of technological change, and the COVID-19 pandemic had shown how a single crisis could disrupt everything. His Excellency the President underscored the fact that people were now facing huge increases in the cost of living due to energy scarcity and disruptions to global logistics. The words of parliaments and governments on climate change had yet to be matched with actions. The transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy seemed a simple solution on the surface but would be a formidable challenge to implement, particularly in developed countries.

His Excellency the President called upon the the international community to mobilize investment in renewable energy without delay. He stated that Indonesia had enormous potential for renewable energy from hydroelectric, wind, tidal and solar power, but needed considerable investment and transfer of technology to harness it. The global community could not hold off the devastation resulting from climate change for much longer.

His Excellency the President called upon IPU Member Parliaments to mobilize and work together now to formulate policies and concrete actions that could be implemented on the ground.

President Joko Widodo declared the 144th IPU Assembly open.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN EMERGENCY ITEM IN THE ASSEMBLY AGENDA.

The President of the Assembly, *Hon. Puan Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia* while introducing the item, said that three requests had been received for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. The first request, submitted by the delegation of Ukraine, was entitled '**Russian and Belarusian aggression against Ukraine**'. The second, submitted by the delegation of Indonesia, was entitled, **The role of parliaments in supporting a peaceful**

resolution to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict’ and the third, submitted by the delegation of New Zealand, was entitled, **‘Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity’**.

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority and the largest number of positive votes cast, the request submitted by the delegation of New Zealand was added to the agenda of the Assembly as item 8.

**PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE, RESPECTING
INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY**

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 144th IPU Assembly (Nusa Dua, 23 March 2022)*

The 144th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling that the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the global organization of national parliaments working for peace, democracy, human rights and development,

Conscious of the historical legacy of the IPU in facilitating peaceful engagement through dialogue and diplomacy and noting the Belgrade Declaration on strengthening international law, parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation, adopted at the 141st IPU Assembly in Serbia, in which the IPU agreed to dedicate itself to international peace and the rule of law,

Recalling that, on 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation launched a full-scale military attack invading the sovereign nation of Ukraine and its people,

Committed to ensuring total adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (1945) and mindful of national commitments to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948),

Reiterating that the Charter of the United Nations prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of states,

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Recognizing the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, as referred to in United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 68/262 of March 2014,

Recalling UNGA resolution 76/234 on promoting international cooperation on peaceful uses in the context of international security, adopted in December 2021,

Recalling also United Nations Security Council resolution 1925 on women, peace and security, adopted in October 2000, which addresses the impact of war on women and the importance of women's full and equal participation in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction,

Welcoming the adoption of UNGA resolution ES-11/L.1 of March 2022 deploring the aggression of the Russian Federation and demanding that it immediately cease the use of force against Ukraine and withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine as defined by its internationally recognized borders,

Recalling that, under Article 5 of the Annex to UNGA resolution 3314 (XXIX) of December 1974 on the definition of aggression, no consideration of whatever nature, whether political, economic, military or otherwise, may serve as a justification for aggression and that a war of aggression is a crime against international peace,

Recalling also that, since 24 February 2022, the ongoing war in Ukraine has caused immense human suffering, with thousands of civilians killed, many more wounded and millions displaced, in particular women, children, the elderly and the disabled,

Gravely concerned at the threat to global peace and security posed by the Russian Federation's decision to order its nuclear forces onto a special regime of operation and a "high alert" level of readiness, and noting the urgency for the Russian Federation to withdraw this threat and refrain from making such threats,

Noting that the Russian Federation has committed an act of aggression that may constitute a violation of a fundamental rule of international law,

Reaffirming that any hostilities amounting to an armed conflict are strictly governed by the rules of international humanitarian law and human rights law,

Acknowledging with deepest appreciation the incredible bravery, commitment and resolve of the people of Ukraine in the face of such adversity, including the unwavering commitment of fellow parliamentarians in the Verkhovna Rada to uphold democracy despite the significant personal risks they have faced,

Recalling the Statement on Ukraine issued by the Executive Committee of the IPU on 26 February 2022 and presented to the Governing Council on 21 March 2022, and reaffirming the IPU's willingness to impartially mediate for a peaceful resolution and to listen to all parties in the hostilities,

1. *Notes* with concern the war in Ukraine, which threatens the long-standing peace and security of the European region, and its wider repercussions for global security and potentially global economic uncertainties and global complexities;
2. *Condemns* the ongoing Russian use of force against Ukraine as a violation of Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations, including the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity recognized by all UN Member States;
3. *Deplores* the use of missiles and artillery by the Russian Federation targeting civilian objects and populations in violation of international humanitarian law;
4. *Expresses* concern regarding the attacks against medical units and personnel, and improper use of military emblems, insignia and uniforms of the adversary by the Russian Federation, in violation of international humanitarian law; and appeals to all IPU Members to engage immediately to join UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO in calling for an immediate cessation of all attacks on healthcare units in Ukraine and facilitating the safe passage of humanitarian support and aid to Ukraine;
5. *Calls* for full compliance with the rules of international humanitarian law;
6. *Urges* countries to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine to alleviate the hardships now faced by its civilian population caused by this war;
7. *Calls* upon all nations able to assist to open their borders on a humanitarian basis to provide sanctuary and support for refugees fleeing Ukraine;
8. *Encourages* parliaments to deploy their utmost efforts in accordance with their respective duties, mandates and obligations to call on their respective national

