



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# Summary Records of the Proceedings of the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly

Belgrade, Serbia

13-17 October 2019

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## Introduction

Delegations from 149 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The following nine Associate Members also took part in the Assembly: 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).

Observers included representatives of:

(i) the United Nations and related organizations: United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), World Health Organization (WHO); International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO);

(ii) parliamentary assemblies and associations: African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO), Maghreb Consultative Council, Pan-African Parliament (PAP), Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (PNND), Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TurkPA), Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC), Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF);

(iii) worldwide non-governmental organizations: the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;

(iv) international political party federations: Liberal International (LI), Socialist International;

(v) other IPU partner organizations: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International IDEA.

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.

# Inaugural ceremony of the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly

**SUNDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2019**

*The inaugural ceremony took place in the Blue Hall at the Sava Centre, Belgrade, on Sunday, 13 October 2019 at 7.30 p.m., with His Excellency Mr. Aleksandar Vučić, President of the Republic of Serbia, in attendance.*

Ms. M. 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. Serbia had been dedicated to the values and goals of the IPU for as long as 128 years, when the Kingdom of Serbia joined the community of parliaments in 1891. Its parliamentary democracy had developed alongside this membership through different convocations and generations, so that today its National Assembly could become a role model to other parliaments across the globe.

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.

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.

Serbia had been one of the first countries to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly would give special emphasis to marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention. Gender equality and women's empowerment would also feature prominently, with dedicated sessions and a panel to mark 40 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Equal participation of women in society, political processes and the economy would undoubtedly make the world a better and more humane place.

Mr. A. GUTERRES, Secretary-General of the United Nations, addressed the Assembly by video message as follows:

"I am pleased to greet the Inter-Parliamentary Union. I welcome your focus on international law, universal health coverage, the climate emergency and the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a former parliamentarian, I know that your contribution, as representatives of the people, is critical in advancing shared progress.

In facing today's challenges, we need a multipolar world with strong multilateral institutions and universal respect for international law. This is the path to building a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world, where no one is left behind.

I count on your continued support. Thank you."

Ms. T. VALOVAYA, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, representing the United Nations Secretary-General at the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly, applauded the extent of the long-standing cooperation between the United Nations and the IPU at the national, regional and international levels, particularly in relation to sustainable development and climate change.

As the world celebrated 100 years of multilateralism in 2019 and the 75<sup>th</sup> 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 inter-governmental 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.

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.

Ms. G. 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.

Promoting democracy meant promoting women's and youth's political empowerment, both of which were key items on the Assembly agenda, coinciding with the 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

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. They would also be working towards a resolution on strengthening peace and security against threats and conflict resulting from climate-related disasters, ready for the next Assembly in April 2020.

Following the Assembly, delegates had a duty to return to their countries and follow through on the commitments and decisions made, to channel what they had heard and learnt into meaningful national action.

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. Multilateralism was where the wider and more inclusive agreements were generated, where global solutions were designed to address the issues that did not respect borders, and where the most favourable spaces for peace could be found. The delegations present in Belgrade represented the political and social pluralism of the peoples of the world. Participating in the IPU meant believing that parliamentary diplomacy was the best way to strengthen international cooperation, transform the world and deliver results for future generations.

Mr. A. VUČIĆ, President of the Republic of Serbia, welcomed the parliamentarians and all participants to the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly. He was proud to host such an important event and underlined the huge number of parliaments and parliamentarians attending the Assembly. The scale of the Assembly was proof of how little was required to fulfil big dreams. Some 130 years ago, just two parliamentarians from two countries that had warred throughout history decided to join forces to put a stop to conflict and create a body that would become a very important multilateral organization.

Parliaments were institutions where differences in views and stances could be negotiated and overcome and equal opportunities could be secured for all in society. Parliamentarians should continue to hope, dream of equality and be inspired by the progress made in the Balkans in moving on from past conflict and respecting neighbouring countries. Sharing experiences in forums like the IPU Assembly 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.

*The speeches were followed by a short film about Serbia and performances of traditional and contemporary Serbian music and dance.*

## Sitting of Monday, 14 October 2019

### (Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 11.10 a.m., with Ms. M. Gojković (Serbia), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

The PRESIDENT said that the topic of the coming general debate, *Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms and the contribution of regional cooperation*, was a fitting choice in the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of an organization with founding aims that had included the establishment of conflict resolution mechanisms through international norms and instruments. Thanks to their work to preserve and advance the established international order and ensure full compliance with the related principles and norms, parliamentarians had ever since continued to exert a profound influence in that sphere. With its long tradition and experience of advocating peace, fairness and justice in international relations, the IPU represented the finest international framework for reaffirming and debating international law in the light of modern-day challenges.

Such challenges included the violation of international norms, principles and rules, with force often placed above justice and law to devastating effect. Compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, conventions and other legal instruments guaranteeing international law and order must be full and fair, as opposed to arbitrary and half-hearted, for the sake of international peace and security. Similarly, to that effect regional cooperation was crucial in resolving conflict through dialogue and agreements compatible with international law, which must be clearly drafted to avoid any risk of misinterpretation or politicization that could ultimately disrupt peace and security in the region concerned and even beyond. For dialogue to be sustainable, it must involve all stakeholders and be based on firm compromise.

In furtherance of dialogue and cooperation, therefore, parliamentarians must restore public trust in institutions and in the principles of international law. Only through acceptance of international obligations would a stable world with a certain future be created. The current session would provide important opportunities for parliamentarians to reaffirm the significance of long-standing international treaties, discuss their achievements and highlight progress in their implementation. Through their legislative and oversight functions, parliamentarians must insist on the full implementation of such international treaties. To that end, continuation of the IPU's close cooperation with the United Nations was key. For 130 years, the world's parliaments had been working together to build a community of values within the IPU, as well as mechanisms for safeguarding peace and security with the support of international law. The IPU was consequently the right place for making an appeal that would echo across the globe for the protection and strengthening of international legal mechanisms and institutions.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON, President of the IPU, thanked the Serbian hosts of the Assembly for their warm welcome to Belgrade, where the IPU was convening for a second time after 56 years, and said that the visionary founders of the IPU had paved the way for international mediation and arbitration, ultimately setting the basis for international law in its present form and for a conflict resolution framework. In line with that heritage, parliamentarians had a duty to continue strengthening international law. As guarantors of peace and harmony, they must promote friendship, build bridges and work to relieve social and political tensions through dialogue and understanding, in addition to combating injustice and hate speech and ensuring that governments upheld their commitment to preventing crimes against humanity. To those ends, parliamentarians must promote and protect the rule of law.

International law served as a codified road map for peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and human rights protection. It was a legitimate tool for improving lives that must be transposed into domestic law and duly implemented through evidence-based policies, appropriate budget allocations, rigorous oversight and, where necessary, legislative and constitutional reform. Strict observance of international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international criminal law was crucial for a peaceful and harmonious world. It was within the realm of parliamentarians to help create that world, which also necessitated concerted action to save the planet from the environmental consequences of human behaviour and to ensure attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Regional cooperation, where regional and subregional parliamentary bodies played their part, was another essential component for strengthening international law, contributing to the peaceful settlement of disputes and advancing sustainable peace. In conclusion, she called on Members to



take stock of their achievements, learn from their mistakes and renew their commitment to further involvement in creating a fairer and more inclusive world by turning global agreements into local realities.

The PRESIDENT said that she was pleased to invite the keynote speaker, Mr. L. Brahimi, founding member of the illustrious group known as The Elders, to address the Assembly in his capacity as an expert in peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction.

Mr. L. BRAHIMI, *keynote speaker*, said that the nuclear threat on which his address would mostly focus lacked due attention and that the outcomes of important and influential conferences held decades before remained ever relevant. Those outcomes included the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and called for nuclear disarmament, international cooperation and stronger support for the United Nations, its Charter and its Secretary-General. The fall of the Berlin Wall and end of the Cold War in 1991 had given rise to optimistic expectations of the Charter finally fulfilling its promise to resolve outstanding difficulties, as had indeed occurred in various situations around the world. Those expectations had also catalysed the Agenda for Peace, the Agenda for Development and five key summit conferences on environment and development, population, women, social development, and human settlements. For some, however, the aftermath of the Cold War had brought costly confrontations and painful change, while the proclaimed new world order was in fact the world of the single superpower, otherwise known as the American Century. With the rise of the global South, however, focus had shifted towards the United States-Chinese trade war and speculations about a resulting conflict and Cold War revival.

Nuclear catastrophe loomed ever larger in the present-day world of disturbing tensions and unpredictability, yet much greater attention was paid to climate change as an existential threat to life on Earth. A new nuclear arms race with cascading effects was a real prospect that parliaments could help to counter by spearheading a new anti-nuclear campaign. Peace and security were severely threatened and arms security control effectively reduced by the United States of America's withdrawal from nuclear-related treaties, a situation that would be further exacerbated by any future non-renewal or "unsigning" of other similar treaties. All nuclear powers must work together responsibly to reduce their nuclear stockpiles if the non-proliferation regime were to survive. In that context, parliaments could use their power of the purse and public influence to good effect, including towards the establishment of nuclear-weapons-free zones, which was a particularly urgent goal in the Middle East region.

For their part, The Elders had formulated proposals for raising public awareness of the issue and for progressing towards nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament through an incremental "minimization" agenda. Acknowledging geopolitical realities while insisting on urgent action, that agenda was based on four "Ds": doctrine, de-alerting; deployment; and decreased numbers. Initiatives for strengthening the legal and normative processes in that sphere included the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and the Global Zero campaign. With commitment and motivation, parliaments and the IPU could do much in the area of defending, renewing and expanding the critical architecture of arms control instruments that had helped in the past 70 years to avert a nuclear catastrophe.

Whatever the understanding of the complexity of climate change and the difficulties it posed for decision-makers, the loud global youth protests for urgent action on the issue attested to the breakdown in public trust. The fact was that, as in the case of such challenges as economic equality, social justice, discrimination and corruption, the twin threats of climate change and nuclear weapons would be effectively confronted only if all sections of society believed they had a stake in the politics and governance of their countries. He wished participants a rich debate and much success.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. L. Brahimi for his important words.

#### Item 1 of the agenda

#### **Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly**

The PRESIDENT requested delegations that had not yet nominated one of their members to serve as vice-president of the Assembly to communicate the name of their candidate to the IPU Secretariat.



Item 3 of the agenda**General Debate on the theme *Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms and the contribution of regional cooperation***  
(A/141/3-Inf.1)

The PRESIDENT, introducing the item, said that, in accordance with usual practice, the debate would be prefaced by statements providing women's and young people's perspectives on its theme.

Ms. S. KIHKA (Kenya), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, presenting the perspective of women, said that international law drove peace and afforded protection, especially for the most vulnerable, from tyranny, insecurity and suffering. Where restricted on any ground, the basic human rights of women and girls must be reaffirmed and reclaimed, including through continuing efforts to eliminate all forms of gender-based discrimination in law and in practice. Advocates and lawmakers must also take all opportunities provided by international treaties, resolutions and forums to advance gender equality and women's empowerment and build on existing safeguards of women's rights.

In upholding such core principles and working for inclusiveness and the common good, parliamentarians must call for women's inclusion in the negotiation and formulation of international and regional treaties, including peace agreements; take the lead in monitoring the implementation thereof; and pursue legal reforms for the advancement of gender equality. Challenges must be acknowledged and decisions fair and well understood, which called for transparency, accountability, openness and, importantly, truly inclusive institutions representing the whole of society. Times were troubling, but parliaments must seize the moment to work together in furthering the protection of women's rights.

Mr. M. BOUVA (Suriname), President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, presenting the youth perspective on the theme of the debate, said that younger generations were losing confidence in institutions and suffering the consequences of past or current inaction. Parliamentarians must adopt a youth-responsive approach to tackling climate change, safeguarding human rights, promoting fairness and equality, and working for peace and well-being. Parliaments must be more inclusive and more young women and men must be involved in decision-making, peace processes, the media and public debates.

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, persons with disabilities, migrants, sexual minorities and future generations. With democracy and planet Earth in danger, it was time to recommit to fully honouring the principles and ambitions of international law and to championing human rights and international climate justice by uniting forces for a peaceful, inclusive and sustainable world.

The PRESIDENT invited participants, starting with Speakers of Parliament, to address the Assembly on the theme of the debate.

Ms. S.S. CHAUDHURY (Bangladesh), opening the debate, said that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law were key tenets of any functioning democracy. Globalization, however, had given rise to critical challenges associated with cross-border issues, among them forced migration, human trafficking and terrorism, all of which were linked with human rights protection. Parliaments had an effective role to play in that sphere by raising awareness of national, regional and international human rights mechanisms and reflecting human rights norms and principles in new legislation. It was their duty to change lives for the better through their unique ability to guarantee equal rights and opportunities for all. They must therefore work together to promote respect for human rights and rule of law, and to ensure that the public voice was represented in decision-making processes.

With parliaments playing such a central role in strengthening international law, they must actively engage in international forums and seek to develop further a multi-layered parliamentary diplomacy through dialogue, negotiations and bilateral interactions. Parliaments were indeed partners for change in the new "age of subsidiarity", where States had a renewed responsibility for human rights protection. As institutions striving to uphold international human rights norms and promote sustainable democracy by nurturing intrinsic values, including equality, freedom, justice and respect for diversity, parliaments could lead the way to an inclusive, equitable and peaceful world.

Mr. N. NIGMATULIN (Kazakhstan) said that the rise in protectionism and nationalist policies was undermining international partnerships and cooperation, leading in turn to the violation of long-term inter-State agreements and United Nations resolutions. Kazakhstan continued to observe the basic principles of international law and, as a country situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, set particular store by regional cooperation. It initiated dialogue for resolving regional and global conflicts within the framework of internationally recognized negotiation formats and worked to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world.

As affirmed in Kazakhstani proposals presented at a recent major meeting of Speakers of Eurasian parliaments, parliamentary diplomacy was an important mechanism for enabling parliaments to contribute significantly towards strengthening international law. Those proposals included the convening of a high-level United Nations conference to reaffirm the basic principles of international law; the harmonization of laws on, inter alia, terrorism and online drug-selling; and the ratification of international treaties and agreements. In those contexts, parliaments could hold legislative debates aimed at reviving the centrality of the Charter of the United Nations and support ratification of the TPNW, to which Kazakhstan had recently acceded. Joint efforts and coordinated actions were needed to strengthen international law and regional cooperation. The potential of inter-parliamentary cooperation must accordingly be maximized in the interest of harmonizing national legislation with international regulatory instruments, primarily United Nations conventions.

Mr. H.-S. MOON (Republic of Korea) said that the effective implementation of multilateral international norms, including international human rights instruments, must be underpinned by the commitment of States parties to compliance. In that respect, parliaments played a significant role in view of their power to ratify treaties, enact domestic implementing legislation and oversee enforcement. Having taken such steps to ensure fulfilment of his country's international obligations under various conventions, the Korean National Assembly was systematically involved in the domestic implementation of international norms. Given the growing prevalence of economic conflicts and the need to regulate trade disputes in accordance with international law, parliamentarians must furthermore renew their commitment to rules-based, fair and free trade by fully supporting international trade-related organizations and treaties.

With denuclearization negotiations currently in deadlock, the institutionalization of commitments and agreements based on trust was desperately needed to accomplish the Herculean task of establishing a robust peace in the Korean Peninsula. Despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles, it remained vital to continue pursuing with patience and commitment the path of sincere dialogue founded on mutual trust. A peaceful peninsula free of nuclear weapons would contribute to both regional and international peace and security. He called for unwavering support and cooperation to that end, as well as for creative ideas for improving international norms in the current "super-connected" society born of the revolution in information and communication technology.

Mr. I. BRAJOVIĆ (Montenegro) said that his region's recent history would not have been associated with conflict, hatred and intolerance if the will for dialogue had then existed. The consequences still lingered, demonstrating how past decisions moulded the future for the next generations. Montenegro was nonetheless pursuing a direction based on values fundamental to its multi-ethnic and multi-confessional society: solidarity, dialogue and respect for diversity. It fostered good-neighbourly relations and followed a responsible domestic and foreign policy aligned with that of the European Union. Recognized for the openness of its ongoing communication with citizens and others, his Parliament was actively engaged in strengthening democratic processes and enhancing the political and socio-economic environment. It had also initiated the establishment of a regional parliamentary forum with a view to promoting dialogue and cooperation, as well as the role and visibility of parliaments.

Parliaments had a unique responsibility to reconcile the interests and expectations of different groups through dialogue and compromise. They must help to address disparate challenges at all levels by adapting laws to new needs, overseeing government actions and working with others to find answers respectful of different cultures and traditions. The achievement of those aims depended on strong institutions based on, among others, the rule of law, respect for human rights and positive communication. Parliaments must therefore be mutually supportive and united by good intentions and a desire to improve lives.

Mr. A. AL TARAWNEH (Jordan) said that the core values of international law were being challenged by States, organizations and entities that knew only the language of force, money and terrorism. The voices of moderation and wisdom went unheard and United Nations resolutions unimplemented by States disrespectful of international law, primarily the Israeli occupier systematically

supported by the United States Administration. Parliamentary contributions to strengthening international law and regional cooperation had little short-term prospect as long as the world turned a blind eye and exercised double standards by failing to ensure compliance with international law by all.

In the Middle East, conflict endured and younger generations faced a bleak future of insecurity, notably in Palestine, where the Israeli occupier persistently flouted United Nations resolutions and all principles of international law. It was also violating its peace treaty with Jordan, a country that promoted regional cooperation, was committed to the principles of international law, hosted millions of refugees and fought terrorism. The global silence surrounding the crimes and practices of the occupier simply fuelled extremism in the region, where the two-State solution was the only option for peace and stability. Parliaments must exert pressure on their governments to end the repressive practices of the occupier and refuse to move their embassies to Jerusalem. Elsewhere in the region, challenges ranged from foreign interference and proxy wars to crises and attacks on oil facilities. Destinies were being controlled by the few and international organizations should be structurally reformed to prevent it.

Mr. N. RADMANOVIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina) said that the holding of an Assembly of the IPU, an organization that stood for inter-parliamentary cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy, in a region where bloody ethnic and civil wars had raged but three decades earlier would surely provide impetus for all Western Balkan countries to leave behind past conflicts and resolve through dialogue any others that threatened. Political and economic cooperation, vital reform and compliance with key international instruments and standards were the means to enabling those countries to find their place within the European Union.

That prospect served as a powerful integrating factor for all countries in his region but most especially for Bosnia and Herzegovina, where a political crisis continued to prevent the formation of a government one year after democratic elections had been held. Exemplifying one of the many roles undertaken by democratically elected representatives, the country's leading parliamentarians had recently taken action aimed at resolving the crisis and enabling the legislature and the executive to start work. In other roles, they worked to promote political dialogue and meaningful inter-State relations and cooperation at the regional and international level, and were active in regional parliamentary and political initiatives for the integration of Western Balkan countries into a single economic community, with free movement of persons, goods and capital, in a peaceful, stable and prosperous region.

### **Establishment of a quorum**

The SECRETARY GENERAL announced that, in accordance with Rule 33.2 of the Rules of the Assembly, the quorum of 61 was established for the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly on the basis of the effective participation of 120 delegations in the current first plenary meeting.

*The sitting rose at 1.05 p.m.*

## Sitting of Monday 14 October

### (Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m., with Mr. P. Nyabenda (Burundi), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

#### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General Debate on the theme *Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation***

##### *Resumption of the debate*

Mr. D. O'DONOVAN (Ireland), resuming the high-level segment of the debate, said that regional cooperation had been a significant factor in bringing peace to the island of Ireland, with its troubled past. Regional inter-parliamentary forums provided opportunities for Irish parliamentarians to engage and cooperate with counterparts on issues of mutual interest and concern for the benefit of their constituents. Ireland upheld a constitutionally enshrined commitment to an international order based on the rule of law, including as a core principle of its foreign policy. As a small State, it placed high value on multilateralism, partnership and cooperation. Its parliamentarians also firmly supported the aims of the United Nations and key European organizations and participated actively in their work. Ireland was a party to the core international human rights treaties and worked to strengthen the multilateral human rights framework and respect for international humanitarian law. That commitment was further demonstrated by its acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Multilateralism, however, was under threat. All States must therefore support the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, uphold international law and adhere to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which played an essential role in ensuring accountability for perpetrators of the most serious international crimes. The international legal order could be vitally enhanced through regional cooperation. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to encourage and support governments in preserving that order, which included holding them accountable for their actions and ensuring their compliance with international law.

Mr. S. CHENINE (Algeria) said that the profound geostrategic changes taking place globally had given rise to the selective implementation of international law, notably in connection with such matters as the rule of law, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and the requirement for Security Council authorization in cases of unilateral action. All States, parliaments and parliamentary bodies must therefore engage in multilateral diplomacy in pursuit of global governance reform with the aim of improving representation, balance and the capacity for decisions guaranteeing international peace and security, State sovereignty, the dignity of peoples and the rights of citizens.

In addition to recognizing the pivotal role of parliament in strengthening democracy and the rule of law, the Algerian Constitution enshrined the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the human rights and fundamental freedoms embodied in the numerous international human rights instruments ratified by Algeria. It also enshrined the primacy of international over domestic law, with Parliament harmonizing or adapting all related legislation accordingly. Constitutional reforms had furthermore enhanced the status of the legislature and strengthened the rights of the parliamentary opposition. Parliament had improved the legal system in a multitude of areas to ensure fulfilment of the country's international treaty obligations. It had furthermore brought the electoral law into line with internationally recognized standards and enacted a law establishing an independent national electoral authority. Both laws responded to the peaceful demands of the people for democratic, impartial and transparent elections, due to take place in late 2019.

Mr. M. ALSULAMI (Arab Parliament) said that the Arab region had been subjected to grave violations of international law relating primarily to the practices of the Israeli occupying power against the Palestinian people. The occupying power must be required to comply with all United Nations resolutions and all must recognize the State of Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital. Settlement of the Palestinian question was key to regional and indeed international peace and stability, which had also recently been threatened by a flagrant violation of international law in the Strait of Hormuz, the most important shipping lane for oil exports in particular. Further exacerbated by the recent attack on Saudi oil facilities, the situation challenged the international order and called for urgent action. The Arab Parliament condemned such attacks, stood in solidarity with those targeted and supported their actions to maintain security, stability and the safety of their vital facilities.

Mr. O. BIRLA (India) said that the balanced international order required for a just peaceful and prosperous world demanded universally acceptable norms and standards. The willingness of nation States to come together was evident from the existence of rule of law in areas ranging from, among others, trade and intellectual property to transport and environment. New norms were furthermore being developed in emerging complex areas, including marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, automated weapons and cybersecurity. Regrettably, however, no international rule of law had yet been developed in such other spheres as terrorism, where narrow geopolitical interests were hampering progress and effective international collaboration.

In India, the world's largest democracy and fastest growing major economy, the independence of the judiciary, legislature and executive was the basis for the rule of law and were cherished alongside a free and vibrant media and civil society and strong electoral traditions. India saw cooperative multilateralism as the only answer to the many interconnected challenges posed in an interdependent world. Parliaments played a constructive role in passing the legislation needed to give effect to international commitments, approving the related budgets and affirming government pledges to the international community and citizens. Parliamentary outreach was thus crucial to communicating with the public, to promoting dialogue on national and international issues, and to providing an understanding of parliamentary actions and executive initiatives. In that context, the IPU was the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue on key matters of global concern and for the promotion of regional cooperation.

Ms. L.A. ROJAS HERNÁNDEZ (Mexico) said that the role of parliamentarians in strengthening international law involved, in particular, their work in the areas of legislative harmonization and compliance monitoring. In Mexico, the two houses of Parliament had each established a working group to oversee implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the lower house was also establishing a working group responsible for monitoring government compliance with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The country's legislation had also been brought into line with international law which often transformed societies and changed lives. In Mexico, generations of women had gradually won rights, including the right to vote, the right to education and the right to participate in public and political life.

Thanks to the commitment of parliamentarians to ensuring fulfilment of the country's international obligations through national reform, Mexico now had the world's fourth highest number of women in the upper house and women headed both houses. Parliament had recently acted to promote gender equality in public institutions. The Mexican experience would hopefully inspire others to ensure equal access for women to decision-making positions. Efforts to that end must be stepped up, however, as barely one quarter of the world's parliamentarians were women. Regional cooperation must likewise be stepped up to combat climate change, with parliamentarians exercising their legislative and oversight functions to optimum effect for the sake of preserving the planet.

Mr. A. ABDEL AAL (Egypt) said that commitment to the implementation of international law, which could be open to interpretation and sometimes politicized, depended on political will and was also affected by the balances of power and interests at play. International law – and in particular international humanitarian law – was frequently violated, especially in areas long plagued by conflicts. The threat of terrorism persisted and a nuclear-weapons-free world had still not been achieved. Economic globalization had furthermore widened the gap between developed and developing countries. In short, the world was polarized and the system was in crisis, with some countries attempting to impose their will on others. Conflict resolution, however, necessitated compliance with international law and respect for the sovereignty of States.

States were under obligation to respect the principles of international law developed primarily by the United Nations, in particular those relating to international peace and security, and to observe international humanitarian law in times of armed conflict. In all cases, parliaments must discharge their mammoth task of holding governments accountable for non-compliance, including with respect to such matters as non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States. International law was instrumental to achieving the universal aspirations for a better world equipped to deal with existing and emerging challenges, eliminate nuclear weapons and also resolve disputes. In that regard, the long-standing plight of the Palestinian people was a case in point that would be resolved only through the establishment of an independent Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as its capital.

Ms. C. GOTANI HARA (Malawi) said that regional cooperation was effective only if parliaments were proactively involved in the formulation of regional instruments and strictly monitored their implementation. Issues addressed by international law knew no border limitations, whereas international instruments presupposed that national and regional perspectives were taken into account in the development of legislation to regulate such issues. Parliaments were the only institutions

capable of ensuring that international law and cooperation were acceptable and implementable. Government decisions associated with regional and international cooperation required the approval of the representatives of those expected to benefit from such cooperation, although approval alone was insufficient to produce the desired effect. Given their crucial oversight role, parliaments must, from the outset, be afforded a significant say in such matters and the instruments concerned.

Parliaments were furthermore required to give effect to a State's international obligations by incorporating international laws into domestic legislation, thereby helping to ensure the uniformity of international law and ultimately bring about global peace, cooperation, coexistence and meaningful development. It was through participation in international parliamentary forums such as the IPU that parliamentarians could share experiences on how best to handle matters relating to international law and regional cooperation.

Ms. R.A. KADAGA (Uganda) said that parliaments shared responsibility with legal institutions to protect the rule of law and human rights. In the universal human rights reporting system, however, parliaments – the elected representatives of human rights victims – were neglected, whereas civil society – unelected and unaccountable to anyone – was permitted to provide input. The annual parliamentary hearing at the United Nations was thanks to the efforts of the IPU, which also kept parliamentarians regularly informed of reporting cycles and facilitated their attendance, by invitation as opposed to by right, at sessions of the Human Rights Council and certain treaty bodies.

Parliaments played an important role in the incorporation of international treaties into domestic law and their oversight was also key in identifying and ending human rights abuses. It was therefore time to formulate an agreed set of principles and guidelines on the relationship between parliaments and human rights institutions. Parliaments should furthermore establish standing committees on human rights and regional parliamentary bodies should also be constituted to deal with human rights issues. Solidarity debates for identifying human rights violations in their regions would additionally encourage parliamentarians to increase their ownership of fundamental values and ultimately facilitate national compliance with human rights standards and comparative regional standards. The United Nations would surely benefit from greater parliamentary involvement in its work.

Ms. A. AL QUBAISI (United Arab Emirates) said that her country had learned through experience the importance of cooperation with others for the benefit of its current and future generations. It also recognized women as a key resource, increased their parliamentary representation to one half of all seats and protected their rights under an Arab charter pioneered by the country's Parliament in a cooperative exercise. The UAE had realized those and other achievements thanks to the respect it accorded to international law and international humanitarian law as the cornerstones of international peace and security, to which parliaments contributed through cooperation with international institutions.

Currently, however, there was a lack of confidence in the capacity of the international order to ward off the growing threats posed to peace and security, including in her region, by flagrant violations of international law. Other threats included actions such as the current Turkish invasion of Syrian Arab territory, the recent attack on Saudi Arabian oil facilities, and efforts to sow religious hatred, all of which was exacerbated by the negligence of an international community too often motivated by self-interest. Ever faithful to its core values of respect for the sovereignty of States, her country maintained the right to recover its three Iranian-occupied islands and supported the right of the Palestinian people to the establishment of its own State, with Jerusalem as its capital. Lack of respect for international law was the path to chaos and mayhem, which parliamentarians could help to mitigate by playing their part in strengthening international law.

*Ms. D. Mukabalisa (Rwanda), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.*

Mr. P. KATJAVIVI (Namibia) said that his country's journey to independence had been a lesson in the importance of international intervention in resolving conflicts and that, the Namibian Parliament, in an effort to strengthen international law and promote peace and security, had accordingly ratified numerous international treaties. Parliament also monitored and evaluated the country's progress towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was a member of regional, continental and international parliamentary bodies, and worked closely with civil society to strengthen democracy. As part of the obligation to advocate for a peaceful resolution to domestic and regional conflicts, it provided a platform for peaceful demonstrations and petitioning campaigns by the public, who were also able to discuss matters of concern with parliamentarians or communicate with them via the Parliament's social media channels. It furthermore hosted a Children's Parliament with a view to inculcating a democratic culture among its youth by giving them the opportunity to engage in debate and inform decision-making.

The international legal order would be strengthened and preserved only if all States adhered to the letter and spirit of international instruments, especially those relating to conflict resolution. Parliaments could enhance coherence in regional and inter-parliamentary cooperation through their active participation in regional and inter-parliamentary bodies. In conclusion, he called on all Members to support the people of Western Sahara and of Palestine in their respective calls for self-determination in conformity with key United Nations resolutions.

