

MEMO

To : Speaker of the Senate

Thro' : Clerk of the Senate

Thro' : Senior Deputy Clerk (M.A)

Thro' : Director, Legislative and Procedural Services

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From : Clerk Assistant I

Date : 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

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REPORT OF THE 141<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) AND RELATED MEETINGS, HELD IN BELGRADE, SERBIA, 13<sup>TH</sup> - 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2019.

Attached is a report on the above subject matter for your approval for tabling.

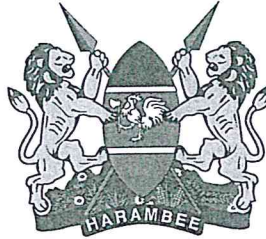


Innocent Mbaya





PARLIAMENT OF KENYA



PAPERS LAID	
DATE	04/03/2020
TABLED BY	Sen. Kihika
COMMITTEE	—
CLERK AT THE TABLE	Lillian

12<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT

(FOURTH SESSION)

*Approved*  
*[Signature]*  
#13/2020

*Hon. Speaker*  
*You may approve for*  
*tabling. MORD*  
*3/2/20*

REPORT OF THE 141<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY  
UNION (IPU) AND RELATED MEETINGS  
HELD IN BELGRADE, SERBIA  
13<sup>TH</sup> – 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2019

Clerks Chambers,  
Parliament Buildings,  
**NAIROBI.**

February, 2020

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## PREFACE

### Hon. Speaker,

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the world organization of Parliaments, is a global forum for parliamentary dialogue, co-operation and action. The Union advances democracy and assists Parliaments and parliamentarians throughout the world to fulfill their mandates. The Assembly is made up of 179 member parliaments. The IPU facilitates parliamentary debate, dialogue and cooperation and also promotes and defends democracy and the rule of law while assisting Parliaments in coping with growing international agenda relevant to their duties.
2. The IPU Assembly is the principle statutory body that expresses the views of the Inter Parliamentary Union on political issues. It brings together parliamentarians to study international problems and make recommendations for parliamentary and governmental action. The Assembly meets twice a year and may be held each time in a different country, providing participants with an opportunity to see various national realities.
3. The 141<sup>st</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and related meetings took place from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2019, in Belgrade, Serbia. The theme of this year's general debate was '**Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation**' .
4. The 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly inaugural ceremony took place at the Sava Center, Serbia, on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at 7.30 p.m., with His Excellency Mr. Aleksandar Vučić, President of the Republic of Serbia, in attendance. Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Ms. Maja Gojković, Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia were present during the Ceremony. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the the Assembly by video message.
5. In her remarks, Ms. Maja Gojković, Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia, welcomed the delegates to Serbia for the second IPU Assembly to be held in Belgrade; the first one having been held in 1963. As the IPU family continued to grow in a spirit of respect and trust, the gathering of its Members sent a message about the importance of inter-parliamentary cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy to overcome today's challenges and work for peace. It was up to parliamentarians, on behalf of the people they represented, to encourage their governments to follow suit in building bridges of cooperation.



6. She said the IPU had a long tradition and vast experience, coupled with the knowledge and the desire to adapt to modern challenges. Hence the importance of strengthening cooperation inside the Organization, as it had proved for decades to be a solid, firm foundation to parliaments across the globe in facing ever-changing challenges.
7. She further added that Serbia had been one of the first countries to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the 141st Assembly would give special emphasis to marking the 30th anniversary of the Convention. Gender equality and women's empowerment would also feature prominently, with dedicated sessions. Equal participation of women in society, political processes and the economy would undoubtedly make the world a better and more humane place.
8. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, addressed the Assembly by video message. He welcomed the Assembly's focus on international law, universal health coverage, the climate emergency and the Sustainable Development Goals. He noted that the contribution of parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, was critical in advancing shared progress.
9. He noted that in facing today's challenges, the path to building a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world, where no one was left behind, would only be possible in a multipolar world with strong multilateral institutions and universal respect for international law.
10. Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, representing the United Nations Secretary-General at the 141st Assembly, applauded the extent of the cooperation between the United Nations and the IPU at the national, regional and international levels, particularly in relation to sustainable development and climate change.
11. She said that as the world celebrated 100 years of multilateralism in 2019 and the 75th anniversary of the United Nations in 2020, it needed, more than ever, parliamentarians who strongly supported modern multilateralism, who resisted the growing populism and nationalism emerging in many parts of the world. Parliaments could play an important role in restoring trust in today's societies. Governments and intergovernmental organizations alone could not effectively address the complex global challenges. Parliamentarians had a crucial role to play, by authorizing the resources and passing the legislation that translated global commitments into national and local action.

12. She further stated that only with the necessary legislation could all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals be implemented. The IPU could work on developing a list of the minimal legislative recommendations for implementing each Goal – a sort of "legislative roadmap" to gain partnerships around the world. This, in turn, would help trigger finance for the goals by clearly showing a mature and focused SDG environment in each country.
13. Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, said that IPU Assemblies were a unique opportunity to bring the global parliamentary community together, seeing past national differences to common experiences and challenges. Parliamentary diplomacy was about building bridges of dialogue, understanding and cooperation within and between nations. Parliamentarians had a duty to defend parliaments as open, representative, accountable and effective institutions – as a space in which all voices were heard and respected.
14. Promoting democracy meant promoting women's and youth's political empowerment, both of which were key items on the Assembly agenda, coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and looking ahead to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2020.
15. She noted that the subject of the Assembly General Debate would be strengthening international law through parliamentary roles and mechanisms, which was very fitting in the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Geneva Conventions. The General Debate would also focus on the contribution of regional cooperation. The tradition of regional parliamentary cooperation at the IPU was going from strength to strength. The aim was to empower parliamentarians to address the key issues of our time, including the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and violent extremism, trade, health, climate change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
16. Members would be called upon to adopt a resolution on achieving universal health coverage by 2030. This would set in motion a parliamentary action plan that would give impetus to the vision recently articulated by the United Nations.
17. The Assembly was an opportunity to uphold multilateralism as it was originally intended – to represent the peoples of the world, advance their aspirations, and deliver progress and solutions.
18. Mr. Aleksandar Vučić, President of the Republic of Serbia, welcomed the parliamentarians and all participants to the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly. He confirmed the importance of the event and underlined the huge number of parliaments



and MPs attending the Assembly. Historically speaking, the IPU was a very important multilateral organization. Parliaments were institutions where differences in views and stances could be negotiated and overcome. Sharing experiences was welcome but decision-making without interference was imperative. That was the path to be followed to achieve joint progress and should be a model in conflict resolution. The IPU Assembly was an occasion to follow the dreams of all the people in the world.

19. Mr. Aleksandar Vučić, President of the Republic of Serbia, declared the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly open.

**Hon Speaker,**

20. During the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly, 149 Member Parliaments were represented. There was participation by the following nine Associate Members; the Arab Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), the Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF). Various categories of observers including the UN and its affiliate partners as well as other Inter-Parliamentary bodies attended the meetings.

21. During the three days of deliberations, of the 1,729 delegates who attended the Assembly, 739 were members of parliament. Those parliamentarians included 63 Presiding Officers, 57 Deputy Presiding Officers, 227 women MPs (30.7%) and 129 (21.5%) young MPs..

**Hon Speaker,**

22. The Kenyan delegation to the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly and related meetings comprised the following-

- i) Sen. Kenneth M. Lusaka, EGH, MP, Speaker of the Senate and Leader of delegation (*Member of the Executive Committee*)
- ii) Sen. Susan Kihika, MP, Senator (*President of the Bureau of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians*)
- iii) Sen. Johnson Sakaja, MP
- iv) Sen. Petronilla Were, MP

- v) Hon. (Prof.) Jacqueline Oduol, MP
- vi) Hon. David Ochieng, MP
- vii) Hon. Naisula Lesuuda, MP
- viii) Hon. Lilian Gogo, MP
- ix) Hon. Patrick Mariru, MP
- x) Hon. Benjamin Mwangi, MP
- xi) Mr. Micheal Sialai, EBS, Clerk of National Assembly/ Member ASGP
- xii) Mrs. Serah Kioko, Deputy Clerk, National Assembly,/ Member ASGP
- xiii) Mr. Mohamed Ali, MBS, Deputy Clerk, Senate,/ Member ASGP

23. During the Assembly and its related meetings, members of the Kenyan delegation were actively involved in the deliberations that greatly enriched the resolutions. In his contribution during the General Assembly, the Rt. Hon. Sen. Kenneth Lusaka, Speaker of the Senate who is also a member of the Executive Committee, spoke of International and regional co-operation informing delegates that such co-operation require that States make concessions with regard to their sovereignty while taking into consideration the existing international law as it provides a formal basis of interaction between and among States.

24. Hon. Speaker informed parliamentarians of their key role in strengthening International Law and contributing to regional co-operation. More specifically, through ratification of International Treaties and Conventions. This is a unique legislative role which ensures adaption of national legislation to give effect to a State's international obligations. In addition, he emphasized the oversight role of parliamentarians over the implementation of such Treaties and Conventions.

25. On behalf of the delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in ensuring that Kenya was well represented during the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly.

**Hon. Speaker,**

26. Article 7 of the IPU Statutes mandates Members of the IPU to submit the resolutions of the IPU within their respective Parliament, in the most appropriate form; to communicate them to the Government; to stimulate their implementation and to inform the IPU Secretariat, as often and fully as possible, particularly in its annual reports, of the steps taken and the results obtained.

27. In accordance with Article 7 of the Statutes of the IPU, it is my pleasure and humble duty to submit this report, highlighting the proceedings, declaration and resolutions of the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Related Meetings to Parliament for noting and necessary action.

*S. Kihika*

.....  
**SEN. SUSAN KIIHIKA, M.P.**  
**MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION**

*SK*  
**DATED.....** *SK* *Feb 14, 2020*



**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)  
ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS HELD IN DOHA, STATE OF QATAR FROM  
13<sup>TH</sup> TO 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2019**

**A. BACKGROUND: ABOUT THE IPU**

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was established in 1889 as the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue. It exists to protect and build global democracy through political dialogue and concrete action. The current membership is 179 parliaments and 12 associate members. The IPU works closely with the United Nations and other partner organizations with similar ideals. To this end, the IPU aims at -
  - i) Fostering contacts, coordination and the exchange of experience among Parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries;
  - ii) Considering questions of international interest and express its views on such issues with the aim of bringing about action by Parliaments and their members;
  - iii) Contributing to the defence and promotion of human rights, which are universal in scope and respect for which is an essential factor of parliamentary democracy and development; and
  - iv) Contributing to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action.
2. The IPU's main areas of activity are representative democracy, international peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian law, women in politics and education science and culture.
3. The IPU Assembly is the principle statutory body that expresses the views of the Inter Parliamentary Union on political issues. It brings together parliamentarians to study international problems and make recommendations for parliamentary and governmental action. The Assembly meets twice a year and is held each time in a different country, providing participants with an opportunity to see various national realities.
4. The organs of the IPU are the Assembly, the Governing Council, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat. IPU also works through committees, working

groups and other *ad hoc* bodies. The following committees and bodies are currently in place:

- i) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security;
- ii) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade;
- iii) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights;
- iv) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs;
- v) Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians;
- vi) Committee on Middle East Questions;
- vii) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus;
- viii) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law;
- ix) Advisory Group on Health;
- x) Gender Partnership Group;
- xi) High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism;
- xii) Forum of Women Parliamentarians; and
- xiii) Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

5. The current President of the IPU is Sen. Gabriela Cuevas Barron from Mexico. Senator Susan Kihika serves as Members of the Executive Committee and President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians respectively. Hon. (Prof.) Jacqueline Oduol was elected as Cice Chairperson of the IPU High- Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) and further appointed as a co-Rapporteurs for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights for the subject item Legislation worldwide to combat online sexual child exploitation. Hon. Patrick Mariru, MP, was elected Co-Rapporteur, Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade during the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Doha and his tenure expires during the upcoming 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly.

## **B. AGENDA OF THE 141<sup>ST</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY**

6. The following outlines the Agenda of the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly -

- i. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Assembly
- ii. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda



- iii. General Debate – on Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation
- iv. Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences (Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)
- v. Reports of the Standing committees
- vi. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade for the 144th Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs
- vii. Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

**C. GENERAL DEBATE: PARLIAMENTS AS PLATFORMS TO ENHANCE EDUCATION FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND THE RULE OF LAW**

7. During the three days of deliberations, some 144 legislators from 110 Member Parliaments, including 52 Presiding Officers and 15 young parliamentarians, as well as representatives of 10 partner organizations, contributed to the General Debate. The proceedings of the Debate were webcast, and many of the good practices and recommendations that emerged were reflected in the outcome document. A keynote address was delivered by Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, member of The Elders, at the opening of the General Debate. In the course of the week, Mr. Gilles Carbonnier, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), also addressed the plenary of the Assembly as special guests.
8. In her remarks, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia Ms. Maja Gojković stressed the duty of parliamentarians to appeal for the respect and advancement of order and the rule of law. She informed delegates that the strength of the IPU came from advocating peace, fairness and justice in international relations; this in complementing the efforts of parliamentarians of the world had been working together for 130 years to build a community of values, tolerance, dialogue and understanding.

9. The Speaker stated that violations of international law were the cause of many issues across the globe, leading to violence and suffering. Further she said, justice and the law must be placed above the use of force; the twenty-first century had already seen too many examples of the devastating effect of privileging force over law and justice. She added that the 141st Assembly was an opportunity to reaffirm the Members' commitment to the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law, which was especially important in light of the violations of human rights, especially those of women and children, in conflict.
10. She called for full compliance with the United Nations Charter and international treaties. She informed delegates that in their legislative and oversight functions, parliamentarians must work for full implementation of instruments of international law. By adopting IPU resolutions and other documents, parliamentarians were establishing mechanisms to safeguard peace and security and build stable international relations.
11. Regional cooperation in Ms. Gojković's view was crucial to preserving peace and security. The main hotspots in the world were regional, which was why conflict resolution must include regional stakeholders. All stakeholders must be involved in dialogue for it to be sustainable and generate a true compromise based on international law.
12. Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in her remarks, said that, in line with the heritage of the IPU, it was the duty of parliamentarians, today, to continue strengthening international law. They should take the opportunity to renew their commitment to creating a more inclusive, fairer planet that they could be proud to hand on to future generations.
13. She said that parliamentarians were the guarantors of peace and harmony. They had the mandate, and the huge responsibility, of promoting friendship, trust and love, instead of hate. She informed parliamentarians that they had been elected by the people to build bridges and relieve social and political tensions, to allocate the necessary budgets to those efforts, to oversee the action of governments and ensure they met their commitments to prevent crimes against humanity and other atrocities.
14. In her view, international law was a creation of human emotional intelligence and a roadmap for peaceful coexistence. It was an ally and a legitimate tool to



improve the lives of all. Parliamentarians should ensure that international legislation and standards were reflected in national legislation, undertaking legal and constitutional reform as required.

15. She further added that regional cooperation was an essential component of strengthening the international legal order. Inter-governmental and inter-parliamentary work could make all the difference by contributing to peaceful, lasting dispute settlement.
16. Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, Member of The Elders, emphasized that he spoke in his own name. Although the international community widely acknowledged the Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, nuclear disarmament, international cooperation, and support for the United Nations and its Charter, the world was still experiencing disturbing global tensions and unpredictability. There were two existential threats to life on earth: climate change and nuclear weapons. He called on parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, to engage in constructive dialogue and act urgently on those two issues. Parliamentarians had the power of the purse and influence among the public, which they could use to good effect.
17. Regarding nuclear weapons, The Elders had four major proposals, called the "the Four Ds":
  - i) Doctrine: the nine nuclear-weapon States must make an unequivocal "No First Strike" declaration;
  - ii) De-alerting: to take nuclear weapons off high-alert status;
  - iii) Deployment: to recall the operationally deployed stockpile of nuclear weapons; and
  - iv) Decreased numbers: to reduce the number of nuclear warheads. Parliaments must also support the relevant international commitments (e.g. the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty and the Global Zero campaign).
18. The field was wide open for action by parliaments as well as by the IPU. On the climate issue, in spite of the complexity and difficulties of the situation, the loud protest of young people showed that the trust between those who govern and those who were governed had broken down.
19. He said the the twin threats of climate change and nuclear weapons, as well as other challenges of economic inequality, social injustice, discrimination and corruption, could be effectively confronted only if all sections of society believed



they had a stake in the politics and governance of their countries. Parliaments were well positioned to contribute to the restoration of trust, the strengthening of international law, and further development of multilateral, regional cooperation.