- governments to bring this act of aggression to an end and enable the parties to resolve their differences through peaceful and sustainable means;
9. *Encourages* all IPU Member Parliaments to jointly support all peaceful efforts to de-escalate the current violent military attack on the people, towns and cities of Ukraine;
 10. *Calls upon* the parties involved to establish humanitarian corridors, ensure the safe passage of all civilians, particularly women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, and respect the human rights of refugees in line with UN conventions;
 11. *Calls upon* IPU Member Parliaments to do their utmost to facilitate humanitarian assistance to and support for those fleeing this war; and to ensure full and equal participation of women in the peace dialogues between parliamentarians of both countries;
 12. *Appeals* to Members of Parliament in both the Russian Federation and Ukraine to promote initiatives to cease hostilities and resolve differences through peaceful, diplomatic means;
 13. *Calls upon* all governments with influence over both countries to accelerate diplomatic efforts to agree an immediate ceasefire resulting in the Russian Federation withdrawing its forces from Ukraine;
 14. *Calls upon* the IPU to use its good offices to encourage dialogue between parliamentarians in both countries in support of diplomatic efforts under the framework of a rules-based international order respecting the principles of sovereignty and complete avoidance of interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation, and recommends that the IPU establish a Task Force on the situation in Ukraine to facilitate the role of parliaments in formulating feasible peaceful solutions.

After the adoption of the Resolution, a number of delegations took the floor to express their reservations:

- **Bahrain, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe** expressed reservations to operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 4, as well as to operative paragraphs 8 (UAE and Zimbabwe) and 9 (Zimbabwe)
 - **China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam** expressed a reservation to the entire text of the Resolution.
- Belarus and South Africa** expressed their opposition to the Resolution.

**7. GENERAL DEBATE ON THE THEME GETTING TO ZERO:
*MOBILIZING PARLIAMENTS TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE.***

During the three days of deliberations, 114 legislators from 87 Member Parliaments, including 22 Presiding Officers and 15 young parliamentarians, as well as representatives of two Associate Members and three permanent observers, contributed to the General Debate.

Ms. P. Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, opened the General Debate on 21 March, noting that the world was facing a multitude of crises: the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic driven by mutations of the virus, a rapid escalation of geopolitical tensions, precipitous increases in the cost of essential items, and the continued failure to address global warming. The world needed to come together, build trust in one another, strengthen global solidarity and bolster partnerships to address those crises.

Mr. D. Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, observed that the climate change was worsening with every passing minute and would continue to intensify unless parliaments enacted major changes to economies, energy use practices and food systems. Human activity was a major driver of climate change, which impacted not only the planet and biodiversity, but the livelihoods of all human populations. Women and girls, and marginalized and underrepresented members of society were disproportionately affected. Climate-related displacement and migration were on the rise in many parts of the world.

In a video message, *Mr. Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary-General of the United Nations and co-Chair of the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens*, observed that the IPU's 144th Assembly was being held in trying times, with the world facing the dual struggle of the climate emergency and the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving progress on the Sustainable Development Goals well behind expectations. Parliaments could play a cardinal role in mobilizing cross-cutting climate action,

through support for both international diplomacy and grassroots local implementation.

In a video message presenting the findings of the latest IPCC report, ***Mr. A. Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations***, observed that the report was an unprecedented indictment of failed climate leadership. Half of humanity was in immediate danger and ecosystems had reached the point of no return. Emissions targets were not being met and fossil fuels continued to choke humanity. Countries needed to come together to accelerate the energy transition and end their reliance on fossil fuels.

In a video message recorded at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021, ***Mr. S. Penitala Teo, Speaker of the Parliament of Tuvalu***, said that the majority of his country was only a few feet above sea level and was already feeling the effect of sea level rise and changing weather patterns. Salt water was entering water courses and affecting the country's staple crops. The answer to the crisis was in the hands of rich nations. Tuvalu was barely contributing to global emissions but was paying a huge price, with many of its people now expecting to have to leave the country in the coming years. Investment from developed countries was needed to build up the defences of Tuvalu and many other island nations.

Ms. M. Wijisen, Indonesian youth activist, leader of the Youthtopia movement and founder of Bye Bye Plastic Bags, said that climate change was real and was happening now, with no place on Earth not already affected. Young people knew very well that action was needed. She had begun her own successful campaign against plastic pollution at the age of 12 and now, at the age of 21, she was seeing a new generation of activists campaigning on issues such as the protection of biodiversity, promoting indigenous voices, stopping deforestation, objecting to new nuclear power facilities and supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ms. H. Ramzy Fayez (Bahrain), first Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians speaking on behalf of Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine), President

of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, observed that the theme of the general debate was of great importance to women and girls everywhere. The most immediate impact of climate change would be felt by already vulnerable and marginalized populations. Proactive measures to increase women's participation in parliaments would advance climate action as there was a strong positive correlation between the percentage of women in parliament and increased prioritization of climate change policy.