Ms. V. MATVIENKO (Russian Federation) said that many countries had experienced the consequences of violations of international law, which were not limited to the deaths of innocent victims and the destruction of property and infrastructure. In some cases, they had also led to geopolitical disasters, with lasting repercussions for the societies concerned. Concerted efforts should therefore be made towards promoting compliance with international law, which would also eliminate any questioning of the pivotal role of the United Nations in that sphere. Only then would it be possible to achieve a world of security, stability and prosperity.

International law could be much strengthened through regional cooperation, with parliaments playing their crucial part. In her region, for instance, parliaments worked within the framework of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS) to develop model legislation with a view to the harmonization of their respective national laws. In 2020, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War would be commemorated. Attempts were being made, however, to rewrite history, including with respect to the role of the Soviet Union in destroying fascism, which was now in resurgence. Monuments to soldiers who died for freedom were being demolished in a politicization of history, whereas the victory over Nazism should be recognized as a global heritage in an initiative that she urged all Members to support.

Mr. A. ARDESHIR LARIJANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that collective efforts to safeguard international law were the only means of ensuring commitment to standards, guaranteeing security and maintaining global governance. An unpredictable future was inevitable without action to address the lack of effective mechanisms for countering and punishing violations of international norms and rules, such as the imposition of unilateral economic sanctions as a tool for the advancement of illegitimate foreign policy objectives to the detriment of human rights and international peace and security. For the United States Administration, such actions were now routine. Its withdrawal from key international agreements and its engagement in trade wars further demonstrated its failure to meet its international commitments.

Despite its words, the international community had taken no concrete action to halt the economic terrorism practised against his country by the United States, which had also created the most notorious of all terrorist networks in his region for political gain. The United States moreover acted with impunity, given its role in the United Nations Security Council, leading to the conclusion that there was no effective legal mechanism in place for safeguarding international rights and commitments. Similarly exemplifying that malaise was the fact that the decades-long brutal and inhumane practices of the Zionist regime against the wronged Palestinian people had essentially been rewarded by the “deal of the century” or United States peace proposal for resolving the conflict, which would do anything but. All such tactics would eventually return to haunt those responsible.

Concerning the Emirati allegation of Iranian interference in the region, his country had promptly responded to legitimate government requests for help in suppressing the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIL). For that it should be commended, especially as there was no telling what consequences there might otherwise have been in the Persian Gulf. He wondered why the United Arab Emirates was interfering in Libya and the Sudan and why its authorities displayed one attitude in secret talks and another in public forums.

Mr. M. AL-GHANIM (Kuwait) said that justice and equality were measured against the yardstick of international law and that might was not right. International law was the only acceptable means for settling disputes and addressing acts of international intimidation. One particularly stark and shameful example of violations of international law was those that were being systematically perpetrated for decades by the Israeli occupier against the Palestinian people. Thanks to its persistent silence and inaction, the international community had in fact encouraged the Israeli aggressor by giving it carte blanche to pursue its violations, including with the aim of further undermining the Palestinian identity and territorial integrity.

Indeed, the Israeli entity invariably sprang first to mind in IPU discussions on a range of human rights-related issues. Israeli practices in disregard of international law in those matters ran counter to universally held values and were consistently condemned by the international community. The failure



to translate words into action, however, enabled the Israeli occupier to escape with impunity. The ongoing occupation of Palestine and associated violations of international law were furthermore compounded by the unilateral decision of the United States to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the Israeli entity, as well as the latter's annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights. The Israeli entity was moreover planning to annex the Jordan Valley. The ongoing silence in the face of such outrages bred despair and frustration, which were a ticking time-bomb with consequences for the region and beyond from which no one was safe.

Mr. M. ŞENTOP (Turkey) said that international organizations had failed to create the conditions for peace, minimum prosperity and humane living. Their actions were increasingly based on double standards, notably with respect to non-compliance with United Nations resolutions, for which some escaped with impunity and others not. The search was therefore under way for a new world order based on justice and equality for all States and human beings, irrespective of race or faith. To that end, Turkey had developed a proactive and humanitarian foreign policy; it had established an extensive global diplomatic presence through which it built and maintained high-level relations worldwide; it hosted the highest number of refugees; and it had been ranked in recent international reports as the world's most generous humanitarian aid donor.

As to the Turkish operation that had been recently launched in Syrian territory, it was aimed solely at neutralizing the ongoing terrorism threat posed to Turkey from inside that territory by terrorist organizations well known to it. Turkey was simply exercising its right to self-defence, believing moreover that Syrian territorial integrity and political unity were crucial for both Turkish and regional security. Turkey was directly affected by the lack of Syrian border and territorial control responsible for the vacuum now filled by terrorist groups bent on attacking Turkey. The country's current operation was furthermore permissible under the Adana accord on security cooperation between the two countries. Unlike other similar operations conducted in Syrian territory by far-away countries, that operation was condemned, including – astonishingly – by North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies.

Ms. T. MODISE (South Africa) said that South Africa was committed to justice, international law, multilateralism and a rules-based system. It also continued to embrace the concept of Ubuntu, which emphasized interconnectedness and interdependency with humanity through dialogue and qualified rules of engagement. As to parliaments, SDG 16.7 (Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels) brought into sharp focus their evolving role, including in international relations. Input from all stakeholders was considered in the law-making process in South Africa, where the majority of agreements were binding only if ratified by both houses. To ensure the early involvement of parliaments and citizens in international law, which was particularly important in cases of agreements with socio-economic impacts, the annexation of parliamentary reports to instruments of ratification might be worth consideration as a new requirement.

In developing human rights and rule-of-law machinery, local cultural, legal and political traditions must be taken into account. African indigenous knowledge systems and governance mechanisms, including traditional leadership, were significant in that context. Long-standing principles of kinship and communalism had produced governance models rooted in community involvement and supported by entrenched values of human dignity and respect. Those models were sophisticated contracts based on the sharing of resources for the collective good, with interactions built on social cohesion, all of which fostered a collective responsibility for upholding the law and protecting all community members. Africa always favoured multilateralism, left no one behind and integrated traditional governance systems into the workings of modern-day parliaments.

Mr. C. LEEKPAI (Thailand) said that the constant evolution of Thai democracy had brought difficult challenges and taught painful lessons, among them that fair and non-discriminatory law enforcement effectively resolved problems, addressed economic inequalities and consequently prevented exploitation of the disadvantaged. Thailand was progressing towards achievement of the SDGs, with its Parliament playing a crucial part in designing the related legal frameworks to ensure the fulfilment of all obligations.

In continuing to support the United Nations in its mission to preserve human rights, protect security, conserve the environment and support peacekeeping, Thailand continued to believe that independence and sovereignty were best safeguarded by the international legal order. It therefore reaffirmed its commitments under international law and also played leading roles in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). Currently aiming to strengthen the ASEAN community through parliamentary means, the AIPA had worked to harmonize laws within ASEAN to facilitate a strong rules-based, people-centred community that left no

one behind. Effective regional governance, however, also required effective coordination between the executive and the legislature, which was best placed to understand and resolve the difficulties of the electorate it represented by conveying their needs to the executive. Democracy worked well if parliaments were strong and truly represented the will and needs of their peoples. They helped to uphold the rule of law and guarantee equal treatment for all.

Mr. V. SOTTO III (Philippines) said that the fast pace of global change had created not only interconnectedness and interdependence but also uncertainty and volatility. International law was therefore the cornerstone for a peaceful, orderly, secure and just world in which nations favoured the rule of law over the rule of force by pursuing negotiation and conciliation where sound legal and ethical arguments prevailed. Parliaments were called upon to ratify treaties, and as such they were mandated to scrutinize, assess and even reject them at the national level. By adapting international benchmarks and standards, parliaments were furthermore able to strengthen protection for citizens, particularly those most vulnerable to abuse and violence. International treaties must be translated into domestic law with a view to positively affecting lives and enhancing well-being. His Parliament, for example, had enacted a law on dangerous drugs and approved the ratification of an agreement for the peaceful settlement of a boundary dispute.

Through regional parliamentary cooperation, ASEAN fully promoted the rule of law and the implementation of international law. The AIPA, moreover, was an excellent model for such cooperation, including in connection with the resolution of territorial and jurisdictional disputes through peaceful means and the exercise of self-restraint, in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law. International law was strengthened by parliaments and embedded in the work of parliamentarians, whose increased understanding of international law stood only to benefit the public through the resulting legislation.

Mr. L. VLAVONOU (Benin) said that Benin was a member of several regional organizations and appreciated the value of regional cooperation. It was also a party to free-trade agreements with other countries in its subregion, although in certain instances such agreements had been broken as a result of unilateral decisions taken to close borders in order to prevent illicit flows of goods, including small arms and light weapons. As to international agreements, parliamentarians were not consulted at the development stage and their role was therefore essentially confined to approving the ratification of such agreements and enacting legislation for their implementation.

In Benin, the electoral laws were to be revised on the basis of recommendations made following the exclusion of various political parties from participation in the most recent elections. Extremely numerous for such a small country in particular, those parties often had regional, tribal or even family bases but had been kept from power by the prevailing systemic corruption. The population was therefore keen for change that would allow candidates from all parties to stand for election, as opposed to restricting participation to those allied with two specific parties. A political dialogue was accordingly under way with a view to modernizing the system and fulfilling the aspirations of Benin to build a strong democracy on solid foundations.

Mr. M. ALI HOUMED (Djibouti) said that the strengthening of international law was a fundamental concern for parliamentarians in his country, a beacon of stability in a region fraught with tension. International law was in fact a valuable asset to be promoted by parliamentarians throughout the Horn of Africa, not least for its vital role in the peaceful settlement of disputes. For his own part, he had worked to raise parliamentary and public awareness of international law by, inter alia, advocating respect for international human rights instruments relating to such matters as basic needs, education and gender equality. IPU support had furthermore enhanced his Parliament's capacity for oversight of the implementation of related national laws.

Regional and subregional cooperation formed another important part of the international legal order. In that respect, concerted efforts were needed to overcome the challenges facing his continent, where demographic and economic growth was strong and a free trade agreement was in force. Home to the largest port on the East African coast, Djibouti was keen to encourage free trade in the interest of regional integration. Political dialogue in the African continent was crucially strengthened through the regular meetings of the Pan-African Parliament, while the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) was committed to promoting peace in the East African subregion and had indeed contributed to the settlement of numerous intra- and inter-State conflicts therein. IGAD was thus an example to emulate, as indicated by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the Prime Minister of one of its members, Ethiopia.

Mr. I. FLORES (Chile) said that, as a core part of the multilateral architecture of global governance, international law must be respected and effectively applied through concerted efforts by all. The first rules to be observed on that score included those of territorial sovereignty, prohibition of the threat or use of force, and the peaceful resolution of disputes. The progressive development of international law in human rights and other areas had bestowed mutual rights and responsibilities on States. In an increasingly interdependent world of shared risks and increased tensions, it was essential to renew commitment to the rule of law, including in pursuit of SDG 16, which aimed to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

For Chile, respect for international law was an unequivocal foreign policy principle and also key to stability, coexistence and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Chile would therefore continue to accept decisions handed down by international tribunals. Its Parliament had approved the ratification of numerous international treaties and adapted national legislation to ensure fulfilment of the country's obligations thereunder. Unqualified respect for international law formed the basis of international cooperation for development and well-being, which called for transparent rules and equal opportunities for all States, with parliaments playing a fundamental role therein. Chilean foreign policy strongly supported the strengthening of multilateralism as a rules-based institutional structure for defining international agendas and resolving common problems. In that spirit, it would be hosting a number of major international meetings in the near future.

The representative of the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Turkey had wrongly claimed that the Turkish invasion of Syrian territory was permissible under the Adana accord, which it was not. A sovereign State had been attacked and by a country notorious for opening its borders to terrorists from around the globe and for providing them with financial, military and logistical support. He therefore fully rejected the assertions of that delegate.

*Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (Mexico), President of the IPU, took the Chair.*

#### Item 2 of the agenda

#### **Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda** (A/141/2-P.1, P.3, Inf.1.rev.2 and Inf.2)

The PRESIDENT, introducing the item, said that two further requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda had been received in addition to the two set out in document A/141/2-Inf.1.rev.2 and further detailed in documents A/141/2-P.1 and P.3. As the documentation pertaining to those two requests, submitted only that day, was still in preparation, the proposed draft resolutions contained in the requests would be read out to inform participants of their substance.

Ms. A. FILIP (Secretary of the Assembly) read out a draft resolution entitled *Double standards of Western countries in combating terrorism, especially in resolving the conflict in Syria*, which had been proposed by the delegation of Turkey.

The PRESIDENT read out a draft resolution entitled *Urgent call for the restoration of representative democratic order and for respect for democratic principles in Peru*, which had been proposed by the delegation of Peru.

The President invited the authors of the four requests to present their proposals, following which a vote by roll call would be taken to decide which of them would be included in the agenda as the emergency item.

Mr. S. THAROOR (India), presenting his delegation's proposal for an emergency item entitled *Addressing climate change* (A/141/2-P.1), said that the IPU was an appropriate forum in which to discuss the issue of climate change and carry it forward through tangible takeaways for further enhancing the possibilities for actionable programmes. Drastic measures were urgently needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to which end developed countries should lead resolute efforts by all stakeholders to pursue climate-friendly lifestyles and sustainable consumption and production. In that endeavour, critical focus must be placed on resource mobilization and affordable access to technology for building the capacities of developing countries in particular to adapt to the challenges facing them, failing which the situation would be beyond redemption or repair. Valuable support for his delegation's proposal would serve humanity by encouraging due attention to the issue and sending a clear message about the need to preserve the Earth from further degradation.

Mr. H. JULIEN-LAFERRIÈRE (France), presenting the proposal submitted jointly by his delegation with those of the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland and Egypt for an emergency item entitled *Protection of civilians and international security: Demanding an end to Turkey's offensive in Syria* (A/141/2-P.3), said that Turkey was hosting several million refugees and experiencing security problems along its border with the Syrian Arab Republic. Its unilateral military offensive in that country had already led, however, to humanitarian difficulties, massive displacement and numerous casualties. It furthermore affected the diplomatic and other efforts under way to stabilize the region, posing a threat to international security and potentially fuelling a Daesh resurgence. Those under Turkish attack, moreover, had been major allies in defeating the so-called Islamic State and bringing down its "caliphate". The IPU should condemn the unilateral Turkish military intervention and urge respect for international law, Syrian territorial integrity and the road map for peace in the region.

Ms. R. KAVAKCI KAN (Turkey), in expressing a contrary opinion to the proposal, said that all countries had the right to defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity. Turkey had from the outset appealed for an end to the Syrian crisis and opened its borders to refugees. The first to call for a no-fly zone, it had waged successful operations against Daesh terrorists and shared its intelligence in a courtesy that had not been reciprocated. It had initiated talks for the creation of safe zones and enabled the repatriation of countless Syrian refugees. By contrast and as evidenced by facts in the possession of the Turkish authorities, the Democratic Union Party/People's Protection Unit (PYD/YPG) was a terrorist organization engaged in mass killing.

Mr. M. ŞENTOP (Turkey), presenting his delegation's proposal for an emergency item entitled *Double standards of Western countries in combating terrorism, especially in resolving the conflict in Syria*, said that the negative effects of the current global system in which some States had rights while others had only obligations included conflict, poverty, injustice and double standards. Turkey was directly targeted by terrorist organizations operating, as in the case of PYD/YPG, with the support of certain Western States, including France, which had a long history of bloodshed and colonialism, including in Algeria and Rwanda. With terrorism representing a new form of colonial aggression, international action was needed to address the hypocrisy, deception and double standards of such States in implicitly supporting terrorist organizations in order to manipulate public opinion and create regional instability. For the sake of a new and just world, he urged support for the Turkish proposal condemning imperialist designs.

Mr. H. JULIEN-LAFERRIÈRE (France), in expressing a contrary opinion to the proposal, said that France had never supported terrorism – and, for the record, nor had it ever committed genocide. France respected international law and it was with a view to promoting such respect and multilateralism that his delegation had joined in formulating its proposal with others for the emergency item.

Ms. R. BARTRA BARRIGA (Peru), presenting her delegation's proposal for an emergency item entitled *Urgent call for the restoration of representative democratic order and for respect for democratic principles in Peru*, said that her country's President had dissolved its Parliament two weeks previously in a move that he had described as necessary in furtherance of political and judicial reforms. Centred around the issue of a vote of no confidence, the situation had set an intolerable precedent of a legislature interpreting matters to serve its own ends. She called on IPU Members to support her delegation's proposal in the interest of ensuring separation of powers and democratic representation.

The SECRETARY GENERAL recalled Rule 11.2 of the Rules of the Assembly, concerning the provisions to which requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda were subject; Article 16.1 of the Statutes of the IPU, concerning voting conducted by roll call; and Article 15.3 thereof, concerning votes. He also drew attention to document A/141/Inf.2, containing a table indicating the number of votes allocated to each delegation, and said that standard IPU practice of combining all votes technically into one round would be followed.

*A vote was taken by roll call on the four proposals for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda.*

*With 156 votes in favour, 490 against and 718 abstentions, the proposal submitted by the delegation of Turkey failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority of the 646 "yes" and "no" votes cast and was therefore rejected.*

*With 174 votes in favour, 419 against and 771 abstentions, the proposal submitted by the delegation of Peru failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority of the 593 "yes" and "no" votes cast and was therefore rejected.*

*With 677 votes in favour, 73 against and 614 abstentions, the proposal submitted jointly by the delegations of France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland and Egypt obtained the required two-thirds majority of the 750 "yes" and "no" votes cast.*

*With 809 votes in favour, 364 against and 191 abstentions, the proposal submitted by the delegation of India obtained the required two-thirds majority of the 1,173 "yes" and "no" votes cast.*

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

*The sitting rose at 7 p.m.*

## Final agenda

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1. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly
  2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
  3. General Debate on the theme *Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation*
  4. *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*  
(Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)
  5. Reports of the Standing Committees on Peace and International Security; Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade; and United Nations Affairs
  6. Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 143<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs
  7. Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules
  8. Emergency item: *Addressing climate change*
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## Emergency item entitled *Addressing climate change*

### SITTING OF TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9.05 a.m., with Mr. Vicente C. Sotto III (Philippines), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

#### Item 8 of the agenda

#### **Plenary debate on the emergency item: *Addressing climate change*** (A/141/2-P.1)

The PRESIDENT, recalling Rule 16.2 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, concerning the size and composition of drafting committees, requested that the geopolitical groups submit their candidatures for membership of the drafting committee to be tasked with finalizing the draft resolution on the chosen emergency item, *Addressing climate change*, for transmission to the Assembly for possible adoption. He invited contributions to the debate on the item.

Ms. C. GOTANI HARA (Malawi), commencing the debate, said that many countries continued to face the wrath and costly consequences of weather events brought on by climate change. Strategies and policies for addressing climate change must be fit for purpose, with adequate budgetary resources allocated for relief and for scientific research into practical solutions for tackling the causes. Parliamentarians must also ensure that climate change issues were prioritized in policymaking. Developing countries would benefit from capacity-building assistance in the matter, while the IPU, for its part, might wish to consider the establishment of a standing committee on climate change or mandate one of its existing committees to cover the subject. Malawi greatly appreciated the relief efforts from which it had benefited in the wake of Cyclone Idai, and her delegation could not but support the draft resolution proposed by the Indian delegation.

Ms. J. ODUOL (Kenya), likewise expressing support for the draft resolution, said that right decisions were still wrong if made too late. Climate change continued to wreak devastation around the world, fundamentally affecting lives as a result of its impact on, among others, water availability, food production and health-related matters. Left unchecked, climate change would create yet more economic and ecological disruption causing the greatest harm to already vulnerable populations and regions. By uniting on such an important issue, IPU Members could promote a powerful partnership between developed and developing countries aimed at the incorporation of mitigation and adaptation considerations into strategic planning processes. Prompt action to that end would make the difference needed for tackling climate change. She therefore called on Members to make the right decision at the right time.

Mr. W. WILLIAM (Seychelles) said that small island developing countries, including Seychelles, were living laboratories where such climate change effects as coral bleaching, sea level rise and flooding were clearly tangible. Agreeing that IPU Members must come together to make the necessary difference through more drastic action to address climate change, he called for unanimous support of the draft resolution to be presented.

Ms. A. MULDER (Netherlands) said that partnership between developed and developing countries was the way forward to address the urgent issue of climate change, in which developed countries should indeed play a leading role. It was nonetheless important to emphasize, including in the draft resolution, the need for concerted action to achieve the desired outcomes, which developed countries would be unable to accomplish alone. Itself working actively with all stakeholders to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions in key sectors by 2030, the Netherlands had successfully lobbied European Union countries to step up action for reducing their own emissions. All countries, however, must adopt more ambitious measures in pursuit of the targets set in the Paris Agreement, with parliaments playing their part by responding to the call of the world's youth for urgent action on that score.



Mr. T. DORJI (Bhutan) said that, despite contributing least to climate change, Bhutan had not been spared the adverse impact of extreme weather patterns and rising global temperatures. Its limited infrastructure had been damaged by flash floods and its glaciers – the primary source of hydropower, its biggest revenue earner – were melting prematurely. In line with its constitutional mandate, Bhutan worked hard to preserve its ecosystems and environment. The protected forests covering its land were consequently among the world's healthiest and most pristine. Hence, in the interconnected global village, it was playing its humble part in benefiting humankind. By working together with commitment to implement eco-friendly policies and programmes, the environment could be protected for future generations and resilience built to climate change. He called on parliamentarians to make that commitment.

Mr. A. SUDHAKHAR (Fiji) said that, in common with other small island States in the Pacific, Fiji had in recent times experienced more powerful cyclones, more severe droughts and unprecedented flood levels, with detrimental consequences for its key economic sectors. At substantial cost, it had relocated villages to higher ground and dredged rivers to enable flood waters to flow into the sea. If climate change and its effects were not rapidly controlled, Fiji and its Pacific neighbours risked disappearing from the map. Often blamed for global warming, industrialized countries too were facing the consequences, as exemplified by the recent typhoon in Japan. Measures for addressing the issue were particularly urgent, however, in the case of island States in the Pacific. Support for the draft resolution was therefore vital.

Ms. R.A. KADAGA (Uganda) said that climate scientists had warned of havoc on Earth unless rising global temperatures and greenhouse gas emissions were halted. Including with stakeholders, her Parliament had worked to respond to the socio-economic and environmental consequences of the climate change challenges affecting the country's natural resources. In so doing, it had, inter alia, established a committee to scrutinize all bills relating to climate change, mitigation and adaptation and make recommendations concerning legal and institutional mechanisms for addressing climate change; initiated community-based tree-planting schemes; allocated additional funding for irrigation projects; and reduced taxation on solar panels. A parliamentary delegation regularly participated in the annual global summits on climate change and Uganda itself was a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Mr. J.P. LETELIER (Chile) said that, climate change deniers notwithstanding, the firm scientific consensus was that climate change posed an existential threat to humanity. Recent climate data stood as testimony to the enormity of the responsibilities to be shouldered, including by parliamentarians and indeed the private sector, in acting to tackle the problem as urged by young climate activists around the world. Parliaments should work to link budgets with the baselines set for national greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, as well as to promote the necessary shift away from carbon-based energy sources towards renewables. Such actions would represent a solid commitment to changing mindsets in order to achieve a better future, yet without apportioning blame, for ultimately it mattered little who was responsible for driving climate change if humanity were to perish from its failure to act.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal) said that it was particularly unhelpful to deny climate change and unconstructive to differentiate between the roles to be played in tackling it by developed and developing countries. Climate change was a universal problem and must be jointly approached from the type of common perspective that had given rise to the global concern over what happens in the Amazon rainforest. It was now time to implement the commitment to combating climate change embodied in the Paris Agreement targets and Goal 13 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with all parliaments working to foster behavioural change so as effectively to control global warming. As climate campaigners had said, there was no planet B.

Mr. F. RABBI (Bangladesh), in expressing support for the draft resolution, said that Bangladesh was among the most climate-vulnerable nations. While climate change was indeed a global problem, Bangladesh – and in turn its socio-economic development – was repeatedly and adversely affected by it. The country's southern coastal areas were easily flooded and the projected rise in sea level threatened it with substantial loss of land. A climate change strategy and action plan had therefore been initiated, together with a climate change trust fund for related adaptation and mitigation projects. Bangladesh had furthermore submitted its conditional and unconditional nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the UNFCCC Secretariat. Global and regional cooperation on climate change was essential, especially for Bangladesh, which would welcome institutional capacity-building for enhancing its resilience to climate change.

Mr. S. THAROOR (India), welcoming the support expressed for his delegation's initiative, said that climate change was a global challenge affecting all and that the draft resolution therefore belonged to all. Strikingly, the majority of the valuable contributions to the rich discussion had been made by participants from developing countries, underscoring the fact that non-industrialized countries were paradoxically the prime victims of climate change and the most fundamentally affected by it. Developed and developing countries must nonetheless together find solutions to the serious, extensive and damaging impact of global warming, which would otherwise only increase. Disaster prevention and risk reduction should be at the fore of such efforts in the name of common humanity, with a focus on affordable technology. His delegation looked forward to working with others to incorporate language into the draft resolution to reflect views articulated during the discussion, including with respect to the youth involvement in climate change efforts, while retaining the spirit of the text.

Mr. J. ROCHA (Brazil), speaking in exercise of the right of reply to the Portuguese intervention, said that the Brazilian Parliament had a long history of enacting laws to protect the environment. With its support, the Brazilian President was performing his duty of preserving the country's natural biodiversity, including the Amazon rainforest, and would continue in that vein.

*Mr. T. Dorji (Bhutan), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.*

### **SITTING OF WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER**

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 3 p.m. with Ms. M. Gojković (Serbia), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

#### Item 8 of the agenda (continued)

#### ***Addressing climate change*** (A/141/8-DR)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution (A/141/8-DR) on the chosen emergency item prepared by the drafting committee established for that purpose.

Mr. S. PATRA (India), Rapporteur of the drafting committee, introducing the draft resolution entitled *Addressing climate change*, said that the plenary debate on the emergency item had afforded an opportunity for exchanges of genuine concern. Members of 11 delegations had taken the floor and had been unanimous in the view that climate change was a matter of grave concern for all, all over the world. They had urged the global community to act as one; failure to do so could lead to the downfall of the human race. Parliaments had a responsibility to act immediately, including by engaging with and hearing solutions from young people. The drafting committee had comprised members from the delegations of Belgium, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, the Netherlands, Russian Federation, Seychelles and the United Kingdom, all of whom had worked in a spirit of compromise to seek a consensus and work towards a positive outcome. The result of the drafting committee's deliberations was a resolution reflecting the genuine alarm of the world's parliamentary community with regard to the climate change crisis and the need for immediate collective action. He commended the draft resolution to the Assembly for adoption.

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.*

## Sitting of Tuesday 15 October (Morning)

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General debate on the theme *Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation***

##### *Resumption of the debate*

Ms. D. MUKABALISA (Rwanda), continuing the debate, said that parliamentarians were required to represent and defend the interests of their constituents in the formulation of public policies while ensuring, through oversight, that such policies were transparently implemented in accordance with the laws in force and achieved the desired socio-economic impact. Rwanda was no different than others in being influenced by its culture and history, which included a dark past that had culminated in the genocide of 1994, with its devastating aftermath. Consequently, aware of the heavy toll exacted by poor governance manifested in exclusion, lack of peace and security, and human rights violations, Rwanda had committed to building the rule of law and a pluralistic democracy with equality for all.

The Rwandan Constitution thus enshrined the human rights principles articulated in the Charter of the United Nations and Rwanda had ratified numerous international human rights instruments, several of them relating to refugees. Its Parliament oversaw the implementation of international treaties, some of which could be ratified only with its approval. All international treaties to which Rwanda was a party had equal force with national legislation in accordance with the constitutional hierarchy of laws. As to the institutional mechanisms established to promote good governance, they reported annually to Parliament, which meticulously performed its oversight function to ensure the State's compliance with its international human rights obligations. Rwanda was also actively engaged in international and regional cooperation, including through numerous parliamentary forums, and was furthermore recognized for its exemplary contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Mr. B. LLANO (Paraguay) said that the new challenges to the efforts to maintain peace, promote unity and ensure development underlined the place of international law in national legal orders and the responsibility of the executive to ensure the implementation thereof. Those orders must adapt to the expansion of the digital world, one effect of which had been to raise the profile of social movements and citizens' groups and heighten their influence in the promotion and protection of human rights. Citizens were thus better empowered to participate actively in decision-making on global issues of concern, among them climate change. At the same time, however, globalization had given rise to new security threats that spread across borders, challenging governments to find common agreement on ways forward.

A global governance framework was needed to regulate the digital environment and prevent rule by algorithm. Nonetheless, the benefits of the Internet could be harnessed to give impetus to democracy, with social networks offering the opportunity to promote inclusive dialogue among citizens and with national authorities. In the effort to create more open, transparent and participatory governance, parliaments must continually strive to promote representative democracy and strengthen the rule of law so as to guarantee harmony, well-being and peaceful coexistence. For their part, political leaderships must show greater humanity by embracing tolerance, rejecting hatred and fostering international dialogue for peace and a better world for all to inhabit.

Mr. M.A. OQUAYE (Ghana) said that, for his continent, the main existential problems currently related to climate change; nuclear threat; and poverty, misery and disease. Global warming had changed agricultural patterns and disrupted planning, while nuclear weapons threatened to trigger an avalanche that would consume humanity. Resources should be channelled towards increasing benefits for developing countries, which were set to grow ever poorer if the nuclear race continued unabated. Under the current world economic order, developing countries essentially produced raw materials and the developed nations produced and exported the finished products, with African countries liable to receive as little as one quarter of the global income ultimately earned from their raw materials. The free movement of goods had furthermore turned Africa into a dumping ground for cheap products, adversely affecting fledgling local industries in need of protectionist measures to survive.