20. Hon. Ken Lusaka, Speaker, Senate of Kenya who is also a member of the Executive Committee, spoke of International and regional co-operation informing delegates that such co-operation require that States make concessions with regard to their sovereignty while taking into consideration the existing international law as it provides a formal basis of interaction between and among States.
21. Hon. Speaker informed parliamentarians of their key role in strengthening International Law and contributing to regional co-operation. More specifically, through ratification of International Treaties and Conventions. This is a unique legislative role which ensures adaption of national legislation to give effect to a State's international obligations. In addition, he emphasized the oversight role of parliamentarians over the implementation of such Treaties and Conventions.
22. Hon. Lusaka mentioned to delegates that as political leaders who represent the citizenry, they all have a mandate and platform to inform the public of our respective countries' international obligations especially where they affect the citizens directly. Through the budgetary process, he said members can ensure adequate resources are allocated towards the domestication of international Treaties and Conventions.
23. Hon. Lusaka said It was in recognition and adherence to the law and the ratified treaties, conventions and agreements that Kenya, for example, welcomes the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council on the Somalia-Kenya Maritime Boundary Dispute. Kenya strongly believes that sustainable resolution to the dispute can be achieved using the mechanisms provided by the African Union. Thus, the utilization of these mechanisms should first be exhausted before prosecuting the matter in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) which is an external court of last resort.
24. On the Parliamentary front, Hon. Lusaka informed delegates that Kenya has endeavored to foster international and regional cooperation through its membership and active participation in the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Pan African Parliament (PAP), the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU),

the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific ACP Parliamentary Assembly.

25. Ms. Susan Kihika (Kenya), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, said that international law drove peace among nations. Its purpose was also to protect individuals, especially the most vulnerable, from tyranny and suffering. The law must work for all, not against anyone.
26. She informed delegates that women's human rights were often curbed in the name of culture or tradition, but there was no justification for enshrining and condoning gender discrimination in law. International resolutions, declarations and treaties on gender equality helped lawmakers across the globe to make progress on this issue and must not be eroded or rolled back. She said women should be included in the negotiation and formulation of regional treaties, including peace treaties, to deliver legitimate and lasting processes and outcomes. Parliamentarians must take decisive action to protect women's rights through regional and international cooperation and from their parliamentary seats.
27. Sen. Kihika added that parliaments must take the lead in monitoring treaties and ensuring that international decisions positively affected women's rights in national law. Parliamentarians should explain to their constituents that decisions were for the common good to build trust in institutions. For decisions to be well understood, this required transparency, openness and institutions that were truly inclusive and representative of all sectors of society.
28. Mr. Melvin Bouva (Suriname), President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU, spoke of the loss of confidence among younger generations in their institutions. Everywhere on the planet, young men and women were suffering the consequences of the action, or inaction, of current and past generations. Parliaments must be more inclusive. More young women and men must be at the decision-making table in parliaments and governments as well as in peace efforts and talks, in the media and in public debates.
29. He urged Parliamentarians to focus their efforts on being youth responsive in tackling the climate emergency, safeguarding human rights, advancing greater fairness and equality, and working for democracy and peace. Ultimately, this would deliver well-being for all, as called for by the young parliamentarians of the world at the Sixth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians held in September 2019.



30. Mr. Bouva informed participants that parliamentarians shaped international law and had a duty to implement it. In so doing, they must meet the needs and defend the interests of youth, women, people with disabilities, migrants, sexual minorities and future generations.
31. Mr. Gilles Carbonnier, Vice-President of the ICRC, said that the universally ratified Geneva Conventions were one of the greatest achievements of inter-State cooperation. Striking a pragmatic balance between military necessity and the fundamental principle of humanity, international humanitarian law (IHL) remained an essential tool. When respected, IHL not only prevented unnecessary suffering, it also paved the way for long-term recovery, reconciliation and peace.
32. Parliamentarians, he further added, could play a crucial role in addressing the key humanitarian challenge of our time: to ensure that IHL was respected by parties to conflict, thereby helping to mitigate and prevent the suffering of people affected by armed conflict. The IPU-ICRC handbook for parliamentarians on IHL offered guidance and tools to help countries accede to IHL treaties and conduct the legislative work required to ensure proper implementation and enforcement of those treaties domestically.
- He said the ICRC proposed four action points for parliamentarians as follows-
- i) use their legislative powers to push through the ratification of IHL instruments and pass implementing legislation;
  - ii) use their oversight responsibilities to ensure that military and security forces were properly trained in IHL and held accountable;
  - iii) use their political leadership to raise greater public awareness of IHL; and
  - iv) use their budgetary powers to provide the necessary resources for meaningful humanitarian action.
33. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, spoke of the changes in trade and technology that had brought opportunities and made people more inter-dependent and connected than ever, but were also being weaponized to spread hate, crime and disinformation. He said that in today's world, cooperation was not a luxury, not an "opt-in" or "add-on" solution; it was a fact of life – whether tackling terrorism or climate change.
34. In strengthening international law, Mr. Lajčák said parliamentarians had the power to launch initiatives, cast deciding votes, and be the difference between legislation being passed or blocked. International law had noble aims and

influenced us all, but it often stemmed from conferences and conventions, and was drafted and negotiated by diplomats, delegates and experts. Parliamentarians could bring it to life by ratifying treaties, integrating them into national legislation, assigning budgets and overseeing governments' commitments.

35. He said the importance of regional cooperation was being increasingly recognized in response to the rise of regional challenges, such as conflict, food security and economic growth. Different regions faced unique dynamics, and countries within those regions needed a platform to talk about common experiences and challenges, and to find regional solutions to regional challenges. Parliamentarians had a key role to play in making sure regional cooperation was not stand-alone but part of the wider multilateral order.

#### **D. CHOICE AND DEBATE OF THE EMERGENCY ITEM**

36. On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019, the President informed the Assembly that the following four requests for the inclusion of an emergency item had been proposed:

- *Resolution on addressing climate change* (India);
- *Protection of civilians and international security: Demanding an end to Turkey's offensive in Syria* (France, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland and Egypt);
- *Double standards of Western countries in combatting terrorism, especially in resolving the conflict in Syria* (Turkey);
- *Urgent call for the restoration of representative democratic order and for respect for democratic principles in Peru* (Peru).

37. Turkey expressed its opposition to the joint proposal from France, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland and Egypt. France expressed its opposition to the proposal from Turkey.

38. The Assembly proceeded with roll-call votes on the four items. The proposal put forward by India was adopted and added to the agenda as item 8.

#### **E. STANDING COMMITTEES**

##### **i) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security**

39. The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held two sittings on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 chaired by its President, Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain).



40. On 15 October, the Committee examined two items on its agenda: the follow-up of the implementation of the 2014 resolution Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments and the theme of Criminalization of money laundering.

**Panel discussion on implementation and follow-up of the 2014 resolution  
Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments**

41. The Committee members were shown a video on the Regional Seminar on Engaging Parliaments of the Pacific Region in the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 held in Wellington in September 2019 and organized by the House of Representatives of New Zealand and the IPU. The President recalled that the monitoring of resolution 1540 was recommended in the 2014 IPU resolution under review. It was an action MPs could take to advance toward a nuclear-weapons-free world.
42. The President introduced the Moderator of the session, Mr. A. Ware (Global Coordinator, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)). Mr. Ware recalled the purpose of the resolution and the key role of parliaments and parliamentarians in addressing nuclear risks and building the legislative and political framework needed to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world.
43. He referred to the Parliamentary action plan for nuclear-risk reduction and the Move the nuclear weapons money campaign which promoted cuts to nuclear weapons budgets, ending investments in nuclear weapons, and reallocating those budgets and investments to climate protection and sustainable development.
44. He also reported on key nuclear policy developments since 2014 including the erosion of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty). He introduced the two speakers: Ms. E. Whyte Gómez (Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Costa-Rica to the UN Office in Geneva) who presided over the United Nations Conference which negotiated the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and Ms. E.G. Tudor (Chief, Public Information Section, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)).
45. The speakers gave introductory presentations on the objectives, purposes and progress of the treaties at stake. International legal frameworks, standards and rules were extremely important. Political leadership, dialogue and cooperation was needed to agree on specific disarmament programmes. Parliamentarians as legislators had a key role both in ratifying international instruments and taking legal initiatives. The goodwill of all concerned had to be mobilized to ensure the



treaties entered into force. Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, were invited to take action to raise awareness on the subject among the media and civil society, as well as through dialogue with other parliaments and parliamentary groupings.

46. More specifically, Ms. Whyte Gómez said that parliamentarians needed to contribute to solve everyday problems and address global issues of importance such as nuclear weapons which were incompatible with human life. Human scourges, such as slavery or colonialism, had been rectified after decades and centuries by prohibition and changes of attitude. Change took time but could happen with political will. Ms. Tudor praised the IPU and the Standing Committee for promoting the entry into force of the CTBT and made a plea to parliamentarians to keep the treaty in mind and spread the message, especially to the eight remaining Annex II countries. The CTBT must urgently enter into force as it was the most concrete and credible element to build a solid and lasting framework that would ultimately achieve the common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. She updated participants on the latest developments regarding the CTBT and explained the transparent, effective, and non-discriminatory verification regime which operated around the globe and which relied on a global International Monitoring System (IMS) that could detect any nuclear explosion.
47. Eighteen speakers took the floor to outline parliamentary actions taken to implement the 2014 IPU resolution. Emphasis was placed on the need for dialogue, confidence-building, conflict resolution and adherence to the law in order to make further progress on nuclear disarmament. The challenges faced in the establishment of nuclear-weapons-free zones were addressed. The importance of collective work on disarmament and on nuclear energy used for peaceful purposes were also touched upon.

### **Panel discussion on the theme of Criminalization of money laundering**

48. The President introduced the topic by recalling that money laundering had huge economic and social consequences. Money laundering undermined human development, international security and national economies. National strategies to combat money laundering must take into account the global nature of the problem, focus on criminal laws prohibiting money laundering, on penalties for those convicted, on confiscation and forfeiture mechanisms, and laws that would allow for international cooperation around information sharing, extradition and mutual legal assistance. He introduced the experts: Ms. J. Jolic (Head of Unit, Economic Crime and Cooperation Division, Council



of Europe) and Mr. A. Odat (MP, Head of the Legal Committee and Vice-President of the Human Rights Council, Jordan).

49. The experts stressed the need for cooperation to harmonize legal frameworks as shortcomings with basic legislation persisted. One of the main issues was the differences in the definition and criminalization of predicate offences. There should be transnational cooperation in cases when predicate offences were committed in one country and laundering occurred in another country. States must find common denominators on outstanding issues.
50. Ms. Jolic explained that when it came to money laundering, many jurisdictions could prosecute only individuals and not legal entities, which was a problem. Parliament's role in combatting money laundering was not only a question of legislation. Parliaments must follow more closely what was happening in their jurisdictions and what governments were doing. They must be more active when it came to parliamentary oversight of and follow-up on how governments dealt with money laundering and terrorist financing. Mr. Odat mentioned that the impact of money laundering did not stop at national borders and that it was a crime often linked to other crimes such as drug trafficking, human trafficking and trafficking in weapons. Legal frameworks that would bridge existing gaps in the fight against such crimes must be adopted.
51. Fifteen speakers took the floor. Most spoke about the provisions of their anti-money laundering laws and the challenges they were facing. Legislative frameworks were needed to cope with the new technical methods money launderers used to commit their crimes. Parliamentary cooperation in that field must be strengthened. Issues such as illegal casinos, off-shore accounts, fiscal secrecy, shadow-banking, cryptocurrencies, virtual currencies, and virtual service providers were addressed. Those issues must be tackled and legislation appropriately amended.

**Expert hearing on the theme Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences.**

52. On 16th October, the Committee held an expert hearing on the theme Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences, the topic of a resolution that was expected to be adopted by the 142nd IPU Assembly.
53. The hearing opened with the statements of three experts: Mr. D. Messner (Director, Institute for Environment and Human Security, United Nations



- University (UNU-EHS), Ms. S. Gebreyes (Country Director, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), and Mr. G. Girardi (Senator, President of the Environment and National Assets Committee, Chile).
54. Mr. Messner emphasized that, so far, climate change was interpreted as an environmental challenge, but it was now clear that it was also related to security and that it destabilized societies. With 3 to 4 degrees Celsius global warming there would be water scarcity in many more areas in the world and nations would run into serious security problems. Climate change would increase the number of failed States which would incite conflicts. From a security perspective, climate change for example, water scarcity and food problems would first impact human security which would destabilize countries and subregions and lead to cross-country conflicts. Climate change could undermine the global order. To avoid that, a global answer was needed: climate change could be a uniting force and bring all nations together in the fight against that threat. Climate protection must be scaled up and long term road maps must be established to avoid disruption and to create an attractive future for countries.
  55. Ms. Gebreyes spoke from the humanitarian point of view, providing a testimony of the situation in Ethiopia. The increasing unpredictability of the rains, the frequency and intensity of the droughts, had devastating impact on rural communities and stripped farmers and pastoralists of their coping mechanisms. They were not able to build resilience, were forced to displace and migrate. Inter-communal competition over scarce resources escalated to an unprecedented scale in the country.
  56. In coping with the situation, the humanitarian community was struggling to provide adequate support, in particular as humanitarian funding was solely for life-saving activities often not allowing humanitarian actors to link the humanitarian, development and peace/security aspects of crises. More flexible funding would permit early recovery and resilience-building type of activities to help affected households and communities construct better and establish social cohesion. Developing countries needed support, including financial and technical support, to adapt themselves to the changing climate. A binding legal framework should be developed to protect internally displaced people.
  57. Mr. Girardi defined climate change as a major challenge which had brought the world to the brink of a new era and new civilization. Changes in the past had led to rapid changes in evolution. Presently everything was moving fast and was leading to disruptions in society. Institutions would become increasingly irrelevant, especially in face of data gathering and artificial intelligence. Major platforms which were capturing data and making use of artificial intelligence were not necessarily interested in fostering peace and combatting climate



change. Global warming and steering democracy would depend on the way in which technology would be managed.

58. The planet according to Mr. Girardi must reduce carbon emissions yet the current consumption model only had them continue to increase. COP25 would align science and politics. In Chile, for example, the Congress of the Future brought together philosophers, scientists, parliamentarians to discuss important issues. There was also the example of the parliamentary committee on future sciences made up of parliamentarians, scientists and academics who could vote and submit bills.
59. After hearing the experts' presentations, a total of 22 speakers took the floor. A prominent theme in the interventions was the need to join forces and to implement the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. Several parliamentarians shared examples of national practices such as moving towards a circular economy, resorting to the state of emergency, regular oversight of government activities in implementing decisions on the climate, capacity building of relevant departments, and the creation of early warning systems for drought.
60. Parliamentarians, in their budgetary role, must put resources into the fight against climate change rather than into the military. Delegations agreed that the exchange of good practices and experiences should be strengthened, promoted and showcased in order to ensure a consistent legislative response to climate change across the board and the implementation of national commitments. All that mentioned would create strong links between stakeholders.
61. In conclusion, the two co-rapporteurs took the floor to explain their preliminary views on the topic and thanked the experts and the various speakers for providing them with food for thought. They agreed that the role of women and the youth dimension should not be forgotten, and that the climate-security nexus should be the main focus. The current generation was the last one to be able do something about those issues, there was no planet B and there was no time to lose when it came to intensifying the common struggle.
62. The report on the work of the Committee was presented to the Assembly at its last sitting on 17 October by the President of the Standing Committee, Mr. Echániz (Spain).
63. The Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security met on 15 October 2019 with its President, Mr. Echániz (Spain), in the Chair. Eleven out of 18 members were present.
64. During the meeting, the Bureau discussed its workplan. It was decided to devote all the time allocated for the 142nd Assembly to negotiating the resolution. For future activities in between Assemblies, the bureau took note of



an invitation to organize a study visit and a Bureau meeting in Jordan. The Pakistani and Ukrainian members informed the Bureau that they would be interested in organizing such study visits in their own parliaments. The Bureau members were also informed of the Geneva Peace Week which would take place from 4 to 8 November 2019. The proposals were subsequently approved by the Standing Committee at the end of its last plenary sitting on 17 October.

65. Elections took place on 15 October 2018. The Twelve Plus Group proposed Mr. P. Dallier (France) and the Arab Group proposed Mr. M. Al-Ahbabi (Qatar) to fill the vacant posts. Both candidatures were endorsed.

## **ii) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade**

66. The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade held its sittings on 14th and 16th October, both sittings were chaired by the Committee President, Ms. V. Muzenda Tsitsi (Zimbabwe).
67. Debate on the theme Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production
68. The debate was organized on the theme of the Standing Committee's forthcoming resolution which should be adopted at the 142nd Assembly. The purpose of the debate was to provide the Committee with an opportunity to share views on ways to mainstream digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to make suggestions for parliamentary actions to be included in the resolution.
69. The theme and key issues for consideration and discussion were introduced by experts on the circular economy and digitalization: Mr. P. Jensen, Head of Secretariat, International Resource Panel; Mr. J. Kurbalija, Founding Director of DiploFoundation; and Mr. D. Spoiala, Senior Community Manager at the EU-AU Digital Economy Task Force. They stressed that resources were currently being used at an unsustainable rate, resulting in environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity and increased risk of conflict, to name just a few consequences. The world needed to be put on a more sustainable path, which would reduce the use of resources and increase resource efficiency.
70. Digitalization and artificial intelligence had the potential to help address these issues. The EU-Africa Digital for Development (D4D) initiative promoted technology transfers that would help developing countries leapfrog the development gap. However, issues related to data protection and privacy remained largely unregulated and required urgent attention by parliaments everywhere. The SDGs created horizontal links between issues and should be better utilized in policymaking at all levels, particularly given the fact that digitalization had so far not led to greater fairness and equality.