Ms. S. Albazar (Egypt), President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, observed that, as the key issue of our time, climate change was at the forefront of the minds of young people. Degradation of the environment had begun well before most of the youth of today had been born, yet it was youth who would suffer the effects and have to repair the damage. Youth must have a say in climate action, in particular to draw on their talents and fresh ideas.

Following the conclusion of the debate **the NUSA DUA DECLARATION on *Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change*** was adopted as follows:

Nusa Dua Declaration

Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change

Endorsed by the 144th IPU Assembly (Nusa Dua, 24 March 2022)

We, Members of Parliament, gathered together at the 144th IPU Assembly in Nusa Dua, Indonesia, recognize the urgent need to address the climate crisis. Climate change poses an existential threat to humankind and immediate action must be taken to minimize its worst impacts.

Our current economic structures, energy use practices and food systems are causing devastating consequences in all regions of the world, including hotter temperatures, an increase in extreme weather events, sea level rise and the loss of biodiversity. Flooding and cyclones have caused large-scale population displacement in South Asia. Recurrent droughts in East and Southern Africa have repeatedly destroyed crops and caused widespread food insecurity. Rising sea levels are reducing the land mass of small, low-lying nations across the Pacific.

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The recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) show that the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, or even 2 degrees Celsius, will be unreachable unless there are immediate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions,¹ and that irreversible damage from climate change is already occurring.² The burning of fossil fuels, increased livestock farming and deforestation are all major causes of rising emissions. Implementation of the Paris Agreement,³ the landmark legally binding international climate change treaty, is critical for ensuring that countries make rapid and deep cuts in their emissions so that we reach a climate neutral world by 2050.

As parliamentarians, we must ensure that the climate commitments outlined in the Paris Agreement and other international agreements, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, are met. As representatives of the people, we must ensure that the needs of our populations, particularly those on the front lines of climate change, are addressed. We acknowledge that there are costs to addressing climate change, but the costs of inaction are far greater.

The science is clear and instructive: to keep the 1.5 degrees target within reach, we must achieve net zero emissions by producing less carbon than the amount we take out of the atmosphere by the second half of this century. We must demonstrate strong political leadership in setting the framework required for net zero emissions. Inadequate climate finance remains a major obstacle to effective climate action, particularly for developing countries. Developed countries should urgently fulfil their promises to address this funding gap, namely the US\$ 100 billion pledge for climate finance by 2020 that is generally understood to have been missed. Ample, sustainable and predictable climate finance, particularly for adaptation, needs to be provided to developing countries in light of the findings outlined in the recently released IPCC Working Group 2 report.⁴ It is essential that funding for mitigation is matched by equal resources for adaptation. The scaling-up of adaptation investments should prioritize least developed countries, small island developing states, and other high-risk countries, including those that are landlocked, mountainous or low-lying. Developing countries often have very low greenhouse gas emissions yet pay a higher price for climate change. Developed countries have the imperative responsibility not only to reduce their own emissions but also to ensure that sufficient resources and technologies to combat climate change are made available to developing countries with low emissions.

We therefore pledge to use all powers at our disposal to ensure that there are effective laws and appropriate budgets to bolster climate action, including supporting the transition to clean energy and strengthening adaptation. We must also scrutinize our governments' response to the climate crisis and hold them accountable over their actions to implement international and national climate change agreements and policies.

As representatives of the people, we commit to meeting the needs of our constituents, particularly those most at risk, resulting from climate change impacts. We recognize the need to hold open, constructive dialogues with our constituents to discuss emerging climate issues.

We must also engage the public, including youth and the civil society groups that represent them, in formal parliamentary processes including hearings and examination of new climate legislation.

Strengthening national-level action to meet global commitments

Parliaments have a responsibility to ensure that robust and ambitious national laws on climate change are put in place that are directly aligned with the Paris Agreement, including its Nationally Determined Contributions, the Sustainable Development Goals, and national climate and development policies and strategies. Progress on climate action and sustainable development is interdependent. We therefore pledge to adopt and implement laws that are mutually reinforcing in those respects. Countries around the globe have expressed the importance of stronger climate action, yet the recent 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) reaffirmed that the current level of ambition is insufficient, and that not enough is being done on implementation in order to translate commitments into action. From now on, we must adopt national laws and policies designed to close the gap between ambition and implementation. To increase ambition, we commit to enshrining a net zero emissions target in law and to implementing a legal framework on emissions. National legislative and policy frameworks on climate change must include clear, time-bound targets to facilitate oversight and accountability.