An alternative global economic paradigm was required to liberate African countries from their dilemma by preventing competition. A fair, just and equitable partnership agreement should therefore be developed to ensure that all parties gained maximum benefit from the abundance of resources in Africa, where a Marshall Plan should be introduced to halt the vicious cycle of poverty that would otherwise persist. To that end, the world must act to stop the illicit flow of funds out of Africa, amounting annually to billions. The new paradigm should include laws promoting, among others, global justice, equality and freedom from poverty and disease. Once such economic liberation was achieved, attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would follow automatically.

Mr. N. PREA (Seychelles) said that his small island nation had already achieved much as a young and budding democracy. Its Parliament was committed to strengthening international law and justice through the rule of law in a country where, only decades earlier, there had been no respect for human rights and no democratic institutions. Now fully functioning, such institutions had been subject to legislative measures designed to further enhance their effectiveness in serving a modern democratic society. Parliament had been instrumental in the recent establishment of a truth and national conciliation commission aimed at healing past wounds from human rights abuses and at fostering unity. The Seychelles Constitution included a bill of rights and the State advocated the peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue, which it had successfully encouraged in its own region.

The IPU was an ideal platform for championing high values and fostering dialogue and cooperation for a peaceful and inclusive future. To that end, Seychelles played a leading role in promoting respect for human rights and the rule of law through its active participation in regional inter-parliamentary conferences. It was also firmly committed to the goals of furthering socio-economic cooperation and integration, as well as political and security cooperation, within the Southern African community. Its parliamentarians were intent on improving good governance and accountability in Seychelles, working proactively to fulfil public expectations by modernizing laws, scrutinizing expenditures and regularly questioning the executive. Seychelles and its fellow small island developing States badly needed external support, however, in their battle for survival from climate change.

Mr. J.F. MUDENDA (Zimbabwe) said that the rules and principles embodied in international law were binding on even the most powerful States, in accordance with agreed international treaties and common law practices and precedents, the transgression of which could lead to economic sanctions or other forms of censure from which no offending State was exempt. A complex legal phenomenon, international law relied for enforcement on the opinions of international courts of justice and ad hoc tribunals. In that context, the diverse roles and mechanisms of parliaments involved ensuring the accession of their respective States to international treaties; the subsequent alignment of municipal laws and bills of rights with those treaties; and the enactment of constitutional provisions allowing for parliamentary approval of such treaties and for judicial interpretation of the law in line therewith.

In his continent, parliaments should encourage African university research aimed at imbuing international law with a credible Afrocentric flavour based on the Ubuntu philosophy. The resulting contribution to regional cooperation for the advancement of international law jurisprudence should then permeate the African Union and other regional groupings in the interest of facilitating economic and political exchanges worldwide. Such jurisprudence should also be developed in the European context and among international organizations, including the World Trade Organization (WTO). Indeed, it was imperative to develop international law in that fashion, bearing in mind the new need for its application in the global digital economy being driven by the fourth industrial revolution rooted in the Internet of things.

Mr. A. MIRZOYAN (Armenia) said that international law had existed from the beginning of human civilization so as to regulate relations among nations with a view to promoting their security and development. Likewise, throughout history, violations of the law had occurred to which States were either indifferent or reluctant to prevent, condemn and address, thereby hindering development in specific regions and sometimes further afield. In the decades since the common rules had been reshaped to reflect the core universal principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes, many expressions of commitment had been made to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. To the present day and despite criticism, international law remained the only set of rules voluntarily adopted for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Currently, however, there was a pressing need to safeguard international law in general and international human rights in particular. In recent days, scores had been killed and thousands displaced by the Turkish military operation launched in the Kurdish-populated areas of the Syrian Arab

Republic. Ironically, those same areas housed the remnants of victims of the Armenian genocide committed one century earlier. All parliamentarians must therefore raise the alarm to prevent another similar tragedy from happening. In the twenty-first century, respect for international law was about saving lives, observing human rights and freedoms, and preserving the morality and spirit of the United Nations. It was no time for indifference. The IPU must denounce the Turkish actions as unacceptable and urgently demand their end.

Mr. G.P. TIMILSINA (Nepal) said that the complexity and fragility of international relations provided a fundamental argument for strengthening international law and moving towards a "global law" for improving and harmonizing behaviours and acts through new initiatives to prevent chaos, violence and ecological collapse. International law would achieve its goals, however, only by earning trust through a fair and effective approach to the weaker and poorer sections of the international community. The common aspiration of humanity for equality, peace and development called for the simplification of international law as the basis for promoting and protecting human rights for all, preserving the shared environment and bolstering the collective fight against global menaces. Through their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions, parliaments were entrusted with its implementation, playing in addition an important role in strengthening regional parliamentary partnerships for consolidating democracy and people-centred development. Institutional capacity-building and political awareness-raising would promote the achievement of that aim and harmonize interests.

An active member of various regional and international organizations, Nepal had been dynamically involved in strengthening the rules-based multilateral system in such areas as sovereign equality, non-use of threat or force, and peaceful dispute settlement. It was committed to, *inter alia*, the Charter of the United Nations and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, as well as to the fulfilment of its obligations under the core international human rights instruments to which it had acceded. As to its home-grown conflict resolution process, which included a transitional justice mechanism, it provided a valuable example for use in similar contexts elsewhere.

Mr. N. QUIJANO (El Salvador) said that the armed conflict in his country had in time been resolved through United Nations mediation and the desire to achieve peace through dialogue. The efforts under way to consolidate that peace were currently being undermined however by the constant verbal aggression the executive directed against the legislature. The relationship between the two had lacked harmony ever since the new President had taken office and the situation remained tense and difficult, with a detrimental impact on the functioning of the elected Parliament. He therefore called on the IPU to express solidarity with his Parliament, in which context he had provided the President of the IPU with a draft statement containing an appeal for harmony to prevail in El Salvador.

Ms. F. ZAINAL (Bahrain) said that parliamentarians bore a responsibility to create a safer and more peaceful world by working to strengthen international law for the sake of future generations. With international law now affecting so many aspects of daily life, it was crucial to ensure that it was fully respected and applied without discrimination. Israel must therefore be urged to cease its flagrant disregard of the many United Nations resolutions pertaining to the situation in occupied Palestine, failing which the establishment of genuine lasting peace in the Middle East would remain elusive. In addition to the terrorism suffered in that region, other events endangering peace and stability and meriting international condemnation included the recent attacks on Saudi oil facilities and the current incursion into sovereign Syrian territory.

It was vital to strengthen the IPU's cooperation with the United Nations with a view to promoting the role of parliaments in the implementation of international law. In that context, the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, adopted in 2012, would provide a focus for outputs from the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. Bahrain had always sought to be part of the international rules-based system, amending its legislation accordingly, except in cases of conflict with sharia law or national beliefs. Its foreign policy was based on the principles of international law, with which it proudly complied. As to terrorism, it was a global scourge requiring international cooperation to combat it.

Mr. D. SYLLOURIS (Cyprus) said that international law should be universally applied on the basis of solidarity, accountability and shared responsibility. The IPU Members continued to affirm their commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, agreeing that the future of global peace and prosperity depended on strengthening that law through cooperation among nations. Regional cooperation was a valuable inclusive partnership based on a

shared vision of peaceful coexistence and good neighbourly relations, principles of international law, mutual respect, and combined action for wellbeing. In that context, parliaments had a pivotal role to play in joint initiatives, actions and synergies aimed at fostering peace, stability, prosperity and the effective application of international law.

Parliamentary diplomacy could further enhance existing cooperation and create new relations for addressing common challenges and concerns, in which context his Parliament had engaged in trilateral summits and promoted similar initiatives. Violations of international law impeded joint efforts to safeguard peace and security, as exemplified by the Cyprus problem, which persisted alongside the threat to peace and stability in the wider region, thanks to the repeated Turkish violations of Cypriot sovereignty and of the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea. Any realistic strengthening of international law required comprehensive political will at all levels, for which the enabling conditions were essentially created by parliaments. Regional and international parliamentary assemblies, including the IPU, played a fundamental role in promoting regional cooperation through establishing political dialogue, upholding the rule of law and promoting the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Mr. W. SOBOTKA (Austria) said that cross-border and regional cooperation was intrinsic to Europe, where the integration process had undoubtedly been key in enhancing the international legal order, promoting peace and stability, and advancing good neighbourly relations. Regional organizations provided a reliable platform for the constant dialogue required for effective cooperation. Austria had hosted numerous regional parliamentary meetings, which provided valuable opportunities for parliamentarians to develop interpersonal relations and discuss issues of regional relevance. Its Parliament was furthermore supporting the integration of the countries in the Western Balkan region, including by way of a fellowship programme for parliamentary officials.

As main forums of political debate, parliaments must be open institutions that sought to include citizens of all ages and provide space for dialogue between politics and, for instance, science and art. They must also connect more closely with citizens, especially youth, with the aim of securing their full participation in public decision-making and political life. The IPU could help to further that aim by producing a collection of best practices in democracy education, which his Parliament provided for young persons in the form of interactive democracy workshops. Democracy education would be a fitting topic for discussion at the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Vienna, as would that of violent extremism and hate speech in the light of the increasing attacks directed at certain groups. He looked forward to welcoming his fellow Speakers to the Conference; their participation would send a strong signal that parliaments provided answers to the global challenges facing democracy.

Mr. P. NYABENDA (Burundi) said that Burundi had ratified numerous international instruments, whether relating to human rights, socio-economic development or other issues, and that the fundamental principles contained therein had been largely transposed into the country's domestic legislation. Parliament had accordingly enacted laws to establish a national observatory for the prevention and eradication of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity; a national human rights commission; and an ombudsman's office to provide mediation services and investigate complaints of maladministration and human rights abuses by public officials. It had also introduced into the Penal Code provisions for punishing the illegal possession and carrying of firearms; offences relating to torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; racial discrimination; and gender-based violence. Health care for women during pregnancy and childbirth, and for under-5s was moreover free of charge, as was primary education.

With respect to regional cooperation, Burundi had signed a pact on security, stability and development in the African Great Lakes region that was predicated on such principles as national sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, non-aggression and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The Burundian Parliament was also a member of several regional and indeed international organizations of parliaments in addition to the IPU. Its membership of those organizations enabled it to contribute to the strengthening of international law, while at the national level it was playing its rightful role and looked forward to free, inclusive and transparent elections in 2020.

Mr. M.R. RAHMANI (Afghanistan) said that inter-parliamentary dialogue contributed to closer international relations and that governments must work in tandem to achieve common objectives while also basing their own governance strategies on universal values for the benefit of their citizens. Respect for international law promoted regional cooperation built on those values in the shared quest for progress in such spheres as the establishment of lasting peace and stability, the promotion and protection of human rights, and the guarantee of freedom of expression. Observance of international

humanitarian law, support for war victims and the prohibition of nuclear weapons were examples of elements that could play an important role in expanding international and regional relations. For their part, parliamentarians must seek to incorporate the principles of international humanitarian law into national legislation as a matter of course.

The Afghan Parliament and people were committed to human rights values and looked forward to the achievement of regional peace and stability, which would in turn promote international peace and security. Such peace was threatened by terrorism and extremism, however, and Afghanistan had therefore been involved in the development of a regional counter-terrorism strategy. Climate change and money-laundering were among the challenges being addressed by its Parliament, which also prioritized such matters as health-care provision, women's participation in society, and youth empowerment. As a landlocked country, Afghanistan had its problems but also had geostrategic and geopolitical importance. Its Government and Parliament were committed to regional cooperation, including for economic growth and the elimination of terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking and the like.

Mr. D. ŽIDAN (Slovenia) said that Slovenia was a steadfast advocate of the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Committed to multilateralism, it firmly believed in the sovereign equality of States and the progressive development of international law in an ever-changing reality. Regional cooperation and coordinated regional mechanisms were similarly important to creating the security, predictability and relations needed to promote macroeconomic stability and structural reforms while simultaneously creating a favourable investment environment. Cross-border and inter-regional cooperation was another vital element for resolving difficult issues relating to, inter alia, organized crime, human trafficking and illegal migration. Strengthening the rule of law demanded the fulfilment of international commitments and the implementation of international court decisions. Parliamentarians must recognize the lack of any alternative to the rule of law as the underpinning of the entire international legal order.

Parliaments played a primary role in the transfer of international commitments into national frameworks and must continue working openly and transparently to develop legislation and enhance the capacity of State institutions to meet public expectations. It was fundamentally important to honour mutual commitments and cooperate with all partners on an equal footing in order to build public trust. No environmental, economic, political or other burdens should be shouldered by the younger generation, who were demanding urgent action to tackle climate change and ensure achievement of the SDGs. Global challenges could be met only through combined efforts to respond to such demands and intensify public participation in parliamentary proceedings for the benefit of all.

Mr. T. XHAFERI (North Macedonia) said that an international legal system based on a comprehensive and legally binding global framework was crucial to preventing legal disputes between States, war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of occupation and to establishing culpability and accountability for violations. Commitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the rule of law furthermore promoted international peace and security and the fundamental right to a life of dignity. Inter-parliamentary forums such as the IPU provided an excellent opportunity for making direct contacts and exchanging information on measures taken to address challenges in that and other spheres, with parliaments playing a vital role in harmonizing legal frameworks with international treaties and in overseeing implementation of the related provisions.

His country strived to strengthen good neighbourly relations in the belief that political dialogue and an honest approach to misunderstandings were the means to acceptable compromises. It had therefore signed regional treaties with neighbouring countries, including in order to overcome a long-standing dispute, with the result that North Macedonia was now making positive progress towards the achievement of its strategic goals of European integration and membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO). A legal framework was also being developed to strengthen the independence of its legislature so as to enhance its capacity to serve the public and contribute to peace and development. Parliament was furthermore open to working directly with citizens to address their concerns, which formed an important part of its responsibilities and of its efforts to maintain public trust.

Mr. G. MOHABA MESU (Equatorial Guinea) said that parliaments played a vital part in strengthening international law by overseeing the implementation of the rules and principles of international law rooted in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related instruments. Of the values underlying international law, it was particularly important to stress those of peace, security, human rights, democracy and economic development. In that vein, the Constitution of Equatorial Guinea enshrined respect for the principles of international law and reaffirmed the commitment to fulfilment of the rights and obligations under the instruments to which the State was a party.



Equatorial Guinea also supported the international community and organizations working for the peaceful resolution of conflicts and maintenance of the rule of law, as well as in the areas of international cooperation, development, preventive diplomacy, negotiated solutions and indeed defence, which were needed to guarantee security. Cooperation was a key component of the tools available for enforcing the international legal order, as it contributed to the peaceful settlement of disputes and to sustainable development. Equatorial Guinea participated in the efforts of the African Union to promote political stability and economic development within the African continent. It also reaffirmed its resolve to work with the United Nations and its Member States for a democratic international legal order that responded to the global calls for peace, development and justice, in addition to guaranteeing and strengthening multilateralism.

*Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (Mexico), President of the IPU, took the Chair.*

The representative of TURKEY, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that none of those who had made baseless allegations against his country during the debate were ever likely to accept the creation of an artificial terrorist State across the borders of their own countries. The People's Protection Units (YPG) – a branch of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a known terrorist organization – were operating in the eastern part of the Syrian Arab Republic, where the inhabitants had been forced to leave their homes and become refugees. Turkey had repeatedly warned the United States to cease its support for the YPG, but in vain. It had therefore been compelled to launch its Syrian ground operation.

The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, likewise speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the baseless remarks directed against her country were a misrepresentation of the facts in the region. Unsurprisingly, those having always nurtured Al-Qaida and Daesh Takfiri terrorism and supported the invasion of neighbouring countries, such as Yemen, were embarrassed by the failure of their policies – policies that endangered peace and security. By contrast, her country had played a consistently positive role in fighting terrorism and in particular the Takfiri groups to which some countries in the region had fallen victim. The Iranian presence in those countries had been at the request of the Governments concerned, which had sought expert Iranian advice on how best to combat terrorist groups that enjoyed, and continued to enjoy, the ardent support of regimes such as that in Bahrain. Those regimes should review their unconstructive policies, take on board the realities on the ground and cooperate with others for regional peace and stability.

The representative of YEMEN, also speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Iranian delegate had made allegations that were misleading, groundless and entirely untrue. Yemen had seized an Iranian vessel carrying arms bound for the Houthi militias engaged in committing countless crimes against humanity in Yemen. Those Iranian-supported militias had conquered Yemen by force and were moreover encouraging Al-Qaida and Daesh. The whole world was aware of the Iranian intervention in his country, of which it had proof.

### **Special segment to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Geneva Conventions**

The IPU PRESIDENT, opening the special segment to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, said that all parliamentarians had a responsibility to ensure compliance with those Conventions, which had been adopted in 1949 to prevent any recurrence of the horrors and devastation of the Second World War and were key to human dignity and humanity. The IPU much valued its long-standing partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), with which it cooperated through its Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law to enhance parliamentary engagement and action in that domain. She was therefore delighted to welcome the special guest speaker for the segment, Mr. G. Carbonnier, Vice-President of the ICRC, and invited him to address the Assembly.

Mr. G. CARBONNIER, *special guest speaker*, said that the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Geneva Conventions was an opportunity to reflect on what had been achieved and, more importantly, to address future challenges in different or better ways. Parliamentarians had a role to play in tackling the key challenge of ensuring that parties to conflict respected international humanitarian law. Universally ratified, the Geneva Conventions represented one of the greatest achievements of inter-State cooperation. International humanitarian law had adapted over time to the changing nature of warfare, as exemplified by the adoption of the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions in 1977, which strengthened rules on the conduct of hostilities and on protecting people in non-international armed conflict, and of specific rules prohibiting or constraining the use of various types of weapons.

International humanitarian law remained an essential tool for dealing with contemporary warfare, including counter-terrorism operations in armed conflict, protecting civilians in urban warfare, and addressing the use of new technologies for military purposes. Much was heard about violations of international humanitarian law, yet ICRC delegates daily witnessed many examples of respect for the law, which prevented unnecessary suffering and also paved the way for long-term recovery, reconciliation and peace. The new narrative that violations of international humanitarian law were inevitable was wrong and could also have a dreadful impact on those affected by armed conflict, whereas documenting its successes could help strengthen compliance, which must be urged when violations occurred.

Uniquely placed to ensure that international humanitarian law was properly implemented, parliamentarians could critically help to mitigate the suffering of those affected by armed conflict and prevent further suffering. Through their key functions and political leadership, they could promote the ratification of international humanitarian law instruments; enact implementing legislation; ensure that military and security forces were well trained in international humanitarian law and held accountable; raise public awareness of international humanitarian law; and provide the necessary resources for meaningful humanitarian action. To those ends, the IPU Handbook for Parliamentarians *International Humanitarian Law*, developed in cooperation with the ICRC, offered practical guidance and useful tools for strengthening respect for international humanitarian law. The ICRC offices around the world stood ready to support parliamentarians in their endeavour to that end, which would be invaluable in contributing to regional and international peace and security.

The IPU PRESIDENT thanked Mr. G. Carbonnier for his important remarks and recognition of the significant role of parliaments in translating international commitments into practice.

Ms. Á. VADAI (Hungary), President of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, said that the Committee worked hard to discharge its mandate of promoting respect for international humanitarian law. She invited Members to attend its open session at the current Assembly in order to learn more about its work and to visit the exhibition it had organized jointly with the ICRC to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. Entitled *Women in War*, the exhibition showed the many complex roles of women in conflict.

The IPU PRESIDENT thanked Ms. Á. Vadai and all members of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law for their vital work.

### **Special segment to mark the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU**

The IPU PRESIDENT, opening the special segment to mark the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU, said that she was pleased to welcome to the podium the parliamentarians who would be addressing the Assembly during the special segment: Ms. V. Matvienko (Russian Federation); Ms. M. Gojković (Serbia); Mr. H. Julien-Laferrrière (France); and Mr. J. Whittingdale (United Kingdom).

The IPU – the world's most venerable multilateral political organization and oldest and largest parliamentary family – had celebrated the anniversary at its Headquarters in Geneva, on 30 June 2019, which coincided with the International Day of Parliamentarism. The IPU had grown from a small group of parliamentarians dedicated to promoting peace through parliamentary diplomacy into a global organization of parliaments. With a current membership of 179, the IPU was stronger and more relevant than ever before but had never lost sight of its founding principles.

Given its uniqueness in bringing together different political parties and ideologies, the IPU must urgently take the lead in countering the increasing threats to democracy, human rights, multilateralism and the rule of law, all of which parliamentarians had the responsibility to protect first and foremost. Strong parliaments were instrumental to democracy and to finding common solutions through dialogue with the shared aim of ensuring the wellbeing of those they represented, with a special focus on women and youth. The 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU offered a singular opportunity for parliamentarians to renew their commitment to the promotion of democracy and human rights, which called for effective, dynamic and transparent parliaments. In that same vein, the IPU must strive to increase its visibility, a goal that parliaments could help to further by celebrating its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary in order to spread the message.

Ms. V. MATVIENKO (Russian Federation) said that the size of the IPU membership was proof of its status, 130 years after its establishment, as the most significant and influential global inter-parliamentary organization. It also pointed to the growth of parliamentary diplomacy as an important factor in inter-State relations and international development. The IPU had always worked

constructively and effectively for peace and it was therefore no coincidence that one of its founding fathers, Frenchman Mr. Frédéric Passy, known as the "Apostle of Peace", had been a joint recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize, an award won by eight IPU figures in all. The passage of time notwithstanding, the IPU remained true to its principles as a genuinely democratic association with a non-discriminatory and impartial approach to resolving issues of global concern.

Reporting on the Quintet meeting of Presidents of the most recent and future IPU Assemblies, including herself, she said that it had taken place at the IPU Headquarters on the occasion of the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU and the International Day of Parliamentarism, on 30 June 2019. The meeting had reaffirmed the value of the fundamental principles and objectives of the IPU and recommended areas on which the IPU might wish to focus, such as mediation, the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and support for the organization of a global conference on inter-religious and inter-ethnic dialogue in 2022. It had also discussed the development of closer relations with regional parliamentary organizations and the possible establishment of a working group on the inadmissibility of sanctions against parliamentarians. The Quintet had furthermore decided that similar meetings should be held annually to ensure continuity in the work of the IPU and promote the exchange of expertise concerning IPU activities. She added that the IPU might wish to give consideration to the adoption of a declaration on parliamentary diplomacy that would go hand in hand with the Universal Declaration on Democracy as a core instrument relating to the goals of the IPU.

Ms. M. GOJKOVIĆ (Serbia) said that, since the establishment of the IPU 130 years earlier, parliaments had changed and developed to reflect the global situation but continued, irrespective of the complexity of circumstances, to appreciate the desire of citizens for cooperation and a joint response to all challenges. The world was at a major crossroads, witnessing persistent infringements of the rules and principles of international law. Parliaments were also facing numerous difficulties and must therefore critically assess how to best serve the interests of their constituents and build their trust. The advancement of democracy represented the IPU's single most important task. National parliaments must furthermore be continuously encouraged to find solutions for meeting citizens' needs. Strong forward-thinking parliaments were built through transparency in their work and the constant enhancement of understanding and trust between members and their electorate. The current Assembly should accordingly focus on the IPU's future work in the light of such challenges and on the development of parliamentarism.

As its host, the Serbian Parliament attached particular importance to the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly, not only because of its dedication to IPU values but also because several other important anniversaries were being marked in parallel with the IPU's 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary, specifically: the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Geneva Conventions; the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the last IPU Assembly in a Twelve-Plus Group country (outside the IPU host country of Switzerland). She invited all Members to visit the exhibition *1889-2019: Celebrating 130 years of the Inter-Parliamentary Union*, organized by her Parliament in the current venue. The historical testimonies it contained should serve as dire warnings concerning the duty of parliamentarians to build a world of cooperation, understanding and trust for the sake of the coming generations.

Mr. H. JULIEN-LAFERRIÈRE (France), speaking as a compatriot of one of the founding fathers of the IPU, said that, 130 years previously, two parliamentarians with nothing in common except the will to establish peace and dialogue – William Randal Cremer and Frédéric Passy – had created the IPU. They had convinced French and British parliamentarians to take forward their idea that, through dialogue and international law, disputes could be peacefully settled and war avoided. As a result, parliamentarians from countries in addition to France and the United Kingdom, namely Belgium, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Liberia, Spain and the United States, had decided at a conference held in Paris, in 1889, to meet on an annual basis. The IPU was thus born, espousing from the outset the values immortalized in Article 1 of the IPU Statutes.

The IPU's belief in peace, dialogue among nations and the use of law to resolve disputes had led, in 1899, to the establishment of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which was still functioning. Both founding fathers were, moreover, Nobel Peace laureates. On 27 June 2019, the French and British Groups of the IPU had together celebrated the IPU's 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary in an event, attended by the Secretary General of the IPU, at which they had adopted a joint declaration. The declaration was available on the website of the IPU, and it remained faithful to its founding principles of participation, multilateralism and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Mr. J. WHITTINGDALE (United Kingdom), likewise speaking as a compatriot of one of the founding fathers of the IPU, said that, unlike Frédéric Passy, William Randal Cremer had received only the most basic education, entering parliament in 1885 as one of the first representatives of the working class. In 1887, his passionate belief in arbitration as the only means to peace had garnered wide support from his fellow parliamentarians for a resolution favouring an arbitration treaty with the United States. His interest excited by the resolution, Frédéric Passy had organized the historic meeting in Paris, in 1888, that had led to the formation of the IPU, with Cremer subsequently named as the first British recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for his role as its "first father".

The joint declaration referred to by his French colleague reaffirmed the faith and commitment of United Kingdom and French parliamentarians to the fundamental values of representative democracy based on such key principles as the organization of free, fair and regular elections; freedom of thought and expression; free and untrammelled exercise by parliamentarians of their mandate; and the promotion of peace through negotiation, dialogue and faith in the conduct of inter-parliamentary diplomacy to maintain contacts and channels of negotiation. Cremer and Passy would surely be proud of their legacy, an IPU comprising 179 Members sharing the values and beliefs that had first brought them together. The British Group of the IPU remained committed to taking forward the work of its two co-founders.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that those two visionary founding fathers would indeed be proud of what generations of parliamentarians had achieved since the humble beginnings of the IPU on 30 June 1889. In 1922, the IPU had also acquired a founding mother in the person of a German parliamentarian who had been the first woman to attend an IPU conference. Now a diversified global organization representing the views of 46,000 parliamentarians worldwide, the IPU had been rejuvenated by the growing youth input into its work. The celebration of the IPU's 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary was clearly about human wellbeing above all else.

*A film highlighting events organized around the world in celebration of the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU was projected.*

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that the IPU Secretariat had plentiful materials available concerning the celebratory events organized by parliamentarians and that it would be pleased to assist those parliaments not yet having done so to organize similar events.

The IPU PRESIDENT invited a number of delegates to provide examples of such events by describing initiatives undertaken by their parliaments to celebrate the IPU's 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the national level.

The representative of BAHRAIN said that his Parliament had produced a documentary on IPU activities that had been televised and was also available on its website. Speeches by the IPU President had been disseminated via social media, together with televised interviews conducted with the Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council and parliamentarians, including himself, about the IPU and its activities. Schoolchildren and university students visiting the National Assembly were also informed about the IPU.

Ms. S.S. CHAUDHURY (Bangladesh) said that her Parliament had mounted a photographic exhibition cataloguing the IPU's journey over its 130 years of existence, thereby enabling its parliamentarians to learn more about the IPU and its history. With one of its own a former IPU President, it was immensely proud to join in celebrating such an auspicious occasion.

The representative of BHUTAN said that his Parliament had taken the opportunity of International Youth Day, on 12 August 2019, to celebrate the IPU's 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary by organizing an interactive panel discussion involving young parliamentarians and schoolchildren. The twofold aim was for parliamentarians to gain a better understanding of youth concerns and for schoolchildren to learn about the role of parliamentarians in addressing those and other concerns. The exercise had also taught that parliamentarians were approachable and that issues could be resolved amicably through dialogue.

The representative of DJIBOUTI said that, on 30 June 2019, his Parliament had convened an extraordinary session, attended by the country's Prime Minister and other government representatives, at which the Speaker had delivered a speech marking the IPU's 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The crucial role of the IPU in capacity-building and other spheres had also been highlighted during the opening of the current parliamentary session, as well as during visits to Parliament by schoolchildren from around the country.

The representative of HUNGARY said that his Parliament, a founding Member of the IPU, had held a special celebratory event, on 4 June 2019, in which the IPU President and the IPU Secretary General had participated. Two commemorative stamps depicting the Hungarian National Assembly and the IPU Headquarters in Geneva had been unveiled and copies subsequently sent to all Speakers of Parliament with a view to raising the IPU's visibility. The stamps had also been part of an exhibition, *130 years of Hungary in the IPU*, staged in New York, in July 2019, at the time of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The representative of UZBEKISTAN said that his Parliament consistently celebrated the International Day of Parliamentarism, and that the IPU fostered parliamentary solidarity and spread the voice of parliamentarians around the world. The IPU contributed to regional cooperation and was also invaluable in strengthening international law and in promoting and protecting human rights. The principles of parliamentary democracy and human rights advocated by the IPU should be universally observed without hesitation.

The representative of CYPRUS said that, in June 2019, the IPU President had addressed his Parliament in a special session held to mark the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU. In her address, she had underlined the IPU's role in promoting peace, dialogue and democratic values. She had also applauded the Parliament's initiative to set up a parallel "house of citizens" with the aim of increasing the representative nature of the country's parliamentary democracy. Her visit to his small country had demonstrated that democracy and the rule of law were prerogatives not confined to larger and more affluent countries.