71. A total of 18 delegates took the floor to share their views and comments and the good practices their countries had put in place to promote the circular economy and digitalization. Participants stressed the importance of parliaments making good use of their law-making function to strengthen relevant frameworks. In the area of the circular economy, laws were urgently needed to encourage reusing and repairing while recycling should be a last resort. Parliaments should also insist on the provision of better data and facts on issues such as digitalization, the circular economy and the SDGs, as well as on establishing clear standards.
72. To conclude the debate, the co-Rapporteurs Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium), Mr. P. Mariru (Kenya) and Ms. S. Dinică (Romania) recalled the important interlinkages among these issues and stressed the need to exchange good practices and experiences. They would work on a draft resolution incorporating the inputs provided during the debate.
73. Parliamentary contribution to the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference
74. The Standing Committee discussed the preliminary draft outcome document of the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 25) to take place on 2 December in Santiago (Chile). The session started with a briefing by the Rapporteur to the Parliamentary Meeting in Santiago, Mr. G. Girardi (Chile).
75. Mr. Girardi stressed the need for urgent action and the fact that COP 25 may be the last chance for governments to make progress on climate change. The preliminary draft outcome document stressed the need to place science at the core of policymaking at all levels and in all parliamentary discussions. Multilateralism and parliamentary diplomacy had a strong role in ensuring cooperation among countries and progress in combatting climate change. In Mr. Girardi's view, policy- and decision-making was still operating according to the norms of the twentieth century while they should be future-oriented and look at the needs of future generations. He briefed the Committee about the Congreso Futuro in Chile and its efforts to promote a future-oriented approach to governance.
76. Altogether, five delegations took the floor in the debate. They stressed the fact that climate change was indeed recognized as an emergency in their countries and that parliaments were taking steps to support government plans with legislation. It was increasingly recognized that climate change had a strong negative impact on health, agriculture, disasters and other areas, costing countries a substantial chunk of their GDP on an annual basis.
77. After responding to delegates' questions, Mr. Girardi thanked all the delegates for their contributions to the draft outcome document and invited others to



- send their amendments in writing. The revised draft outcome document would be shared with all delegates through the IPU website at the end of November 2019.
78. Follow-up to the IPU resolution Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints
  79. The panel discussion enjoyed expert contributions from Ms. K. Madi, Director, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and Ms. A. Armitage, Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
  80. Ms. Madi informed the Committee that disasters cost the global economy 520 billion US dollars annually and that climate change had played a role in doubling the number of disasters in the last decade. The IPU resolution outlined 28 recommendations, 27 of which remained valid and linked very closely to the Sendai Framework. Ms. Madi urged parliamentarians to push for the development of national and local strategies on disaster risk reduction that would have a people-centred approach. So far, only 91 countries had reported to the United Nations that they had such mechanisms.
  81. Ms. Armitage stressed that data showed that slowing population growth was not a shortcut to stopping climate change or reducing resource use and the human footprint on the environment. What was required was to achieve sustainable patterns of production and consumption as well as vastly reduce waste. The IPU resolution called for the integration of population factors and sexual and reproductive health in disaster risk reduction, which was an area where a fair amount of progress had been made. The resolution also made a strong call for better data and better maps, which was indeed a key prerequisite for helping people avoid risk and minimize disaster. This was an area of major emphasis globally, nationally, and for UNFPA.
  82. In the ensuing debate, 13 delegates took the floor. They highlighted the need for better financing of disaster risk reduction through domestic resources and official development assistance. A concern was expressed that many donors did not meet their commitments and that, as a result, communities in developing countries continued to suffer a high disaster burden. Population movements significantly reduced the ability of countries to adequately prepare for and respond to disasters, particularly in conflict areas. Sharing experiences and good practices among countries was very beneficial and useful, particularly given the fast pace of climate change and increasingly strong impact of disasters.
  83. Elections to the Bureau, work plan for the 142nd IPU Assembly and any other business



84. The Committee elected the following new Bureau members: Ms. M. Carvalho (Brazil) and Mr. B. Scotland (Guyana) from GRULAC; Mr. R. Marian (Moldova) from Eurasia; and Mr. I. Sereewatthanawut (Thailand) and Ms. S. Rehman (Pakistan) from Asia-Pacific. The representatives of Asia-Pacific would complete their respective countries' Bureau term.
85. The Committee approved the Bureau's proposal to dedicate the Committee's sittings at the 142nd IPU Assembly to drafting the resolution.
86. The Committee was informed about the Executive Committee's decision to rename it Standing Committee on Sustainable Development. This decision followed a consultation process to which the Committee Bureau had contributed.

### **iii) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights**

87. The Standing Committee held sittings on 14th and 16th October 2019, with the Committee Vice-President, Ms. A. Gerken (Netherlands), in the Chair.
88. The Committee considered the draft resolution "Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health". The resolution was introduced by the co-Rapporteurs, Mr. H. Millat (Bangladesh), Mr. C. Löhner (Switzerland), and Ms. M. Carvalho (Brazil).
89. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), thanked the Committee for leading work on the resolution and making the initial draft even stronger. The Forum of Women Parliamentarians had also provided valuable input. Following the political declaration on universal health coverage adopted at the UN General Assembly in September, the IPU resolution was vital for translating that political commitment into concrete realities in all the countries of the world. The resolution rightly focused on promoting health and preventing disease through coordinated action across every sector. The WHO was committed to providing the support called for in the resolution and accelerating progress towards the health targets set out in the Sustainable Development Goals.
90. When examining the draft resolution, the Committee considered 116 amendments submitted by 21 parliaments [Canada, China, Congo, Cuba, Finland, France, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Mongolia, Norway, Philippines, Serbia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and United Kingdom]. Seven amendments were proposed by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.
91. The revised draft resolution was adopted by consensus by the Committee at its final sitting. A reservation was expressed by the delegation of India on the words "indigenous peoples" in preambular paragraph 8.



92. The Committee Bureau met on 16 October. It considered proposals for the future work programme of the Committee. Three proposals for the subject item of the Committee's next resolution had been submitted before the deadline by Kenya, the Netherlands and the Russian Federation. Each proposal was presented by the corresponding delegation.
93. Following a recommendation by the Bureau, the Committee approved the proposal put forward by the Netherlands entitled Legislation worldwide to combat online sexual child exploitation as the subject of its next resolution. A preparatory debate would take place at the 142nd Assembly and the resolution would be finalized at the 143rd Assembly in October 2020.
94. The Committee approved the Bureau's recommendation to hold a panel discussion at the 142nd Assembly on the theme The influence of the Internet on democracy. Within this panel discussion, which follows on from the 2015 resolution on privacy in the digital era, the focus would be on challenges relating to elections, disinformation and hate speech.
95. The Committee also endorsed a Declaration to mark the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, following the recommendation of the Bureau.
96. The Committee elected Mr. E. Primakov (Russian Federation) as a member of the Bureau, representing the Eurasia Group.
97. The draft resolution on universal health coverage was presented by Ms. Gerkens (Netherlands) to the Assembly at its plenary sitting in the afternoon of 17 October and was adopted by consensus. The draft resolution included the the reservation expressed by India on the words "indigenous peoples" in preambular paragraph 8. Dr. Tedros, WHO Director-General, addressed the Assembly to commend the adoption of the resolution and urge ongoing concrete parliamentary action to implement the resolution and work towards universal health coverage.
98. The Assembly endorsed the Declaration on the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and viewed a video of a field visit organized with UNICEF to a child care facility in Belgrade that took place on 14 October.

#### **iv) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs**

99. The Standing Committee met on 16<sup>th</sup> October for two panel discussions: the first on respect for international law in keeping with the UN Charter and other relevant resolutions, and the second on the 2019 IPU survey on the relationship between parliaments and the United Nations.
100. Thirty-eight delegations were present. There were 15 interventions, many raising specific country situations regarding respect for international law. The

second panel raised concerns on the low response rate (only 50 of 179 IPU Members) to the 2019 survey, which would be repeated every two to three years to measure progress over time.

101. Three new members were elected to the Bureau of the Committee: Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium), Mr. R. Peña Flores (Costa Rica), and Ms. P. Tohmeena (Thailand).

## **F. THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

### **i) Election of the President of the 141st IPU Assembly**

102. At its first sitting on 14 October, the Governing Council proposed that Ms. Maja Gojković, Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia, be elected President of the 141st IPU Assembly.

### **ii) Financial Situation**

103. The Governing Council received a report on the financial situation of the IPU as at 30 June 2019 and an updated list of unpaid assessed contributions. It confirmed that the full membership rights of three Members (Honduras, Mauritania and Papua New Guinea) were now suspended due to arrears of three or more years of contributions. As at 12 October 2019, four Members (Comoros, Dominican Republic, Libya and Venezuela) and two Associate Members (Andean Parliament and Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union) had arrears of two full years and were subject to participation and/or voting sanctions. The Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Finance, Ms. M. Kiener Nellen (Switzerland), noted that the Secretary General had made repeated efforts to follow up with all the Members subject to payment sanctions, but no payments had been forthcoming. Heads of geopolitical groups were encouraged to follow up on any arrears of the Members within their respective groups. She expressed her thanks to all those Members who paid their contributions regularly and on time.
104. Ms. Kiener Nellen reported that the current financial situation of the IPU was both stable and sound. The return on investments was currently 7.6 per cent for 2019, an excellent performance which would benefit the IPU's 2019 financial results. The Governing Council took note that the income and expenditure of the IPU were close to target for the first half of 2019 and were projected to remain within overall budget until the end of the year.
105. The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation by the Executive Committee to grant a request for financial assistance from the Parliamentary Solidarity Fund (PSF) from the Parliament of the Solomon Islands to attend a



future IPU Assembly. The Council also noted that the rules and procedures for the PSF had been simplified by the Executive Committee in order to make them more flexible and effective in encouraging the affiliation of potential Member Parliaments. Parliaments that could potentially become eligible for future PSF support included those of Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Kiribati, Nauru, and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

106. The Governing Council further took note of the report on mobilization of voluntary funding prepared by the Secretariat.

### **iii) 2020 Consolidated Budget**

107. The Council was presented with the consolidated draft budget for 2020. Reporting on behalf of the Executive Committee, Ms. Kiener Nellen explained that the draft budget had been prepared under the supervision of the Sub-Committee on Finance and was in accordance with its guidance. The

108. Sub-Committee had met three times to discuss drafts of the budget, during which time it had studied detailed forecasts and analyses and received explanations from the Secretariat. Ms. Kiener Nellen thanked the Secretariat finance team for its work and for the high quality of the documents prepared.

109. The budget proposal was faithful to the IPU's Strategy for 2017–2021 and to the guidelines and decisions of the governing bodies. It included an allocation of CHF 300,000 towards the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, further funding for priority activities towards realizing the President's vision (CHF 140,000) as well as support to the Parliament of Rwanda towards its hosting of the 143rd Assembly in Kigali.

110. The IPU's scale of contributions in the budget proposal was patterned on the new scale of assessment of the United Nations as usual. The Parliament of China would become the IPU's largest contributor to the core budget in 2020 and would pay an increased contribution at the IPU's upper limit of 11.75 per cent. Simultaneously, several Members would see their IPU contributions fall from the level at which they had been assessed in 2019. The Executive Committee suggested that those Members may wish to consider making a voluntary donation to the IPU of the savings they would have made, in order to provide support to IPU programmes in 2020. The letters to be sent to those Members in December 2019, calling in their 2020 statutory contributions, would mention the amount of the reduction in their contribution and invite them to consider making a corresponding donation.

111. The Governing Council approved the 2020 budget.

### **iv) Report of the IPU President**



112. The Governing Council took note of the report of the President on her activities since the 204th session of the Governing Council (<https://www.ipu.org/file/8237/download>). She identified the following priorities: parliamentary engagement with United Nations processes and forums; IPU communication efforts on multilateralism; transparency and accountability practices; and mechanisms to implement and follow-up on IPU decisions and resolutions. Her report would be sent out to all the Member Parliaments and individual parliamentarians in the IPU Secretariat's mailing lists.

**v) Report of the IPU Secretary General on the activities of the IPU since the 204th session of the Governing Council**

113. The Governing Council took note of the interim report of the Secretary General on the activities of the IPU since the 204th session of the Council to implement the eight objectives set out in the IPU Strategy for 2017–2021 (<https://www.ipu.org/file/8235/download>). The Council furthermore supported the Secretary General's pursuit of coordination with the leadership of UN agencies and other partners, with a view to implementing the strategic objectives and decisions adopted by the IPU Membership.

114. The Governing Council endorsed the signing of a memorandum of understanding on cooperation with:

- the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement with a view to securing support and technical expertise for the IPU's activities on climate change, and
- the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie.

115. The Governing Council also endorsed the proposal for the IPU to join the multilateral organizations constituency of Universal Health Coverage 2030 (UHC2030).

**vi) Cooperation with the United Nations system**

116. The Governing Council took note of the checklist of joint UN-IPU activities carried out over the past six months and welcomed the growing cooperation between the two organizations. It endorsed the recommendation to give the IPU Secretariat a mandate to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the strategic partnership between the IPU and the United Nations on the understanding that the assessment would be an inclusive process, based on consultations with IPU Members and office holders as well as with key UN officials. The assessment, to be carried out by an independent consultant,

would then feed into preparations for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in 2020 and the revision of the IPU Strategy.

**vii) Membership of the IPU and Observer status**

117. The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation by the Executive Committee to upgrade the status of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF) from permanent observer to that of Associate Member. It also encouraged the IPU to seek a similar status with the APF. The IPU and APF shared many areas of common interest and had been working together for many years. There was the opportunity to take the partnership even further, as evidenced by the new framework agreement that was endorsed and due for signature in the context of the Belgrade Assembly.
118. The Council also welcomed and approved the requests for observer status received from PARLASUR (MERCOSUR Parliament) and from the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace. The Council reconfirmed the strategic objective of the IPU to enhance dialogue and cooperation with regional and other parliamentary organizations, with a view to capitalizing on the comparative advantages, building synergies and ensuring greater coherence in inter-parliamentary cooperation.
119. The Council was apprised of the situation of certain parliaments and endorsed the related recommendations made by the Executive Committee with regard to each of those parliaments. It endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to dissolve the Working Group on Syria. In accordance with Article 5.2 of the IPU Statutes, it approved the request by the National Assembly of Venezuela to register a delegation of two parliamentarians with voting rights, given the fact that Venezuela's failure to pay its assessed contribution was due to conditions beyond parliament's control. It also held a lengthy discussion on the situation in Yemen, and the recommendations formulated by the Executive Committee on remaining in constant communication with all parties and continuing to monitor the situation closely were submitted to a roll-call vote with the following results: 104 in favour; 24 against; 39 abstentions. The recommendations were therefore approved by a majority.
120. As noted above, despite multiple efforts by the IPU Secretary General and the Chairs of the geopolitical groups concerned, Honduras, Mauritania and Papua New Guinea had not paid their arrears by the agreed deadline of 1 October. The three Parliaments would be included in the category of non-participating members.



### **viii) Strengthening the work of the IPU**

121. The Governing Council endorsed the Executive Committee's recommendation to change the name of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade to Standing Committee on Sustainable Development. While this change would take effect immediately, the composition of the Standing Committee would continue to be made up of 18 members (three per geopolitical group), with the addition of ex officio members, namely the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. The same provision would apply also to the other Standing Committees.
122. The Council endorsed the creation of the Working Group on Science and Technology on the understanding that proposals on the Group's working arrangements and activities should be discussed at the next IPU Assembly.
123. The Governing Council took note of the request to establish a Working Group on Political Sanctions. It decided to revert to the matter at the 142nd Assembly on the basis of a more detailed note on such a Group's rationale, mandate, composition and working arrangements. During the deliberations of the Council the delegations of the United Kingdom and Canada objected to the creation of the Group. The delegation of Australia agreed in principle with establishing this Working Group, but shared the view that the concept note supporting the proposal should be more detailed.
124. The Governing Council endorsed the Executive Committee's recommendation to review agreements signed between hosts and the IPU in order to stipulate that neither party may issue unilateral invitations. The intention was to avoid situations where participants who were not entitled to attend certain events were invited without the consent of the other co-organizers. The IPU should retain full responsibility for all events organized under its aegis.