Accelerating a clean energy transition for a green COVID-19 recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic has had far-reaching health, social and economic consequences. Despite these challenges, the pandemic recovery period presents an opportunity to introduce fundamental changes to our current unsustainable energy systems. Such changes are desperately needed if we want to contain rising temperatures before it is too late. We must accelerate the clean energy transition to mitigate climate change. This requires a major reallocation of resources from highly polluting energy sources, such as fossil fuels, to renewable energy. The laws we introduce as parliamentarians must incentivize green investment and prioritize budget allocations for low-carbon activities, including as part of COVID-19 recovery packages. We must raise awareness of the economic benefits of a clean energy transition and its potential to create millions of new jobs. We should phase out fossil fuel subsidies and increase the cost of emission allowances. The current energy crisis, in which we are witnessing the soaring prices of fossil fuels, makes the case for transitioning to renewable energy even more urgent. As part of the process, we may wish to explore the use of nuclear energy as a clean source of energy. We must match our efforts to scale up renewable energy investments with an equal commitment to increase universal access to affordable and clean energy, with particular attention being paid to access for the poorest groups in society. The energy transition should be just and inclusive and not have disproportionate impacts on developing countries, nor on marginalized or underrepresented groups. We must consider the potential economic implications of a clean energy transition for the most vulnerable and support the creation of alternative employment opportunities for people who have been employed in the fossil fuel industry. A green economy also needs to be a fair economy.

Towards inclusive climate action

Climate change does not affect everyone equally. Marginalized and underrepresented members of society, including women, youth, indigenous people, minorities and people with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by climate change as a result of unequal access to socio-economic and political rights. The climate crisis is exacerbating existing inequalities. Climate change can reinforce harmful gender norms and power dynamics that adversely impact women and girls, thereby heightening their risk of food insecurity and gender-based violence.

We must respond to the needs of the most at-risk members of the population through positive climate action. We therefore pledge to approach the legal framework on climate action through a socially inclusive, pro-poor and gender-responsive lens so that it may be truly comprehensive, effective and sustainable. Research indicates that greater representation of women in national parliaments leads countries to adopt more stringent climate change policies.⁵ However, there is currently a lack of women in national and global policy spaces. We are committed to increasing women's political participation in the interests of both gender equality and inclusive climate action.

We should also adopt inclusive climate solutions that simultaneously reduce the exposure of marginalized and underrepresented groups to climate change, while also empowering them to become climate leaders themselves. In many parts of the world, youth are already leading the climate movement and we must strengthen intergenerational dialogue to ensure that the justifiable demands of youth for a healthy planet are met.

The climate crisis is affecting human rights. Climate change is forcing people to uproot their lives and move, particularly those living in resource-scarce conflict situations. As such, concerns over climate displacement and climate migration are growing. As of 2020, there were an estimated seven million internally displaced people due to disasters, including those caused by climate change, most notably in Asia and the Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Americas.⁶ The rights of persons displaced due to climate change must be respected. In October 2021, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a landmark resolution that recognizes for the first time that having a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right.⁷ Additionally, young people and future generations have the same right to a healthy planet as generations before them, and yet this right is being grossly violated. To promote environmental and intergenerational justice, we pledge to take account of these issues, reflect them in our national laws and guarantee accountability when such rights are violated.

Promoting greener parliaments

To further encourage sustainability, we must work to reduce our own carbon footprints at an institutional level. We must lead by example and reduce the emissions of our own parliaments, including through changes to energy usage and procurement practices, by building sustainability, and the optimized use of digital tools and technology. By greening our

operations and practices as institutions, we will further demonstrate our commitment to climate action. To further boost climate awareness, parliaments can implement climate training for parliamentarians and staff, and hold regular knowledge exchanges with experts on climate change.

Enhancing regional and global cooperation for joint climate solutions

Climate change knows no boundaries and its impacts do not respect national borders. International cooperation is therefore crucial, particularly for addressing transboundary climate risks. In view of the importance of strong regional and global inter-parliamentary cooperation, we will continue to discuss shared challenges, foster innovation and build partnerships for jointly tackling the climate crisis.

National, regional and global peace and security are paramount for effectively addressing climate change. Conflict and war have profound negative environmental consequences and divert vital resources from climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Recent geopolitical developments have also heightened the risk of nuclear incidents, by design or miscalculation, with potential catastrophic impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity. Therefore, as noted in our own Resolution⁸ adopted in Geneva in 2014, we must make the abolition of nuclear weapons a priority.

We recognize the value of convening parliamentary meetings at the annual United Nations Climate Change Conferences to amplify the parliamentary voice in global climate change negotiations. These meetings provide a key opportunity to reflect on progress made in implementing the Paris Agreement and to identify ways to further scale up parliamentary action for the climate. In the lead up to the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) that will be hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt in November 2022, we reiterate the importance of delivering on the outcomes of COP26 and call upon parties to expedite implementation of their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and to further revise and update their NDCs, as well as to work towards the setting of a post-2025 climate finance goal.

To further accelerate climate action, we will also strive to strengthen partnerships with key international organizations and forums working on climate change, including the Climate Vulnerable Forum, the Global Center on Adaptation, the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Environment Programme.