*The sitting rose at 1.30 p.m.*

## Sitting of Tuesday 15 October

### (Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m., with Mr. P.F. Casini (Italy), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

#### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General Debate on the theme *Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation***

##### *Resumption of the debate*

Mr. M. WOLD (Norway), resuming the debate, said that Norway valued international cooperation and the IPU in particular. Norway's economy was global, despite its small population, and its political system was based on democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Those values served international cooperation well and Norway would therefore continue to promote them worldwide. A global system based on respect for international law was conducive to predictability, trust, stability, prosperity and, most importantly, peace. Any disagreements that occurred were best settled by institutions such as international courts and tribunals, with parliamentarians ensuring that their governments accepted and implemented the decisions handed down.

In Europe, countries were closely connected in mutually rewarding cooperation, even if they were non-member States of the European Union, as in the case of Norway, which instead formed connections through the European Economic Area Agreement. In his region, important platforms for cooperation included the Nordic Council, the Arctic Council and a number of parliamentary forums. The Council of Europe (CoE) was also engaged in important work, while the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) was key to promoting and protecting the rights enshrined in the European Declaration of Human Rights. The Court received many thousands of applications from Europeans who believed that their human rights had been violated. In some such cases, it had ruled against Norway, which was bound to accept and implement the rulings concerned without delay.

Mr. A. SYAMSUDDIN (Indonesia) said that, in the current era of interconnectivity, cooperation was a given facilitated by international law. Building peace and adequate security in such a dynamic world required multifaceted approaches and policies, as well as the involvement of diverse players, including parliamentarians, at national and international levels. The actions of those players were governed by international law, which they regarded as obligatory, with a price paid for its violation. Parliaments were strategically placed to strengthen international law, which they had a duty to mainstream in national legislation and oversee the implementation thereof in keeping with the national interest. As evidenced by its active and long-standing role in United Nations peacekeeping operations, Indonesia keenly pursued a comprehensive and holistic approach to the rule of law with the aim of creating a global ecosystem of peace and security. Its Parliament was supportive on that score, maintaining in addition the checks and balances needed to ensure accountability.

Parliamentary associations enabled parliamentarians to network and to discuss solutions to complex cross-border issues and global challenges potentially affecting their constituents. Underpinned by such trends as regional integration, globalization, democratization and transgovernmentalism, inter-parliamentary cooperation was rising and inter-parliamentary forums were gaining in relevance. Such cooperation was furthermore a catalyst for peace and contributed to the discourse on international law. Regionalism was set to flourish as an appropriate mechanism for interregional dialogue on elusive political issues. In his region, compliance with international law had proved effective in addressing regional challenges, including in connection with marine commons and illegal fishing.

Mr. P. MATIBINI (Zambia) said that all parliaments must work collectively and within their own jurisdictions to prevent violations of the international legal order and its legally binding framework of global commitments constituting the bedrock for international peace and security. In many cases, country-level evaluations should be performed to determine institutional and operational capacities for implementing those commitments. With its relevant expertise, the IPU should contribute to individual country efforts to end repeated violations of international law, including the basic tenets of good governance. It was furthermore imperative, given the United Nations role in capacity-building for global compliance with international law, to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations system and parliaments through the IPU.

In Africa, regional and subregional cooperation not only contributed to vitally enhancing the international legal order but also provided hope for peace and security. In that regard, strong parliamentary oversight of the implementation of commitments towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063, the African blueprint for transforming the continent into the powerhouse of the future, was fundamental. African countries also had regional integration commitments under various regional bodies and through tripartite initiatives combining regional groupings. At all such levels, parliaments were expected to play a strategic role in enhancing the accountability systems key to the implementation of global and regional commitments. The IPU's role as a platform for the dissemination and sharing of best practices could not therefore be over-emphasized.

Mr. W.W. SIMINA (Federated States of Micronesia) said that his people had enjoyed a strong and stable constitutional democracy since the country's foundation some 40 years previously. The global legal order, however, was under threat from the revival of former political passions for populism, unilateralism, nationalism and self-determination. In a world moving away from and even questioning the ideal of the rule of law, international law must be emphasized as the bedrock without which there would be no call for organizations such as the IPU and the United Nations that worked to resolve shared problems. Instead, might would once again make right, with the big and strong colonizing and oppressing the small.

Powerful countries had no need of international law, whereas small countries did; only since the end of the Second World War had they had the chance to be heard and to have their concerns addressed. Such countries were therefore passionate about international law as the only peaceful and practical means for successfully advancing their common interests in international forums. In the case of small island developing States such as Micronesia, an international regime – the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea – was helping them to protect the ocean on which they so depended. His delegation pledged to request the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia to appropriate a modest amount – albeit sizeable for a small and poor country – as a contribution to IPU projects for strengthening and promoting international law and the global legal order. He urged others to do the same.

Mr. A. AL MAHMOUD (Qatar) said that the international community had committed to the new international order created after the Second World War to preserve international peace and security. It was now time, however, for parliaments and others to find ways of addressing such challenges as the violation of international law and the lack of dialogue for peace. Israel, for example, continued to flout United Nations resolutions, which the international community should confront, including by renewing its support for the establishment of a Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as its capital. The spread of marginalization, exclusion and terrorism was another outcome of non-compliance with international law. As part of its commitment to the principles of that law, Qatar was eager to prevent regional conflict by eliminating its root causes and resolving difficulties through dialogue.

Peace and stability were threatened by the negative side effects of modern technology, such as its use for criminal purposes, an area largely unregulated by international law. Itself a victim of cyberpiracy, Qatar was committed to combating cybercrime, including through enhanced international cooperation, to which end it had recently offered to host a global conference on the subject. It was also committed to the protection of human rights and to waging the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including through education and job creation for youth. The IPU, parliaments and regional organizations had a pivotal role to play in eliminating the terrorism scourge.

Ms. K. IBRAHIM (Ethiopia) said that her country was working hard for peace, as amply demonstrated by the recent award of the Nobel Peace Prize to its Prime Minister. Thanks to the past two years of reform, its people had begun to feel the benefits of democracy, respect for human rights and equal opportunities, convinced furthermore that the rule of law and strong citizenship built strong societies and nations. Women were prominent in Ethiopian political life, accounting for almost one third of parliamentarians and one half of cabinet ministers. The current President and the President of the Supreme Court, too, were both women.

As to Parliament, the more transparent and inclusive it became, the more it responded to public demands, in turn promoting the stability that had contributed towards the easing of tensions with neighbouring Eritrea. The country was additionally fostering regional integration through an initiative aimed at bringing sustainable peace to the Horn of Africa. International law and order was a reflection of such internal stability, which acted as a springboard to good-neighbourliness. Strengthening the parliamentary system was an important step in furtherance of regional integration and the enjoyment of international law and order. Internal issues must therefore be sensitively treated in order to prevent any spillover effect that could further sully the region.



Mr. K.M. NGOGA (East African Legislative Assembly – EALA) said that nations standing and working together faced the future with more certainty and were enabled to deliver peaceful coexistence and harmony for their peoples. Greater interaction between national and regional institutions was a need emphasized in his continent, which looked to parliaments for policy leadership in breaking down obstacles. In addition to ensuring compliance with international law, parliaments must work to promote the purposeful regional cooperation often hindered by such factors as national pride, political tensions and the asymmetric distribution of costs and benefits. For their part, regional parliaments must pass significant laws, where possible, and perform oversight in conjunction with national parliaments so as to ensure treaty compliance, and must identify and address actual or potential violations of international law. As to his own Assembly, its core mandate was to ensure that the concerns of citizens in the East African region were fully addressed as part of the collective responsibility to strengthen international law.

Mr. K. LUSAKA (Kenya) said that international and regional cooperation required States to make concessions with respect to their sovereignty while taking into account existing international law as a formal basis of interaction between and among them. Parliamentarians made a key contribution to strengthening international law by adapting national legislation to give effect to obligations under international treaties, overseeing the implementation of such treaties, and ensuring through the budgetary process that adequate resources were allocated for that purpose. Kenya had subscribed to numerous international instruments, which had thus become part of its domestic law following their ratification.

Concerning regional cooperation, Kenyan foreign policy had, since the country's independence, evolved in the face of globalization and regional integration and in response to emerging threats to security and the environment. Kenya was a member of various African organizations and free trade areas, regional and international tribunals, and African and regional parliamentary bodies in addition to the IPU. It had thus contributed substantially to international and regional cooperation and its Parliament had supported the Government's cooperation efforts, particularly in pursuit of conflict resolution and peace in the region. Kenya hosted many hundreds of thousands of refugees and played a leading regional role in, among others, combating terrorism and violent extremism, promoting women's and youth empowerment, and strengthening justice, human rights and democracy. Under the banner of peace and security for sustainable development, it was also a current candidate for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

Mr. T. DORJI (Bhutan) said that his small nation had neither economic power nor military might but had always remained sovereign and peaceful, which was attributable to the special emphasis placed by its successive leaderships on upholding the rule of law and nurturing strong and vibrant cooperation with countries in the region. Its Constitution empowered Parliament to ratify all international treaties to which Bhutan had acceded and which consequently had the status of national law. Parliament had thus ratified numerous international instruments, without reservation, after thoroughly scrutinizing their content and considering the feasibility of their implementation. Parliament also played an important role in ensuring that national laws, such as those relating to children's rights, domestic violence and corruption, were aligned with related United Nations conventions.

The principles and objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were consistent with his country's development concept known as Gross National Happiness. Guided by the timeless vision embodied in that concept, Bhutan had always ensured that peace, happiness and well-being remained at the core of its endeavours for the people's benefit. In that same context, a parliamentary committee had recently been instituted to oversee the Government's timely implementation of the SDGs. Bhutan had furthermore committed to remain carbon neutral, although it had long been protecting its pristine environment. It also made a modest contribution to United Nations peacekeeping missions and, consistent in its view of regional cooperation as key to promoting peace and security, it unfailingly supported and participated in numerous regional and subregional parliamentary forums.

Mr. R.E. NAILATIKAU (Fiji) said that the notion of a world community embodied in the United Nations was an unquestionable reality. While shared communication and information networks created cross-border links, as did the movement of people and goods, problems such as disease, crime and environmental degradation also swept uncontrolled across state boundaries with astonishing speed, posing threats to national sovereignty. The United Nations system provided the means for the attainment of common ends, having successfully established international law, set international standards and devised international programmes in all fields of human endeavour. Limited in power nonetheless, the United Nations depended on the political will and cooperation of its Members.

Parliaments were closer and directly accountable to their citizens, however, and were required to engage in decision-making concerning the assumption and implementation of binding international obligations.

Fiji had always willingly joined the critical global effort to achieve peace, security and prosperity for all. Its long-standing and unparalleled contribution of personnel to United Nations peacekeeping missions in almost every major conflict zone demonstrated its commitment to the ideals of international cooperation and international law and order. Fiji was proud of its peacekeepers and their role in protecting the innocent, shielding the vulnerable and upholding human rights. Indeed, it viewed peacekeeping as a noble and honourable duty. For small United Nations Member States such as Fiji, the international rule of law and peace was a guarantee of their independence and survival. Fiji was manifestly dedicated to good global citizenship through the multilateralism of the United Nations and other like institutions.

Lord FAKAFANUA (Tonga) said that, without parliaments and the strong political will to adopt international treaties, international law would have no practical relevance. Such treaties constituted a powerful tool for politicians in a wide range of areas and could also build frameworks for the achievement of shared goals, especially in the conservation and protection of the planet. To prevent irreversible environmental devastation from global warming, parliamentarians must work collectively for a zero-carbon future. To that end, they must create strong legislative and regulatory frameworks for promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as the rule of law and good governance; approve the necessary budgetary allocations; and ensure the implementation of treaty body recommendations. The exponential growth of treaties and their reach into the domestic realm furthermore called for greater parliamentary involvement in the treaty-making process.

The countries in his region, however, had ratified the lowest number of international treaties, including core human rights instruments, believing that they were ill equipped, both financially and otherwise, to assume the obligations incumbent on signatories. In order to compensate for that lack of ratification, a new Pacific regionalism had emerged, underpinned by an initiative aimed at driving collective action to ensure security, harmony and prosperity across the region. His Parliament remained committed to supporting such regional frameworks and also supported the call for the establishment of a geopolitical group to represent small island developing States within the IPU structures so as to achieve inclusivity and fair representation for all therein.

Mr. P.F. CASINI (Italy) said that the greatest political developments since the Second World War were taking place. Leading countries that had worked to establish, support and defend multilateralism appeared to be retreating from it, instead placing more emphasis on expediency than rules. Abuse of power was being tolerated and multilateral organizations were being rendered powerless in a world devoid of rules and benchmarks. As confirmed by many crucial events, the IPU had always played a historic role as forum for informal parliamentary diplomacy. Through their parliaments, countries with different political systems had found the strength to interact with their traditional adversaries.

While the value of multilateralism lay precisely in the existence of neutral forums for the settlement of disputes, conflicts were once again being resolved by the use of force. Many also considered the regulatory function of international forums to be a nuisance. Viewed in that light, even the IPU was under threat. Some might argue that the cost of multilateralism was too much for national parliaments to bear. Politics and democracy each had costs but complaints about those costs were often disingenuous. It was essential to react to that depiction of reality by defending multilateralism, which was the biggest achievement of the XX<sup>th</sup> century and the only means to guaranteeing peace and freedom for humanity.

Ms. S. ATAULLAHJAN (Canada) said that, since the end of the Second World War, the international legal order had developed into a powerful force for peace and prosperity, embodying the collective aspirations for a better world. It belonged to all, with parliamentarians playing an important role in translating those aspirations into domestic realities. While most legislation in Canada emanated from the Government, individual parliamentarians, including opposition members, were also able to propose bills. She had therefore proposed two bills aimed at strengthening Canadian adherence to international legal norms.

The first of those bills was designed to prohibit Canadian investment in foreign companies producing cluster munitions by closing a loophole whereby investors in some States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, including Canada, were able to continue making such investments. The aim was to ensure that Canada abided by the intent of the Convention, as well as by a broad

interpretation of its provisions. The second bill dealt with a similarly difficult issue: the non-consensual harvesting of and illegal trafficking in human organs, a practice in which the world's most vulnerable were frequently exploited. While Canada had prohibited organ trafficking in line with its international obligations, it had done nothing to criminalize "transplant tourism". Her bill was aimed at punishing those who ignored the possible harm caused by such procedures. Although neither bill had passed, she intended to reintroduce them and to continue advocating on those issues as part of her responsibility as a parliamentarian to give domestic reality to international law.

Mr. F. SALIM (Libya) said that the Libyan people much appreciated the IPU's ongoing positive support of its just cause for peace, development, freedom and well-being. The country was hopeful of emerging from the chaos and insecurity that had engulfed it, towards engaging fully in regional and international policymaking with the aim of ending conflict, war and tension and establishing the peace and justice to which all aspired.

The Libyan House of Representatives looked forward to strengthening cooperation with the IPU on all issues of shared concern, in particular international law, international humanitarian law and the role of parliaments and regional mechanisms therein, with a focus on child and maternal rights, and human rights in general. In that context, various laws should be reviewed and robust steps taken to prohibit proxy wars, interference in the internal affairs of States, use of mercenaries in conflict zones, and human trafficking. Those situations were all too familiar to Libya, where the goal was to establish peace and security in the interest of promoting socio-economic development, including through guaranteeing the delivery of universal health coverage by 2030.

Mr. B. BOUTTANAVONG (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that political security issues, economic and trade conflicts, social problems and climate change were among the current global challenges and presented a major threat to peace, stability, cooperation and achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Parliaments crucially contributed to international and regional peace and stability through their legislative and oversight functions and by raising public awareness of law enforcement, including with respect to international law. More efforts were needed to promote parliamentary diplomacy and thus further strengthen international cooperation and sustainable development. His country sought to engage in such cooperation with the aim of addressing challenges through peaceful means and creating an environment conducive to peace, socio-economic development and well-being for all.

His Parliament played a critical role in approving the ratification of international treaties entered into by the State, comprehensively translating their content into responsive national legislation, and overseeing the implementation of all legislation by the executive and judicial branches of government. Parliamentarians must work to strengthen and promote respect for international law, which was key to the peaceful resolution of conflict. They must likewise support initiatives that positively contributed to development and to addressing challenges so as to enhance peace, security and prosperity for all.

Ms. C. EGUILUZ (Uruguay) said that Uruguay had a long history of respecting and implementing its international commitments through their incorporation into national legislation. The country's profound belief in democracy was based on a solid political system maintained in line with international law, which it viewed as a guarantor of peaceful coexistence among nations. Uruguay was also committed to multilateralism as the most comprehensive means to finding effective solutions to shared problems and to ensuring democracy and the protection of human rights. Multilateralism offered the global approach needed in addressing global challenges relating to such matters as poverty, sustainable development, terrorism, climate change, human rights, equality and inclusion, which were best tackled from a broader perspective rather than exclusively at the national level.

International cooperation was key to the international law system and to transforming the world, with parliaments playing a vital and responsible role towards improving the existing international architecture. It was therefore important to promote parliamentary diplomacy as a mechanism for achieving results where traditional diplomacy might fail and to prioritize parliamentary capacity-building on that score. As to regional cooperation based on the sharing of good practices, it contributed to the enhancement of national legal systems, including through the development of model laws, and must likewise be promoted and strengthened. Parliamentarians must also work to harmonize national legislation with international commitments entered into by their governments, as her Parliament had done in connection with, among others, the protection of stateless persons, the financing of terrorism, and the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction.

Ms. T.P. TONG (Viet Nam) said that complex political and security developments were unfolding worldwide, creating unpredictable risks. Such phenomena as racial and religious disputes, non-traditional security threats, terrorism and petty nationalism were also on the rise. Unilateral actions in violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations were a main culprit and a threat to peace that must be countered through multilateral cooperation. Among other things, Viet Nam had an independent and self-reliant foreign policy; upheld multilateralism, the rule of law and common principles in international relations; and respected the international legal order. The Parliament of Viet Nam furthered the country's efforts in those spheres through its legislative and oversight functions and actively engaged in parliamentary diplomacy.

To strengthen international law, it was essential to uphold the Charter of the United Nations, comply with international law and promote greater cooperation, dialogue and information-sharing with the aim of enhancing mutual understanding, trust and respect. For their part, parliaments must ratify international treaties and build, revise and amend domestic legislation accordingly; monitor the implementation of key multilateral agreements; and support the development of parliamentary diplomacy for the maintenance of peace and democracy in conformity with international law and with respect for equality among sovereign nations. Cooperation between the IPU and international organizations, notably the United Nations, must also be increased in areas ranging from sustainable development, poverty and hunger eradication to gender equality, youth engagement and sustainable use and management of natural resources. Parliaments and nations should also foster policymaking links in matters relating to climate change.

Mr. J. HASLER (Liechtenstein) said that, thanks to far-sighted diplomacy based on long-standing partnerships, Liechtenstein had preserved its autonomy and had no military protection. It was thus reliant on the validity and observance of the international legal order, the endangered consensus of which, coupled with the shift away from multilateralism, was a worrying development. His Parliament supported the country's foreign policy objectives, in particular its strong advocacy of multilateralism. Globally, numerous principles of international law were routinely and systematically violated, with such institutions as the International Criminal Court (ICC) also under attack and many still denied the benefit of its legal protection. Parliaments should therefore do more to highlight the ICC's role in preventing heinous crimes. As to the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) relating to such crimes in the Syrian Arab Republic, it served as an accountability model in situations where other options were unavailable. Liechtenstein was proud to have spearheaded the efforts leading to its creation.

In authorizing a budgetary allocation to international humanitarian cooperation and development, the Liechtenstein Diet contributed substantially towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To the same end, Liechtenstein had launched a private-public partnership initiative to combat the financing of modern slavery and human trafficking, a fight in which parliaments could also be involved. Respect for and strengthening of the rules-based international order should be a top priority for parliaments, which must always put people first and strongly support initiatives for strengthening the legal order at the national and international levels.

Mr. H. MINGJIN (China) said that unilateralism, protectionism and bullying were rising while multilateralism, economic globalization and the authority of international law faced headwinds. Parliaments must therefore work to strengthen international law by upholding the international system with the United Nations at its core, which was also to uphold the legitimate common interests of the entire international community, including with the aim of further democratizing international relations. Centred on the World Trade Organization (WTO), the multilateral trading system was key to promoting international trade, building an open world economy and enhancing well-being for all. Unilateral and protectionist trade policies ran counter to that free, open and non-discriminatory system, which protected the rights and interests of developing countries and their development space.

Strengthening international law also meant upholding fairness and justice to achieve win-win cooperation. In following its independent foreign policy of peace, China respected all chosen development paths and social systems, never imposing its will on others and believing that differences should be settled on their respective merits, through consultation and without double standards, power politics or abuse of international law. In an unparalleled development miracle attributable to its hard-working people, China had rapidly transformed into an open and dynamic society and a major engine of stable economic growth worldwide. Its achievements demonstrated that innovative people-centred socialism with Chinese characteristics worked. Legislators must seek to strengthen international law so as to prevent rule by force and erosion of the norms underpinning the international system on which humanity depended for survival, development and prosperity.

Mr. G. TSERETELI (Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe – PA OSCE) said that, in order to win greater public support, governments must build effective, accountable and inclusive democratic institutions, with parliaments strengthening their oversight to ensure that laws were enacted, administered and enforced to benefit all. Political will was needed to uphold international commitments and thereby realize the common vision of a peaceful and rules-based world order. The renewed potential for international conflicts, the deteriorating human rights situation worldwide, and the breakdown of multilateralism also called for close regional and parliamentary cooperation. Political leaders had a collective responsibility to exploit every opportunity to maximize the impact of results-oriented parliamentary diplomacy, especially in times of intense rhetoric and lack of compromise. Parliamentarians must continue to work for de-escalation, creative solutions, civil society involvement in their activities, and the advancement of gender-mainstreaming and youth participation. Only through government of the people, by the people, for the people would it be possible to strengthen international law, achieve lasting peace, protect human rights, address climate change and ensure sustainable development for a better world.

Ms. V.E. MARQUES LEMOS MARTINS (Timor-Leste) said that the resort to war in resolving international conflicts was a disturbing trend. Apart from consuming vast resources, it ignored the fundamental principles of international law governing the use of force and turned the world into a more dangerous place. Conflict resolution and realization of the right to self-determination must instead be pursued through dialogue. Regional inter-parliamentary cooperation was bound up with multilateralism and, while regional integration was certainly valuable, political, social and cultural ties could transcend geography. Timor-Leste, for example, had found its way to independence only by shifting its vision away from the purely regional towards the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP).

In a similar vein, the g7+ group served as a platform for enabling geographically disparate States, many of them fragile, to interact and share experiences with the aim of resolving problems common to all of them, despite their contrasts otherwise. Her Parliament was in fact working to establish a parliamentary assembly in support of g7+ initiatives. To promote the changes needed to realize the vision of a better world, national, regional and international institutions must review and strengthen their structures and accountability mechanisms. The younger generations must also be engaged in political processes to quell the silent danger of creeping dissatisfaction among those who represented the future. With that in mind and lest it be forgotten that to leave groups behind could have serious consequences for social tranquillity, her Parliament had recently set up a group of young parliamentarians to address youth concerns.

Ms. A. TOLLEY (New Zealand) said that, in a world increasingly marked by division and conflict, parliamentarians had a responsibility to contribute to the maintenance of order and the rule of law at the domestic, regional and international levels, including through cooperation with global institutions. In New Zealand, many multilateral and bilateral treaties were presented to Parliament for consideration by select committees before they were ratified, ensuring that they were thoroughly scrutinized with the best interests of citizens in mind. As to regional cooperation, particularly with Pacific neighbours, it was viewed as essential for sharing knowledge and fostering stability in the region.

In that context, her Parliament had recently co-hosted with the IPU a seminar for Pacific island parliaments on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), concerning the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It also sent delegations to various Pacific islands to meet broad cross-sections of their societies, including women leaders with whom they discussed the contributions women could make to parliament. The aim was to foster equal representation in parliaments so as to promote regional peacebuilding and further relationships and understanding among parliamentarians. The maintenance of public trust in the New Zealand Parliament and its related institutions was, however, among the biggest challenges to the preservation of legal order and stability. Indeed, the greatest threat to international democracy and law and order was the loss of faith in democratic processes. Parliamentarians thus had a duty to comport themselves in a manner that gave their citizens a reason to hold on to that faith.

Ms. S. KHUON (Cambodia) said that the unprecedented global challenges of unilateralism, protectionism and power politics and rivalries threatened to dismantle the foundations of multilateralism and the rules-based international order painstakingly built since the Second World War. International law mattered for all States, irrespective of size, wealth and strength, for non-compliance therewith would inevitably lead to conflict and violence. All States were entitled to choose their own sovereign path towards the achievement of their core national interests, as long as they fulfilled their

international legal obligations. Insofar as the Charter of the United Nations provided only the normative basis for inter-State relations, there however was no "one-size-fits-all" model or standard definition of a rules-based international order.

Cambodia had embraced a flexible and pragmatic foreign policy based on reform at home and establishing friendly relations abroad based on respect for sovereignty. It was firmly committed to enhancing the rule of law as the cornerstone of good governance and resilient democracy. As a post-conflict country, it valued peace and stability as the preconditions for development and growth. Its hard-earned peace nonetheless remained fragile and vulnerable to the multiple challenges stemming from rising political extremism, populist politics and interference in its internal affairs. With global interdependence also rising, the security of all States was closely interconnected. Her Parliament contributed to the enhancement of the rules-based international order by actively participating in various regional and international platforms. Cambodia was fully committed to advancing the core values of the IPU, together with those of diversity and respect for sovereign equality.

Mr. V. BOLOGAN (Republic of Moldova) said that, until recently, Moldova had suffered at the hands of politicians with vested interests. State institutions had all been gradually captured, corruption flourished, billions had been stolen from the banking system and money-laundering schemes were rife. Mayoral elections had been cancelled; the Constitutional Court had fuelled an unprecedented political crisis; opposition members had been systematically persecuted; civil society and mass media politically influenced; and businesses harassed by the State. After months of uncertainty following parliamentary elections in early 2019, a coalition government had eventually been formed. It had been a historic day that would be remembered as the one on which Moldovans had regained their rights.

The Moldovan people must now use the opportunity to shape the country's future for the best. The events had unfolded as in a brilliant chess game in which evil had been outplayed through manoeuvres, sacrifices, traps and courage that preceded the final decisive attack. The European Parliament had provided much welcome support when Moldova had been declared a "captured" State, in November 2018, and the Venice Commission had continuously given precious legal advice to the heads of diplomatic missions, who had stood alongside the country's parliamentarians on that historic day in order to protect them from arrest or other illegal measures. The hope now was that Moldova would achieve economic prosperity, higher living standards and a boost to tourism against a new backdrop of efficient and non-corrupt governance, freedom of speech, human rights protection and stable good-neighbourly relations.

Mr. S. KADER MEER WAYES (Iraq) said that Iraq had faced predictable challenges in the aftermath of the war in 2003, its new authorities having inherited a burdensome legacy of corruption and other ills. After such a lengthy period of isolation and lagging behind, Iraq had worked hard to harness its resources and modern technology towards laying down solid foundations for the country's political and economic system. The efforts to rebuild peacefully and forget past tensions had, however, been adversely affected by the activities of Daesh terrorist groups and their horrific consequences. Optimism had nonetheless prevailed in a country that had always built bridges among civilizations and fostered good-neighbourliness and understanding among peoples. Iraq was therefore once more moving towards a brighter future.

In addition to ending the infiltration of terrorist groups across its borders, Iraq had substantially increased its oil production and, in turn, its gross domestic product. Women also enjoyed greater independence and participation in public and political life, accounting for over one quarter of Iraqi parliamentarians, and the country's institutional and governance performance was steadily improving. Much remained to be done, however, which called for regional and international investments in all sectors in order to achieve the desired progress towards stability and development. In closing, he lamented the recent Turkish invasion of the Syrian Arab Republic, as it threatened not only Syrian sovereignty but also raised the spectre of a resurgence of Daesh and other terrorist groups in the region.

Mr. K. BAYRAMOV (Azerbaijan) said that, without the backing of international law, no State, intergovernmental or inter-parliamentary organization would ever successfully resolve any significant global or regional issue. The universal principles on which international law was based were a cornerstone for the construction and development of a peaceful, safe and prosperous world. The United Nations, in that context, played an exceptional role, its Charter providing a normative basis for the establishment and maintenance of friendly inter-State and international relations. Regrettably, however, international law was in crisis from the growing number of conflicts, wars and offensives, some of them contrary to the Charter's fundamental principles. Indeed, certain States had long violated Security Council resolutions with impunity, which bred mistrust of the United Nations.

Gross violations of international law had been committed against his country by Armenia in the form of aggression against Azerbaijan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence. Armenia entirely disregarded the Security Council resolutions relating to its occupation of Azerbaijani territories, which indicated not only its reluctance to resolve the conflict peacefully but also that the mechanism for the implementation of such resolutions was either non-existent or dysfunctional. The Armenian delegation to the current IPU Assembly should refrain from urging compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, given its own failure of compliance in a situation that demonstrated the need for strengthening of international law and for United Nations reform. To that end, the IPU should intensify cooperation with the United Nations, including in the context of the annual parliamentary hearings held in New York.

Mr. M. TIMBINÉ (Mali) said that lack of respect for the international legal order inevitably led to conflicts with incalculable consequences, which was currently the sad reality, despite myriad global commitments made. The crisis was profound and called for the strengthening of international law through new forms of regional and international cooperation based on promoting, *inter alia*, the rule of law, respect for national sovereignty and the peaceful settlement of disputes, including the essential steps towards achievement of the SDGs. Such aims must govern parliamentary activities, among them the harmonization of domestic laws with international obligations. Parliaments often took a back seat in establishing the rule of law by, however, simply approving or ratifying treaties. That raised questions about the contrast between the role of parliaments and that of the executive in the field of international relations.