### **ix) Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules**

125. The Governing Council adopted amendments submitted by the Gender Partnership Group which strengthened the existing sanctions for single-sex delegations and provided incentives to gender-balanced delegations.
126. The amendment submitted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians concerning the application of the quorum had not been accepted by Executive Committee and was therefore not presented to the Council for a decision.

#### **x) Recent Specialised Meetings**

127. The Governing Council took note of the outcomes of recent specialized meetings, reports on the specialized meetings can be found on the IPU website [www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org)

#### **xi) Reports of plenary bodies and specialized committees**

128. The Governing Council endorsed the recommendations contained in the reports on the activities of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, 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 Group of Facilitators for Cyprus, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU, and the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG). The Council endorsed the new appointments to these bodies.

129. The Council approved seven decisions concerning 229 parliamentarians submitted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (<https://www.ipu.org/file/8222/download>). The Council noted the reservations of the delegations of Uganda and Turkey concerning the cases in their respective countries, and those from Egypt, Jordan and Yemen relating to the case of Yemen.

130. A handbook for parliamentarians entitled Eliminating Forced Labour was launched. It had been jointly produced by the IPU and the International Labour Organization (ILO). ILO Director-General Mr. G. Ryder addressed the Council by video message.

#### **xii) Future inter-parliamentary meetings**

131. The Council approved the list of future meetings and other activities to be funded by the IPU's regular budget and by external sources (see page 80).

132. While it reconfirmed that the 143rd Assembly would be held in Rwanda (October 2020), the Council endorsed the Executive Committee's recommendation to extend the deadline to the Parliament of Kenya to spring 2020 to confirm its availability to host the 144th IPU Assembly. The Executive Committee was not in favour of granting the Parliament of Kenya's request for extra financial assistance to hold that Assembly.

133. The Parliament of Kenya has since withdrawn its bid to host the 144th IPU Assembly and Related Meetings.



### **xiii) Elections to the Executive Committee**

134. The Governing Council elected the following members to the Executive Committee for a four-year term ending in October 2023.

- i) Ms. E. Anyakun (Uganda) and Mr. J. Mudenda (Zimbabwe) from the African Group
- ii) Mr. R. Rabbani (Pakistan) and Ms. P. Krairiksh (Thailand) from the Asia-Pacific Group
- iii) Mr. A. Saidov (Uzbekistan) from the Eurasia Group
- iv) Mr. J.P. Letelier (Chile) from the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean
- v) Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden) from the Twelve Plus Group.

135. The Council elected Mr. G. Chen (China) as the new Vice-President of the Executive Committee.

### **xiv) Elections to the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament**

136. The Governing Council elected the following members to the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament:

- i) Mr. S. Chenine (Algeria) from the African Group
- ii) Ms. Z. Greceanii (Republic of Moldova) from the Eurasia Group
- iii) Ms. L. Rojas Hernández (Mexico), Mr. B. Llano (Paraguay) and Mr. C. Litardo (Ecuador) from the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean

137. Along with three representatives of the Executive Committee:

- i) Mr. J. Mudenda (Zimbabwe)
- ii) Mr. J.P. Letelier (Chile)
- iii) Ms. P. Krairiksh (Thailand).

## **G. THE 281<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **i) Debates and decisions**

138. The Executive Committee held its 282nd session on 11, 12 and 16 October 2019 in Belgrade. The President of the IPU chaired the meetings.

139. The Executive Committee took note of the reports of both the President and the Secretary General. It highlighted the importance of scaling up IPU participation in the different UN forums. It believed that, insofar as possible, IPU office holders representing their geopolitical groups should represent the IPU at events in their respective regions. With a view to allowing members to plan better and free up time for IPU commitments, the Committee

- recommended that the Secretariat start preparing the calendar of regular UN events a year ahead of time.
140. The Executive Committee recommended remaining in regular contact with the United States Congress and continuing to exchange information with them and raise awareness of the IPU.
  141. The Executive Committee heard a report from an independent consultant who was conducting an accountability, transparency and openness assessment of the IPU. The Executive Committee took note of the next step of the process, which would be to analyse the information gathered, identify potential gaps and make recommendations.
  142. The Executive Committee recognized that innovations in recent years in terms of workshops, the Speakers' Dialogue, and implementation follow-up at IPU Assemblies had been successful, but that more remained to be done.
  143. The IPU was doing important and useful work on the SDGs, such as the SDG self-assessment toolkit, which existed in multiple languages and was designed to allow parliaments to move beyond just talking to measuring and assessing their performance and progress. Since the SDG toolkit had been published in 2016, the IPU had come a long way and had more experience in the domain. The Executive Committee recommended updating the publication accordingly.
  144. The Executive Committee took note of the situation of certain parliaments and made recommendations in terms of follow-up.
  145. The Chairperson of the Working Group on Syria briefed the Executive Committee on the difficulties the Group was facing in fulfilling its mandate in the current climate. In order to ascertain the views of the Syrian delegation, he had approached the delegation during the Assembly and the general consensus was that there was no need to maintain the Working Group for the time being. The Executive Committee therefore recommended the dissolution of the Working Group.
  146. The Executive Committee applauded the IPU's cooperation with the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), as reaffirmed by the ASGP President, and supported his request to further involve the ASGP in the IPU's work, including the preparation of the third Global Parliamentary Report.
  147. Regarding the 130th anniversary book, the Executive Committee encouraged Member Parliaments to send their contributions as soon as possible to the IPU Secretariat.
  148. Following the decision to step up the IPU's engagement with economic issues, the Executive Committee took note of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade's recommendation to change its name to Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, in recognition of the role



that economic policy, at various levels and broadly conceived, played in sustainable development. The Executive Committee recommended this change for the Council's approval.

149. In light of the increasing importance of science and technology in the lives of all, and in parliamentary life, the Executive Committee welcomed the proposal to establish a Working Group on Science and Technology. It requested that the Group's working arrangements and activities be developed for formal consideration at the next Assembly in Geneva.
150. Given the IPU's past statements against political sanctions and visa restrictions imposed on parliamentarians, the Executive Committee was largely in favour of setting up a working group to explore this matter under the principle of parliamentary solidarity. The Working Group's working arrangements, terms of reference and composition would be finalized in the coming months.
151. The Executive Committee was in agreement with the proposed amendment to the IPU Statutes and Rules submitted by the Gender Partnership Group whereby the existing sanctions for single-sex delegations were strengthened and incentives were provided to gender-balanced delegations.
152. The Executive Committee was not in favour of the proposed amendment to the IPU Statutes and Rules submitted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians concerning the application of the quorum.
153. The Executive Committee was informed of the responses received from Member Parliaments about their work in follow-up to IPU resolutions and other decisions, as well as of the results of a recent survey on national parliaments' engagement with the UN system, which had identified certain challenges that needed to be addressed. The Executive Committee also approved the hiring of an independent expert to evaluate the IPU's political project at the United Nations as a first step towards the formulation of concrete recommendations that could be fed into the preparatory process for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in 2020.
154. The Executive Committee recommended the election of seven members to replace those who were ending their term. The geopolitical groups were encouraged to designate their respective Vice-Presidents to sit on the Executive Committee.

## **ii) Sub-Committee on Finance**

155. The Sub-Committee on Finance had met on 10 October 2019 to prepare and facilitate the Committee's consideration of the financial situation of the IPU, the draft programme and budget for 2020 and the voluntary funding situation. The Sub-Committee advised the Executive Committee to recommend the 2020



budget to the Governing Council, having been closely involved in overseeing its preparation throughout the year.

156. The Sub-Committee on Finance had also analysed a request for financial assistance from the Parliamentary Solidarity Fund (PSF) from the Parliament of the Solomon Islands to attend a future IPU Assembly. The Sub-Committee agreed to submit a proposal to the Executive Committee that the PSF rules and procedures be simplified in order to make them more flexible and effective in encouraging the affiliation of new Member Parliaments.
157. The Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Finance, Ms. Kiener Nellen (Switzerland), noted that the Secretary General had made every effort to follow up with all those Members and Associate Members subject to sanctions due to arrears of payment. Nevertheless, the full membership rights of three Members (Honduras, Mauritania and Papua New Guinea) were now suspended due to arrears of three or more years' contributions.

### **iii) Questions relating to the IPU Secretariat**

158. The Executive Committee was informed of staff movements and promotions. It also approved an amendment to Article IX, Regulation 9.1 of the IPU Staff Regulations on the age of retirement and its transitional provisions in order to align them with the rules of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund.

## **H. FORUM AND BUREAU OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS**

159. The 30th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians took place on 13 October 2019. At the meeting, there were 157 participants, including 82 parliamentarians (72 women and 10 men) from 76 countries, and representatives from various international organizations.
160. The 30th session was opened by Ms. S. Kihika (Kenya), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians. Ms. G. Čomić (MP and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia) was elected Chair of the 30th session of the Forum. She welcomed the participants and presented the programme of work. The IPU President, Ms. G. Cuevas Barron, also welcomed the members of the Forum. The IPU Secretary General, Mr. M. Chungong, was also in attendance.
161. As a contribution to the Assembly, the participants examined, from the point of view of gender equality, the draft resolution on the agenda of the 141st IPU Assembly, Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health. After a presentation of the draft resolution by two of its co-Rapporteurs, Mr. H. Millat (Bangladesh) and Ms. M. Carvalho (Brazil), the Forum divided in two groups to consider specific aspects of the draft resolution. One group discussed Ensuring universal health



coverage is responsive to the needs of women and girls and the second group discussed Lifting legal, social, economic and financial barriers for women's and girls' access to health-care services. The Forum subsequently proposed amendments which the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights incorporated into the draft resolution.

162. The Forum marked the 40th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Participants highlighted the important contribution that CEDAW had made to the work of parliaments in advancing gender equality. They underscored achievements as well as persisting challenges in implementing CEDAW, such as repealing discrimination in legislation, curbing gender stereotypes and effectively implementing existing gender-responsive legislation. Participants prioritized parliamentary action to eliminate discrimination against women in laws and policies in the areas of land ownership, employment, and nationality and citizenship. They also wanted them to address emerging areas of discrimination against women and girls, such as climate change, the situation of refugees and stateless persons, electoral violence against women candidates and women voters, street sexual harassment, and sexist speech. They called for accelerating the advancement of women's political participation and the protection of women and girls from gender-based violence. They also called for a better engagement of parliaments in the CEDAW review processes, in the 2020 Beijing +25 review, as well as in the initiative Equality in law for women and girls by 2030: A multistakeholder strategy for accelerated action launched by UN Women in partnership with the IPU and other stakeholders.
163. The Forum organized a Parity debate entitled #NotInMyParliament: National and regional strategies (see page 27).
164. The Bureau of Women Parliamentarians met on 13 and 17 October. It decided to mark in 2020 the forthcoming 25-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and to contribute a parliamentary perspective to the UN review process. That would include the annual IPU-UN Women parliamentary meeting to be held on the occasion of the Commission on the Status of Women which, in 2020, would mark Beijing +25.
165. The Forum elected the following regional representatives to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians:
166. Eurasia Group Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine) to fill the seat left vacant by Ms. S. Sardaryan (Armenia), who was no longer a parliamentarian, for a term ending in April 2022.
167. Ms. E. Anyakun (Uganda) and Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden) became ex officio members of the Bureau in their capacity as Executive Committee members for a term ending in October 2023.



168. Ms. G. Čomić (Serbia) was elected President of the 30th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and became an ex officio member of the Bureau for a term ending in October 2021.

## **I. FORUM AND BOARD OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE IPU**

169. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians met on 14 October; 85 young parliamentarians were in attendance (38% women). The meeting was chaired by the President of the Forum, Mr. M. Bouva (Suriname).
170. The IPU President and Secretary General welcomed the participants and emphasized the success of the IPU youth movement since its inception and especially following the 2010 IPU resolution, Youth participation in the democratic process.
171. Of those registered to attend the 141st Assembly, 21.5 per cent were young MPs. More young men and women MPs were needed in all delegations to reach the minimum target of 25 per cent of young delegates at IPU Assemblies. The Forum elected Ms. R. Nikhil Khadse (India) as a new Board member.
172. Reporting country updates, the young MPs took stock of positive measures being taken around the world to enhance youth participation, including creating new caucuses of young parliamentarians, lowering the ages to vote and to run for office, and introducing legal provisions to cap electoral campaign financing in some countries.
173. Reviewing recent IPU youth empowerment activities, the young parliamentarians commended the new training hubs and the mentorship café which took place during the Sixth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Paraguay in September 2019 and called for such initiatives to continue at the global and national levels. Looking ahead, they welcomed the news that the Seventh Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians would take place in Georgia in late spring 2020.
174. With regard to the agenda of the 141st Assembly, the participants called for greater youth responsiveness in efforts to uphold international law and human rights. They shared experiences of addressing health issues relevant to youth in the pursuit of universal health coverage.
175. In preparation for the 142nd Assembly, the Forum appointed Mr. O. Al-Tabtabaee (Kuwait) and Ms. M. Tiendrébéogo (Burkina Faso) to prepare youth overview reports on the themes of the future draft resolutions, respectively on Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences, and



Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production.

176. The Board of the Forum also met on 14 October and its members agreed that the theme of the Seventh Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians should focus on sharing experiences of youth policies and supporting gender equality in view of the Beijing +25 review in 2020.

## **J. SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

### **i) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians**

177. The Committee held its 160<sup>th</sup> Session on 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 and thereafter submitted seven decisions to the Governing Council for adoption concerning 229 parliamentarians from the following countries: Brazil, Libya, Mongolia, Uganda, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Yemen.

178. During the session, the Committee held eight hearings and informal meetings with delegations and complainants to reinforce its understanding of the cases before it and to convey its concerns. The Committee had on its agenda 15 cases concerning the situation of 305 members of parliament in 10 countries. Of the cases examined, 32 per cent were from the Americas, 24 per cent from Africa, 24 per cent from the Middle East and North Africa, 19 per cent from Europe and one per cent from Asia. 83 per cent of the cases concerned opposition members of parliament and 21 per cent concerned women. Of the cases, 56 per cent were presented for the first time, which was a new record. The violations most frequently examined by the Committee during the session were: undue suspension and loss of parliamentary mandate; lack of due process in proceedings against members of parliament; torture, ill-treatment and other acts of violence; threats or acts of intimidation; and violations of freedom of expression.

### **ii) Committee on Middle East Questions**

179. The Committee held its sittings two sittings, on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019. The Committee examined the current situation in the region, particularly in Israel and Palestine, Libya, Syria and, at length, Yemen. The members were informed about the recent legislative elections that took place on 17 September 2019 in Israel and about the upcoming elections in Palestine. The Palestinian delegate invited the IPU and any other interested parties to participate in the elections as observers.

180. The Committee was very pleased to have had the opportunity to hear from the Libyan and the Yemeni delegations and it felt satisfied with the ensuing fruitful discussions. In this regard, it wished to clearly highlight that there was

only one Parliament in Yemen, which represented the Yemeni people and worked in line with the constitution of the country. The Committee thanked the delegation of Yemen for their comprehensive presentation. Regarding Libya, the delegation expounded the fact that the country was deeply divided but that the House of Representatives of Libya was doing its best to hold parliamentary sessions, despite security concerns. The Committee welcomed both presentations and stressed that its main focus remained the humanitarian situation in Libya and in Yemen.

181. Regarding Syria, the Committee members were saddened by recent developments and enquired about the status of the IPU Working Group on Syria. As the work of the group had been stalled for some time, the members discussed the possibility of undertaking a mission to Syria to gain a better understanding of the situation on the ground.
182. The members agreed to hold a round table in the coming months to discuss the role and the mandate of the Committee in depth, in addition to other matters that would be agreed upon. Lastly, the members remained eager to undertake a visit to the region and hoped that it could take place soon after the convening of the 21st Knesset. Both Israel (in writing) and Palestine welcomed such a mission.

### **iii) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law**

183. The Committee met on 14 October 2019. Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were in attendance.
184. The Committee discussed current refugee-related crises and where its engagement could contribute meaningfully to overall efforts. Three countries were discussed, as a result of exchanges between the IPU President and the UNHCR High Commissioner: Yemen, Syria and South Sudan. The Committee acknowledged the importance of monitoring and closely following developments in the three countries, focusing on the humanitarian perspective, as per its mandate. At the same time, the Committee recommended organizing on-site missions to the respective countries, possibly starting with South Sudan.
185. The Committee discussed follow-up to and work on the Global Compact on Refugees. It recommended that the IPU put forward a pledge reflecting ongoing and planned work as follows-

*The Inter-Parliamentary Union pledges to:*

- *raise parliaments' awareness, at each IPU Assembly, of progress and challenges in developing comprehensive refugee responses*



- *engage with MPs, and in particular young parliamentarians and women parliamentarians, and support them in taking action in support of refugees and host countries*
- *collect, with UNHCR, good parliamentary practices and disseminate them among the parliamentary community*
- *organize, with UNHCR, training and capacity-building initiatives for MPs in legislative work in complement to national pledges.*

186. The Committee also discussed progress on the UNHCR #IBelong campaign on statelessness and recommended that the IPU put forward a pledge as captured below-

- *The Inter-Parliamentary Union pledges to:*
- *raise political awareness of parliaments of, monitor progress on and draw attention to legislative and other reforms to address statelessness at each IPU Assembly*
- *engage young parliamentarians and women parliamentarians in efforts to address statelessness, in particular in addressing gender-based discrimination in nationality laws.*
- *provide support to parliaments involved in reforming nationality laws to prevent statelessness and addressing discrimination in law.*

187. The Committee noted that one of its members had been absent for two consecutive sessions without justification. In accordance with the Rules, the member would be notified that her seat would now be declared vacant. Elections would be held at the next Assembly.