We also recognize the importance of convening parliaments regionally and sub-regionally to exchange insights on context-specific challenges and good parliamentary practices on climate change. In line with the IPU 2022-2026 Strategy,⁹ which prioritizes climate action, we urge the IPU to continue bringing parliaments together to advance climate knowledge and build parliamentary capacity to legislate and oversee their governments' response to climate change. Parliaments should maximize their participation in the IPU's work by being accountable to one another and by striving to minimize their carbon footprint through

increased use of virtual technology for parliamentary exchanges. We also encourage the IPU to develop a robust climate policy for its own activities.

Parliaments also need to build a stronger relationship with the private sector, including with transnational corporations. It is essential to assess the responsibility of the private sector for the negative environmental impacts resulting from corporations' global practices. We must also support further innovation by the private sector to find novel solutions to mitigate global warming and reduce emissions, including through new technologies. As Members of Parliament, we strongly and solemnly agree that it is only through international cooperation on climate change that we can address increasing risks, build solidarity and find lasting concrete solutions and possibilities for a more sustainable world for future generations.

8. 209TH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

8.1 Election of the President of the 144th Assembly

At its first sitting on 21 March, the Governing Council proposed that Ms. P. Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, be elected President of the 144th IPU Assembly.

The Governing Council observed a minute's silence in memory of **the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Mr. Jacob L. Oulanyah**, who had passed away the previous day.

8.2 Report of the IPU President

The Governing Council took note of the report of the activities of the President of the IPU covering bilateral meetings during the 143rd Assembly in Madrid, visits to various countries to strengthen relations with Members, press conferences to increase the IPU's visibility, initiatives to promote universal membership of the IPU, and a visit to Ukraine followed by a statement on the crisis in Ukraine condemning the invasion of the country, expressing the IPU's solidarity with the people of Ukraine, and offering the IPU's support to resolve the crisis.

8.3 IPU Impact Report

The Governing Council took note of the report of the Secretary General on the activities and results of the Organization over the period covered by the previous strategy, for 2017-2021. Despite setbacks for democracy in many countries, the IPU had remained steadfast in its mission to build strong, democratic parliaments. The report covered achievements in the area of standard setting and building stronger institutions, promoting gender equality and defending human rights, supporting youth empowerment, contributing to peace building and security, achieving the SDGs, and facilitating parliamentary diplomacy and engagement with the United Nations.

8.4 2022-2026 Communications Strategy

The Governing Council approved the IPU Communications Strategy 2022-2026, which was designed to boost communications efforts to help the IPU achieve the Organization's strategic objectives in the next five years.

8.5 Amendment to the Rules of the Committee on Middle East Questions

Following a recommendation by the Executive Committee, the Governing Council adopted an amendment to the Rules of the Committee on Middle East Questions. The amendment was intended to reflect the established practice of that Committee with regard to the gender balance of its composition.

8.6 Future inter-parliamentary meetings

The Governing Council approved the list of future meetings and other activities to be funded by the IPU's regular budget and by external sources.

8.7 Financial results for 2021

The Governing Council considered the Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2021. The Financial Statements had been prepared in full compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and the accounts of the IPU and the closed Pension Fund were consolidated into a single set of financial statements.

8.8 Questions relating to Membership of the IPU and observer status

The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to suspend admission of new observers until such time as it had more complete details from the candidate observers, including the Collective Security Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (CSTO-PA), the League of Parliamentarians for Al Quds, and the Muslim World League (MWL).

8.9 Reports of committees and other bodies

The Governing Council approved the recommendations contained in the reports on the activities of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, the Committee on Middle East Questions, the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, the Gender Partnership Group, the Advisory Group on Health, the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) and the Working Group on Science and Technology. The Council endorsed the new appointments to those bodies.

9. REPORTS ON THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND OTHER STATUTORY BODIES

9.1 Standing Committee on Peace and Security

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held three sittings from 21 to 23 March, with its President, Mr. M. Al-Ahbabi (Qatar) in the chair. The

Committee was entrusted with the task of debating the draft resolution on the theme Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace. The draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory note had been prepared by the two co-Rapporteurs Ms. D. Gomashie (Ghana) and Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden).

Following the introductory remarks by Mr. S. Chowdhury, IPU Honorary President, and the presentation of the draft resolution by the two co-Rapporteurs, 28 speakers took the floor to express their thoughts on the subject matter. During the drafting process, the Committee considered 83 amendments tabled by 16 Member Parliaments and the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. Just over half of the proposed amendments and sub-amendments were taken on board.

At its sitting on 23 March, the Committee adopted the consolidated draft resolution by consensus. It was agreed that Ms. Gomashie would present the draft resolution to the Assembly in the afternoon of 24 March. The Indian delegation expressed its reservations on preambular paragraphs 5 and 13 and on operative paragraph 17 which all relate to the linkage between climate change and conflict.

The Bureau of the Standing Committee met on 22 March. Bureau members had the opportunity to have an exchange with Ms. P. Patten, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict on potential joint activities. The subject item to be studied during the next one-year cycle was also discussed. The proposed topic with the title Cyberattacks and cybercrimes: The new risks to global security put forward by the delegation of Spain was approved by the Committee at its sitting on 23 March. The Committee also approved the Bureau's proposal to hold a virtual meeting in May or June 2022 to discuss further its work plan for the next Assembly to be held in Rwanda and endorsed the nomination of Mr. J. Cepeda (Spain) and Ms. S. Falaknaz (United Arab Emirates) as the co-Rapporteurs for the next resolution.