The need for innovative conflict management mechanisms called for multilateral cooperation in the vital quest for collective security. In his subregion, the relentless fight against the fragility that fuelled insecurity was being waged by such entities as the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) and a G5 Sahel inter-parliamentary committee. The G5 Sahel had furthermore moved towards responsible international cooperation, having recently entered into a partnership for security and stability in the Sahel with the Group of Seven (G7). Such cooperation was also essential in facing many other challenges, whether relating to international peace and security, nuclear weapons or climate change, and in countering the very real dangers of inaction.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium) said that international public goods were under pressure from the scale and complexity of rapidly growing challenges worldwide, which demanded a coordinated and agreed multilateral approach to the achievement of national and international objectives. Nationalism and internationalism were not opposed but mutually reinforcing. Subsidiarity must be the guiding principle in seeking to conserve and strengthen public support for multilateral actions. A higher level of decision-making was justifiable only when scale advantages led to better results than were achievable at a level closer to citizens.

In Belgium, the regions and communities conducted autonomous foreign policies; regional decrees had the same status as federal laws; and the federated states had the autonomous power to conclude treaties once ratified by their respective national parliaments. It was a unique arrangement that offered numerous possibilities for Belgium to influence the international agenda, with multilateral cooperation organized through a limited number of effective multilateral organizations that strove to achieve their policy priorities as well as those of the regions. Multilateral organizations must be continuously evaluated, however, in terms of their success in realizing international and national objectives. As to the European Union, it was an important lever for multilateral action, for concluding cooperation agreements with multilateral organizations and increasingly representing its member States in international forums. In the multilateral context, success implied the active participation of lower government levels in decision-making processes and the removal of procedural obstacles to ensure efficiency, democracy and the interests of government at the various levels.

Mr. N. ANZOUR (Syrian Arab Republic) said that parliamentarians risked falling captive to financial and political forces wielding a dominating influence in a world at a dangerous crossroads. In that world of repeated violations of international law and persistent crises, what were parliaments doing to safeguard the international legal order and save the peoples whom they represented from the threat posed by those forces? To what extent did they oversee government compliance with international law? How could they and inter-parliamentary bodies enhance the transparency of international organizations? How could national, regional and international governance institutions be redefined and strengthened? What could parliaments do to identify and better address the root causes of conflicts before they spun out of control? What regional initiatives most effectively contributed to the promotion of international peace and security and the rule of law? How could parliaments help to strengthen international and regional parliamentary cooperation? How could the IPU discharge its fundamental mission to promote political dialogue and better safeguard the international legal order?

The events in his country were a prime example of violations of international law, most recently the invasion and occupation of parts of its territory by Turkey, which throughout the war had served as a conduit and training camp for terrorists seeking to overthrow the Syrian regime. The welcomed international condemnation of that blatant Turkish aggression boded well for a vital review of the situation in his country and would in turn encourage a full review of inter-parliamentary action in the interest of the peoples of the world.

Mr. P. BEYER (Germany) said that it was time for parliamentarians to take greater ownership of their role, which was possible only if they understood the immense responsibility involved in serving as elected representatives in fully functioning democracies. The standing, reputation and powers of parliamentarians should be enhanced accordingly to enable them to exert the type of influence normally associated with their position. Based on examples from his region, proposals to that end included the establishment of joint parliamentary assemblies and bilateral parliamentary friendship groups, cross-border cooperation among parliaments for the exchange of best practices, and annual meetings of parliamentary spokespersons. Much more could be done, however, taking into account the small number of regional inter-parliamentary platforms compared with the number of intergovernmental regional cooperation formats.

In the Western Balkan region, parliaments were often excluded from important political decisions, partly because parliamentarians were perceived as part of a former elite. An intergovernmental platform known as the Berlin Process had been established to secure the long-term stability and transformation of that region through economic growth and stronger regional cooperation. A related inter-parliamentary initiative had also been introduced to foster awareness of the political standing of parliamentarians with a view to promoting democracy and the rule of law. Inter-parliamentary communication must be strengthened worldwide so as to exchange information on such matters as judicial reform, press freedom, the promotion and protection of human rights, and the advancement of women in political and public life.

Ms. M. KIENER NELLEN (Switzerland), expressing solidarity with all peoples suffering in conflict and war zones, said that some of those zones were almost forgotten, as in the case of eastern Ukraine, where peace was vitally needed. The region was also one of the world's most heavily mined. It took decades to remove unexploded ordnance, with many lives lost along the way. As to Switzerland, it continued to honour its long-standing humanitarian commitment stemming from the establishment of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva, in 1863, the aim of which was to ensure protection and assistance for victims of armed conflict. As the depositary of the Geneva Conventions and the Protocols additional thereto, Switzerland remained a staunch ally in the work to promote respect for international humanitarian law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It was important for parliaments to oversee the monitoring of security services, armies and police forces, including with a view to ensuring that they received training adequate to prevent the likelihood of their involvement in human rights abuses. In that connection, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), an international body, stood ready to provide advice on security sector governance and reform. Parliaments must not be fearful of governments. On the contrary, it was governments that must report to parliaments on their efforts to promote respect for international humanitarian law.

Ms. M. PALMITJAVILA (Andorra) said that, as provided in the Andorran Constitution, international law occupied a prominent place throughout the country's legal framework. Andorra was a member of various intergovernmental and inter-parliamentary organizations, thereby confirming its commitment to democratic values, peace and respect for human rights, as well as to the fulfilment of its international obligations. To that end, the General Council of Andorra regularly harmonized its national legislation with the numerous international instruments to which Andorra was a party. The laws concerned covered areas ranging from, among others, children's rights, equality and non-discrimination to humanitarian protection for refugees, human trafficking and environmental protection. Many of those laws also responded to public demands channelled through civil society organizations. Such public involvement was vital to strengthening multilateralism, which was in turn key to addressing global challenges.

The role of parliaments in strengthening international law also involved their primary function, which was to represent their electorate, with whom they must forge closer ties. Her Parliament, for instance, was open to the public, who were able to attend its debates or to follow them live or after the event. It also organized visits for schoolchildren and an annual session of a youth parliament. The



country's institutions were also working to achieve the SDGs, with a particular focus on their environmental and social aspects. For parliamentarians, the challenge was to respond effectively to public demands, such as those for action on climate change spearheaded by the younger generation.

Mr. G. DAUDZE (Latvia) said that the main mission of parliamentarians was to communicate and speak on issues of regional and global significance, including through such inter-parliamentary organizations as the IPU and, in his region, the Baltic Assembly. Those organizations provided ideal platforms for discussion, cooperation and the sharing of experiences and best practices. In their centenary year, the Baltic States were democratic, secure and prosperous members of the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO) and numerous inter-parliamentary organizations. Having learned from their past, they were confident that more was achievable by standing together in fostering security, welfare and development and in improving people-to-people contacts. They also cooperated to implement projects in such areas as border protection, infrastructure and medical procurement, as well as in coordinating joint positions within the European Union.

In its current presidency of the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Leaders, Latvia was guided by the motto "Achieving more together", which prioritized a comprehensive approach to security and defence, strengthening of the energy, transport and infrastructure sectors, and the development of regional growth and competitiveness. Geographical distance was no obstacle to close cooperation and the attainment of common goals. His Parliament furthermore understood that efforts towards those goals would be futile without a focus on youth policy. It was the youth in society who would build a sustainable society and adopt fair laws at both regional and global levels. It was also future young politicians who would grasp the importance of regional cooperation and emphasize partnership rather than rivalry.

Mr. S. ALBARKANI (Yemen) said that, unless the rights of those such as the oppressed Palestinian people suffering under occupation were realized, talk of strengthening international law was simply talk for consumption. His own country was torn apart by war and faced an unprecedented and worsening humanitarian situation, all thanks to the practices of Houthi rebels intent on wreaking havoc and destruction, not to mention their violations of rights and freedoms. In addition to the Houthi takeover, the Iranian meddling in the region had extended to include attacks on Saudi oil facilities and other actions in violation of international law. Houthi militias had furthermore subjected the newly elected Speaker and numerous members of the Yemeni House of Representatives, following its session in Seiyun, to farcical trials that had resulted in death sentences and seizure of the defendants' assets. The IPU must take a firm stand against the Houthi attempts to impose the law of the jungle, which caused major concern and damaged regional security and global interests.

Yemen greatly appreciated the efforts spearheaded by Saudi Arabia in support of its unity and territorial integrity and rejected all Iranian actions aimed at disrupting security. Assisted by the United Nations and its Special Envoy for Yemen, it sought lasting peace and called on the Houthis to follow suit by relinquishing violence in favour of complying with the law, the outcomes of national dialogue, and United Nations resolutions. The Houthi implementation of the Stockholm Agreement, without any further broken promises, was also crucial to the establishment of such peace.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal) said that the world was troubled, as exemplified by the rise of populism, xenophobia, nationalism and isolationism and the building of new walls between peoples and nations. Parliamentarians were best placed to combat such phenomena in defence of the common values of pluralistic democracy, freedom and the rule of law. Together with such core principles as respect for human rights, those values were absolute. Multilateralism was key to achieving mutual understanding and respect through dialogue, including via the platforms offered by the IPU and other international organizations. Following its transition from dictatorship to democracy, Portugal had been a founding member of numerous regional inter-parliamentary assemblies. It had thus firmly demonstrated its belief in parliamentary democracy as a means to overcoming differences, resolving conflicts and bringing people together.

Many multilateral organizations nonetheless suffered from lack of efficiency and transparency, both of which they must therefore seek to strengthen, along with their international visibility, in order to build respect for their role. In addition to treaties and political contacts, interpersonal contacts were another excellent means of reinforcing links among peoples through, for instance, student exchange programmes. Such programmes broke down barriers by enabling young generations to learn about different cultures and understand that the responsibility for forging a better world was a duty shared by all. For their part, parliamentarians must pursue their commitment to strengthening international law and supporting multilateralism.

Mr. I. AHMED (Nigeria) said that, notwithstanding its contribution to peaceful coexistence and harmony among nations, international law was increasingly being violated. As an active and responsible member of the international community, Nigeria fully recognized the importance of fulfilling its international obligations under the treaties to which it had acceded. It also respected the decisions of international tribunals, as in the case of the judgement handed down against it in relation to its boundary dispute with neighbouring Cameroon. It furthermore worked relentlessly to strengthen its regional and subregional ties, continuing to play a major role in regional peacebuilding and in countering regional threats and challenges.

Nigeria faced its own challenges, too, among them terrorism, insurgency and banditry, which developed countries could help to stamp out by providing military equipment, training personnel and sharing intelligence. Shockingly, however, some had declined such assistance. Nigeria was also keen to promote regional economic growth, as indicated by its recent signing of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). As to the Nigerian Parliament, it constantly strived to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of its role in working to secure national, regional and global peace and harmony. It continued to align the country's legislation with the international treaties to which Nigeria was a party; had enacted laws to fight corruption and financial crimes; oversaw the implementation of government programmes and policies; and played a part in monitoring the operations of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) established to end Boko Haram activities in the region.

Mr. K. FUJISUE (Japan), focusing on the issue of nuclear weapons, said that his mother had witnessed the atomic bombing of Nagasaki in which many thousands had been burned to death in minutes. She had never forgotten the sight of the purple mushroom cloud. His mission was to ensure that no such weapon was ever used again. As an independent parliamentarian, he therefore intended to work for progress towards the implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), adopted in 2017.

Regrettably, however, none of the nuclear-weapon States was a party to the TPNW. Important frameworks for the reduction of nuclear arms had furthermore been undermined by the abandonment of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty) and the dwindling effectiveness of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), otherwise known as the Iran nuclear deal. Parliamentarians must consequently do more to encourage dialogue among nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States. Proactive exchanges of opinion among national parliaments would also further the goal of achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Ms. R. KAVAKCI KAN (Turkey), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Turkey had launched its counter-terrorism Operation Peace Spring in order to secure its lengthy border with the Syrian Arab Republic, neutralize terrorists operating in the region and save the Syrian population from the cruel actions of those terrorists. In so doing, Turkey was exercising its right to self-defence under the Charter of the United Nations while also fully respecting Syrian territorial integrity and unity, which were threatened by the Kurdistan Workers' Party/People's Protection Units (PKK/YPG) and the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. According to Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, those groups must be held accountable for their acts of violence and crimes against humanity. The PKK/YPG did not represent the Syrian Kurdish people. The aim of the Turkish operation was to bring peace to the region and create a safe zone to enable the return of Syrian refugees hosted by Turkey.

Ms. S.F. HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran), also speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that allegations directed at her country in connection with the military invasion of Yemen were no more than a further attempt by certain governments to avoid humiliation and divert attention away from their ambitions in the region. Those allegations furthermore chimed with the aim of some world powers to divide and destabilize the sensitive Persian Gulf region. Her delegation rejected all such allegations and reiterated its support for a peaceful solution to the Yemeni crisis and an end to the humanitarian disaster in Yemen. Fortunately, the ground prepared for constructive inter-Yemeni dialogue had led to the Stockholm Agreement and follow-up process under United Nations auspices.

*The sitting rose at 6.40 p.m.*

## Sitting of Wednesday 16 October

### (Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9.05 a.m. with Mr. I. Flores (Chile), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

#### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General Debate on the theme *Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation***

##### *Resumption of the debate*

Ms. C. WIDEGREN (Sweden) said that democracy should not be taken for granted; it needed to be nurtured from generation to generation. Sweden was celebrating 100 years of democracy. As a small country, it depended on trade exports and therefore set great store by cooperating with others. Its Parliament and Government made significant efforts to agree on long-term issues, such as foreign policy, defence, and climate. Sweden's defence commission, while appointed by the Government, was led by parliamentarians. The links between democracy and international peace and security were strong. Sweden had an open and inclusive society with respect for the rule of law, strong electoral participation and a vibrant civil society. Universal and equal suffrage had paved the way to reliable economic growth and greater prosperity for all. The rule of law, openness and transparency were building blocks for good business and would ultimately generate stable economic growth. It was important to stand up for the core values of democracy. The Charter of the United Nations began with the words "We, the peoples". Parliamentarians, as the elected representatives of those peoples, should, through the IPU, continue to build their relationship with the United Nations.

Ms. L. WICKS (Australia) said that only national governments, accountable through the ballot box and governed by the rule of law, could define their national interests, and parliamentarians could answer to no higher authority than their constituents. That approach would support the sustainability, effectiveness and longevity of international multilateral institutions, which were vital to a rules-based global order. Yet rules set in the previous century needed to be modernized to preserve the pertinence of international law in preserving global security and prosperity, providing a framework for the peaceful resolution of disputes, and guiding cooperation on global issues. The Government of Australia therefore supported international accountability and adjudicatory mechanisms, contributed to setting new rules and standards, and assisted its neighbours and partners in the Indo-Pacific region in developing effective law and justice systems. Parliamentary scrutiny was essential, and parliament's legislative function enabled the domestication of international law. Australia's parliamentarians participated as members of the national delegation to the United Nations General Assembly. The IPU could identify how to remove any restrictions to parliaments' ability to effectively contribute to the preservation and development of the international legal order. Australia's parliamentary mechanisms ensured compliance with the State's international legal obligations.

Mr. S.I. SYED NOH (Malaysia) said that international law had been established to bring peace and security to the world. The international justice system continued to play a critical role in settling legal disputes between States, ensuring accountability for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, combating impunity and ensuring that States upheld their international commitments. Parliaments, through their legislative and oversight functions, had a key role to play. The Government of Malaysia was committed to multilateralism in advancing global peace, security and prosperity. In line with the Constitution, the executive authority concluded multilateral agreements, which were subsequently translated into domestic legislation. The 2018 general elections had been a pivotal turning point in the government regime after 60 years and had resulted in progressive parliamentary reform. The Parliament of Malaysia engaged actively in dialogue on matters of global concern, such as combating terrorism and violent extremism, in particular at the regional level. Significant efforts were also being made to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including by fostering international partnerships.

Mr. J.J. RABENIRINA (Madagascar) said that new global challenges were emerging, in response to which inter-State relations and the institutions of the United Nations must evolve. New ideas and principles had arisen, such as regional integration and the principle of subsidiarity, which

had become essential to addressing the endemic and specific nature of contemporary socio-political and economic problems. Parliaments had an important role to play in international relations, in particular through regional and international parliamentary forums, which facilitated the sharing of ideas and good practices to strengthen good governance. State activities required the consent of the people, granted through the institution of parliament, including when it came to accession to international treaties and agreements. Parliaments must ratify those agreements and, where necessary, could issue reservations against certain provisions contained therein. The Parliament of Madagascar participated actively in the implementation of the State's foreign policy, through strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and cooperation, in particular in the Indian Ocean region. It had ratified the international treaties and conventions signed by the executive, and translated them into national law. Much remained to be done, however, with regard to strengthening its oversight and surveillance functions. The support of the IPU would always be needed.

Mr. S. BADIBANGA NTITA (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that international law constituted a framework for global cooperation. The world was in a constant state of flux; flexibility in cooperation was essential. Major contemporary challenges included climate change, social and economic inequalities within nations, and domestic, internal conflicts such as corruption and humanitarian crises. Those imbalances could lead to wars. International law must therefore serve as a tool for international cooperation and development, in particular the implementation of the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the attainment of the SDGs. In that regard, frameworks for international cooperation were required, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was the foundation of all international law; its implementation still required constant effort and vigilance. The Charter of the United Nations was the cornerstone of international cooperation. Parliaments must ensure that international instruments were ratified, translated into national law, and properly implemented. To be effective, institutions must be legitimate and inclusive, based on the will of the people. Deepening democracy was thus a means of strengthening international law. Parliaments must engage in constant dialogue with civil society, business and young people to seek solutions to contemporary problems, rather than imposing rules from on high, and thereby ensure that international law was used as a tool to solve all the problems of contemporary global society.

Mr. I. BECIC (Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation – PABSEC) said that PABSEC was a unique forum for inter-parliamentary dialogue in the Black Sea region, bringing together the parliaments of the 12 Member States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation. Its main objective was to strengthen regional economic cooperation and transform the Black Sea region into a zone of peace, stability and prosperity. Globally, the Black Sea region played an important role as a bridge between Asia and Europe and was rich in energy resources. National parliaments were using inter-parliamentary cooperation to improve the political climate, enhance dialogue and foster solidarity in the Black Sea region. Parliamentary diplomacy was particularly significant in promoting dialogue for peaceful settlement of disputes, strengthening security and stability and ensuring respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of nations. PABSEC reaffirmed its commitment to fostering parliamentary diplomacy to strengthen the climate of friendship and mutual understanding for the successful realization of international cooperation.

Mr. H.M. VIGNER (Central African Republic) said that preserving the international legal order was a constant priority for the Parliament of the Central African Republic, in particular through the ratification of international legal texts and overseeing their implementation. The aim was to ensure effective strengthening of optimized peace, defence, trade, the environment, the use of natural resources, as well as promoting and protecting human rights. In fulfilling its oversight function, Parliament operated in line with universally accepted democratic standards, monitoring and questioning the executive orally and in writing, through commissions of inquiry and other hearings. It ensured that national bodies respected their international commitments, in a transparent manner with full respect for good governance. Parliaments must ensure that their peoples lived in harmony and peace, as guaranteed by the rule of law. They must therefore work together, through such multilateral institutions as the IPU and the United Nations, to snuff out any sparks of conflict. All legislative and parliamentary actions should aim to strengthen social cohesion. The risks and unpredictable consequences of conflict should never be forgotten.

Mr. K. VALENTIN (Denmark) said that parliamentarians understood the value of constructive dialogue and the need to make political compromises. Each member of a parliamentary delegation to the IPU Assembly represented his or her own political convictions. Differences of opinion within delegations were not a sign of weakness but rather a true reflection of the democratic composition of

national parliaments. In Denmark, the involvement of civil society in informal adult education had been an important factor in establishing a functioning democracy since the Second World War. The purpose had been to share information and promote engagement in the development of democracy and thereby avoid new waves of fascism and extremism. Danish society thrived on dialogue between people and a high level of trust in public institutions. It was founded on values such as freedom of expression, association and religion, with civil society as a driving force. Only democratic States were open to constructive dialogue and took account of the opinions of their citizens. They accepted compromise and agreed on the need for strong international institutions. Regrettably, international rule-based order was facing increased pressure from power politics and fake news. Education was the only solution.

Mr. V. ORLIC (Serbia) said that promoting global and regional peace and cooperation, respecting the rule of law, and upholding international standards, were the basis of Serbia's domestic and foreign policy. Despite having been the victim of flagrant breaches of international law and severe infringements of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Government of Serbia had consistently endeavoured to champion those principles. The example of Kosovo and Metohija showed the potential consequences of failure to respect international law. Unilateral measures taken by Priština indicated that the fate of a people was at stake. Nonetheless, Serbia remained ready to resume dialogue as soon as trade tariffs were lifted, and to continue its peaceful efforts, in line with international legal principles, to resolve the issue of Kosovo and Metohija. Strengthening regional cooperation and stability was not only significant for safeguarding the prospect of membership in the European Union, but also a precondition for economic growth and overall progress in the Western Balkans. In an ever-changing world, the importance of respect for international law was clear. The role of parliaments should and must be strengthened, by means of direct engagement within political systems and through international organizations. Serbia and its National Assembly would continue to remain committed to international dialogue and cooperation, and to fulfilling the mission of the IPU.

Mr. T. WIN (Myanmar) said that international law provided the foundation for stable, peaceful and just relationships between States and their people, and was the result of a global desire to prevent conflict. Core principles of international law relating to conflict prevention had been enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations; such was the prohibition of the use of force unless in self-defence, the primacy of national sovereignty and the advancement of human rights. International law must be translated into domestic legislation to ensure its enforcement. Parliaments played an important role in ratifying international legal instruments and were responsible for overseeing the activities of the executive branch of government. They could ensure that there were no gaps between a State's commitments in international law and the reality on the ground. Parliaments could strengthen human rights and the rule of law, and prevent violations by working with and alongside the courts and other law enforcement institutions. When resolving regional problems, it was essential to collect balanced, objective and unbiased evidence from all sides. Knowing and understanding the historical and cultural background of the particular problem and the parties involved was also important. Regional parliamentary groups or assemblies had a key role in promoting regional cooperation.

Mr. J. WHITTINGDALE (United Kingdom) said that restrictions on media freedom constituted a growing threat to democracy. Free and independent media performed a vital function in holding governments to account, exposing injustice and corruption, informing voters of the choices before them and countering disinformation. Media freedom was under increasing attack. Over the previous 10 years, some 1,000 journalists had been killed, many of whom had been deliberately targeted, too often in State-sponsored attacks. In many more cases, journalists faced imprisonment, persecution and harassment. There were around 400 journalists and media workers in jail around the world, more than half of whom were imprisoned in one of five countries: China, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. The perpetrators of the murders of journalists Mr. J. Khashoggi and Ms. D. Caruana Galizia remained to be identified and brought to justice. In response to growing threats, the United Kingdom and Canada had organized a conference on media freedom, which had culminated in a global pledge, signed by 32 countries, on forming a media freedom coalition. Parliamentarians had a vital role in pressuring their governments to ensure that they upheld their commitments under that pledge. The decline in media freedom constituted one of the greatest threats to international democracy and the rule of law.

Mr. A. TOUIZI (Morocco) said that it was the duty of parliaments to strengthen national and international institutions for the respect of international law. The Parliament of Morocco had taken significant measures to ensure that the international commitments entered into by the Government, were upheld. With regard to international cooperation, Morocco had hosted the ceremony for the

adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and had acted as a regional coordinator, to strengthen joint action on matters of shared concern, such as climate change. The Parliament of Morocco had also initiated interregional cooperation mechanisms with Latin America and between Africa and the Arabic-speaking countries. Every effort must be made to seek solutions to conflicts that continued to rage around the world, such as that in Western Sahara, and to defend the rights of those being detained in refugee camps in Tindouf. Likewise, the situation in Palestine was particularly serious; the people of Palestine had been suffering ongoing violations of their human rights for decades, and recent international events had set their cause back even further. As well as seeking to resolve conflicts, parliaments should work together to address issues such as human rights protection, gender equality and transnational organized crime.

Ms. O. RUDENKO (Ukraine) said that international law offered the necessary tools to guarantee peaceful coexistence between all nations. The flouting of those rules resulted in violations of human rights, terrorism, violence, human suffering and death. The ongoing aggression against Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation constituted the most serious violation of international law since the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 had proclaimed the inviolability of borders. Human rights were being violated in Crimea, with the persecution of activists and journalists and repression against the indigenous Crimean Tatars. Crimea was becoming increasingly militarized, which could threaten security in the Black Sea region and cause serious environmental problems. The worst consequence of such aggression was the devaluing of human life. Deaths became mere statistics. Ongoing conflicts and tragedies around the world demonstrated the importance of upholding international law and the consequences of the failure to do so. The global community must reshape its approach to containing aggressive action, and broaden negotiation formats for peaceful settlements and ceasefires. The value of human life must have absolute priority over any geopolitical goals and leadership ambitions.

Mr. J. KRABAL (Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie – APF) said that the conclusion of a partnership agreement between the APF and the IPU would serve to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations, making them both more effective and giving greater impetus to democratic, social and environmental progress. Closer cooperation would boost efforts to face the challenges of an interconnected world. Yet parliamentary democracy was facing challenges; people were rejecting political parties, failing to turn out for elections and questioning parliamentary systems. Populism was rising, playing on people's fears and stoking feelings of division. To overcome those challenges and guarantee social justice, climate justice, and fair and equitable systems of taxation and education, parliaments must have genuine oversight capabilities. They must be truly inclusive and representative, mirroring the diversity in society, and must prioritize bridging the poverty gap in order to build public trust and confidence.

Mr. S. IRO (Niger) said that the world was characterized by a proliferation of violent conflicts, trade wars and migration crises, all of which were testing international law and international relations. The international legal system, which had been set up to safeguard peace and security and guarantee human rights, was the most precious system, which must be protected and strengthened. It was therefore particularly important for global organizations such as the IPU to be fully engaged in efforts to strengthen the international legal order. Niger belonged to and actively participated in the work of numerous international, regional and subregional organizations, and the National Assembly played an important role in ratifying legal instruments undertaken in that context and in overseeing their implementation. The authorities in Niger scrupulously respected the decisions of international courts and United Nations resolutions. The effective functioning of the international legal system was under threat, however, as people felt increasingly disconnected from the authorities that represented them. Democratic institutions needed to be reformed to involve citizens in decision-making and so build trust. Regional cooperation was also essential, to bring people together and build lasting peace and a better world for all. The IPU was a source of inspiration in that regard.

Ms. M.I. OLIVEIRA VALENTE (Angola) said that in establishing the current international legal order in the wake of the Second World War, through the adoption of the Charter of the United Nations, the global community had pledged to protect the rights of all, promote social progress, and ensure a better quality of life for everyone through guarantees of security and freedom. Those principles were as valid today as ever before. Respect for international law was essential to guarantee the rights and aspirations of humanity. Angola had suffered violent conflict, which had taken many lives, resulted in mass migration, destroyed families and infrastructures, and unravelled the social and economic fabric of the nation. The role of partnerships, diplomacy and cooperation in the context of international forums, was essential for maintaining peace. The Government of Angola embraced multilateralism,

and supported the right to self-determination of peoples and the adoption of all appropriate measures to strengthen international peace, and promote unity in diversity. The international instruments ratified by the National Assembly became part of the domestic legal order. Parliamentary oversight of their implementation, however, still needed to be strengthened. Her parliament set great store by regional integration as a means of creating the conditions for lasting peace through sharing experiences between African countries.

Mr. Á. LINS (Brazil) said that the Government and Parliament of Brazil were fully committed to upholding international law, promoting human rights, respecting the rights to self-determination and protection against foreign interference, and promoting peace and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Brazil had a long history of impartial conflict mediation and peace-building, and currently had peace-keepers deployed in eight conflict-affected areas around the world. The two chambers of the Brazilian Parliament played an important role in foreign policy and in ratifying international agreements signed by the executive. Parliament also played a key role in regional and international cooperation, seeking solutions to issues that transcended national borders, through inter-parliamentary dialogue at the regional and global levels. To promote peace and development in an increasingly interconnected world, parliaments must be viewed as agents for the preservation of social cohesion and respect for international law.

Ms. S.-M. DINICĂ (Romania) said that building confidence in international law was particularly important given the unprecedented challenges to peace, security, stability, prosperity and respect for fundamental human rights. In Romania, legislation on treaties guaranteed strong parliamentary involvement throughout the life-cycle of a treaty, while legislation on cooperation on European affairs ensured Parliament's effective participation in European decision-making processes and legislative follow-up at the national level. Several parliamentary mechanisms were used to promote the principles and standards of international law, including: exchanges and participation in regional and international inter-parliamentary cooperation; participation in electoral observation missions; translating the instruments and agreements signed by the executive into national law and monitoring and evaluating their implementation. As representatives of their peoples, the world's parliaments had a responsibility to ensure that multilateralism upheld the fundamental principles of international law and served to advance common goals in the interests of all of society. The 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU was a milestone in parliamentarianism and parliamentary diplomacy and an opportunity to look with ambition to the future and enhance the IPU's role as the driving force of parliamentary democracy and sustainable development worldwide.