#### **iv) Gender Partnership Group**

188. The Gender Partnership Group held its 43<sup>rd</sup> session on 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019. In attendance were Hon. Kenneth Lusaka, Speaker of the Senate of Kenya, Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation), Ms. A. Al-Basti (United Arab Emirates), and Ms. A.D. Mergane Kanouté (Senegal) in the absence of Ms. H. Haukeland Liadal (Norway)

189. As per its mandate, the Group reviewed the composition of delegations at the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly. As at 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019, 30.7 per cent of the delegates at the Assembly were women (see attachment). That was well below the 2016 record of 32.9 per cent, which was reached only once again in 2018. The Group commended the gender-balanced delegations attending the 141<sup>st</sup>

- Assembly. In Belgrade, in 30 delegations out of 149 (20.1%), women accounted for 40 to 60 per cent of delegates (see attachment).
190. Of the 149 delegations present, 134 were composed of at least two delegates, of which 15 were composed exclusively of men (11.3%). No delegation of two or more members was composed entirely of women. The 15 single-sex delegations were from the parliaments of the following States: Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Poland, Turkmenistan and Yemen. In addition, there were 17 single-member delegations attending the Assembly. Overall, 9 delegations were subjected to sanctions.
191. Considering the persistently large number of single-sex delegations at the IPU Assemblies, the Group submitted in advance of the 141st Assembly amendments to the current IPU Statutes and Rules reinforcing existing sanctions for single-sex delegations by further reducing voting rights and implementing sanctions after two Assemblies. The amendments would be adopted at the 141st Assembly. The Group also stressed the importance of ensuring geopolitical groups' compliance with existing gender quotas in the IPU bodies, especially in the Executive Committee.
192. The Group welcomed the forthcoming launch of the IPU Guidelines for the elimination of sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament and agreed to continue developing a dedicated framework against sexism and sexual harassment at the Assemblies and other IPU-organized meetings. It adopted a roadmap which included identifying existing gaps and opportunities; fostering a better understanding of the problem; and pursuing adequate institutional responses. It expressed its wish to engage delegations, the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, and other IPU bodies and stakeholders in those endeavours.
193. As per its mandate, the Group also discussed how to support parliaments with few or no women members. On 16th October, the Group met with two delegations in whose Parliaments women accounted for less than five per cent of members: the delegation of the Maldives and the delegation of Oman, which the Group had already met at the 140th Assembly in Doha.
194. In the Maldives the challenges to women's political participation were culture, gender stereotypes and the difficulty of raising funds for outreach to a spread-out constituency-the country encompassed 26 atolls and 1,200 islands. In such conditions, combining family responsibilities and political life was particularly challenging for women. At the 2019 elections, the percentage of women members of parliament decreased from 5.9 per cent to 4.6 per cent. However, women were playing a very active role in parliament and in politics



more generally. Of the four women members of parliament, one was the Deputy Speaker and the current Secretary General was also a woman. Women made up 36 per cent of ministerial portfolios representing different coalition parties. At present, there was a draft bill to reserve 30 per cent of seats for women at the local level. Previous attempts to introduce quotas had been unsuccessful.

195. The Group was very encouraged by the commitment that the delegation showed to enhancing women's participation in parliament. It offered the IPU's support for the introduction of measures and the organization of activities that could help strengthen women's participation in politics, particularly in parliament.
196. The delegation of Oman included representatives from the Consultative Council and the State Council. The Parliament of Oman (the Majles) was a bicameral parliament, made up of 170 members: 85 at the State Council and 85 at the Consultative Council. There were currently 14 women appointed to the State Council (16.5%) and one woman elected to the Consultative Council (1.2%). The Omani Inter-Parliamentary Union – Subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council delegation was optimistic that more women would be elected to the Consultative Council in the late October 2019 elections. They said that the women candidates (43 in total) were supported by civil society organizations in order to enhance their chances of being elected. Also, women were increasingly involved in politics at the local level.
197. The Group indicated that it would continue to monitor the situation and offered its support through awareness-raising and other types of support to enhance women's political participation in Oman.

#### **v) Advisory Group on Health**

183. The IPU Advisory Group on Health met on 15<sup>th</sup> October with nine out of 12 members in attendance. Also present were the IPU's technical partners from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), UNAIDS, and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) were also in attendance.
184. The Advisory Group discussed the findings from the field visit of 14<sup>th</sup> October during which the participants examined the health situation of young people in Serbia, as well as the HIV response in the country. The Group's recommendations were informed by a visit to the Institute for Student's Health in Belgrade, as well as the productive discussions with WHO officials

in Serbia, non-governmental organizations, and representatives of the Institute of Public Health.

185. The Advisory Group was impressed by the provision of free health care to students in a targeted and needs-responsive way, as well as the example of best practice in voluntary confidential counselling and testing provided by the Institute's HIV Centre. They were the result of good cooperation among stakeholders, including hospitals and public health institutes, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations; as well as of work at the grassroots level to reach key populations.
186. The Advisory Group members were encouraged to learn that health insurance coverage in Serbia was as high as 96 per cent and also that people not covered by health insurance had access to free anti-retroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS.
187. However, it was noted with concern that there remained knowledge gaps among people regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights, in particular among ethnic minorities. The sustainability of programmes was also a big challenge. The Advisory Group encouraged the Parliament of Serbia to build strong political will to mobilize the necessary resources to support HIV programmes for key populations as well as measures for health prevention. It was also recommended that the Parliament of Serbia gather further data on the health status of young people, including teenage pregnancies, and that it make robust efforts in monitoring the effectiveness of governmental action in the area of health prevention, adolescents' health, and HIV/AIDS.
188. The Advisory Group also expressed concern over the negative effects of existing legislation criminalizing sex workers and clients, and urged the Parliament of Serbia to take steps to repeal that legislation. Criminalization led to stigma and discrimination, thus posing barriers to access to health for vulnerable groups. The Group stood ready to support the Parliament of Serbia in that important work.
189. The Advisory Group also discussed follow-up to the IPU resolution on universal health coverage that was expected to be adopted at the 141st Assembly. The Group agreed to put in place an accountability framework supported by the IPU Secretariat to monitor implementation of the resolution. The framework would be finalized the following month, and it would be rolled out at the 142nd IPU Assembly.



190. The Advisory Group asked the IPU Secretariat to explore the possibility of holding a side event at the 142nd IPU Assembly, as well as of visiting WHO headquarters in Geneva.

191. The Advisory Group elected a new Chairperson, Ms. G. Katuta (Zambia), as well as a new Vice-Chairperson, Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain), for a one-year term.

#### **vi) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus**

192. The Group of Facilitators met on 13th October 2019. The meeting was attended by Ms. L. Quartapelle Procopio (Italy), a facilitator, two members of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus and six representatives of the Turkish-Cypriot political parties.

193. The parties expressed their perseverance to reach a solution based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. They also expressed their will to resume negotiations aimed at resolving the Cyprus problem in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and the values and principles of the European Union. They underlined that a functional and viable solution would benefit all Cypriots.

#### **vii) High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG)**

194. The HLAG held one sitting on 13th October 2019, for the first time in its new composition. The Bureau of Women Parliamentarians' ex officio member of the HLAG was also present.

195. Mr. Lopatka (Austria) and Ms. Oduol (Kenya) were elected as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the group, respectively.

196. The HLAG heard the reports on the three IPU-UN Regional Conferences that had taken place throughout the year. The Conferences for the MENA region, the Sahel region and the Asia-Pacific region had respectively taken place in: Luxor, Egypt, in February 2019; Niamey, Niger, in June 2019; and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in October 2019. These three Regional Conferences had been a crucial opportunity for parliamentarians from the regions to share their experiences and challenges in transposing international resolutions into national legislation. They further served as a platform to exchange best practices and foster cooperation in the regions. Following the Conference for the MENA region, the House of Representatives of Egypt had set up a special parliamentary commission on counter-terrorism, prevention of violent extremism and hate speech. The HLAG very much welcomed that direct impact of the Conference and recommended that all parliaments follow in

Egypt's footsteps. The National Assembly of Niger had also been inspired by the Regional Conference for the Sahel region to create a regional parliamentary network, which complemented the parliamentary committee on counter-terrorism created earlier in the year within the structure of the G5 Sahel.

197. The HLAG was informed that the IPU Secretary General, the Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime had signed a trilateral agreement in May 2019. The Chairperson of the HLAG, Ms. Al-Qubaisi had been in attendance. The IPU had also on that occasion signed the agreement admitting it into the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, a UN mechanism to strengthen a common approach to and coordination and coherence in counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism.
198. The secretariat of the IPU-UN Joint Programme on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism further presented the Programme's financial report and indicated that the United Nations had fulfilled its commitment by allocating USD 2.1 million to the Programme for the first two years, renewable. The IPU Members were encouraged to make contributions in order to help the IPU fulfil its financial commitment. The Parliaments of Bangladesh, Benin, China, and the United Arab Emirates were recognized for their in-kind and/or cash contributions to the Programme.
199. Lastly, the HLAG was presented with a roadmap of future activities, including the web-based platform, national workshops, regional conferences, and the IPU-UN Global Parliamentary Summit on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism. The HLAG members welcomed these activities and their impact-oriented approach.

#### **viii) Meetings of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP)**

200. The ASGP brings together Secretaries General and other senior office holders in charge of parliamentary services. It studies the law, procedure, practice and working methods of different parliaments and proposes measures for improvement and for securing cooperation between the different services of different parliaments. It is a consultative body of the IPU, and the its President reports annually to the IPU Executive Committee on the Association's activities. The ASGP assists IPU at the latter's request on subjects within the scope of the Association. The Clerks and Senior Deputy Clerks of both Houses of the Kenya Parliament are members of the ASGP.



201. During the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU meeting, the ASGP held meetings on 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019. Kenya was represented by the Clerk of the National Assembly Mr. Michael Sialai and Deputy Clerks Mr. Mohamed Ali, Senate and Mrs Serah Kioko, National Assembly. The debates were centered on two thematic areas which were as follows-

- i. The implementation of the law : methods of scrutiny for Parliaments- This debate aimed at looking at solutions to combat the problem of failure to publish texts of laws. Proposed solutions might for example include accompanying draft bills with draft decrees; setting out deadlines by which application texts must be adopted; and strengthening Parliamentary control over the application of the law, for example by scrutiny in Committee.
- ii. Making Parliamentary work accessible to disabled people: best practice- in this debate it was noted that Parliaments increasingly need to respond to the legitimate expectations of disabled people; in particular, to ensure that they may, in accordance with their basic rights, participate in Parliamentary work, attend sittings, and find out about what Parliaments do. This is a matter of importance for Parliamentarians, for those who work with them and for Parliamentary employees, and most of all for the public who come to Parliament or who follow its proceedings. It is a considerable challenge for Parliaments to respond effectively to this range of stakeholders, and to the variety of disabilities that may be relevant (including impaired mobility, sensory impairments and learning disabilities). From the layout of a Parliament's buildings to that of its website, these challenges are many and concrete. This general debate will aim to gather and share best practice in making Parliamentary work accessible to disabled people.

## **K. OTHER SIDE MEETINGS**

### **i) Speakers' Dialogue on governance**

202. The Speakers' Dialogue on governance followed up on the first such initiative held in Doha. It was chaired by the IPU President, Ms. G. Cuevas Barron, who explained that the purpose of such dialogues was to provide a space for Speakers of Parliament to share experiences and strategize together on issues of common concern. The results of such dialogues would feed into preparations for the 2020 Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

203. Some 20 Speakers of Parliament participated in the session. The debate focused on two main themes: Development and the economy and Security and human rights. Discussions on development and the economy were launched by Mr. J. Clarken (Chief Executive, Oxfam, Ireland) and Mr. C. Chauvel (Global Lead, Inclusive Processes and Institutions, UNDP).
204. There was a convergence of views between panel presentations and remarks from participants. To address inequality and poverty, the economic model that favoured shareholders and special interests at the expense of the vast majority of the people, leading to increasing inequalities of income, wealth and knowledge, needed to be changed. Existing economic structures and frameworks would need to be reviewed to ensure that they secured a better redistribution of wealth. At the heart of change was parliament's power of the purse in the adoption and oversight of implementation of national budgets and taxation policies, which all needed to be carefully reviewed, reformed and used to tackle inequality and address the needs of those most affected by poverty, especially women and people with special needs. Cooperation between countries was also at the heart of progress for the most vulnerable and could ensure that advances and progress benefited as many people as possible, beyond borders. That would also require strong political will and engagement with citizens. The development of new forms of inclusive decision-making processes, such as parallel parliaments, was discussed.
205. The second theme, on security and human rights, was introduced by Mr. S. Tharour (former UN Under-Secretary-General and MP from India) and Mr. M. Miedico (Special Advisor to the Under-Secretary-General, UN Counter-Terrorism Office). The presentations and ensuing debates all highlighted that there should not be any dichotomy between security and human rights. The fight against terrorism would only work and be sustainable if the human rights of all were respected. Security objectives and initiatives must never be used to undermine human rights. Action to address security concerns and counter-terrorism would require the strong engagement of parliaments, especially in terms of oversight and control. The rule of law should always prevail. Prevention measures were also highlighted as key – the promotion of dialogue, tolerance and education were at the core of sustainable responses to terrorism. As Nobel Peace Award winner Malala Yousafzai said: "With guns you can kill terrorists, with education you will kill terrorism".
113. Participants also highlighted the importance of adopting a broader understanding of security – the notion of human security, which included protecting people from daily insecurity linked to poverty, disease, violence



etc. There again, in that fight, political will was key. Members of parliament needed to meet the challenge by remaining vigilant and controlling effectively government action, building bridges and facilitating dialogue, reaching out and strengthening links with citizens.

## **ii) Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Geopolitical Groups and the Presidents of the Standing Committees**

114. The President and the Secretary General of the IPU met with the Presidents of the Geopolitical Groups and the Presidents of the four Standing Committees on the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2019. The President briefed participants on the implementation of her vision for the Organization, including in terms of marking its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary and developing a transparency strategy. The Secretary General presented a reflection paper on ways to build support for the IPU's political project at the United Nations.
115. The Presidents of the Geopolitical Groups and the Presidents of the Standing Committees reported on their activities since the last Assembly, with a focus on mainstreaming IPU resolutions and decisions into the work of their respective groups and regional parliamentary organizations, and working with the IPU on organizing regional activities to reach out in a more targeted manner to the parliaments in their regions and expand IPU membership. They also highlighted recent innovations and good practices in the working procedures of the Standing Committees.
116. The President of the Twelve Plus Group said that one way to render the work of the Standing Committee Bureaux more efficient was to appoint substitutes for the various Bureau members in anticipation of situations in which they were unable to attend IPU Assemblies – the Group was considering amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules to that effect. The President of the African Group was committed to working with the parliaments in his region on translating the President's vision into reality and following up on IPU resolutions and decisions. The recent IPU resolution on humanitarian support to the countries affected by Cyclone Idai, for example, was already delivering results in terms of the support received from all regions – financial, in kind, technical expertise for reconstruction, etc. The President of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean presented the initiatives to increase the number of IPU activities taking place in the region, and urged the IPU to take a strong position of solidarity with the Parliaments of Peru, Ecuador and El Salvador affected by the political crises in the countries.

117. The IPU President referred to some of the efforts under way to further innovate at the IPU: practical workshops for parliamentarians designed to provide them with useful tools and information for their work; exhibitions and knowledge fairs to complement the general debates at IPU Assemblies; regular sessions with Speakers of parliament to build dialogue and cooperation; a greater focus on transparency and accountability in the work of the IPU; and better use of modern communication tools. More needed to be done, however, and she was counting on the proactive support of all the Geopolitical Groups and the Standing Committees.
118. The Secretary of the Assembly briefed the participants on the results of the 2019 review of follow-up by Members to IPU resolutions and decisions, highlighting the good practices that had been identified and encouraging further reflection on ways to improve the reporting exercise. Participants considered that more regular exchanges between the Standing Committees and the Geopolitical Groups were important, as they could help enhance engagement by Member Parliaments in the implementation and review process.
119. Participants examined the calendar of future IPU activities and identified events that still required a host. They agreed to discuss the matter with the other members of their respective groups, with a view to filling any remaining gaps as soon as possible.