The Committee elected to the Bureau Ms. L. Crexell (Argentina) to represent GRULAC and took note of the replacement of Mr. A. Kharchi (Algeria) by Mr. M.A. Bouchouit (Algeria) as announced by the African Group.

9.2 Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development held its sittings on 21 and 23 March with its President, Ms. A. Mulder (Netherlands), in the chair. The Committee was entrusted with the task of debating the draft resolution on the theme Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic. The draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory note had been prepared by the two co-Rapporteurs Ms. H. Järvinen (Finland) and Mr. S. Patra (India).

The presentation of the draft resolution was followed by a debate in plenary. The Committee considered 64 amendments submitted by 13 Member Parliaments and the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. The consolidated draft resolution was adopted by acclamation. The Committee agreed that Ms. Mulder would present the draft resolution to the Assembly. The resolution was adopted by acclamation at the plenary sitting of the Assembly in the afternoon of 24 March.

At its sitting on 23 March and upon the proposal of its Bureau, the Standing Committee adopted its next subject item entitled Parliamentary efforts in achieving negative carbon balances of forests. The Committee approved the nomination of Mr. C. Hoffmann (Germany) and Ms. H. Vijakumar Gavit (India) as co-Rapporteurs.

The Committee also approved a work plan for the next Assembly to be held in Rwanda. The work plan includes: a debate on the theme of the next resolution, a panel debate on the theme Reconnecting local communities with a local sustainable inclusive economy to achieve the targets of SDG 8, as well as a segment to discuss preparations for the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt.

The Committee elected to the Bureau Mr. R. Lozano (Uruguay) to represent GRULAC.

9.3 Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

The Committee held sittings on 22 and 23 March with its President, Mr. A. Gajadien (Suriname) in the chair.

At its sitting on 22 March, the Committee held a preparatory debate on the theme of its next resolution, namely Parliamentary impetus to local and regional development of countries with high levels of international migration and to stopping all forms, including state-sponsored, of human trafficking and human rights abuses. The sitting began with introductory remarks by Mr. F. Zon (Indonesia), co-Rapporteur; Mr. U. Lechte (Germany) representing the co-Rapporteur Mr. J. Wadephul (Germany); Ms. P. Patten, United Nations Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict; and Mr. S. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), IPU Honorary President.

At its second sitting, the Committee held a debate on the theme The role of parliaments in reconciling health measures during a pandemic with the preservation of civil liberties. The debate was introduced by Senator Ms. G. Jourda (France), along with Mr. Y. Leterme, former Prime Minister of Belgium and Chair of the Global Commission on Democracy and Emergencies, and Mr. L. Gostin, Professor of Global Health Law at Georgetown University. For further information about the two debates.

The Bureau of the Standing Committee met on 21 March and discussed how the Committee could contribute to the implementation of the overall IPU 2022-2026 Strategy. The Bureau resolved to develop a strategic plan for the Committee for that period and to hold a virtual meeting in May 2022 to move forward on the preparation of this strategic plan.

9.4 Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs met on 23 March with its President, **Ms. S.A. Noor (Kenya)** chairing the meeting. The session consisted of two panel discussions with high-level UN officials. The first panel focused on the UN country team and its work in supporting Indonesian development.

Mr. J. Kazi, UN Women Indonesia Representative and Liaison to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and Ms. T. Boonto, UNAIDS Indonesia Country Director, shared an overview of their activities in Indonesia. They stressed the hard living conditions for poor and marginalized people in Indonesia. Specific problems involved the lack of participation of women in public life, violence against women, the difficult situation of HIV/AIDS infected persons and, in general, the lack of women's empowerment. Mr. H. Ali Mufthi (Indonesia) presented his Parliament's interaction with the United Nations which was focused on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Parliamentarians and panellists emphasized the need for more interaction between the representatives of the United Nations and parliamentarians in each country.

The second panel focused on the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The 2022 HLPF's main theme centred on building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In his presentation, Mr. C. Chauvel, Global Lead and Asia-Pacific Focal Point, Inclusive Processes and Institutions, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), outlined the set-back in SDG implementation due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine. Ms. P. Torsney (Head of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the UN in New York) presented the IPU's survey on parliamentary engagement. Ms. C.I. López Castro (Mexico) shared her experience with Mexico's 2021 voluntary national review (VNR). All panellists underlined the importance of parliamentary participation in the VNRs.

Some delegates deplored the impact of the pandemic which had widened the gap between the developed world and the global south. Others stressed the role of parliaments both in building back after the pandemic as well as in implementing the SDGs and shared their respective national measures in SDGs implementation. Several delegates shared their parliament's experience in drafting the SDGs implementation strategy and the VNRs.