Mr. A. ALAHMAD (Palestine) said that the principles enshrined in international treaties on climate change, human rights, trade and nuclear non-proliferation were being undermined and the law of the jungle was taking over. The failure of the international community to respect international laws and United Nations resolutions in Palestine showed that damaging policies were being promoted, which threatened world peace and undermined the international legal and moral orders. Crimes and human rights abuses were being committed continually against the people of Palestine by the Government of Israel with the support of the United States. Their actions were hampering humanitarian assistance and undermining the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which flew in the face of United Nations resolutions to protect Palestinian refugees and help them return to their homes. Double standards by members of the United Nations Security Council must be rejected. Parliaments must use their oversight powers to ensure that their governments respected international law. Despite continuing abuses and suffering, the people of Palestine continued to believe in a lasting and peaceful solution, and called for support in their efforts to exercise their right to self-determination, and to accept the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, as a member of the United Nations. Peace, prosperity, development and respect for human rights could not coexist with oppression, occupation, injustice and the undermining of the dignity of peoples.

Mr. A.C. BUNDU (Sierra Leone) said that Sierra Leone was a signatory to numerous international treaties. Parliament ensured that the Government respected the international agreements to which it was party, and did its utmost to contribute to the preservation and strengthening of the international legal order. The Parliament of Sierra Leone had amended domestic legislation pertaining to the rights of women and girls, in response to a global call to end sexual violence. Regional cooperation contributed significantly to the development of national legislation and to the harmonization of laws and law enforcement between countries. Efforts should be made to bring people closer to the institutions that represented them. In that regard, national, regional and international institutions must be strengthened to effectively meet the needs of their constituencies and dispel any

feelings that they were too far removed from the citizenry. The Parliament of Sierra Leone was committed to defending the human rights of all citizens, and to bringing a parliamentary dimension to efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and meeting the SDGs. Fostering regional cooperation, upholding international law and promoting and protecting human rights were crucial for promoting peace and democratic governance. Parliaments had a key role to play in ensuring that tangible progress was made.

*Ms. A. Tolley (New Zealand), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.*

Mr. S. RAKHMANOV (Belarus) said that the international legal order established after the Second World War was the bedrock of peace and security in the world. Parliaments should ensure that governments upheld their international commitments and did not pursue aggressive foreign policies. The Government of Belarus had consistently adhered to peaceful foreign policy and advanced initiatives to strengthen international law. Yet international law was increasingly flouted, making the world less predictable and more dangerous. Cooperation through global dialogue was needed more than ever to foster mutual understanding. The time had come for the major powers to agree on the principles of a new world order. With that in mind, the President of Belarus had called for the launch of a global security dialogue. Parliaments would have an important role in that process, encouraging their executives to participate in such a dialogue and to implement any agreements concluded. Such a process would contribute significantly to strengthening international law and making the world a more peaceful, just and stable place.

Mr. M. AL-GHASSANI (Oman) said that respect for international law was vital to the protection of peace and stability, the peaceful resolution of conflicts and wars around the world, and therefore to prosperity, poverty elimination and the attainment of the SDGs. To achieve a world of tolerance, peaceful coexistence, development and prosperity, without poverty or crime, and grounded in the principles of humanity, international law must be upheld without exception or double standards. Parliamentarians, as legislators and representatives of the people, had a key role in that regard. Respect for international law was the key to promoting harmonious relations between States and ensuring peace and stability, which were the cornerstone of development. All parliaments should do their utmost to strengthen respect for international law. Israel was a clear example of a state that continually violated international law, by attacking the Palestinian people and their holy sites, building settlements and violating fundamental freedoms. A further example of a grave violation of human rights was the persecution of the Rohingya Muslim population. The world's parliamentarians must denounce such flagrant violations of the international legal order. Good intentions were not sufficient; firm action was needed for the governments and peoples of the world to work together and overcome their differences.

Ms. H. JÄRVINEN (Finland) said that on gaining independence some 100 years previously, significant social unrest had occurred in Finland, despite which flexibility, compromise, and the decision to abide by the rule of law had prevailed. In rebuilding after the destruction of the Second World War, the rule of law had been more essential than ever. Seventy years later, Finland's stability, quality of education, low levels of corruption, equal rights, and high standard of living were the envy of many. Yet the rule of law was being tested the world over. Complex challenges, such as climate change and mass migration were having a far-reaching impact. The war in the Syrian Arab Republic had led to the abandonment of thousands of wives and children of terrorist fighters in pitiful conditions in refugee camps. Before the law, everyone was innocent until proven guilty, yet some countries were reticent to repatriate ISIS widows and children. Children had not decided to leave home to support any cause or join any war. How could the refusal of their right to return be justified? The situation was extremely complex; neither Iraq nor Syria were States Parties of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Even countries with the highest respect for the rule of law were facing dilemmas on how to address the situation of foreign terrorist fighters and their families. The rule of law was too valuable to be sacrificed; the world's parliamentarians must work together to seek solutions to such complex issues.

Mr. A.M. MARI MACHADO (Cuba) said that superpowers were endangering the life and peaceful coexistence of people by failing to respect international law. Developed countries had a monopoly on economic, technological and political power and were tearing multilateralism to shreds. To establish a fairer world order, respect for international law, democracy and equity was essential. Parliaments had a significant role to play in that regard. In Cuba, a new Constitution had been approved, enshrining the principles of international law, in particular equality, territorial integrity, independence of States, non-use of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Yet, around the world, nature was being destroyed through selfishness; the climate was



changing, water supplies were becoming polluted and scarce, food supplies were running low. The United States had strengthened its financial blockade against Cuba, in an attempt to foster mistrust and undermine Cuba's financial stability, blocking the transit of medical supplies and fuel across to Cuba. Those actions constituted a flagrant, systematic violation of the human rights of the people of Cuba and a severe impediment to development. The international community should condemn such behaviour by adopting a resolution on the matter at the United Nations General Assembly.

Mr. H. JULIEN-LAFERRIERE (France) said that free and equal societies could only be built on the rule of law. While parliaments built legal systems, the international legal order was determined by governments. Parliaments, however, must ensure the implementation of international law. In France, the foreign minister reported regularly to Parliament on diplomatic activity and the state of international law. Parliaments also provided a forum for dialogue; over the past two years, 12 European States had been working together to draft a declaration condemning the bombing of populated areas. Some 90 per cent of the victims of contemporary wars were civilians. People and governments worldwide must be mobilized to stop indiscriminate bombing in urban areas, in places such as the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. International law must be protected and consolidated. Multilateralism, with the United Nations at its centre, had a key role in that regard. The United Nations Security Council required reform as its structure was outdated; responsibility for the power of veto in multilateral operations should not fall on five States alone, particularly when one of those States had unilaterally launched attacks on its neighbouring country. Parliaments must ensure that the international legal order was not manipulated for the gain of individual States.

Ms. O. KEFALOGIANNI (Greece) said that in Greece, parliament played a key role in shaping the State's positions in the international environment, and in communicating and cooperating with the international parliamentary community. The management of the extremely complicated migration and refugee situation in the Mediterranean constituted a serious challenge. Greece had shouldered a significant burden as a host country. In its efforts to manage the migration flows from third countries to its Member States, the European Union had launched a joint action programme and issued a joint declaration with Turkey, in which Turkey had agreed to cooperate to prevent illegal migration to the European Union. Unfortunately, that agreement was not being implemented effectively. Those commitments and the faithful application of international law in search and rescue, asylum and immigration policies should guide migration management. Distinction must be made between economic migrants and those seeking asylum, both for legal and practical reasons.

Turkey must respect international agreements and international law, including the International Law of the Sea, to which it was bound by Cyprus's Exclusive Economic Zone. At the same time, all European Union Member States must uphold international obligations regarding refugees, and ensure balanced implementation of policies of solidarity, mutual trust and fair sharing of responsibilities. If not controlled by mutual decisions and agreements, the mass migration flows into the European Union and Greece in particular, would undermine political and social consensus in the countries of South and Southeast Europe. Migration was a complex geopolitical and humanitarian issue. Greece condemned Turkey's unilateral military action in the sovereign territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, which threatened to undermine the stability of whole the region.

Ms. K.J. BETETA RUBÍN (Peru) said that in Peru, the President's dissolution of Parliament was unconstitutional and amounted to an aggressive persecution of legitimately elected representatives. Congress had been in the process of electing members of the Constitutional Court, when a vote of no confidence had been presented with the intention of suspending the election process. Rules of procedure regarding the consideration of the vote of no confidence had not been respected, and the President had unilaterally issued a public announcement declaring the dissolution of Congress, thereby depriving it of the possibility to take a decision on the membership of the Constitutional Court, and thus bringing into question the principle of the separation of powers. Members of Congress had not been able to access their place of work since that time, and members of parliament had suffered verbal and physical aggression. Those who had tried to defend parliamentary activities had been threatened with legal action. A case had been brought before the Constitutional Court, claiming the dissolution of parliament unconstitutional, but senior members of the judiciary had been subjected to threats and intimidation. The Government was clearly trying to eliminate any attempts at oversight or scrutiny of its actions. Only the representatives of the people could defend democracy.

Ms. D. SOLÓRZANO (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that no country was immune to the danger of a dictatorship. Venezuela was suffering deeply. Having thought that a dictatorship was impossible, the people of Venezuela were living in the worst possible conditions; more than six million people had fled for their lives. Access to food and medicines had been cut. People were eating

rubbish off the streets and using herbs and plants instead of medicines. Neighbouring countries were suffering from the burden of hosting thousands of Venezuelan refugees. More than 200 parliamentarians were facing political persecution. Many were in exile, or had been imprisoned, and all were facing threats and harassment. There could be no democracy without Parliament. There was no political representation in Venezuela; she and her colleague were attending the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly at their own initiative and expense. International law, without action, was merely empty words. The situation in any country could degenerate as it had in Venezuela. The law must be implemented.

Mr. L. BOLD (Mongolia) said that despite rapid progress, the world was facing significant challenges: terrorism and extremism were increasing, nationalist populism was rising, and the disconnect between people and their governments was growing. Mongolia had been on the path of democracy for some 30 years and its Constitution enshrined the principles of adherence to international law and peaceful foreign policy. The international treaties to which it was party were incorporated into domestic legislation and took precedence over national law in the event of inconsistencies. The Parliament of Mongolia oversaw the Government's actions to ensure that international law was respected and hold the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly, as well as the decisions of the International Court of Justice in the highest regard. The Government of Mongolia attached great importance to regional cooperation; Mongolia had been instrumental in setting up and regularly hosting a regional security dialogue for Northeast Asia, which contributed significantly to development, security, confidence-building and mutual understanding in the region. The Asia-Pacific region was emerging as an important international player, economically and politically. Lastly, the IPU's efforts to foster regional cooperation for the attainment of the SDGs were particularly welcome. Enhancing parliamentary cooperation was the key to building trust, peace and security around the world.

Ms. M. MONTEMAGGI (San Marino) said that the importance of international law as the supreme guarantor of citizens' rights was enshrined in the Constitution of San Marino. In an increasingly interdependent world, the problems of one country were the problems of all countries. Solutions must be found through cooperation. San Marino had always sought to play an active role internationally, and was proud to host international events, such as the forthcoming autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and a recent international conference on fake news. It was a signatory to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), which reaffirmed the human rights and dignity of migrants and called for enhanced migration management through strengthened international cooperation. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was essential for building inclusive, resilient and peaceful societies, with civil society at the heart of positive change. Change began with young people. Their rights must be protected and their childhood defended against exploitation and abuse. With that in mind, San Marino had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and had signed the Safe Schools Declaration. Renewed cooperation was the key to tackling global challenges and the Parliament of San Marino remained committed to promoting cooperation among States and dialogue among peoples.

Ms. S. HERNANDEZ (Spain) said that multilateralism was essential for facing global challenges. Universal access to health care was essential. Spain had a public, universal free health system. Climate change was a crucial challenge; multilateral cooperation was essential to overcome it for the health and security of future generations. Climate change and its ecological consequences spared no country. Spain had its own challenges in that regard, in particular in the region of Murcia, where an environmental crisis had struck the Mar Menor saltwater lagoon. Upholding the international legal order was essential to overcome international challenges. The Supreme Court of Spain had recently issued a ruling to hand down convictions for those responsible for the illegal referendum and declaration of independence in Catalonia. The ruling had been issued by the seven highest-ranking judges in Spain in full transparency and respect for the separation of powers. Every effort would be made to re-establish good relations with Catalonia. In Spain, political freedoms were guaranteed, and the legal order allowed for the defence of the legal and constitutional system.

Ms. S. SAMIDIN (Suriname) said that, according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Suriname was the world's most carbon-negative country, being one of the few that absorbed more carbon dioxide than it produced. As a small nation, the people and Government of Suriname held the view that combined strength and resources could bring nations closer to achieving sustainable security. No nation alone could create a better world. The Government of Suriname was

committed to multilateralism, through international forums for dialogue and cooperation, and participated actively in the work of many international organizations. The National Assembly helped to prevent violent crime and conflict by providing legitimate procedures for the resolution of grievances and disincentivizing crime and violence. Strong institutions to uphold the rule of law were vital to ensure security. Suriname's primary legislation came from the international conventions to which it was party. The Government had endeavoured to strengthen its implementation of its international commitments, in particular United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in order to fight terrorism and enhance security. Parliament played a key role in ensuring good governance, particularly through its oversight role. Inter-parliamentary cooperation would secure the sustainable political leadership needed to ensure peace and security and guarantee human rights.

Ms. M. ESPINALES (Nicaragua) said that the Constitution of Nicaragua enshrined the principles of a legal order and foreign policy based on friendly and peaceful relations between nations and mutual respect between States, with full respect for the sovereign affairs of States and the rights of peoples to self-determination in line with the Charter of the United Nations. Nicaragua condemned the economic sanctions against Cuba and rejected any unilateral attempts to undermine State sovereignty. In Nicaragua, every effort was made to preserve and build peace, and promote and respect human rights, contrary to the false information being spread by fake news campaigns that intended to sully the image of the Government of Nicaragua. The Government was fully committed to international efforts to combat climate change and protect humanity, and stood ready to fight terrorism, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and to promote the right of States to self-determination and not to be subject to foreign interference. International cooperation must prevail to foster peace and international security.

Mr. S.F. IMAM (Pakistan) said that the challenges facing the global parliamentary community were growing; parliaments must be able to live up to the commitments they had made to their people and to each other, and ensure that governments acted in line with international law. Democracy could not claim to be truly representative if it failed to protect basic human rights, especially of the most vulnerable and marginalized. The plight of the victims of conflict must not be ignored. Since 1987, 100,000 Kashmiris had been killed or gone missing and more than 8,000 unmarked mass graves had been discovered. The inalienable right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir must be upheld. An IPU fact-finding mission should be sent to Kashmir and the dispute must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. International parliamentary diplomacy should pave the way for a common future. Representation of the will of the people was the cornerstone of parliamentary democracy. Parliaments must be truly inclusive, affording equal opportunities to all; women and young people were agents of change, models of resilience and advocates of peace. Regional peace and stability were the key to development and prosperity. The parliaments of the world must come together to make democracies truly representative and reaffirm their commitment to equality and social justice, to work towards common good.

Mr. M. DLAMINI (Eswatini) said that parliaments could not achieve their respective mandates in isolation; international and regional cooperation were essential. Parliament's role in strengthening international law consisted in ratification and domestication of international instruments. Parliamentarians must therefore be fully aware of the implications of the provisions of those instruments and must engage with their governments thereon. Eswatini participated actively in international parliamentary dialogue through the IPU, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP). Efforts were being made to promote and protect the rights of women and children, in particular through the adoption of legislation to prohibit child marriage and to promote sexual and reproductive health rights.

Mr. M.R. MAJIDI (Asian Parliamentary Assembly – APA) said that the international legal order was under threat and must be protected. Parliamentary democracy continued to play an important role in policy-making at the national and international levels. The APA had been set up to strengthen regional parliamentary cooperation and bring parliamentarians from a variety of backgrounds together for peace. It provided a platform for sharing ideas on key matters of regional and international importance, such as climate change, data management, and sustainable development. The APA was firmly resolved to reject unilateral action and promote cooperation in a comprehensive and holistic manner between all Asian countries for the benefit of all.

Mr. I. SARAKIOTIS (Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy – IAO) said that the IAO endeavoured to uphold the principles and values of international and European legal order, and to strengthen international and regional cooperation, with a focus on independent parliamentarism.

Mr. B. QASEM (Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean – PAM) said that the PAM welcomed opportunities to cooperate with the IPU. Regional associations had much to contribute to international cooperation on issues of common concern, such as climate change, terrorism and peace-building, among others. The PAM also cooperated with several other international partners, including the United Nations, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and World Trade Organization (WTO), with a view to ensuring that the voices of the Mediterranean region were heard, and to building lasting peace in the region. The PAM strove to defend the independence of its Member Parliaments, and to safeguard the separation of powers.

Mr. S. BOULE (Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) said that any failure by governments and parliaments to drive change for a better world and deliver tangible impacts on people's daily lives would cultivate conflict, violations of human rights and breaches of international law. Universal health coverage could transform people's lives and create a foundation for stability and prosperity. The Global Fund had recently published its annual Results Report, analysing data from the more than 100 countries recipients of Global Fund grants. In 2018 alone, 18.9 million people had received life-saving antiretroviral HIV medications, over 5.3 million people had been treated for tuberculosis, and 131 million insecticide-treated bed nets had been distributed to prevent malaria. In addition, the Global Fund continued to be the largest multilateral funder of grants to support sustainable health systems. At its recent Replenishment Conference, the Global Fund had raised just over US\$ 14 billion for the next three-year grant cycle, which had exceeded the fundraising target needed to end the epidemics of HIV, tuberculosis and malaria by 2030. As a result, an estimated 16 million lives would be saved and 234 million new infections averted, thereby halving mortality and incidence rates and creating a healthier, safer and more stable future for all.

Ms. R. KAVAKCI KAN (Turkey) speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Turkish position in Syria was a humanitarian one, based on respect for international law, the right to self-defence and the territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic. It therefore had a basis in law, unlike the previous presence of the United States. According to international human rights organizations, Kurdish troops were cooperating with ISIS and had committed grave human rights violations within Syria's borders. In Turkey, no person was considered above the law. No person would be imprisoned or judged on the basis of their profession. The promotion of terrorism, violence and hate speech were not permitted, which was in line with international law.

Ms. H. ALHELAISSI (Saudi Arabia), speaking in response to the statement made by Mr. J. Whittingdale from the United Kingdom, said that Saudi Arabia condemned the murder of Mr. J. Khashoggi, which was being taken very seriously. Trials were ongoing, all of which had been attended by diplomats and observers from international organizations and several countries, including the United Kingdom. The case was a judicial matter, from which Parliament must remain separate. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would, however, keep its promise and bring to justice those responsible for Mr. J. Khashoggi's death.

Mr. G. CHEN (China), responding to the points raised on media freedom, said that in China, media freedom was respected and protected in line with the rule of law. Any groundless criticism was strongly opposed. Hong Kong was a Special Administrative Region of China, no longer under British colonial rule, and matters related to Hong Kong were China's sovereign internal business, in which no country, individual or organization had the right to interfere. The Government of China was fully capable of maintaining the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

Mr. S. THAROOR (India) said that the delegation of Pakistan had misused the platform of the IPU to raise an issue internal to India for narrow political gain. The Indian delegation rejected outright and strongly condemned such outbursts. The Indian Parliament would continue to discuss and debate the issue of Kashmir with the Government of India. It would continue to address its own domestic issues democratically, with no need for interference from across the border. Jammu and Kashmir were an integral part of India. It was ironic that a State responsible for inflicting countless cross-border terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir was trying to masquerade as a champion of Kashmiris. The Parliament of India would not allow such malicious efforts to succeed. The world expected better from its parliamentarians than vituperative mud-slinging.

*The sitting rose at 1.05 p.m.*

## Sitting of Wednesday 16 October (Afternoon)

*Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (Mexico), President of the IPU, took the Chair.*

### **Address by Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, Chairperson-in-Office, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

In his address to the Assembly, Mr. M. LAJČÁK, *Chairperson-in-Office, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)*, said that the trade patterns and supply chains had brought the people of the world closer together, technology had expanded markets and created jobs, people were less poor and countries were more equal. Yet the tools designed to bring people closer together had also been weaponized to spread hate, crime and disinformation at an unprecedented rate and with little risk of prosecution. While it had created some jobs, technology had put others in danger. While more people were rising out of poverty, inequalities were growing deeper. Cooperation was not a luxury; it was essential. Whether to tackle terrorism or climate change, the days of going it alone were over. Yet methods and means of cooperation were at greater risk than ever.

Parliamentarians had the power to launch initiatives, cast deciding votes, and be the difference between legislation being passed or blocked. Together, they held the keys to the future, not only of their constituencies and countries, but also of international order. International law was negotiated by only a few diplomats, delegates and experts. Yet it had an impact on everyone. Parliaments were crucial to bringing international law to life through ratification and to overseeing implementation, and as representatives of the people could bring international law out of international forums and into everyday life.

Regional cooperation was essential to seek regional solutions to unique regional challenges. An increasing number of United Nations resolutions were calling for regional engagement. As Chair of the OSCE, the world's largest regional organization, he had seen the benefits of regional cooperation for harnessing localized knowledge and expertise. Regional organizations had strong convening power and were viewed as a true partner by actors on the ground. Yet not everyone was convinced of their benefits. The work of regional platforms was not sufficiently discussed at the global level and conversely, the issues discussed regularly in global forums, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), were less visible in regional forums. Efforts must therefore be made to ensure that regional cooperation was recognized as an integral part of the wider multilateral order. Parliaments could play a key role in that regard.

History had taught valuable lessons. The IPU had been founded 130 years previously, and had witnessed the First World War and the subsequent creation of the League of Nations. It had then witnessed the Second World War and the subsequent establishment of the United Nations and other multilateral and regional organizations. Each time humanity had driven itself to the point of destruction, the solution had been sought in an ever-stronger multilateral order. There was no police force for international law, and no sure-fire way to keep States engaged in the systems and frameworks they had created. Multilateralism relied on goodwill and an understanding of what stood to be lost if the wrong path was taken.

Multilateral systems were being questioned. While a degree of questioning would allow gaps to be closed and creative solutions sought, if the need for such systems was brought into doubt, there was a risk that history would be ignored and the mistakes of the past repeated. The fact that the world's parliaments believed in the IPU as a platform for dialogue and cooperation, and the fact that the IPU had put regional cooperation at the heart of its agenda, were highly commendable.

The PRESIDENT of the IPU thanked Mr. M. Lajčák for his close cooperation with the IPU, in particular during his presidency of the United Nations General Assembly. The global parliamentary community had a responsibility to translate words into action, bridging the gap between international agreements and local realities, and ensuring that international law was translated into domestic budgets, legislation and oversight.

### **2019 Future Policy Awards Ceremony: Impactful Policies Empowering Youth**

*The award ceremony began with a musical message of hope, provided by Ms. K. Basu, Youth Ambassador, World Future Council and Founder, Green Hope Foundation.*

Ms. K. BASU, *Youth Ambassador, World Future Council*, said that 1.8 billion people in the world were aged from 15 to 35 years. Young people played a crucial role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Future Policy Awards were an opportunity to identify and acknowledge the laws and policies around the world that were addressing pressing challenges. Previous awards had been given to policies on matters such as biodiversity, oceans, forests and food security, disarmament, children's rights, and ending violence against women and girls. The 2019 awards would be on the theme of youth empowerment. A total of 67 policies from 36 countries had been nominated. Evaluation and adjudication had been conducted by an international panel of experts.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON, *President of the IPU*, acknowledged the work of the World Future Council to lead the award process. The IPU had been glad to work with the Council, as well as with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and Youth Policy Labs to identify the world's best policies for youth empowerment. The policy evaluation had brought to light excellent initiatives that too often did not get the recognition they deserved. The jury had faced a difficult task. Many excellent initiatives had not received awards, but instead had been included in a brochure compiled to showcase the policies nominated. She hoped that those policies would serve as inspiration for the global parliamentary community.

Youth empowerment should be close to the hearts of all parliamentarians. The current youth population was the largest in history. More than half of the world's population was under 30 years old. The transition to adulthood would determine whether such a large youth population would be a ticking time bomb or a demographic dividend. More must be done to harness the opportunity to prepare young people to prosper in the years ahead. Today's young people were the first generation that would not have as many opportunities as their parents. More than 260 million children and young people were not in school. Young people were more likely to be unemployed than adults. They were being left behind economically and politically. While they comprised more than half of the global population, the under-30s accounted for only two per cent of the world's members of parliament. In many countries, the minimum age to stand for election was considerably higher than the minimum age for voting. Bringing young people into political processes was not only right; it was sensible. The innovation, talent and positivity of young people were essential to tackle contemporary challenges.

Youth participation in politics had been a key issue for the IPU for a decade. The IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians was an engine for youth empowerment in the IPU and around the world. Policies to promote youth participation should be gender-neutral, well-resourced and evidence-informed and should have young people involved in their design, implementation and evaluation. No decisions about young people should be made without young people. She congratulated the award winners and hoped that their policies would serve not only as inspiration but as a trigger for action.

Ms. K. BASU, *Youth Ambassador, World Future Council*, said that the IPU had been striving to foster youth engagement in politics to ensure stronger, more representative and democratic institutions. Many initiatives around the world could serve as examples of how to harness youth engagement in civil and political life.

### ***Youth civic engagement and political participation for sustainable development and peace***

#### ***Bronze award***

Ms. M. DARMANIN, *Human Rights and Solidarity Coordinator, Executive Committee, European Students Union*, announced that the winner of the bronze award for *Youth civic engagement and political participation for sustainable development and peace* was the Council of Europe's youth sector co-management system.

Mr. M. BOUVA, *President of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians*, said that he first wished to acknowledge some of the excellent policies that had been nominated but had not won awards. The IPU had long called for countries to adopt youth quotas in parliament. Peru and Tunisia, which had both applied youth quotas, had been shortlisted for the youth civic engagement and political participation award. The IPU had also called for a reduction in the age of eligibility to run for public office. Nigeria's "Not Too Young to Run" constitutional amendments, had also been shortlisted. Those policies should be welcomed and should serve as an inspiration to all parliaments.

The Council of Europe's co-management system was one of the world's longest-standing examples of participatory democracy in a supranational institution, and a rare example of shared decision-making between governments and young people, in which power was shared in full 50:50 parity. Through the co-management model, more than 10,000 grants had been awarded to youth organizations, with a cumulated volume of more than 130 million euros. Youth leaders and activists had received training and education, which had changed the youth sector profoundly. The co-management model had also been applied in a variety of other governance and policy contexts.

*A video was shown, illustrating the work done and showing highlights of events that had taken place under the aegis of the Council of Europe's co-management system.*

Receiving the award, Mr. T. FLESSENKEMPER, *Head, Office of the Council of Europe, Belgrade*, said the Council of Europe's youth policy dated back to 1972. The Council of Europe had two youth centres, in Strasbourg and Budapest, where young people were involved in co-decision-making and given opportunities to work in an international environment on initiatives for peace, security and cooperation in Europe, in equal working conditions to all other delegates.

#### *Silver award*

Ms. M. DARMANIN, *Human Rights and Solidarity Coordinator, Executive Committee, European Students Union*, announced that the winner of the silver award for youth civic engagement and political participation for sustainable development and peace was the Constitution of Nepal.

Mr. M. BOUVA, *President of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians*, congratulating the parliament of Nepal, said that the adoption of the Constitution of Nepal had marked a major achievement for the country's peaceful transition to democracy following 10 years of civil war. The Constitution had introduced a competitive, multi-party democratic system and enshrined human rights, including the right to a healthy environment. It contained provisions on youth rights relating to participation and empowerment, and protection against discrimination. Since its promulgation, a suite of youth policies and institutional developments had been introduced, including the approval of the National Youth Policy, the establishment of the National Youth Council, and the development of the *Youth Vision – 2025 and Ten-Year Strategic Plan*.

*A video was shown, detailing youth policies adopted in Nepal, under the aegis of the Constitution.*

Receiving the award, Mr. G.P. TIMILSINA *Speaker of the Constituent Assembly, Nepal*, thanked the World Future Council and said that the Constitution, adopted in 2015, had guaranteed rights to Nepalese youth and had been used by the Government to formulate policies to empower young people through education, health care and employment, while also providing allowances for unemployment, where necessary.

#### *Gold award*

Ms. S. NAJID, *North Africa Representative, All-African Students Union (AASU)*, announced that the winner of the gold award for youth civic engagement and political participation for sustainable development and peace was Estonia's *Youth Field Development Plan 2014–2020*.

The IPU SECRETARY GENERAL said that the *Youth Field Development Plan 2014–2020* was a comprehensive government policy for young people and the youth sector, with the overarching goal of affording every young person ample opportunities for self-development and self-realization. The Plan was knowledge-based and evidence-informed, participatory in development and implementation, and gender-responsive. It employed a holistic approach to youth development, and it was fully resourced. The Plan constituted one of the world's first youth policies to fully respect the Baku Principles for Youth Policy, and one of the very few to emphasize the link between public policies for young people and sustainability and the environment. It promoted high levels of engagement with youth workers and had led to more than 50 per cent of all young Estonians becoming involved in youth work activities each year since 2014.

*A video was shown, highlighting the key aspects of smart youth work in Estonia.*

Receiving the award, Ms. R. OJAKIVI, *Head, Youth Affairs Department, Estonia*, said that in Estonia, policy-makers tried not to guess on behalf of young people but rather to ask and involve young people in decision-making. She hoped that Estonia's youth were as proud as its policy-makers were to receive the gold award.

Mr. M. LAIDMETS (Estonia), *Secretary General, Ministry of Education and Research, Estonia*, added that the *Youth Field Development Plan 2014–2020* demonstrated the commitment of the Government of Estonia to promote youth policy and showed that young people in Estonia were active citizens, highly engaged in youth work.