***iii) Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law: Placing humanity first: The Geneva Conventions – Protecting people in armed conflict for 70 years***

120. The Committee's open session on 16th October, entitled Placing humanity first: The Geneva Conventions – Protecting people in armed conflict for 70 years, marked the 70th anniversary of the Conventions. The debate began with statements by Mr. B. Charlier (International Committee of the Red Cross), Ms. J. Lusenge (human and women's rights activist, Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Ms. D. Verduzco (International Commission on Missing Persons). The session reviewed the core principles and objectives of the Geneva Conventions, developed in the aftermath of the Second World War. The Conventions had been born from the strong resolve of States to never see such destruction repeated, and from their agreement that, even during armed conflict, there remained limits to what nations, communities and individuals could inflict on each other.



121. The Conventions were among the very few universally ratified international treaties and reflected not only law but also universal values of ethical behaviour. They preserved the core of common humanity. The current challenges to compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) were particularly linked to non-State actors and the growing difficulty in distinguishing between civilians and fighters.
122. The discussions then turned to specific aspects of IHL, namely combating gender-based violence and addressing the question of missing persons. Participants heard accounts of situations where women and girls were given as rewards in war, young women were sexually enslaved or raped, and children were killed or enrolled in armed conflict. Action needed to be taken on impunity and reparation. To find solutions, one must also look at the environment in which the atrocities took place, such as trafficking, weapons dealing, and private or foreign interests.
123. The issue of missing persons was also at the heart of IHL. Efforts should focus not only on finding the missing but also on supporting their families. People might go missing in connection with conflict, disasters, enforced disappearances, etc. The question of missing persons should be approached from both a humanitarian and a human rights law perspective.
124. Overall, the main challenge was not the lack of legal frameworks but implementation. The existing frameworks remained very relevant. Progress would require awareness-raising, dissemination of laws to all key stakeholders, and political will.

#### **iv) Parity debate: #NotInMyParliament: National and regional strategies**

125. The Forum of Women Parliamentarians organized a parity debate on 16th October, 2019 with 66 participants, including 35 MPs (22 women MPs, 13 men MPs) from 19 countries and representatives of four regional parliamentary assemblies.
126. The debate aimed at promoting an equal participation of men and women in a discussion focused on addressing sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament.
127. The participants welcomed the new IPU Guidelines for the elimination of sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament, to be launched on 25 November 2019 on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The Guidelines offered advice and practical information on how to devise and implement comprehensive,

inclusive and gender-sensitive policies and complaint-handling mechanisms to prevent gender-based abuses in parliament.

128. Participants shared examples of action taken by parliaments in different parts of the world to combat such abuses occurring in parliaments against women parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. They also explored the role of regional parliamentary assemblies as catalysts for the development of comprehensive national and global strategies to tackle sexism, sexual harassment and violence in parliaments.
129. The discussion highlighted striking and widespread examples of acts of sexism, harassment and gender-based violence against both MPs and parliamentary staff. The participants raised many challenges posed by such acts which were often entrenched and tolerated within society and parliamentary institutional culture; were based on gender stereotypes that needed to be changed; and were perpetuated by strong barriers to reporting.
130. The participants called for urgent action by parliaments to strengthen their internal policies and mechanisms to prevent sexism, harassment and gender-based violence. That implied devising and implementing independent and confidential systems for reporting and investigating complaints which must lead to rigorously applied disciplinary sanctions in cases of proven harassment and violence. Education, training and other measures to raise awareness were also recommended to create a safe and inclusive working environment. Gender-responsive support and services for the victims must be provided as well. Assessing the situation and having data were key prerequisites to ensuring political support and determining the most appropriate course of action. Participants called for surveys to be conducted, at both regional and national levels, in line with the approach applied by the IPU.
131. They encouraged the IPU to continue carrying out regional studies on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments. They also called for a wide dissemination of the IPU Guidelines as well as their proper implementation in all parliaments.

**v) Workshop Leaving no one behind in political representation: Gender and youth quotas**

132. The workshop on 15th October was attended by 64 participants: 46 women and 18 men.



133. The workshop focused on the participation of both women and young people in parliament. Building on IPU data and research, it highlighted the under-representation of these two groups in parliament, recalling that globally only 24 per cent of parliamentarians were women and only 2 per cent of legislators were under 30.
134. Electoral quotas that were ambitious, well designed and strictly enforced had proven to enhance the participation of both groups.
135. Participants explored different types of quotas, including legislated candidate quotas, reserved seats and party quotas, and their impact on women's participation in parliament in various countries. They emphasized the role of the women's movement in advancing progress in women's political participation as well as the importance of supportive measures in addition to electoral quotas, including capacity-building for candidates.
136. Participants noted that good practices aimed at reaching parity in parliament were expanding as more countries introduced 50/50 provisions in electoral law. They explored the concrete example of the introduction of a 50/50 provision for parliamentary membership in the United Arab Emirates. They noted that the new provision had been supported by a series of actions to empower women politically.
137. Participants also noted that only a few countries had introduced youth representation quotas with varying targets. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU had called for unified targets and encouraged parliaments to take measures to reach a proportion of young men and women legislators in line with the proportion of young men and women in the population. Ongoing efforts in Mexico were presented to the participants as an example of good practice to promote youth political participation and empowerment.

**vi) Workshop United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: 30 years on, achievements and challenges**

138. The IPU and the National Assembly of Serbia, with the support of UNICEF, organized a workshop on 15th October 2019 to mark the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The aim was to take stock of the implementation of the Convention, to acknowledge the achievements, and in particular to emphasize the persistent challenges to its implementation despite coming into force 30 years ago. The ambition was also to focus on the issue of child migration, which posed a challenge to children's full enjoyment of their rights.

139. Children continued to suffer all sorts of harm, whether as a result of violence, forced labour, trafficking or a lack of food or decent education. Child migration was a particularly worrying phenomenon. According to UNICEF, in 2016 more than 12 million children worldwide were refugees or asylum seekers, and some 23 million children were displaced within their own country – 16 million as a result of conflict and 7 million as a result of natural disasters. The figures were disturbing, especially given children’s particular vulnerability in difficult circumstances and the increased risk of suffering and exploitation when they were seeking a safe refuge.
140. The workshop was attended by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia, Ms. M. Gojković; the IPU President, Ms. G. Cuevas Barron; and the Director of the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, Ms. A. Khan; as well as Mr. G. Bregović, musician and UNICEF regional ambassador.
141. The discussions were enriched by contributions from several speakers: Ms. A. Khan; Ms. A. Mergane Kanouté, member of the National Assembly of Senegal; Professor C. Lumina, member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; Ms. S. Aqtash, a young Afghan refugee in Belgrade; Ms. J. Besedić, programme officer from Save the Children; and Ms. G. Potton, a representative of the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation.
142. The participants acknowledged that the Convention had made governments more aware of the need to address children’s rights and to put in place laws and programmes to improve their lives. However, they deplored that some rights continued to be violated, while lamenting the violence to which children were subjected. Despite the Convention’s undeniable efficacy, challenges compromised its lasting impact, particularly the low level of implementation and the lack of dedicated resources.
143. The participants then turned to the issue of child migration. They highlighted the problems inherent therein, namely: the lack of a legal framework, the lack of access to services, systematic administrative detention and the lack of resources for child protection.
144. They called for greater involvement of parliamentarians, whose functions could make a decisive contribution to promoting children’s rights generally, and more specifically in handling child migration.
145. The workshop concluded by endorsing a declaration calling on parliamentarians to:



- uphold and protect the rights and guiding principles enshrined in the Convention;
- ensure that countries secured and deployed adequate resources to implement programmes for children;
- advocate for the protection of all children;
- support children to learn about and take action on their rights and the Sustainable Development Goals, including in schools and through participatory processes.

**vii) Workshop on SDG 8: *Achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all: The economic challenge of our time***

146. The objective of the half-day workshop on 16th October 2019 was to give parliamentarians the opportunity to discuss the importance of achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all. It was opened by Ms. G. Cuevas Barron, President of the IPU, and consisted of two panels, the first moderated by Ms. A. Tolley, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of New Zealand, and the second by Ms. M.N. Mensah-Williams, Speaker of the National Council of Namibia.

**Panel 1 – Full employment: *The challenge of job creation in the twenty-first century***

147. Some of the factors that accounted for unemployment and job insecurity today were explored, including austerity policies, rising debt levels, and income and wealth inequality. The panel was composed of Ms. S. Dasgupta, Chief of the Employment and Labour Market Policies Branch of the International
148. Labour Organization (ILO), Ms. A. Byhovskaya, Representative of the International Trade Union Confederation at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Mr. S. Johnson, Chairperson of the Committee on Labour and Social Welfare of the Senate of Kenya, and Mr. A. Gryffroy, member of the Senate of Belgium.
149. There was a need to explore the potential of different job sectors and define policies to promote full and productive employment, since growth did not always lead to job creation. A lot of money was not channelled into the real economy. Countries found themselves in a situation in which growth was low while public debts and inequalities were rising significantly. New forms of vulnerability were emerging in the labour sector and affecting young workers in particular. According to experts, flexible employment conditions and fixed-

term contracts did not bring long-term stability. Macro policies could have a significant impact on employment creation.

150. A comprehensive legislative framework should be developed in line with core labour standards that addressed the specificities of vulnerable groups (e.g. people with disabilities, older people, women, migrants) and issues such as wages, artificial intelligence and robotics. Participants also discussed work redistribution models, reduced working weeks, and more time for training and family duties on a lower salary. These models could also be implemented without economic growth. Climate change was having an impact on employment, and the green economy could create new opportunities.

**Panel 2 – Decent jobs: *The need for proactive labour legislation and other social policies***

151. The panel was composed of Ms. S. Dasgupta, Chief of the ILO Employment and Labour Market Policies Branch, Ms. A. Byhovskaya, Representative of the International Trade Union Confederation at the OECD, Mr. T. Mansmann, member of the Committee of Labour and Social Affairs of the German Bundestag, and Mr. S. Patra, member of the Council of State of India.
152. Participants discussed how contractual conditions and social protection floors could be strengthened for all workers, including in the "gig economy"; how all workers could be guaranteed a living wage, including through minimum wage legislation; and how the informal sector could be better regulated so workers enjoyed basic rights and protections.
153. A decent job meant not just having a productive job but also living with dignity, enjoying basic rights and protections (the right to collective bargaining, a living wage, a healthy work environment, a degree of job security) and social benefits such as income support during unemployment and retirement.
154. According to the World Social Protection Report 2017–19, only 45 per cent of the global population was effectively covered by at least one social benefit. Proper legislation and policies were required to protect workers and promote job creation. International core labour standards, such as the right to join a trade union, should be adopted and guaranteed by all countries.
155. Discussions also focused on gender gaps and the importance of developing more legislation on paternity leave, equal pay and maternity protection.



**viii) Side event Reaching the hard-to-reach: *How to make UHC a reality for all?***

156. The session was opened by Ms. P. Bayr (Austria), member of the IPU Advisory Group on Health, who moderated the event. She stressed the importance of the IPU resolution, Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health, that would be adopted at the 141st IPU Assembly.
157. A presentation by Mr. D. Clarke, Team Leader for UHC and Health Systems Law at the World Health Organization (WHO), highlighted the role of legislation in establishing an enabling environment for universal health coverage (UHC). UHC laws needed to cut across all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with special emphasis placed on SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions to advance transparency, accountability and the rule of law.
158. Women, children and adolescents constituted two thirds of the world population but were often among the groups that had limited financial resources to access the health-care services they needed. Ms. F. Bustreo, Chair of the Governance and Nomination Committee of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), emphasized the need to prioritize those groups in UHC by ensuring the full protection of human rights, promoting equity in health planning, and allocating adequate resources to the interventions targeting those most in need.
159. Parliamentarians from France, Zambia and Cuba presented best practices in their countries in extending health coverage and reaching vulnerable and marginalized populations, including legislative provisions to ensure the principle of equality translated into universal coverage, community outreach, and adequate training of the health workforce.
160. However, the discussion highlighted that challenges remained in relation to limited financial resources, inadequate health infrastructure, and migratory flows, among others. Laws could also pose barriers to access to health services, as criminalization could lead to stigma and discrimination.
161. Mr. I. Askew, Director of the WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research, and Mr. D. Imbago Jácome, PMNCH Adolescents and Youth Constituency Board Member, closed the event by stressing the importance of putting the hardest-to-reach populations first and of engaging youth in policymaking and implementation.

**ix) Preliminary consultation on the 2021 Global Parliamentary Report:  
*Parliament in a changing world***

162. The interactive session on the 2021 Global Parliamentary Report (GPR), jointly organized by the IPU, the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was held on 17 October. It brought together around 50 MPs, Secretaries General and senior parliamentary staff. The parliamentary consultation was moderated by Ms. A. Gerkens (Netherlands).
163. Mr. A. Richardson, IPU Secretariat, briefly presented the key objectives of the GPR, which was published jointly by the IPU and UNDP. The two preceding GPRs were entitled: *The changing nature of parliamentary representation* (2012) and *Parliamentary oversight: Parliament's power to hold government to account* (2017).
164. Mr. C. Chauvel (Global Lead, UNDP) noted that the GPR was a flagship publication and served as a global reference on the issues the two reports covered. Many changes in parliamentary procedures and the implementation of recommendations and good practices had been inspired by the reports.
165. Regarding the theme of the next GPR, planned to be published in 2021, several stages of consultations had been organized, resulting in a shortlist of three potential themes that were discussed at the joint session:
- The rise of participatory and direct democracy: Challenges and opportunities for parliaments;
  - Parliamentary legislative power: Who makes the laws?
  - Violence and intimidation against parliamentarians: A threat to democracy.
166. The general view was that all three themes were very important for parliaments and were interrelated. The participants noted that it was a shortlist of key challenges their parliaments faced and that it was all about making parliaments more effective. Out of the three themes, most participants expressed their preference for the one on participatory and direct democracy to be the focus of the next GPR.
167. About 20 participants took part in the discussion. They emphasized the importance of finding effective ways to closely involve citizens in parliamentary decision-making. There was a gap between MPs and citizens which was a threat to democracy and needed to be bridged. The discussion



underlined that parliaments saw a need for recommendations and good practice examples on new processes and effective mechanisms for civic participation. Further analysis was needed of the opportunities and potential risks of participatory democracy, such as the capture of the process by well-funded lobby groups, or not reaching the part of the population that did not have internet access. Many participants in the session pointed out the significance of involving young people and of education for constructive citizens' involvement.

168. Mr. Richardson and Mr. Chauvel underlined that the 2021 GPR would be developed through a consultative and inclusive process, involving regular consultations with parliaments. Ms. Gerkens encouraged parliaments to contribute to the research to ensure that the report was grounded in parliamentary experience and resulted in concrete recommendations that could strengthen parliaments.

#### **x) Exhibitions**

169. During the Assembly, several exhibitions were available to delegates as follows-
170. Exhibition entitled 1889–2019: Celebrating 130 years of the IPU: Delegates were invited to view the exhibition which was set up in the main lobby of the Sava Centre. It told the story of the IPU, linking its past with its present impact, in six chapters spread over a series of panels.
171. Exhibition entitled The 52<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union: Delegates were invited to view an exhibition on the Conference hosted by the Yugoslav National Group of the IPU in 1963 in Belgrade. It was on display on the first floor of the Sava Centre.
172. Exhibition entitled Women in War: An ICRC exhibition on the various and complex roles of women in conflict. Women as fighters, humanitarians, mothers, daughters, labourers, community leaders and survivors. The exhibition marked the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, and was on display near the main entrance to the Amphitheatre of the Sava Centre.

#### **xi) Future Policy Award ceremony**

173. The 2019 Future Policy Award ceremony took place on 16th October 2019. The Award – organized in partnership with the World Future Council, the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations – was part

of the IPU's efforts to empower youth and enhance youth political participation. The IPU was involved in both the research for the award and the evaluation of the nominees, with the IPU President and the President of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians sitting on the jury.

174. The Award ceremony was moderated by youth leader Ms. K. Basu and involved representatives from the European Students' Union and the All-Africa Students Union. Eight impactful policies empowering youth were recognized. In the category Civic Engagement and Political Participation for Sustainable Development and Peace, the Council of Europe's Co-Management of the Youth Sector received the bronze award, the Constitution of Nepal won the silver prize, and Estonia's 2014–2020 Youth Field Development Plan was awarded gold.
175. In the category Youth Economic Empowerment for Decent and Sustainable Jobs, bronze went to South Africa's Expanded Public Works Programme, silver to Scotland's 2014–2021 Developing the Young Workforce policy, and gold to Rwanda's YouthConnekt Initiative.
176. Two Future Policy Vision Awards were also granted: to the city of Los Angeles' (USA) Green New Deal and to Senegal's 2015–2020 National Strategy for the Promotion of Green Jobs.