9.5 The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law met on 23 March 2022. The meeting was opened by Ms. A. Vadai, the outgoing President. The Committee was unable to elect a new President as quorum was not met at any point during the meeting. Participants in the session included members from Australia, Bahrain, Democratic Republic of Congo, Hungary, Iraq, **Kenya (Hon. John Waweru Kiarie, MP)** and Republic of Moldova. Representatives from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) attended as observers.

The Committee heard a brief update on the situation of refugees from Ukraine. As at 21 March, 3,557,245 refugees had fled Ukraine since 24 February 2022. More than 2 million had fled to Poland, more than 500,000 to Romania, more than 350,000 to the Republic of Moldova, more than 300,000 to Hungary, more than 250,000 to Slovakia and around the same to the Russian Federation, and more than 4,000 to Belarus.

The Committee heard a briefing on recent developments in combatting statelessness. It noted that several countries had revised their legal frameworks to remove discrimination in nationality laws. Several others had acceded to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. The UNHCR #IBelong campaign to end Statelessness by 2024 was entering its last phase. It was time to step up action. UNHCR had decided to place particular emphasis on the links between statelessness and development. UNHCR welcomed the cooperation of the IPU and encouraged members of parliament to follow up on pledges made by their respective governments at the High-Level

Segment on Statelessness to support progress in this area. UNHCR was also working on building a Global Alliance to End Statelessness. Committee members expressed their wish to see parliaments and the IPU be part of this Alliance.

The Committee held a very interesting exchange with the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Pramila Patten. In 2021, the IPU had signed a cooperation agreement with the Office of the Special Representative. The Special Representative presented her mandate and work to the Committee and outlined areas of possible cooperation. The question of building legal frameworks to prevent and address sexual violence in conflict was at the heart of the exchanges, as was the role of parliaments in terms of implementation. The Committee also drew attention to the question of accountability and prosecution of non-state actors, as well as violence against children, and against men and boys. The Committee agreed to engage with the Office of the Special Representative and develop a joint work programme.

9.6 The High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG)

The High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) held a meeting on 21 March 2022, with 11 members in attendance. **Members elected a new Chair, Hon. Prof. Jacqueline Oduol (Kenya)**, and a new Vice-Chair, Mr. A. Dicter (Israel). The HLAG was informed of the launch of the IPU's new information and communication technology tools: a mobile application and an interactive map. The mobile application was designed to facilitate interconnectivity among parliamentarians and between the IPU and national parliaments, and to provide a tool for outreach and visibility, including details of upcoming events, documents, news, articles and more. The interactive map was a unique tool that gave users access to all global legislation on counterterrorism. It drew on a restricted access database to facilitate immediate connection between the IPU and national parliaments, specifically their specialized committees on countering terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism. The map was compatible with multiple devices, including mobile

phones and tablets, and ensured secure access to content based on individual user privileges.

The HLAG also discussed the Action Plan derived from the Call of the Sahel declaration adopted at the First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism. The declaration had brought together a parliamentary bloc that shared a strong commitment and real solidarity with the people of the Sahel. The bloc was aiming to achieve concrete results by supporting Sahel countries through a holistic approach. The HLAG agreed it would be necessary to reassess international cooperation and evaluate why, instead of improving, the regional situation was worsening and becoming a substantial danger to global peace and security.

The HLAG heard a briefing by guest speaker Ms. P. Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG/SVC). She explained that one of the most significant current threats to peace, security and stability was the expanding reach and impact of terrorism and violent extremism. Extremism and terrorism impacted men and women in different ways, and sexual violence was increasingly being used as a tool of terror. In 2016, the UN Security Council had called for “decisive and immediate action to prevent, criminalize, investigate, prosecute and ensure accountability” for perpetrators. However, there were still many gaps in legislation and terrorists were rarely prosecuted for these crimes. She suggested that the HLAG could play a critical role in promoting the review of national legislation aimed at preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism, and ensuring compliance with that legislation. Gender mainstreaming would also be an important step to promoting more equal societies, in which gender violence was less common.

10. 287TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee held its 287th session across three sittings that took place in person with some participants attending online, the first in Dubai on 26 February, and the second and third in Nusa Dua on 18 and 19 March 2022.

The President of the IPU presented a report on his activities, notably his mission to Ukraine and his subsequent declaration condemning the invasion of the country by the Russian Federation. He informed the Executive Committee that, while he had also offered to travel to Moscow in the wake of his mission to Kyiv, he had been advised that the Russian Parliament considered the situation in Ukraine to be an internal matter for the Ukrainians to resolve and was unwilling to engage in discussions on the topic.

10.1 IPU Anthem

The Executive Committee endorsed the proposal by the President for the IPU to institute an anthem, which could be played at the start of the Organization's events in a bid to enhance its identity. Members agreed that an open competition should be launched to identify an original composition for that purpose, which insofar as possible should represent the diverse musical traditions of all the IPU's geopolitical groups.

11. FORUM AND BUREAU OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

The 33rd session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 20 March. It brought together 129 participants, including 64 parliamentarians (55 women and 9 men) from 60 countries and representatives from various international organizations.