### ***Youth Economic Empowerment for Decent and Sustainable Jobs***

#### ***First vision award***

Ms. K. BASU, *Youth Ambassador, World Future Council*, said that the global unemployment rate was three times higher than that for adults, with one in five young people not in employment, education or training. The future policy vision awards were given for ground-breaking policy approaches that promised to contribute substantially and radically to solving key challenge. The winner of the first vision award for policies on youth economic empowerment for decent and sustainable jobs was the Los Angeles Green New Deal 2019.

*A video was shown on the Los Angeles Green New Deal, highlighting the measures being taken to reduce water consumption and fossil fuel use, and the creation of 30,000 green jobs, putting Los Angeles on the path to a carbon neutral future.*

Mr. M. OUMAROU, *Deputy Director-General for Field Operations and Partnerships, ILO*, addressing the Assembly by video link, said that Los Angeles had launched its Green New Deal in April 2019, with the aim of guiding the city's transition into an equitable and abundant economy powered by 100 per cent renewable energy by 2045. Containing ambitious goals to uphold the Paris Agreement, the Green New Deal served as an update to the Los Angeles Sustainable City pLAn, which had already met 90 per cent of the near-term goals on time. The Green New Deal was a comprehensive roadmap to protect the environment, strengthen the economy with green jobs for young people, and build a more equitable future. It served as an inspiring model for other cities across the United States of America and beyond.

#### ***Second vision award***

Ms. S. NAJID, *North Africa Representative, AASU*, announced that the winner of the second vision award for policies on youth economic empowerment for decent and sustainable jobs was Senegal's National Strategy for the Promotion of Green Jobs (2015–2020).

*A video was shown highlighting key aspects of the National Strategy for the Promotion of Green Jobs in Senegal, which aimed to combat poverty and promote sustainable development and environmental management.*

Mr. A. WARE, *Founder and Global Coordinator, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)*, said that Senegal's National Strategy for the Promotion of Green Jobs had been elaborated in a participatory manner and served as a reference framework for the green economy. It strengthened the legislative, institutional and regulatory framework, created green job opportunities, and set up mechanisms for monitoring and sustainability. Its development had been supported by the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), which brought together five United Nations agencies that assisted countries wishing to embark on greener and more inclusive growth trajectories. Since June 2019, some 2,000 green jobs had been created in Senegal, with young people and women as the main beneficiaries.

#### ***Bronze award***

Ms. M. DARMANIN, *Human Rights and Solidarity Coordinator, Executive Committee, European Students Union*, announced that the winner of the bronze award for policies on youth economic empowerment for decent and sustainable jobs was South Africa's Expanded Public Works Programme.



Mr. C. CHAUVEL, *Global Lead, Inclusive Processes and Institutions, United Nations Development Programme* said that South Africa's Expanded Public Works Programme was a nationwide programme that provided poverty and income relief through temporary work for the unemployed. It was South Africa's largest active labour market policy, which had generated more than eight million work opportunities, primarily reaching women and young people as beneficiaries. Unlike most public works programmes, it generated temporary, labour-intensive employment opportunities in socially, culturally and environmentally useful services.

*A video was shown, highlighting the key elements of the Expanded Public Works Programme and the opportunities it had afforded to young people through pathways into employment and enterprise development.*

Receiving the award, Ms. N. KIVIET, *Deputy Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure*, said that the award would give the Government of South Africa more impetus to try to do better for even more young people. The Expanded Public Works Programme had, thus far, created 10 million jobs, with a further 5 million in the planning, with a particular focus on women at work. The Programme aimed to break the cycle of poverty and ensure that no child went hungry. It mitigated unemployment and empowered young people to become better citizens, giving them core skills in infrastructure development and environmental management. Under the environmental management part of the programme, young people were trained in fire management, and had already provided assistance to other countries, such as Canada, in controlling wildfires. The Programme fostered the spirit of Ubuntu (the knowledge that I am because you are).

#### *Silver award*

Ms. S. NAJID, *North Africa Representative, AASU*, announced that the winner of the silver award for policies on youth economic empowerment for decent and sustainable jobs was Scotland's 2014–2021 Strategy for Developing the Young Workforce.

*A video was shown explaining Scotland's Strategy for Developing the Young Workforce and the training and education opportunities it provided for young people.*

Mr. V. MARINKOVIC (Serbia) said that Developing the Young Workforce was testament to the Scottish Government's commitment to tackling youth unemployment and enhancing the skill levels of young people to adapt to market requirements. It brought together the education system, employers, civil society, youth organizations and local authorities to shape the curriculum and expand the modern apprenticeship programme. The Strategy had become an integral part of the Scottish education system and had been aligned with ambitious national goals to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and transition to a green economy and a fair society. The strategy's headline target, to reduce youth unemployment by 40 per cent by 2021, had been reached four years ahead of schedule.

*A video was shown, in which young people in Scotland thanked the World Future Council for the award and expressed their satisfaction with the Strategy for Developing the Young Workforce, which was holistic and comprehensive, and had been prepared by a variety of stakeholders who had listened to young people and ensured that the Strategy would support them in choosing pathways from education to employment.*

#### *Gold award*

Ms. M. DARMANIN, *Human Rights and Solidarity Coordinator, Executive Committee, European Students Union*, announced that the winner of the gold award for policies on youth economic empowerment for decent and sustainable jobs was Rwanda's YouthConnekt initiative.

Ms. A. WANDEL, *Executive Director, World Future Council* said that the YouthConnekt Initiative was a multifaceted and innovative programme that empowered young people, connected them to the private sector, government employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, and strengthened their civic engagement and leadership. Around 600,000 young people had participated in YouthConnekt Month every year since 2012 through hands-on activities in their communities, and thousands of jobs had been created. Already, 12 African countries have subscribed to the YouthConnekt model. YouthConnekt Africa Summits aimed to transform the continent with potent young actors by creating 10 million jobs for youth in sustainable work environments and reducing gender inequalities.

*A video was shown highlighting the aims and activities of the YouthConnekt initiatives to promote economic empowerment, innovation and job creation.*

Receiving the award, Ms. D. MUKABALISA, *Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Rwanda*, thanked the World Future Council and said that the award had been received with honour and gratitude. The award represented recognition of the Rwandan Government's efforts to empower young people and engage them in various aspects of society. It showed the importance of working with young people and giving them the place they deserved in shaping the future of their society. YouthConnekt connected young people with their peers and role models, and gave them access to finance and entrepreneurship opportunities. It had contributed significantly to skills development and job creation, contributing to economic growth and building ownership of various government programmes based on Rwanda's culture and history.

In closing the awards ceremony, Ms. K. BASU, *Youth Ambassador, World Future Council*, said that parliaments had a key role to play in empowering young people. She hoped that all those present at the ceremony had found it inspiring and would help to raise awareness of the award-winning initiatives. She wished to thank all those whose support had made the awards ceremony possible.

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General Debate on the theme *Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation***

##### *Resumption of the debate*

*Ms. F. Zainal (Bahrain), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the chair.*

Ms. S.-M. MICULESCU, *Head, United Nations Office, Belgrade*, said that since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, Member States had been working to uphold the principles enshrined in its Charter. With growing globalization and State interdependence, migration had increased to an unprecedented scale, threats were increasing from terrorism, climate change, population growth and rapid urbanization, all of which made the mission of the United Nations more challenging than ever. The United Nations and its Member States could only succeed in building a more peaceful and prosperous world by being truly inclusive. National parliaments were among the most important actors, as the principle link between governments and peoples, through their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions. Parliamentarians helped to solve ethnic and religious tensions, and advanced the interests of women, young people and minorities. They were well placed to close the gap between States' commitments under international law and the reality on the ground. Parliaments were therefore key partners in ensuring peaceful, inclusive and sustainable development. The IPU had a crucial role in bringing a parliamentary dimension to the table in all United Nations processes, while providing national constituencies with information about United Nations priorities and activities.

Despite years of interethnic conflict and violence, the Balkans showed excellent examples of post-conflict reconstruction, strengthening democracy and enhancing development. Yet ethno-nationalistic divisions, weak governance, high unemployment and demographic decline persisted. Furthermore, the work of parliaments in the region had come under strain, which had weakened their oversight powers and negatively affected their legislative function. The IPU and its Members had a responsibility to ensure that the world's parliaments remained strong, representative, accountable and transparent. Parliaments and parliamentarians must be fearless in promoting the reforms needed to make the world a more peaceful and just place to live. Every effort should be made to continue to strengthen the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the IPU; peace was not just a necessity, it was an obligation.

Ms. A. SHKRUM (Ukraine) said that the leaders of some States seemed to believe themselves above international law. In 2014, the Russian Federation had invaded Ukraine, annexed Crimea and started a war. That military aggression had continued, with Russian military units occupying Ukrainian towns. It was ongoing, yet forgotten by the rest of the world. More than 13,000 Ukrainians had lost their lives, 30,000 had been wounded, and more than 1.4 million were internally displaced, having fled Russian aggression. Some 230,000 of those victims were children. The numerous United Nations resolutions on the violations of human rights in Ukraine and on the militarization of Crimea by the

Russian Federation were simply words on paper and had not fulfilled their purpose. International law was at a crossroads; confidence in international law and institutions was declining. International law needed a revival and parliaments were central to ensuring its implementation.

Mr. R.U. ROMOLOW (Federated States of Micronesia) said that each year, Micronesia celebrated the anniversary of its having joined the United Nations. Micronesia had ratified international instruments on a variety of issues, from human rights to disarmament. The Government of Micronesia was most proud of the Paris Agreement, having taken part in its negotiation and ratified it in record time. The Government was also proud of its efforts in dealing with threats to the ozone layer. Micronesian parliamentarians had recently participated in the regional workshop on the SDGs in Ulaanbaatar, organized by the IPU, and had decided to prioritize three main areas: climate change, the ozone layer and health. The Government and Parliament of Micronesia stood ready to contribute to regional and bilateral cooperation to address issues related to climate change and universal health coverage.

Mr. T. PRINGLE (Ireland) said that the work of national parliaments was crucial in the strengthening of international law and human rights standards. Yet for international laws to be more than just words on paper, they must be visible, tangible and accessible to citizens and reflected in domestic legislation. By drafting legislation prohibiting the import of goods or services produced in an internationally recognized occupied territory, the Irish Parliament was seeking to give specific practical expression to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention), which sought to ensure that States could not profit from civilian transfer and occupation. Occupation was often contested politically. The bill was therefore drafted to apply to territories defined as "occupied" by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Criminal Court (ICC) and international tribunals, and therefore included the Palestinian territories; the Israeli settlements in the West Bank had been deemed illegal by the ICJ in 2004. International law must be put into practical application by parliaments. Through the bill, the Irish Parliament had taken a stand in support of illegally occupied territories around the world, and encouraged other parliaments to do the same.

Mr. A.D. GHEORGHE (Romania) said that consolidating and promoting international law was essential, and supporting international jurisdictions was an important part of strengthening the rule of law. In Romania, regional cooperation had always been considered as a means of making a relevant contribution to security and stability. Over the past 30 years, Romania's democracy had been strengthened and the quality of life of its citizens had improved. Progress was largely due to Romania's participation in multilateral and regional forums with a substantial parliamentary dimension, the role of which had been crucial to building Romania's legislative framework. Interaction between the IPU and other international organizations must be strengthened, and relationships between the worlds parliamentarians must be enhanced.

Mr. O. RONDEROS (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the limits of humanitarian law had been reached; humanitarian law had been designed to address the consequences of war. Yet war was not the only cause of destruction. The world's current second largest migration flow was from Venezuela, where no war had been declared, yet the population was suffering from immense hardship, deprived of access to food and medical care, and six million people were displaced. Children were suffering from malnutrition. Urgent action was required. A free, fair and democratic presidential election must be held to allow the rebuilding of democracy in Venezuela.

Mr. T. FUKUI (Japan) said that international cooperation was essential to meet contemporary challenges. Japan endeavoured to comply with international law and considered respect for the rule of law to be one of the pillars of its diplomatic policy. Japan had cooperated constructively with international courts. The authorities in Japan continued to contribute to international cooperation efforts for the development of the rule of law. The Japanese Parliament was responsible for legislating to bring international treaties and agreements into practice at the domestic level. The resolutions and agreements emanating from the United Nations and other international bodies, such as the IPU, showed the continuing importance of international cooperation as a means to achieve common aims. Cooperation was particularly crucial for information sharing in the context of disaster risk reduction and mitigation. In that regard, Japan had sponsored a resolution before the United Nations General Assembly, to acknowledge 5 November each year as World Tsunami Awareness Day. Climate change-related disasters had catastrophic consequences. Every effort should be made to build safe, resilient communities.

Ms. R. BARTRA BARRIGA (Peru) said that democracy was the best system of governance, which could not exist without parliament. Democracy must be defended. In dissolving the Peruvian Parliament, the President had trodden roughshod over democracy. The voices of Peru's parliamentarians must be heard. She urged the international parliamentary community to keep a close watch over the situation in Peru.

Mr. W. WILLIAM (Seychelles) said that the ratification of international law was not enough. The time had come to reflect on real commitment to implementation. Renewed global consensus was needed. Business as usual would not be effective: the peoples of the world did not want a future based on double standards. Sincerity was imperative. A more measurable and targeted new world order should be established. Time was running out.

Ms. L. MAKUNTS (Armenia) said that democracy gave legitimacy to governments and was the foundation of stable societies. Armenia was a nation born from genocide. The war over the fate of Artsakh had been forced upon Armenia. The Government continued to remain engaged in the peace process, prioritizing diplomacy over the use of weapons. Yet Armenia lacked a partner for building peace. The people of Artsakh had been the victims of unfair decisions taken under the Soviet regime. In the 1990s, Nagorno Karabakh had declared independence in accordance with international law and the Constitution of the Soviet Union. The settlement of the issue should be acceptable to the peoples in Artsakh, Armenia and Azerbaijan. A long-term vision was needed to foster peace. Violence was unacceptable; the world's parliaments should be united in their call for peace and security for the world's most vulnerable people.

### **Segment of the General Debate dedicated to young parliamentarians**

Mr. V. MARINKOVIC (Serbia) said that the world faced major challenges caused by opposing interests that threatened peace and stability on a daily basis. The current international legal order, which had been established at the end of the Second World War, along with the United Nations and its Charter, had largely remained a successful guarantor of peace. Contraventions of that legal order, in particular its provisions relating to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States, resulted in conflict, insecurity and human suffering. In upholding international law, States must refrain from the use of force, respect the principle of non-interference in the affairs of other States, and ensure respect for human rights. In the current turbulent climate, peace and security were indispensable for stability and prosperity in every sense; parliamentarians had a particular responsibility to guarantee and sustain respect for the rule of law through democratic institutions. New generations of parliamentarians would have a particularly important role in upholding the values of the IPU and enhancing its performance.

Mr. I. SEREEWATTHANAWUT (Thailand) said that besides natural disasters and global warming, human errors and abuses of power were creating widespread fear. Parliamentarians represented the people of the world and should work together as such, to meet the needs of humanity as a whole, rather than being restricted by national borders. The critical mass of global problems was growing, despite international common efforts, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. The time had come for action to create cooperation and address the root causes of the world's problems. The aspirations of the electorate should be the inspiration for every member of parliament.

Ms. Z. YILDIZ (Turkey) said that she wished to draw the Assembly's attention to the plight of 54 Kurdish families in Diyarbakır, who were searching for their missing children, disappeared at the hands of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and People's Defence Units (YPG). Thanks to the safe environment that the Republic of Turkey provided, with successful peace operations, Kurdish women could boldly inquire after the whereabouts of their children and rebel against the oppression of terrorist organizations. Children were being kidnapped and armed by the YPG. International law must be strengthened and the world's parliaments must be a mouthpiece for the Kurdish mothers whose children were being exploited by terrorist organizations.

Ms. L. VASYLENKO (Ukraine) said that the Parliament of Ukraine was one of the youngest in the world; the average age of members of parliament was 41, and 20.5 per cent of Ukrainian parliamentarians were women. The Government of Ukraine was committed to international law and commitments. In 1994, it had given up its nuclear arsenal, which had been one of the largest in the world, in return for assurances of collective security enshrined in the Budapest Memorandum. Since

February 2014, the Russian Federation had been in continuous breach of that Memorandum and the core principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and other binding international agreements. Its annexation of Crimea and illegal occupation of eastern Ukraine amounted to control over seven per cent of Ukrainian territory and the constant commission of war crimes and violations of human rights. The Russian Federation's flagrant flouting of international law and resolutions was testament to the general acceptance of rule-breaking. International law meant nothing when it was violated by one of the world's largest powers with a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. Parliaments must stand together to stop that trend and ensure dedicated commitment to respect for international law by all States, irrespective of their size or nuclear status.

Mr. S. PATRA (India) said that India had been empowering its youth through information technology and skills development, while Pakistan had shown the dubious distinction of a system of schooling its children in violent extremism and recruiting them into terrorist groups. Pakistan had misused the IPU platform to lie about innocent people being killed in Kashmir. Those killed in Kashmir had been terrorists, sent by Pakistan to India. Men, women and children had been butchered, raped and murdered in Pakistan. The international community should denounce Pakistan's actions in Kashmir. India condemned, in the strongest terms, Pakistan's shameful misuse of the IPU forum to spread lies and hatred.

Ms. V.S.Y. WONG (Malaysia) said that the Parliament of Malaysia was committed to enhancing the universality of international law, consolidating international consensus, ensuring accountability of States and being an active regional player in the multilateral treaty-making process. The general election held in 2018 had marked a turning point in progressive democracy, in which a new government had been formed. Young people comprised 40 per cent of the electorate, and their active political engagement signified their willingness to contribute to the nation's future. Youth participation in policy-making was essential to achieve the SDGs. With that in mind, the Malaysian Parliament had passed two bills on youth participation, including on lowering the minimum age for voting. Efforts were also being made to increase job opportunities for young people, and increase the budget of the Youth Development Fund. Young people had the time, energy, ideas and manpower to meet global challenges; they needed to be given the opportunity to do so.

Mr. S. JARA CRUZ (Mexico) said that international instruments created links between States. The Convention on the Rights of the Child was the most widely ratified international instrument in the world. Children's mental health was a particularly important issue. Orphans, street children, displaced children, refugees, children subjected to sexual abuse and exploitation must receive professional help. Legislators must give those vulnerable children a voice. Universal health coverage would be a crucial achievement. The world's parliamentarians must take the pledges and commitments undertaken at the current Assembly back to their homes and translate them into action and results at the local level.

Mr. S. TYNKKYNEN (Finland) said that democracy was a source of strength, originating from the people. Democracy was fragile and must be respected and honoured, even if its results did not please all the people all the time. Difficulties could occur when defining which groups of people should have the right to self-determination and which should be regarded as part of a larger democratic entity. Unfortunate events had occurred in that regard in Hong Kong, Catalonia and Kurdistan. Peaceful solutions must be sought, respecting the will of the people. Societies and nations can only develop effectively and sustainably if the people considered the exercise of power legitimate. Legitimate governance was also crucial for effective international cooperation and respect for international rule of law. No rules or legislation could prevent conflict if people felt that their freedom was being restricted and their voices were unheard. Respecting democracy and allowing it to flourish would be the only guarantee of effective international cooperation to foster peace and well-being.

Mr. F.G. BABEL (Bangladesh) said that Bangladesh was committed to attaining the SDGs and was emerging as a new economic power. The youth of Bangladesh had contributed significantly to its liberation in 1971. The national youth policy provided guidelines on involving young people in development progress. Efforts must be made to ensure access to quality education and to provide decent job opportunities. Involving young people in decision-making processes was the key to encouraging young people to become active in politics. Regional cooperation was essential to seeking coordinated solutions to regional problems.

Mr. M. KARLSSON (Sweden) said that a house must be built on firm foundations; that was especially true with regard to democracy and human rights. Sweden, which was celebrating 100 years of democracy, had been the first country in the world to adopt legislation to guarantee press freedom and freedom of expression. Freedom of speech and thought were vital for democracy, and in turn democracy was essential to uphold human rights. Nothing could be more important, therefore, than safeguarding freedom of expression and defending it wherever it was challenged. Silencing discussions could never be a solution to differences of opinion. Differences should be resolved through the clarity and righteousness of arguments. He therefore hoped that the decision – taken last year in Geneva – to prohibit suggestions and discussions in the IPU regarding basic rights to life and liberty of sexual minorities would be reversed.

Mr. K. YAKURA (Japan) said that global warming was increasing the risk of natural disaster. Japan was committed to leading international cooperation on disaster risk reduction. The global economic downturn witnessed over recent years had resulted in rising nationalism and increasing threats to multilateralism, which looked in the short term like methods of protecting national interests but in the long term would result in trade contraction. If nationalism and exclusion became the foundation for economic activity, stability and peace would be undermined. The younger generation must work to foster multilateralism and strengthen collaboration. Parliaments must urge their governments to implement the basic principles of the free trade system. As a standard bearer for free trade, Japan would continue to exercise leadership to promote free and fair, rule-based economics. Initiatives for the abolishment of nuclear weapons were crucial; Japan was the only country to have suffered the consequences of an atomic bomb attack, and could play a pivotal role in negotiations on disarmament.

Mr. S. SOK (Cambodia) said that peace and prosperity had been brought to Cambodia through the establishment and consolidation of a multiparty liberal democracy and a free market economy. Together, the United Nations and the Government of Cambodia had established the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) to allow international participation in trials to prosecute the leaders of the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime. The support of the international community had been particularly welcome during efforts to rebuild peace and promote economic development in Cambodia. The Government and people of Cambodia were concerned that their own hardship and suffering should not be repeated elsewhere in the world, and as such had provided 6,300 armed forces personnel to the United Nations peace-keeping efforts in eight African countries. Close collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had played a key role in the preservation of Cambodia's cultural heritage. The Government and people of Cambodia remained strongly committed to international law and rules-based multilateralism, and were optimistic that international institutions would adapt to new challenges while maintaining equal respect for all nationals and upholding the principles of international law for the common purpose of pursuing global peace and prosperity.

Ms. S.F. HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the world was suffering from disregard for the rules and standards of international law. The Government of the United States believed that it could achieve its interests by disregarding and violating the basic principles of international law and human rights, to guarantee its own security at the expense of others. Use of illegal economic sanctions, which were tantamount to economic terrorism, raised serious concerns about human rights and had a damaging effect on living conditions in the countries affected. The victimization of nations was evidence of a serious inefficiency in international law and its guardian institutions. The common challenges posed by non-compliance with international law and human rights standards required a collaborative solution. Young parliamentarians should demand peace rooted in justice and dialogue.

Mr. S. DURRANI (Pakistan) said that he wished to transmit a message of peace and harmony from the people and Parliament of Pakistan. Atrocities and blatant violations of human rights were being continually committed against the women and children of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir, in a clear and brutal expression of racism and fascism. Kashmir had become one of the most militarized areas in the world, and was de facto the world's largest prison. There had been a round-the-clock curfew since August 2019, which had impacted severely on people's health and well-being. Access to medicines had been denied, children had been abducted, and human rights had been denied systematically by the Indian armed forces. India's narrative that Jammu and Kashmir was an internal matter to India was severely flawed. Pakistan would continue to use all available forums to expose the true face of fascist and racist India.

Mr. S. ISMAYILOV (Azerbaijan) said that Armenia had occupied Azerbaijan and violated the fundamental principles of international law. The 30-year dispute regarding the so-called republic of Nagorno Karabakh could be resolved if the Helsinki Final Act and Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and internationally recognized borders were fully respected. Armenia was contradicting the standards and principles of international law.

Ms. S. NUÑEZ CERÓN (Mexico) said that all parliamentarians present must take home the lessons learned from the general debate. In that regard, she wished to make three commitments: to be more active on parliamentary quotas for the participation of women; to make a greater effort to foster youth representation in Congress; and to work to achieve universal health coverage.

Mr. S. PATRA (India), speaking in exercise of the right of reply said that he condemned the pernicious and obnoxious allegations made by the delegate of Pakistan, a country that had consistently persecuted minorities and harboured terrorists. Jammu and Kashmir would continue to prosper along with the rest of India.

Ms. S. REHMAN (Pakistan) said that she was disappointed with the tone used by the delegate of India. Jammu and Kashmir had been occupied by the Indian Government since 5 August 2019, resulting in people being imprisoned in their own homes. If India continued to boycott the countries that condemned the abuse of rights in Jammu and Kashmir it would boycott the whole world. The deprivation of rights and citizenship in Jammu and Kashmir were clear to see. India might silence the people of Jammu and Kashmir, but it would not silence Pakistan.

*The sitting rose at 6.10 p.m.*

## Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

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

**SITTING OF MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER**

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9.05 a.m. with Ms. A. Gerken (Netherlands), Vice-President of the Committee in the Chair.*

#### **Adoption of the agenda**

*The agenda was adopted.*

#### **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Doha (April 2019)**

*The summary record was approved.*

#### **Preparation of a resolution entitled *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health***

##### **(a) Presentation of the draft resolution and explanatory memorandum prepared by the co-Rapporteurs**

The CHAIR said that three co-Rapporteurs were preparing the resolution: Mr. Md. H. Millat (Bangladesh), Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland) and Ms. M. Carvalho (Brazil). She invited the co-Rapporteurs to present the draft.

Mr. C. LOHR (Switzerland), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the draft resolution was a landmark step towards achieving universal health coverage. It was an intolerable injustice that half the world's population could not access health services when needed. One hundred million people were pushed into extreme poverty each year because of health expenses. Eight hundred million people spent at least 10 per cent of their household budget on health care. It was vital to bring those numbers down to zero. Key actions must be taken on legislation, advocacy, accountability and financing. Universal health coverage was a political choice.

The people must be at the heart of universal health coverage. Health services must be organized around people's needs and expectations. They must fully empower people to protect their own health. Parliamentarians had a big responsibility to commit to universal health coverage as well as to translate the resolution into concrete actions. The resolution was the foundation on which universal health coverage would be built. Every human being had equal value. Every human being must therefore have access to good quality health services.

Mr. Md. H. MILLAT (Bangladesh), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the resolution was a crucial opportunity to implement universal health coverage. The process for drafting the resolution went hand in hand with UN processes on the topic.

The resolution aimed to define concrete actions on universal health coverage. It would discuss ways to harmonize and reform laws with a view to removing barriers around access to health. It would look at how to make universal health coverage sustainable, including through resource mobilization. It would also discuss the best framework to monitor progress and keep governments accountable. Other points covered in the resolution included critical concepts, such as quality of care, patient safety and affordability, and partnerships so as to encourage collaboration.

The co-Rapporteurs had always kept in mind that some groups more than others faced financial barriers in accessing health services. Those groups included women, children, adolescents, people living with disabilities, people living in humanitarian and fragile contexts, and people living in poverty. Those who experienced exclusion and discrimination bore the greatest burden of ill health and preventable deaths.



Large scale public health emergencies could result in major loss of life and cause significant disruption to health systems, economies and societies. Universal health coverage and multisectoral engagement were key to building effective preparedness. Essential health care delivery must continue during emergencies. It was vital for countries to improve their capacities to prevent, detect and respond to emergencies. They could do so with the help of tools such as the International Health Regulations.

Ms. M. CARVALHO (Brazil) *co-Rapporteur*, said that half of the global population did not have access to basic health services. Parliaments must address that problem by developing the right policies and monitoring their implementation. The resolution on universal health coverage would serve as a guide in that regard. It was particularly important to address the needs of women, adolescents, children and elderly people who faced major difficulties in accessing health services. There was also a need to ensure sustainable financing of health services. The IPU could work towards prevention, diagnosis and treatment with the support of governments and the United Nations. Brazil had achieved universal health coverage even in the most isolated regions, such as the Amazon. It was evidence that universal health coverage was possible.

### **(b) Debate on the draft resolution**

Ms. I. DIMIC (Slovenia) said that achieving universal health coverage was one of the greatest challenges facing the international community. Slovenia had a comprehensive health system based on solidarity, equality and justice which aimed to provide universal health care to all. The country strived towards reducing health inequalities and providing services that matched individual needs. One of Slovenia's national priorities was to reduce waiting lists which had arisen as a result of an aging population and low birth rates. Among the measures that Slovenia had introduced was its national health care plan 2015-2025. The plan focused on both the user and provider and facilitated wider investments in health care. Slovenia's mission was to create a system of health care that was financially sustainable and of a high quality. Parliamentarians played a critical role in adopting relevant legislation on universal health coverage.

Mr. S. ALKHATEEB (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the right to health was a fundamental human right. However, the war in Syria had destroyed much of the health care infrastructure in the country. Before the war, the health of the Syrian population had been improving as a result of excellent quality health care that was free of charge. Government expenditure on health had been a major share of GDP. The country used to have 56,000 doctors and 500 hospitals. It had even been a producer and exporter of medicines. Since the war, 70 per cent of doctors had been displaced, killed or forced to flee. Ambulances and hospitals had been targeted. Hospital equipment had been pillaged. The situation had caused billions of dollars' worth of damage. The war in Syria was not an uprising but an international war waged by major powers on Syrian territory. He called on the international community to stop the war and overturn damaging resolutions.

Ms. W. SYIEM (India) said that her country's development plans were consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 3 on health. The Government had introduced the National Health Policy 2017 which aimed to attain the highest possible level of health and wellbeing among the population, including through preventive and promotive methods. A key part of the policy was providing universal access to good quality health care without pushing people into financial hardship. Furthermore, the National Health Mission (NHM) had contributed substantially towards the universalization of services, particularly for mothers, children and people suffering from communicable diseases. Another positive action was the Ayushman Bharat flagship scheme launched in 2018. The scheme sought to achieve universal health coverage through a continuum of care approach. It had two interrelated components. The first component was the creation of 150,000 health and wellness centres that would provide comprehensive primary health services free of charge, including screening, diagnostics and disease management. The second component was the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) scheme which was the world's largest fully funded health insurance scheme aiming to cover 550 million Indians.