**xii) Field visit to Belgrade care homes for children**

177. On 16th October 2019, about 20 MPs from various IPU geopolitical groups attended the field visit co-organized by the IPU and UNICEF to the Centre for Foster Care and Adoption, the Small-Group Home for Children with Disabilities (family-type residential unit) and the Shelter for Emergency Placement of Small Children.
178. Participants were welcomed and briefed by Ms. M. Novakovic, Director of the Centre for Foster Care and Adoption, and Mr. Z. Milacic, Director of the Zvecanska Centre for Protection of Infants, Children and Youth. MPs learnt about the work of the centres and about the ongoing de-institutionalization reform in Serbia. This process included developing alternative family-based care options with a focus on foster care and high-quality residential care for children with complex disabilities. MPs had the opportunity to ask questions of the centres' representatives, as well as to meet and interact with children and carers.



**xiii) Field visit of the IPU Advisory Group on Health to the Institute for Student's Health in Belgrade**

179. The field visit was organized on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). The Advisory Group heard a presentation from the WHO Country Office in Serbia on the health system and the current health situation in the country. The Group also had the opportunity to talk to representatives of the Institute of Public Health and civil society organizations working in the field of HIV prevention and health promotion. Special emphasis was placed on barriers to access to health care, in particular the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as on the need for sustainable programmes targeting key groups.
180. Representatives of the Institute for Student's Health in Belgrade provided information on the history of the Institute and their activities to target the specific needs of young people. They also presented the work of the Institute's HIV Centre, which provides an example of best practice in voluntary confidential counselling and HIV/AIDS testing. The Advisory Group visited several departments of the Institute, including the HIV Centre.

**xiv) Launch of the handbook *Eliminating Forced Labour***

181. On 17<sup>th</sup> October, the Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Mr. G. Ryder, addressed the Governing Council by video message in the context of the launch of the ILO-IPU handbook for parliamentarians, *Eliminating Forced Labour*. He applauded the long-standing collaboration between the ILO and the IPU on decent work and social justice. He stressed that parliamentarians, as legislators, were uniquely placed to give life to the international labour standards set by the ILO, by ratifying the instruments and overseeing their application. In 2018 and 2019 alone, thanks largely to parliamentarians, 62 countries had ratified at least one new ILO instrument, totalling 98 new ratifications.
182. With 25 million people worldwide still subjected to forced labour, over 17 per cent of whom were children, he called on parliamentarians to help achieve Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour by 2030. The new handbook outlined the measures and actions that parliamentarians could take: enacting legislation; adopting budgets; overseeing government actions; and ratifying and implementing the 2014 Forced Labour Protocol, which

contained provisions aimed at preventing forced labour, protecting victims and ensuring access to justice and remedies.

## **L. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **i) Executive Committee**

183. The Governing Council elected the following seven members to the Executive Committee for a four-year term ending in October 2023:

#### **African Group**

- Ms. E. Anyakun (Uganda)
- Mr. J. Mudenda (Zimbabwe)

#### **Asia-Pacific Group**

- Mr. R. Rabbani (Pakistan)
- Ms. P. Krairiksh (Thailand)

#### **Eurasia Group**

- Mr. A. Saidov (Uzbekistan)

#### **Group of Latin America and the Caribbean**

- Mr. J.P. Letelier (Chile)

#### **Twelve Plus Group**

- Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden).
- Mr. G. Chen (China) was elected Vice-President of the Executive Committee.

### **ii) Sub Committee on Finance**

184. The Executive Committee appointed the following members for a term ending in October 2021-

#### **African Group**

- Ms. A.D. Mergane Kanouté (Senegal)

#### **Asia-Pacific Group**

- (To be advised by the Group)

#### **Eurasia Group**



- Mr. A. Saidov (Uzbekistan)

**Group of Latin America and the Caribbean**

- (To be advised by the Group).

**iii) Preparatory Committee for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament**

185. The Governing Council approved the following nominations to the Preparatory Committee-

**African Group**

- Mr. S. Chenine (Algeria)

**Eurasia Group**

- Ms. Z. Greceanîi (Republic of Moldova)

**Group of Latin America and the Caribbean**

- Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico)
- Mr. B. Llano (Paraguay)
- Mr. C. Litardo (Ecuador)

Along with three representatives of the Executive Committee-

- Mr. J. Mudenda (Zimbabwe)
- Mr. J.P. Letelier (Chile)
- Ms. P. Krairiksh (Thailand).

**iv) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians**

186. The Forum of Women Parliamentarians elected the following regional representatives to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians-

**Eurasia Group**

- Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine) to fill the seat left vacant by Ms. S. Sardaryan (Armenia), who is no longer a parliamentarian, for a term ending in April 2022.
- Ms. E. Anyakun (Uganda) and Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden) became ex officio members of the Bureau in their capacity as Executive Committee members for a term ending in October 2023.

- Ms. G. Čomić (Serbia) was elected President of the 30th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and became an ex officio member of the Bureau for a term ending in October 2021.

**v) Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU**

187. The Forum elected Ms. R. Nikhil Khadse (India) to its Board to complete the two-year term ending in April 2021 in the Asia-Pacific Group

**vi) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians**

188. The Governing Council elected Ms. A. Reynoso (Mexico) for a five-year term ending in October 2024.

**vii) Committee on Middle East Questions**

189. The Governing Council elected the following three members for a four-year term ending in October 2023:

- Ms. I. Al Madhy (Iraq)
- Ms. H. Martins (Portugal)
- Ms. F. Benbadis (Algeria).

**viii) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law**

190. The Governing Council elected the following four members for a four-year term ending in October 2023:

***African Group:***

Ms. M. Ndiaye (Senegal)

***Arab Group:***

Ms. J. Salma (Bahrain)

***Asia-Pacific Group:***

Mr. S. Patra (India)

***Twelve Plus Group:***

Mr. C. Lacroix (Belgium)



**ix) High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG)**

191. The Governing Council elected the following members for a four-year term ending in October 2023:

***African Group:***

Mr. S. Chiheb (Algeria)

***Eurasia Group:***

- Ms. A. Karapetyan (Armenia)
- Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation)

***Twelve Plus Group:***

- Ms. A. Vadai (Hungary).

***High- Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG):***

- Mr. R. Lopatka (Austria) and Ms. J. Oduol (Kenya) were elected as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Group.

**x) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus**

192. The Governing Council elected Mr. M. Mijatovic (Serbia) as Facilitator.

**xi) Internal Auditors for the 2020 accounts**

193. The Governing Council appointed Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium) Internal Auditor for the 2020 accounts:

**xii) Bureaux of the Standing Committees**

194. The Standing Committees elected the following members for a two-year term (renewable) in their respective Bureaux ending in October 2021:

**Standing Committee on Peace and International Security**

***Arab Group:***

M. M. Al-Ahbabi (Qatar) – first term

***Twelve Plus Group:***

Mr. P. Dallier (France) – first term

### **Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade**

#### ***Asia-Pacific Group:***

- Ms. S. Rehman (Pakistan) – to complete the first term of the former Bureau member from Pakistan. This first term ends in April 2021.
- Mr. I. Sereewatthanawut (Thailand) – to complete the first term of the former Bureau member from Thailand, who is no longer a parliamentarian. This first term ends in March 2020.

#### ***Eurasia Group:***

Mr. R. Marian (Republic of Moldova) – first term

#### ***Group of Latin America and the Caribbean:***

- Ms. M. Carvalho (Brazil) – first term
- Mr. B. Scotland (Guyana) – first term

### **Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights**

#### ***Eurasia Group:***

Mr. E. Primakov (Russian Federation) – first term

### **Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs**

#### ***Asia-Pacific Group:***

Ms. P. Tohmeena (Thailand), to complete the second term of the former Bureau member from Thailand, who is no longer a parliamentarian. This second term ends in October 2020.

#### ***Twelve Plus Group:***

Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium) – first term.

#### ***Group of Latin America and the Caribbean:***

Mr. R. Peña Flores (Costa Rica) – first term.



### **xiii) Rapporteurs to the 143<sup>rd</sup> Assembly**

195. The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights appointed the following as co-Rapporteurs for the subject item Legislation worldwide to combat online sexual child exploitation:

- Ms. A. Gerkens (Netherlands)
- Ms. J. Oduol (Kenya)
- Thailand (name to be confirmed).

## **M. DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE 140TH IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS**

### **1. Belgrade Declaration: *Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation***

We, Members of Parliament from over 140 countries and 25 regional and other parliamentary organizations, gathering in Belgrade, Serbia, at the 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), mark the IPU's 130th anniversary, uphold its dedication to peace, and underscore that international law is the bedrock of a world order based on solidarity and cooperation.

We firmly support the Purposes and Principles enshrined in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter of the United Nations and acknowledge that a better world for our peoples is possible only within an international order based on the rule of law.

We express our support for strong and effective multilateral institutions, with the United Nations at their core, designed to find solutions to common challenges; settle disputes between States; ensure accountability for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity; combat impunity; and verify that States abide by their international commitments. We also pledge our support for regional cooperation which helps to enhance the international legal order and enables the full implementation of our shared commitments.

Today, the world is witnessing grave breaches of international humanitarian law, as well as repeated violations of the basic rules, principles and fundamental tenets of international law, such as respect for the territorial integrity and political independence of States, refraining from the threat or use of force, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and the duty of States to uphold international human rights law. Non-compliance with climate, trade and disarmament agreements are also violations of international law with vast repercussions on development, well-being and global security.

We deplore all action that is not in compliance with international law, and we stand together to drive and promote changes that will transform the vision for a better world into reality, making sure that our people can lead a life free from want and free from fear.

Our debate has identified several avenues for parliamentary action in shaping and implementing international law, and to this end enhancing the contribution of regional cooperation.

### **Shaping and implementing international law**

It is ultimately up to parliaments to enact relevant legislation and ensure its implementation. Soft law and customary law can help shape international norms and reinforce a predictable and rules-based international order. In light of their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions, parliaments must be more forthcoming in translating international treaties and other legally binding instruments into legal and political systems and national realities.

As parliaments and parliamentarians, we must:

- At the national level, hold parliamentary debates on treaties, conventions and other legally binding international instruments in the early stages of their negotiation, and aim to ensure increased parliamentary scrutiny of the national mandate for the negotiation of such instruments.
- Ensure that international law is transposed into domestic legislation and that this legislation is implemented by developing effective and evidence-based policies and programmes, allocating the necessary budgets and rigorously overseeing their successful implementation.
- Where required, undertake legislative and constitutional reforms to ensure that adequate legal frameworks are in place to incorporate international law into domestic legislation smoothly (e.g. through automatic incorporation) and effectively (e.g. by attributing higher hierarchical status)
- Engage in a regular review of national implementation of international commitments, in particular in terms of examining and contributing to national reports prepared for submission to the international treaty bodies.
- Consider the establishment of ad hoc parliamentary committees mandated to systematically assess the compatibility between domestic legislation and international law.
- Follow major global processes and provide a parliamentary perspective to the national negotiating mandate, including in terms of ensuring that before



entering into new international commitments parliament has had the opportunity to formulate its views (including through parliamentary reports).

- Exercise early warning of potential conflict locally and nationally and take adequate action to avoid escalation, help build bridges of dialogue and cooperation, and ensure that the State duly complies with international law obligations in relation to genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, including ethnic cleansing, as well as other gross violations of international human rights law.
- Make every effort to guarantee the independence of the judiciary and adopt laws, policies and budgets aimed at strengthening the capacity of domestic courts to adjudicate on cases involving norms of international law.
- Help build public awareness and societal engagement in support of international law, and ensure that human rights and humanitarian law are included in the curricula of all learning institutions. Engage with civil society organizations and encourage them to contribute, through parliamentary processes as well, to the strengthening of, and compliance with, international law.

### **Delivering on priority areas**

While acknowledging the wide variety of international instruments which our countries have signed up to over the years, we have identified a number of priority areas which require our urgent attention. These include:

- Robustly tackling the climate emergency, ratifying and implementing the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Firmly respecting and promoting international human rights law, as well as international humanitarian law and international criminal law.
- On the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, solemnly recommitting ourselves to fully implementing its provisions and those of its optional protocols.
- Redoubling our efforts to achieve gender equality and the political empowerment of women, in keeping with the provisions of the Beijing Platform for Action and Security Council resolution 1325, and taking urgent action for the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Discrimination against Women – starting from within our own parliaments.

- As the Geneva Conventions turn 70, strengthening the observance of international humanitarian law and facilitating humanitarian action through relevant norms and effective funding.
- Ensuring that military and security forces are properly trained in international humanitarian law, and that they are held accountable for their actions.
- Delivering on our commitments in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and securing the abolition of weapons of mass destruction.
- Supporting international efforts towards the gradual elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular by explicitly committing to the "No First Strike" principle, reducing the number of nuclear weapons on high alert and those that are operationally deployed, and decreasing the number of existing nuclear warheads – which are more than enough to destroy the planet several times over.
- Ensuring the ratification and effective implementation at national level of international humanitarian law and human rights instruments as a critical step in ensuring that those entitled to protection actually benefit from it.
- Establishing an effective institutional infrastructure to ensure compliance with international human rights standards, including by setting up national human rights institutions and strengthening cooperation between those institutions and our respective parliaments.
- Making sure that the voice of young people is heard in decision-making, including by creating the necessary platforms and adopting concrete measure for youth participation.
- Combating impunity for international crimes, including through cooperation with international tribunals and the International Criminal Court, in keeping with national law.
- Help build public awareness and societal engagement in support of international law, and ensure that human rights and humanitarian law are included in the curricula of all learning institutions. Engage with civil society organizations and encourage them to contribute, through parliamentary



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### **The contribution of regional cooperation**

Regional cooperation is an essential component in strengthening the international legal order, contributing to peaceful settlement of disputes and advancing sustainable peace. After centuries of bloody conflict, culminating in the Second World War with its over 80 million fatalities, former adversaries in Europe created a European Coal and Steel Community, which went on to become the European Union and what is today a community of over 520 million citizens who enjoy unprecedented peace, freedom and prosperity. Regional cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean brought about the Treaty of Tlatelolco of 1967, which for the first time in history established an entire continent as a nuclear-weapon-free zone. In Africa, regional and sub-regional cooperation, in particular through the African Union, has been a driver of political stability and economic development. The vast majority of regional organizations have corresponding parliamentary assemblies and unions which complement the inter-governmental components and aim to promote greater understanding and cooperation within and among regions.

We aim to further enhance the contribution of regional cooperation to international law, including by:

- Actively supporting regional initiatives that aim to promote political dialogue and joint projects which can foster trust and understanding.
- Making use of the tools provided by parliamentary diplomacy to tackle unresolved issues and help build bridges in times of crisis.
- Identifying and disseminating good practices for regional cooperation and formulating proposals for concrete joint action.



- Within our respective regional parliamentary organizations, putting in place mechanisms to help monitor implementation of regional and international commitments.
- Reviewing and strengthening transparency and accountability mechanisms at the level of regional and global organizations.
- Building strategic partnerships at the regional and sub-regional levels to enhance the observance of universal values and norms, while also taking into consideration regional specificities.
- Sharing good practices and enhancing dialogue and cooperation between regional parliamentary organizations and our world organization, the IPU.
- Supporting the IPU as the global umbrella body of parliamentary organizations in its efforts to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of inter-parliamentary cooperation, including in the context of preparations for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in 2020.

## **2. Declaration to mark the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

Recognizing that in the 30 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (the Convention), the lives of millions of children have been improved through its implementation; that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Convention are inextricably linked and mutually reinforcing; that the twenty-first century has brought forth new challenges; and that there is a pressing need and urgency to accelerate progress and intensify action to ensure that every child enjoys every right, we, parliamentarians, re-affirm our commitment to:

Upholding and protecting the rights and guiding principles enshrined in the Convention: non-discrimination; the best interests of the child as a primary consideration in all actions concerning children; the child's inherent right to life, survival and development; and the child's right to express his or her views freely in all matters affecting the child, with those views being given due weight;

- Ensuring that our respective countries secure and deploy adequate resources so that all children, including refugee, migrant and internally displaced children, have access to health care services, education and protection from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation;
- Advocating for the protection of all children against all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse, including refugee and migrant children, and,

using our role as leaders of public opinion, to break the silence on taboos and to change attitudes, traditions or practices that can be harmful to children;

- Ensuring that national SDGs monitoring frameworks include child-focused indicators;
- Supporting children to learn about and take action on their rights and the SDGs, including in schools and through participatory processes.

We hereby recognize that taking concrete, actionable and time-bound steps towards the full implementation of the Convention, including through policies, laws and budgets in our respective national contexts, constitutes the best and most robust investment we can make to fulfil the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – for children and young people, and for peace, human security and sustainable development.