The First Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. H. Ramzy Fayezi (Bahrain), opened the session on behalf of the Bureau President, Ms. L. Vasylenko, who was prevented from attending by the ongoing war in her country, Ukraine. The Forum proceeded to elect Ms. I.Y. Roba Putri (Indonesia) to the Presidency of its 33rd session. The President of the IPU, Mr. D. Pacheco, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia, Ms. P. Maharani, made opening remarks.

As a contribution to the Assembly, the participants considered, from a gender perspective, the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security entitled Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace and the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development entitled Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic. The discussion opened with a presentation by Ms. P. Patten, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The debate was conducted in two breakout groups, each of which discussed one of the draft resolutions. Ms. D. Gomashie (Ghana) and Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden), co-Rapporteurs on the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, addressed Group 1. The Forum subsequently proposed amendments to the draft resolutions of the two Standing Committees and expressed support for amendments proposed by national delegations. Most of the proposed amendments were included in the relevant draft resolution.

The Forum held a panel discussion on parliamentary experiences in promoting women's, children's and adolescents' health in time of the COVID-19 pandemic and pandemic recovery. The participants called for women and girls to be involved in the design and delivery of health services and to be empowered to claim their right to health. They shared strategies and good practices for a post-COVID recovery that prioritized sexual and reproductive health and rights and improved access to health services for all.

12. FORUM AND BOARD OF THE FORUM OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE IPU

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians held its sitting on 21 March. It was presided over by its President, Ms. S. Albazar (Egypt). The meeting brought together 58 parliamentarians (25 young women and 33 young men) from 40 countries, as well as representatives from various international organizations.

The IPU President and Secretary General made opening remarks. Reviewing the theme of the Assembly's General Debate, the young parliamentarians agreed that climate change was a defining and existential priority. As they would be the most impacted by this crisis, they demanded being fully included in relevant political decisions. They emphasized the importance of international cooperation to facilitate the transfer of technologies and resources among countries to strengthen the transition to clean energies. The resolve of young parliamentarians on that issue was further supported by the decision to dedicate the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians to take place in Egypt in May 2022 to climate action. The Conference was to be part of a process of youth inclusion ahead of COP27 to take place also in Egypt, in November 2022.

Contributing youth perspectives to the IPU resolutions on Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace and Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic, the young MPs drew attention to the importance of youth engagement in peace processes and called for conflict resolution, including the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. They also highlighted north-south cooperation to transfer technologies to better enable access to education for young people.

The young MPs exchanged country-level information on progress in youth participation through new measures such as the creation of youth caucuses, empowerment trainings for young MPs, advocacy for youth quotas, as well as successes in lowering of ages of eligibility to run for office. Activities to empower young MPs had started at the IPU and would be furthered, including through a series of online briefings and trainings.

They held a questions and answers session on youth quotas. The current state of quotas was reviewed, and good practices for effective youth quotas were highlighted.

The Forum appointed its President, Ms. S. Albazar (Egypt), to prepare a youth overview report on the resolution to be considered at the 145th Assembly.

13. CONCLUDING SITTING OF THE ASSEMBLY

At the concluding sitting on 24 March, **Mr. P.F. Casini (Italy) and Ms. C. Castro (Mexico)** introduced the Nusa Dua Declaration on Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change. The Declaration encouraged parliaments to lead the way with innovative solutions and to focus particular attention on countries on the front line of the effects of climate change. Parliaments should continue to share best practices and lessons learned from their responses to the climate crisis. That response should also take due account of the needs of marginalized and underrepresented communities and be guided by the Sustainable Development Goals and scientific consensus. Climate change affected all generations, but its consequences would be most felt by young people. Parliaments urgently needed to redirect budgets to addressing the crisis and deploy every effort to protect their citizens from its consequences. *The Assembly unanimously endorsed the Nusa Dua Declaration.*

Ms. E. Nyirasafari, Vice-President of the Senate of Rwanda, warmly invited all IPU Members to attend the 145th IPU Assembly, which would be taking place in October 2022 in Kigali. A short promotional video was shown.

In his concluding remarks, **Mr. D. Pacheco, President of the IPU** congratulated the Indonesian parliament for its organization of the Assembly, and thanked Ms. Maharani for her personal commitment to its success. The setting of the Assembly had been highly conducive to fruitful deliberations and had produced several concrete outcomes, which delegations were now encouraged to take back and implement in their parliaments. The adoption of the emergency item resolution on Ukraine had been a particularly important moment and an IPU task force would be established soon with a view to visiting both the Russian Federation and Ukraine to encourage dialogue and a diplomatic resolution to the conflict. In addition, the Assembly's strong consensus on the climate emergency, as reflected in the Nusa Dua Declaration, was a clear call for immediate action that all parliaments must heed. He thanked all delegates for their participation.

In her concluding remarks, **Ms. P. Maharani, President of the 144th Assembly and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia**, said that the Assembly had begun with many unanswered questions, on the climate crisis, world peace and the COVID-19 pandemic, but delegates had reached agreements and found consensus while accommodating their different views. Global solutions required international cooperation and parliaments had shown that they had the right spirit to rise to the challenge.