## **N. RESOLUTIONS**

### **1. Resolution on Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health**

*Recalling* that, as affirmed in the Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO), "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition", and that the right to health is protected by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as other widely ratified international instruments, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

*Recalling also* the 2012 IPU resolution, *Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children*, and the 2017 addendum to that resolution, and expressing appreciation for the national and international efforts that have been made to advance the right to health for all,

*Underlining* that the world's governments have set achieving universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030 as a target of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (in particular Goal 3, target 8), and welcoming coordination mechanisms such as the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All and multi-stakeholder platforms, including UHC2030,



*Welcoming* the Political Declaration adopted at the seventy-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on universal health coverage, and recalling important commitments and goals set in the area of Financing for Development for the world's governments in the context of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

*Acknowledging* the important role of parliaments and parliamentarians in advancing the UHC agenda, and the need for meaningful collaboration with public authorities, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, private sector entities and all relevant stakeholders in order to achieve UHC,

*Noting* that, although major progress has been made towards UHC, half the world's population still lacks access to necessary health services, that 100 million people are pushed into extreme poverty each year because of health expenses, and that 800 million people spend at least 10 per cent or more of their household budget on health-care expenses,

*Noting also* that UHC means national health policies and programmes in which all individuals and communities have access to the full spectrum of essential, available, accessible, acceptable, affordable and quality health services, from health promotion to prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care, at the time of need, which are delivered in a respectful and equitable manner and without causing financial hardship,

*Recognizing* that UHC must ensure that services are provided on an equal and non-discriminatory basis and that no one is left behind, in particular the vulnerable, disadvantaged, stigmatized or marginalized, children, youth, women, the elderly, indigenous peoples, people living with disabilities (especially women and children), people with rare or neglected diseases, migrants, refugees, people on the move, rural populations, especially rural women, and people affected by mental health conditions or pre-existing medical conditions, and especially noting that the impact is compounded when an individual suffers multiple or intersecting forms of discrimination,

*Expressing concern* that women, children, adolescents, the elderly, and people living with disabilities bear the greatest burden of ill health and preventable deaths, and often have limited financial resources to pay for essential health care, thus placing them at an economic disadvantage and higher risk of poverty,

*(The delegation of India expressed a reservation on the words "indigenous peoples" in preambular paragraph 8).*

*Noting with concern* that women generally bear higher out-of-pocket health-care-related expenses than men, and so are adversely affected by limitations or non-coverage of services under UHC that are unique to women, such as for reproductive and maternal health,



*Recognizing* that primary health care, including immunization campaigns, is the most inclusive, effective and efficient approach to enhancing people's physical and mental health and well-being, and that such health care is also the cornerstone of a sustainable health system capable of UHC, and welcoming the intergovernmental commitment in the 2018 Declaration of Astana to strengthen primary health-care systems as an essential step towards achieving the SDGs,

*Insisting* on the importance of people-centred health services that are equitable, well-resourced, accessible, integrated and supported by a skilled workforce, as well as of patient safety and quality health care as core components of health-system governance in order to fully empower people to improve and protect their own health,

*Noting the importance* of continued commitment and progress towards the implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030, as well as the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth in supporting human resource requirements as a building block for strong health systems and the foundation for achieving UHC,

*Underlining* the constitutional dimension of the right to health and the importance of allocating specific percentages and portions of national budgets to health, as a cornerstone to achieving comprehensive sustainable development,

*Underlining also* that investment in UHC is an investment in human capital that generates jobs, increases growth and reduces inequalities, including gender inequality, and recalling the importance of sustainable, adequate health funding,

*Being mindful* that progress towards UHC also requires the political, social, economic, environmental and climate determinants of health to be addressed,

*Noting* that the increasing number of complex emergencies is hindering the achievement of UHC, and that it is vital to ensure coordinated and inclusive approaches through national and international cooperation, following the humanitarian imperative and humanitarian principles to safeguard UHC in emergencies,

*Expressing its concern* at the increasing number of refugees around the world, taking into account that providing health care for refugees can be a great burden for host countries, some of which are hosting millions of them, and recognizing the responsibility of the international community to take solid steps in providing refugees with UHC,

*Conscious* of the connection between global health security and UHC, and of the need to continue delivering essential health care in emergency and fragile



situations, especially as regards women in armed conflicts, and determined to take action to prevent epidemics and the spread of disease by advocating and supporting countries' compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005) and to ensure their respective strong core capacities in public health to prevent, detect and respond to public health risks, particularly during health emergencies,

*Recognizing* that the achievement of UHC is intrinsic to achieving healthy lives and well-being for all, at all ages, and that it requires strong and sustained political commitment at all levels,

1. *Reaffirms* that the devotion of maximum available resources to the progressive realization of UHC is possible and achievable for all countries even in challenging settings, and calls on parliaments and parliamentarians to take all applicable legal and policy measures in order to help their respective governments to achieve UHC by 2030 and to ensure quality, affordable and accessible health care;
2. *Urges* parliaments to put in place a robust legal framework for UHC, to ensure effective implementation of UHC legislation in reality, and to ensure that the right of everyone to public health and medical care is guaranteed for all in law and in practice, without discrimination;
3. *Also urges* States to work closely with their national parliament, supported by the IPU, to raise further awareness among parliaments and parliamentarians about UHC and fully engage them in the process, so as to sustain political support towards achieving UHC by 2030;
4. *Further urges* parliaments to work for UHC to be established henceforth as a feature of national development plans and policies, health being at once a prerequisite for and a factor in countries' sustainable development;
5. *Calls on* States to ensure that national health policies and programmes are gender-sensitive, results-based and consistent with international human rights standards, including the principles of respect for autonomy and informed consent, and are developed through an inclusive and participatory process, and urges parliaments to remove legal or other barriers preventing access to health services, including by strengthening primary health care and human resources, such as by supporting dual vocational training;
6. *Calls for* priority to be given to the availability, accessibility, affordability, acceptability and quality of health-care services, including essential services for women, children, adolescents and groups in vulnerable positions, particularly at the primary-health-care level, in particular by promoting policies that acknowledge and support the work of community

health providers, most of whom are women, so that they can effectively provide essential health services, especially in rural areas;

7. *Encourages* States to implement prevention and education programmes to promote the health literacy of their citizens and to address behaviour-related health concerns, such as alcohol and tobacco use, occupational health and safety, obesity and sexually transmitted diseases;
8. *Urges* States – in order to meet a broad-based request from citizens to be accompanied towards the end of their lives in a dignified and as painless a manner as possible – to include palliative care and pain relief in their basic health-care services;
9. *Calls on* parliaments to strengthen health systems so as to reduce maternal, newborn, child and adolescent mortality and morbidity by strengthening sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health and nutrition services, promoting in particular breastfeeding, systematic immunization campaigns and early childhood development interventions, as well as by providing information on and access to the broadest possible range of safe, effective, affordable and acceptable modern methods of family planning;
10. *Urges* parliaments to ensure that health-sector interventions for protecting sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially for adolescents, are combined with promotive, early detection, preventive and educational measures in other sectors, in particular with respect to promoting gender equality and combating child, early and forced marriage, early and unintended pregnancies, and gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation or other forms of gender-based violence;
11. *Also urges* parliaments to respond to the specific health needs of women and girls, including awareness, prevention and early detection of cervical cancer, breast cancer and HIV-AIDS; provision of support and services to young girls during puberty; as well as adequate support and services to survivors of gender-based violence;
12. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure that national policies to implement UHC address malnutrition in all its forms, with special attention to the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and children during the first 1,000 days;
13. *Also calls on* parliaments to promote and foster access to essential, affordable, safe, effective and good-quality medicines, medical devices, contraceptives, vaccines, diagnostics and other technologies, without discrimination, to combat counterfeit and falsified medicines, and to



support innovation, research and development in medicines and vaccines for communicable and non-communicable diseases;

14. *Urges* parliaments to promote the immunization programmes of their respective governments, as the most effective preventive measure against infectious diseases, and to enact measures that will tighten patient safety regulations during the clinical testing of new vaccines to allay public fears of vaccination;
15. *Underlines* the need for early diagnosis, support, accessible and quality health information and affordable health services for people living with disabilities or chronic physical and mental health conditions, and for efforts to empower and include them to be scaled up;
16. *Encourages* a partnership-based approach to achieving UHC on a whole-of-government and whole-of-society basis, and invites parliaments to raise public awareness of UHC and engage communities and all relevant stakeholders in the development of plans and strategies that respond to their realities;
17. *Underlines* the need for a systematic approach to issues of gender, equity and human rights in health budgeting and planning and health-related decision-making processes, the informed participation of individuals and communities, particularly women, and health information systems which generate reliable evidence on health needs to ensure sound policy choices;
18. *Urges* parliaments to insist on the establishment of robust national indicators and disaggregated data for measuring progress on UHC, and calls for regular reporting and accurate use of disaggregated data to remove gender-based discrimination in the implementation of UHC;
19. *Calls on* parliaments to consider the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development and to allocate adequate domestic resources for the progressive realization of UHC through sustainable health financing, including through increased budgets where needed, as well as through measures to promote efficiency, equity, quality, cost containment and a stable basis for funding, mindful of the nominal minimum target for domestic resources identified by WHO as equivalent to 5 per cent of GDP;
20. *Urges* States to allocate more resources for the recruitment of new doctors and health-care staff, undertaking positive action in the relevant international forums aimed at easing the overly hard budget constraints implemented during the past decade;
21. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure that training for human resources is on a par with the reliability of health facilities' equipment in order to bridge

the gap sometimes observed between human resources and adequate health infrastructure;

22. *Also calls on* parliaments to ensure financial protection in order to reduce out-of-pocket payments for health services and to eliminate financial barriers that prevent access to health;
23. *Requests* parliaments in developed countries providing official development assistance to work towards increasing their country's assistance for health, including for research and development, while reminding developed countries of their commitment according to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution to contribute at least 0.7 percent of their GDI to official development assistance, and urges parliaments to ensure that governments and international funding partners align their financial support with health systems, plans and priorities designed to achieve UHC in recipient countries;
24. *Calls on* parliaments to use all generic parliamentary functions to hold their respective national governments accountable for the effective implementation of their UHC commitments, monitor the impact of UHC policies and programmes, and encourage governments to take corrective action where necessary, and urges parliaments to establish mechanisms to follow up on the implementation of this resolution;
25. *Underlines* the transformational potential of technology-based health innovations and new models of health care to accelerate progress towards achieving UHC, especially in low- and middle-income countries;
26. *Calls on* public authorities, especially health institutions, to observe strict ethical standards of care and, along with other national and international entities, to ensure continued health-care services and treatment for victims of armed conflict, fragile contexts, or health and other emergencies, such as natural disasters;
27. *Strongly urges* States and all parties to armed conflict to ensure health care and to develop effective measures to prevent and address acts of violence, attacks and threats against medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as health centres, hospitals and other medical facilities and also schools and training centres in armed conflict, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and United Nations Security Council resolution 2286 on the protection of health care in armed conflict, bearing in mind that such attacks render efforts to build up health systems impossible;
28. *Calls on* the relevant authorities of the international community to create an effective mechanism for all countries to share the joint



responsibility of providing refugees with adequate health services and achieving UHC for refugees wherever possible;

29. *Also calls on* parliaments to take all possible measures to ensure global health security by preventing the spread of diseases and other public health events, particularly through systematic immunization campaigns, as well as strengthening surveillance and response systems, and to advocate for the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and for the allocation of appropriate resources to meet countries' obligations and address critical gaps in their respective public-health core capacities to prevent, detect and respond to public health risks;
30. *Urges* that antibiotic resistance be included as a global indicator or an intermediate goal in the SDGs, recognizing that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a serious and pressing global health threat and that measures designed to counteract antibiotic resistance are an important aspect of protection against threats to human health and of ensuring access to necessary medicines, calls for full implementation of the Interagency Coordination Group recommendations, and calls on the Tripartite agencies and the United Nations Environment Programme to step up their work on AMR, especially to support countries to implement their national action plans;
31. *Also urges* parliaments to address the political, social, economic, environmental and climate determinants of health as enablers and prerequisites for sustainable development, and to promote a multisectoral approach to health;
32. *Requests* parliaments to facilitate and support the learning and sharing of UHC experiences, best practices, challenges and lessons learned across IPU Member Parliaments and their parliamentarians;
33. *Also requests* the agencies of the United Nations system, in particular WHO, to provide countries with coordinated, multifaceted support aimed at achieving UHC, to collaborate in monitoring the achievement of UHC, considering WHO's mandate to evaluate health indicators, and to boost the capacity of parliaments and parliamentarians to develop and monitor national UHC policies through the establishment of strong, learning health-care systems;
34. *Further requests* parliaments and parliamentarians to work for States' implementation of the recommendations of the meetings on achieving UHC, particularly those of the United Nations High-Level Meeting on universal health coverage held in September 2019, and calls on the IPU to provide its Members with all the tools required for the follow-up and evaluation of those recommendations.

## **2. Resolution on Addressing climate change**

*Aware* of the role and importance of democratic governance for peace and development resonating in the vision and mission of the IPU, a global organization of 179 Member Parliaments, and recalling the commitments on climate change made by the IPU at its 139th and 140th Assemblies,

*Acknowledging* that global warming of anthropogenic origin is one of the major challenges facing the global community today,

*Recalling* the commitments made by the global community in the Paris Agreement, which builds on previous international cooperation regarding various facets of climate change in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol, the Cancun Agreements, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Warsaw Outcomes, the SAMOA Pathway, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Also recalling* the commitment of the Parties to the UNFCCC to tackle the challenge of global warming on the basis of equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities,

*Acknowledging* that the Paris Agreement recognizes that sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production, with developed country Parties taking the lead, play an important role in addressing climate change,

*Recalling* that the Paris Agreement notes the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, and the importance for some of the concept of "climate justice",

*Also recalling* the commitment of the Paris Agreement to holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2° C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change,

*Acknowledging* the implications of various reports based on the best available science that the consequences of even limited global warming of 1.5° C are likely to be extensive, serious and damaging, but could be mitigated considerably by immediate and focused action and active international collaboration and cooperation through multilateral processes,



*Recalling* that the foremost priority for developing countries continues to be their rapid progress along the path of sustainable development to ensure the well-being of the majority of the population of the world, consistent with the commitment in the Paris Agreement to achieve sustainable development,

*Appreciating* the work being done under the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Lifestyles and by other regional groupings on sustainable consumption and production,

*Applauding* the efforts and initiatives of those local communities, the business and financial sectors, academic and research institutions, children and youth, media and governments in promoting an innovative mix of traditional and modern sustainable lifestyles at the individual and collective levels as their respective contributions to live within Earth's boundaries,

*Recalling* the IPU's commitment in the Hanoi Declaration of 2015 to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and to ensure that parliaments hold governments to account in implementing effective measures to achieve these Goals while leaving no one behind,

1. *Urges* all Parties to implement the Paris Agreement in letter and spirit, and to invest in mitigation and adaptation resolutely and speedily, in keeping also with the provisions of the UNFCCC and the protocols and agreements under its aegis;
2. *Urges* countries to take strong and effective mitigation action, as per the Paris Agreement, that would enable the achievement of the temperature goals, and notes, inter alia, that any shortfall in mitigation would tremendously enhance the burden of adaptation for vulnerable communities, populations, regions and countries;
3. *Calls on* the developed country Parties to the Paris Agreement to implement in letter and spirit their commitments under the Convention to provide finance, technology and capacity-building assistance to developing countries;
4. *Stresses* the need for the enhancement of urgent action for adaptation in developing countries to preserve and enhance their natural resources, which are the source of livelihoods and well-being for millions;
5. *Urges* all Parties to move forward expeditiously towards the effective implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage;
6. *Calls on* national parliaments to urge their governments to take a leading role in effective measures to counter global warming, raise awareness and provide extensive education on the causes and impact of climate change, and

to actively encourage the adoption of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production;

7. *Also calls on* national parliaments to urge their governments, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, to support the development of comprehensive national resilience mechanisms, strengthen disaster risk reduction and prevention, enhance disaster preparedness for effective responses, and invest in risk-reduction measures and societal resilience for disasters including, inter alia, desertification, deforestation, sand storms and mass flooding;
8. *Calls on* all parliamentarians to work with their governments in partnership with all stakeholders to implement the Paris Agreement by moving towards rapid implementation of the SDGs, thereby contributing to the enhancement of resilience and adaptation to climate change, and in particular calls on all parliamentarians to engage with youth to hear their voices and solutions to combat climate change and to open a dialogue with the younger generation;
9. *Strongly appeals* for a significant shift and enhancement in financial, technological and capacity-building assistance for developing countries towards adaptation rather than mitigation.

#### **O. RECOMENDATIONS BY THE KENYA DELEGATION**

The Kenya Parliament Delegation to the 141<sup>st</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and related meetings, pursuant to Article 7 of the IPU Statutes, urges the two Houses of Parliament to-

1. Note this Report; and
2. Follow up on the implementation of the Declaration and Resolutions of the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly and Related meetings.