Mr. M. SULAIMAN (Malaysia) said that Malaysia had taken a number of measures to promote universal health coverage. The Ministry of Health in its plan of action 2016-2020 had identified a strategic path towards strengthening health service delivery across the disease spectrum with an emphasis on primary health care. It had provided primary health services to 93 per cent of migrants and refugees. The country was also taking steps to combat child marriage by reforming laws and

regulations and by raising awareness of the physical and mental effects of the phenomenon. The needs of people with disabilities were being addressed at the National Council for Persons with Disabilities. There was also a national strategic action plan on mental health.

While female genital mutilation was widely unacceptable, circumcision was a different issue. Efforts to include circumcision under the same umbrella as female genital mutilation should take into account medical and cultural aspects. Halal vaccines were commendable but should meet the right standards.

Ms. Y. KAMIKAWA (Japan) said that digital health was important in promoting the right of people to make decisions about their own health. Individuals who could access digitalized health information would be more likely to take the initiative to prevent sickness, including through self-medication. As a result, Japan was building a centralized government-operated online service system to store individual health records, such as children's medical examinations. It was also important to establish public databases of standardized data related to health, treatment and care. Big data would make it possible to ascertain health trends and thereby develop more effective health care programmes.

In addition to taking domestic initiatives, parliamentarians should support effective and sustainable health care policies at the global level. Examples of global policies included collaborating with other countries on digital health promotion and preventing the spread of infectious diseases.

There was a particular need for policies on hearing loss in newborn babies and children. It was possible to minimize the impact of hearing impairment on spoken language development if the problem was identified and supported at an early age. Implant technologies could make a huge difference in that regard. Japan had set up an all-party parliamentary group seeking to develop a universal hearing test for newborn babies as well as to provide personalized care for children with impaired hearing.

Mr. V. MARINKOVIC (Serbia) said that every human being had a right to health and wellbeing without distinction of gender, race, age or any other factor. Universal health coverage was connected to other problems such as inequality, hunger and climate change. Democracy was at the heart of universal health coverage. Parliamentarians had a duty to safeguard the right to health through their legislative, oversight and budgetary functions. They must promote health at a local level by speaking directly to individuals and making them aware of their rights. Parliaments should be a forum for public debate allowing broader social groups to contribute to health policy development. One measure taken by Serbia was the establishment of an interdepartmental working group on health. Similarly, the National Assembly of Serbia had been studying draft health laws and proposing amendments.

Ms. U. HEINDORFF (Sweden) said that every country must put universal health coverage high up on their agenda. The Swedish health system aimed to ensure good health care on equal terms for all people regardless of their ability to pay. Sweden would support a number of amendments to the resolution proposed by other countries. She encouraged others to support the amendments proposed by Sweden, including an additional paragraph on antimicrobial resistance, which was caused by the overuse of antibiotics and was a very serious global health threat.

Ms. S. KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA (Cyprus) said that global leaders had taken significant steps both nationally and internationally towards achieving universal health coverage by 2030. However, a contradiction existed which was affecting their efforts. On the one hand, progress had been made in science, medical research and pharmaceutical therapies. On the other hand, millions of people remained deprived of basic health and pharmaceutical services because of the profit goals of multinationals. Parliamentarians must enable stronger links of cooperation between government bodies and health care providers. It was particularly important to protect vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, children and refugees. There was also a need to pay special attention to women's health and reproductive rights. Cyprus had recently begun implementing its first general health care system. The system would provide every Cypriot with equal and unhindered access to high quality health care services based on the principles of social solidarity and universality. While national advancements were significant, international cooperation was also needed. It was necessary to share best practices and create multifaceted links of communication.

Ms. N. QOMARIEL ARIFIN (Indonesia) said that 83 per cent of the Indonesian population had access to health care. Provision of basic health services was guaranteed in the Law on Health. The law placed a major emphasis on equity and obligated the Government to allocate 5 per cent of the State budget to the health sector. Indonesia had further committed to universal health coverage

through the establishment of a healthcare and social security agency. The ambition was to achieve full coverage by December 2019. A monitoring and review mechanism was also in place aiming to acquire feedback from constituents. Parliamentarians had a significant role to play in attaining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in improving the health of citizens.

Mr. S. PHETPANOMPORN (Thailand) said that the Thai health system had been frequently commended by the World Health Organization (WHO). Despite having a low gross national income per capita, almost 100 per cent of the Thai population had access to health services. It showed that universal health coverage was achievable and affordable regardless of national income levels.

The success story of Thailand had been guided by three fundamental principles: equity, efficiency and multi-stakeholder engagement. Thailand had achieved equity by developing a health care system that was accessible to all. It hoped to improve efficiency by earmarking 15 per cent of the budget for universal health coverage on health promotion. In addition, the country encouraged participation from all stakeholders, including the public sector, the private sector and civil society.

It was important to note that Thailand had enshrined universal health coverage and the right to health into its Constitution. It had also passed a recent law on primary health care.

Achieving universal health coverage by 2030 would take strong political will, a sustained financial commitment, participation by all stakeholders and a sense of ownership. Thailand reaffirmed its commitment to improving universal health coverage with a specific focus on vulnerable and marginalized populations. It stood ready to share its knowledge and experiences with others.

Ms. A. TALABANI (Iraq) said that Iraq had one principle piece of legislation which set out the right to high quality health care without discrimination. However, the resolution must stress the importance of access to high quality medicines in addition to health care. It was vital to combat the problem of counterfeit or low quality medicines sold on the black market.

Mr. W.Y. CHOI (Republic of Korea) said that universal health coverage would enable everyone to enjoy high quality health care without being burdened financially. In the Republic of Korea, the National Health Insurance Act covered all Koreans regardless of their level of income. It was necessary to reform laws and health systems to ensure that all people could afford basic medical services. Advanced economies should provide technical assistance to middle and low income countries, particularly in the areas of drugs, vaccines, diagnosis and health care. Parliamentarians must play an active role in following up on the resolution.

Mr. N.A. CHEEMA (Pakistan) said that he supported the draft resolution. Parliamentarians had an important role to play in the development and implementation of laws and policies on universal health coverage. However, the people must have ownership of any measures taken. Parliamentarians must stay sensitive to the needs of the people and take them on board. It was important to include parliamentarians in the work of the health sector. With the help of parliamentarians, the health sector in Pakistan had had many success stories. For example, it had brought the world's largest epidemic of dengue under control in just one year. The resolution must stress the need to share success stories. It must also highlight the importance of coordination with UN agencies, such as WHO. The IPU should set up a subgroup on coordination with the United Nations.

Mr. A. NIYONGABO (Burundi) said that his country had taken measures that contributed to universal health coverage. For example, children up to five years old had access to free health services. Maternity services were also available. Health coverage currently extended to people working in the informal and rural sectors as well as to people with disabilities. International cooperation and solidarity were needed to achieve universal health coverage by 2030. Developing countries should receive public development aid independently of any religious or political considerations. The IPU must urge the United Nations and other development organizations to make sure of that.

Ms. D. O'NEILL (Australia) said that the Medicare card guaranteed universal access to health care in Australia. Before the card had been introduced in the 1970s, health care had been a major cause of bankruptcy in the country. However, a number of challenges remained around the cost of providing universal access to health care. For example, universal health coverage was often characterized as a burden of costs on a budget rather than an investment in human capital. Out of pocket costs on health care were on the rise in Australia. What is more, many developed countries were exploiting skilled health professionals from abroad in an effort to balance their own budget. Education could play an important role in enabling locally-skilled health professionals to stay in their home country.

Other challenges included a significant differentiation in access to health care between those living on the coast and those living in more rural or remote parts of Australia. It was also important to address the needs of First Nations peoples across the globe, including psychosocial health and spirituality. Lastly, more action was needed on mental health issues which were predominant across all communities.

Ms. S. ISAYAN (Armenia) said that universal health coverage did not mean that health care was free but that personal, out of pocket payments did not deter people from using health services. Universal health coverage was a political choice. Health was a foundational investment in the human capital of a country. Achieving universal health coverage was especially challenging for low and middle income countries. Governments should redouble the pace of expanding coverage and commit to spending at least one per cent of GDP on primary health care.

Despite making progress towards improving the health of its people, 20 per cent of the population in Armenia did not have access to quality health services because of financial hardships. Measures taken in Armenia included increasing by 30 per cent the remuneration of primary health care practitioners and introducing a free national vaccination programme which covered 90 per cent of adults and children. The country also hoped to launch a social health insurance scheme in 2022. There were several State-funded health care programmes, such as to treat ischemic stroke. Parliaments could play a crucial role in achieving universal health coverage by passing laws, holding governments to account and allocating resources.

Mr. D. MARIE (France) said that almost half of the world population did not have access to health care services and 10 per cent got into debt because of health care costs. It was important to ensure that all people could access health services, including prevention, treatment and palliative care. France was constantly building on the social security system it had set up in 1945. Countries must be constantly vigilant to ensure that all citizens were using the services available. It was particularly important to raise awareness among vulnerable people, such as refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, who were not always informed of their rights. Parliamentarians should challenge anti-vaccine groups who were undermining efforts to achieve universal health coverage. The international community must come together in solidarity to achieve universal health coverage. One possible solution could be to explore international financing, such as a levy on airplane tickets.

Mr. M.S. BENMASSOUD (Morocco) said that social development policy, including health care provision, should be based on the principles of social cohesion and solidarity. As a result, health care services must cover as many citizens as possible. One of the priorities of Morocco was to provide citizens with equal access to primary health care. In 2002, the Parliament of Morocco had passed a health coverage law based on two main pillars. First, it was obligatory for people in full employment to be covered by health insurance. Second, the health care system should benefit citizens who were most in need. The country was aiming to reach 90 per cent coverage by 2025.

The representative of the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO said that he wished to issue an alarm call on the very serious situation affecting the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Ebola disease was rampant in the east and was spreading into neighbouring countries. Health care providers were unable to reach certain parts of the country because of a lack of security arising from the presence of armed groups. He called on the international community, including parliamentarians, to help eradicate the disease.

Mr. R. MUGUME (Uganda) said that parliaments were responsible for overseeing the implementation of the development agenda, appropriating resources to finance development, ensuring that the national budget was aligned with national development plans, and enacting legislation to support development. The Parliament of Uganda was committed to achieving universal health coverage as part of the development agenda. It had placed a particular emphasis on maternal child and newborn health. Examples of measures taken included refurbishing neonatal intensive care units, training health workers on essential newborn care, providing breastfeeding services in parliament and building strong partnerships with civil society organizations.

Ms. E.C. LUNA MORALES (Cuba) said that the Cuban health system offered primary health care to all. For Cuba, primary health care was a gateway into the whole system. The country thus was seeking to treat 70 per cent of health problems at primary level.

Cuba had put in place a system of polyclinics and adopted a family doctor approach. Doctors and nurses were therefore living in the communities that needed them. There was also a big focus on clinical and epidemiological methods. The system was based on health promotion, disease prevention, early diagnosis, treatment, palliative care and recovery. People were likewise encouraged to take control of their own health.

Cuba had good indicators on health care with low child mortality and one of the longest life expectancies for children in the world. It was also one of the first countries in the world to stop mother-to-child transmission of HIV. However, the country was always seeking to further improve its system. It would do so by using human resources more efficiently, planning needs and ensuring sustainability.

Mr. A. IBRAHIM (Ghana) said that Ghana had taken many steps towards achieving universal health coverage while placing an emphasis on primary health care. The country had introduced a health insurance scheme which had improved life expectancy. The scheme, however, had problems with sustainability. Infrastructure had improved after the country put a hospital in almost every district and increased the number of polyclinics. Numerous health training institutions had also been established.

Other actions taken included a programme called "Planting for Food and Jobs" which aimed to fight food scarcity. Children from kindergarten up to high school received free education where they were taught about cleanliness and personal hygiene. There was also an afforestation policy in place to fight climate change and its health-related consequences.

The role of parliaments in health care provision was to hold governments to account, ensure adequate funding, and pass and implement the necessary legislation.

Ms. E. DIENDA (Namibia) said that Namibia had established a caucus to monitor the health of prisoners, especially female prisoners, which were a neglected demographic. There was also an e-health system in place which stored patient health history. The system made it easier to get treatment anywhere in the country. State facilities offered free vaccinations for all, free tuberculosis treatment, free cancer treatment and free treatment for HIV/AIDS.

Mr. R. MAVENYENGWA (Zimbabwe) said that his country was working towards achieving universal health coverage by 2030. People from rural areas were the ones most affected by lack of health coverage. Under its national health strategy, Zimbabwe had made sure that there were at least two doctors and two nurses at every district clinic. It was also pushing to raise the budget allocation for the Ministry of Health and Childcare from 8 to 15 per cent. There had been a pledge to build at least 6,200 clinics in the next 5 years with the help of a British NGO. Parliamentarians had been allocated the funds to construct those clinics in their constituencies. Furthermore, Zimbabwe would soon receive US\$ 6 million to fight HIV/AIDS. It was the duty of the Parliament to monitor the implementation of the national health strategy, including the use of funds. The international community should remove the illegal sanctions imposed upon Zimbabwe which were hindering the country's efforts towards achieving universal health coverage.

Mr. W. AYENEW (Ethiopia) said that access to health care was a key challenge for Ethiopia. The Parliament had passed new laws and regulations to enhance health services. More medical colleges and universities were opening across the country. More hospitals and clinics were being built in marginalized areas in order to reach more women and children. It was impossible to achieve universal health coverage without access to drinking water. The Parliament had therefore allocated more budget to that purpose. The participation of citizens and civil society was of paramount importance in efforts to provide primary health care.

Mr. J. CALDERON (International Organization for Migration – IOM) said that the right to health was a fundamental right of all human beings irrespective of their legal status. Universal health coverage not only delivered on the right to health but also on the broader human rights agenda. However, universal health coverage was not truly universal unless it included migrants, especially those who were stigmatized, marginalized or in vulnerable situations. The foundation of universal health coverage was primary health care for all, including migrants. Primary health care services should be guaranteed as a minimum package to all migrants. States should also look to providing the same rights and entitlements to migrants as they did to nationals. Cross border collaboration was vital to provide continuity of care for communicable and non-communicable diseases. There was a need for a multisectoral approach involving not only the health sector but also employment and social

protection policies. The involvement of civil society was also important. Parliamentarians should consider the positive potential of migration for development, including in the path towards universal health coverage. Over 18 million additional health workers would be needed by 2030 to meet the SDGs. Well-managed and ethical international recruitment of health workers coupled with effective labour agreements and diaspora engagement could strengthen the capacity of health systems.

Mr. O. HAMAYEL (Palestine) said that, although Palestine had a health insurance scheme, its citizens faced barriers to health care imposed by the occupying power. For example, special permits were needed to import specialized medical equipment which was subject to controls at checkpoints. Approximately 740 health care workers had been wounded or killed by the occupying forces the previous year. He called on parliamentarians around the world to help Palestinians enjoy the fundamental right to health. The co-Rapporteurs should pay particular attention to the special situation of Palestine in the resolution.

Mr. M. ALHAIZAN (Saudi Arabia) said that his country had established a strategy to provide health care services to all people without discrimination by 2030. There had been a particular focus on reaching the most vulnerable. Qualitative and quantitative indicators were in place to assess the extent of health coverage in the country. In view of the above efforts, life expectancy had risen from 70 to 74 and infant mortality rates had fallen. More than 31 million citizens and 18 million visitors were benefitting from the country's health care services. Health care workers from Saudi Arabia were also helping neighbouring countries, including those suffering from natural disasters and conflicts.

Mr. A. ALDEQBASI (Kuwait) said that access to health care was a fundamental human right. Yet, it was a right that half of the global population did not enjoy due to poverty, illiteracy, lack of political will and other factors. Kuwait had improved its national health services thanks to efforts made by the Parliament and Government. It was also financing projects in countries suffering from natural disasters. Parliamentarians must do more than make statements and adopt resolutions. They must take action, including by enforcing legislation.

The CHAIR announced that the Standing Committee would go on to draft the resolution in plenary.

*The sitting rose at 11.10 a.m.*

## SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

*The meeting was called to order at 5.05 p.m., with Ms. A. Gerkens (Netherlands), Vice-President of the Committee, in the Chair.*

### **Preparation of a resolution entitled *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*** (continued)

#### **(c) Drafting and adoption of the draft resolution in plenary** (C-III/141/DR-cr)

The CHAIR, highlighting the close partnership between the World Health Organization (WHO) and the IPU, said that she was delighted to welcome its Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, to the meeting. WHO had provided excellent technical advice throughout the development of the draft resolution (C-III/141/DR-cr) now before the Committee and Dr. Tedros was himself leading efforts to engage parliamentarians fully in WHO's work for a healthy world. She invited Dr. Tedros to address the Committee.

Dr. T.A. GHEBREYESUS (Director-General of WHO), in outlining the steps along the journey towards the draft resolution on universal health coverage (UHC), said that a key milestone had been the signing of the memorandum of understanding between WHO and the IPU on cooperation in a number of health-related areas, including UHC. A human right to be enjoyed by all, health was an end in itself as well as a means to achievement of the SDGs. It helped to reduce poverty, enabled people to learn and earn, and was a driver of inclusive economic growth. It was also a vital investment in a

more secure world, given that weak health systems were fertile ground for epidemics leading to major loss of life and significant socio-economic disruption. With equity at the heart of UHC, the emphasis in the draft resolution on gender equality, including such key issues as sexual and reproductive health, was especially welcome. Health for all meant precisely that, without distinction of any kind.

The draft resolution was furthermore vital to translating into reality, most critically through primary health care, the comprehensive high-level political declaration on UHC unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019. A shift in focus to health promotion and disease prevention called for a focus in turn on addressing the determinants of health lying outside the remit of the health sector: air, food, water, and work and living conditions. Coordinated action across all sectors was needed to that end, as affirmed in the draft resolution, which also called on WHO to provide coordinated, multifaceted support to countries for achieving UHC. WHO was indeed committed to providing that support, which would furthermore be maximized through its work with other multilateral health agencies under the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-Being for All aimed at accelerating progress towards the health-related SDG targets. WHO looked forward to working with parliaments towards the shared vision of a world in which all enjoyed the highest attainable standard of health.

The CHAIR thanked Dr. Tedros for his remarks and invited one of the co-Rapporteurs to present the draft resolution, which the drafting committee had worked constructively to revise and in so doing had successfully resolved a number of complicated issues.

Mr. C. LOHR (Switzerland), *co-Rapporteur*, introducing the revised draft resolution, said that the text had been further improved as a result of that work. He proposed an additional refinement to the text, however, which was to delete the second part of the 16<sup>th</sup> preambular paragraph in order to maintain a general approach initially in connection with determinants of health by removing any reference to specific groups.

The CHAIR said she took it that the Committee wished to approve that proposal.

*It was so decided.*

Mr. C. LOHR (Switzerland), *co-Rapporteur*, further proposed to replace the word "counterfeit" in operative paragraph 13 of the revised draft resolution with the word "falsified" for the sake of consistency with the term finally agreed by WHO after lengthy debate.

The representative of FRANCE, after suggesting that French versions of draft texts should also be provided in future as an aid to clarity, said that the words "counterfeit" and "falsified" were complementary in French. Both should therefore feature in the text in order to prevent any misinterpretation by readers of the French version.

Mr. Md.H. MILLAT (Bangladesh), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the word "falsified" was now the only term used in English with reference to medical products and that it had been proposed for that reason.

The CHAIR said that she agreed with the suggestion concerning the matter of French texts and that the inclusion of both words in the text would constitute a sub-amendment on which the Committee should therefore vote.

*A vote was taken by show of hands on the proposed sub-amendment.*

*The proposed sub-amendment was approved.*

The CHAIR said she took it that the Committee wished to approve the revised draft resolution, as orally amended, for transmission to the Assembly for possible adoption.

*It was so decided.*

#### **(d) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly**

The CHAIR proposed that she be nominated to present the approved draft resolution to the Assembly on behalf of the Committee.

*It was so decided.*

### Preparations for future Assemblies

#### (a) Subject of the next resolution to be prepared by the Committee

The CHAIR said that her delegation had been among those submitting proposals for the subject of the next resolution to be prepared by the Committee. To prevent any conflict of interest, she invited Bureau member Mr. A. Niyongabo (Burundi) to present the outcome of the Bureau's consideration of those proposals.

*Mr. A. Niyongabo (Burundi) took the Chair.*

The CHAIR said that, at its meeting of that morning, the Bureau had heard subject-item proposals from the delegation of Kenya, on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Programme of Action; the delegation of the Netherlands, on legislation to combat online sexual exploitation of children; and the delegation of the Russian Federation, on unilateral sanctions. At the request of the Vice-President of the Committee, who was a member of the Netherlands delegation, he had presided over the discussion of those proposals to avoid any conflict of interest. Following its discussion, the Bureau had decided to recommend to the Committee that it approve the Netherlands proposal as the next subject item on its agenda.

Mr. K. KOSACHEV (Russian Federation) said that the proposal presented by his delegation had in fact been submitted on behalf of almost 20 delegations representing all of the geopolitical groups. Although the Vice-President of the Committee had indeed not presided over the discussion of the proposals, she had participated in the deciding vote in her capacity as a Bureau member. As the Netherlands proposal had won favour by one vote, it was not entirely clear whether a conflict of interest had been successfully avoided.

The CHAIR, confirming that five of the nine Bureau members had voted for the Netherlands proposal and four for the proposal presented by the Russian delegation, said that the Vice-President had exercised her right as a Bureau member to vote on the proposals presented. He invited her to present the Netherlands proposal to the Committee.

Ms. A. GERKENS (Netherlands), outlining her delegation's proposal, said that the Internet had many advantages but that it also facilitated child grooming aimed at luring minors, including through financial incentives or even blackmail, into providing indecent images of themselves to online predators. The online circulation of such images was an increasing global problem that current legislation was not designed to address. Her delegation had therefore proposed that the Committee should next work on a draft resolution that would focus attention on the problem and ensure that it was effectively dealt with through the development of legislation that was fit for purpose. She and Ms. J. Oduol (Kenya) confirmed their willingness to serve as co-Rapporteurs, in the event that the proposal was approved, and the delegation of Thailand had agreed to nominate one of its members to serve as a third co-Rapporteur.

Mr. K. KOSACHEV (Russian Federation) said that the outcome of the Bureau's vote on the proposals clearly indicated that there had been a conflict of interest at play in the decision to recommend the Netherlands proposal to the Committee, which had been given no opportunity to learn details of the other proposals. The Committee was therefore completely dependent on the decision of the Bureau, which was not a very democratic process.

The CHAIR said that the subject item proposed by the Netherlands delegation had been recommended by the Bureau in accordance with the relevant provisions of the IPU Statutes and Rules. He read out Rule 19.2 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, which provided that a proposal that had not been accepted by the Bureau could be considered again by the Committee. He informed Mr. Kosachev that he was entitled to pursue that course of action, but that the Committee was also acting within the Statutes and Rules by voting for or against the proposal recommended by the Bureau.

Mr. K. KOSACHEV (Russian Federation) read out Rule 19.3 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, whereby if a Standing Committee received a request from a Member of the IPU to consider a proposal that had not been accepted by the Bureau, the Standing Committee should first



decide whether to consider such a request. Since this was the case in hand, he confirmed that he would like the Committee to consider his delegation's request. The chairperson should therefore ask the Committee whether it wished to consider his request.

The CHAIR asked the Committee whether it wished to consider the Russian Federation's request. If so, the Committee would then be called upon to decide between the proposal submitted by the Netherlands and the proposal submitted by the Russian Federation. Following requests for clarification from Ms. A. Talabani (Iraq) and the representative of Qatar, the two proposals were projected on screen.

The representative of SOUTH AFRICA drew attention to the rules of procedure, which stated that the first step was to consider whether to consider the proposal of the Russian Federation.

The representative of TURKEY said that in order to vote on the request, the Committee first needed to know more about the substance of the proposal presented by the Russian delegation.

The CHAIR invited Mr. Kosachev to briefly outline his delegation's proposal on the subject of unilateral sanctions. The Committee would then decide whether it wished to consider the proposal, in accordance with Rule 19.3 of the Rules of the Standing Committees.

Mr. K. KOSACHEV (Russian Federation) agreed to briefly present the proposal, on the understanding that, if the Committee then decided to consider the proposal, he would have another opportunity to make a more in-depth presentation. He said that sanctions under international law must be authorized by the United Nations Security Council. In recent years, however, unilateral sanctions had been imposed with increasing frequency, bringing significant humanitarian and other consequences, such as for democracy, human rights and sustainable development, in the countries targeted. Unilateral sanctions were therefore inadmissible and warranted discussion as such within the IPU.

*A vote was taken by show of hands on whether the Committee would consider the proposal presented by the Russian delegation.*

*The Committee decided by 23 votes to 17 not to consider the proposal.*

The CHAIR said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt the proposal presented by the Netherlands delegation concerning online sexual exploitation of children.

*It was so decided.*

The CHAIR said he also took it that the Committee wished to approve the proposal for Ms. J. Oduol (Kenya), Ms. A. Gerken (Netherlands) and a member of the delegation of Thailand to serve as co-Rapporteurs for the adopted subject item.

*It was so decided.*

*Ms. A. Gerken (Netherlands), Vice-President of the Committee, resumed the Chair.*

## **(b) Committee agenda at the 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly**

The CHAIR said that, following a discussion concerning items to be taken up by the Committee at its next session, the Bureau recommended that a debate not leading to a resolution should be held on *The influence of the Internet on democracy* as a follow-up to the IPU resolution entitled *Democracy in the digital era and the threat to privacy and individual freedoms*, which had been adopted in 2015. In the light of the follow-up discussion held on the latter at the previous Assembly in Doha, the proposal was that the debate should focus on challenges relating to elections, disinformation and hate speech. She took it that the Committee wished to approve the recommendation of the Bureau.

*It was so decided.*

**Any other business**Election of a Bureau member

The CHAIR said that the Eurasia Group had informed the IPU Secretariat that it wished to nominate Mr. E. Primikov (Russian Federation) to replace the former Bureau member from the Republic of Moldova, who was no longer a member of parliament. She took it that the Committee wished to approve that nomination.

*It was so decided.*

Declaration to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The CHAIR said that she had participated in an interesting workshop held during the present Assembly on the achievements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child over the 30 years since its adoption and current challenges to its implementation. With a view to the Committee's endorsement of a declaration adopted by the workshop to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention, she invited one of its members to present the text of the declaration.

Ms. A.D. MERGANE KANOUTÉ (Senegal) read out the text of the declaration.

The CHAIR said she took it that the Committee wished to endorse the declaration.

*It was so decided.*

The CHAIR, after the customary exchange of courtesies, declared the session closed.

*The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.*

## Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

### SITTING OF TUESDAY, 15 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.50 p.m. with Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

#### **Adoption of the agenda**

(C-I/141/A.1)

*The agenda was adopted.*

#### **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Doha (April 2019)**

*The summary record was approved.*

#### **Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee**

The PRESIDENT announced that there were two vacancies for membership of the Bureau of the Standing Committee: one for the Arab Group, and another for the Twelve Plus Group. The Secretariat had received the candidatures of Mr. M.B.M. Al-Ahbab (Qatar) from the Arab Group and Mr. P. Dallier (France) from the Twelve Plus Group. In the absence of any comments or objections, he would take it that the Standing Committee wished to approve those nominations.

*It was so decided.*

#### **Briefing by the President**

The PRESIDENT informed the Standing Committee that the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law would hold its open session on the topic of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. The Geneva Conventions were among the few international treaties that had been universally ratified. Since their adoption, they had helped save countless lives and reduce suffering in hundreds of armed conflicts. Envisaged to be applied in the worst of times, the Geneva Conventions preserved the core of common humanity.

Recalling that the Standing Committee's next resolution would address the issue of climate change, he said that the IPU, jointly with the Senate of Chile, would hold a parliamentary meeting at the next United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 25) to give parliamentarians an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the main issues for discussion at the Conference. An outcome document would be adopted, the preliminary draft of which had been prepared by the rapporteur appointed by the Chilean Senate, Mr. G. Girardi. The draft was available on the IPU website and the Assembly app. IPU Members were invited to provide any comments or observations on its form and content by 15 November 2019.

Lastly, the IPU would participate in Geneva Peace Week, to be held from 4 to 8 November 2019, which would feature some 60 events convened by the various permanent missions, international organizations and think tanks based in Geneva. The IPU would co-host an event, *Creating a Future for All: Climate Justice and Peacebuilding*, which would give the Standing Committee's co-rapporteurs the opportunity to learn about good and innovative practices that could be mentioned in the resolution.

#### **Follow-up to the 2014 resolution *Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments***

*A video was shown, presenting highlights of the regional seminar on Engaging Parliaments of the Pacific Region in the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, which had taken place in September 2019 in Wellington, New Zealand. The seminar had been organized jointly by the House of Representatives of New Zealand and the IPU, with funding from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the support of the United Nations Security Council 1540 Committee.*

The PRESIDENT introduced the Moderator for the panel discussion, Mr. A. Ware, Global Coordinator, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND).

The MODERATOR recalled that the resolution *Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments* had called on the parliaments of nuclear armed (and allied) countries to work with their governments to reduce nuclear weapons and increase transparency on nuclear weapons stockpiles and budgets, to conduct nuclear-risk-reduction and confidence-building measures including de-alerting nuclear weapons systems, and to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons from security doctrines. It had also set out numerous steps that could be taken by all parliaments to prioritize nuclear disarmament and raise public awareness about the importance of eliminating nuclear weapons, including ensuring implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and being actively engaged in the NPT review process, ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), thereby ensuring its entry into force, negotiating a fissile materials cut off treaty, and overseeing the implementation of all internationally binding agreements relating to nuclear weapons. It had called for the establishment of nuclear-weapons-free zones, in particular in the Middle East, and the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention providing for the complete prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. To assist parliamentarians in implementing the resolution, the Parliamentary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World had been launched at the 137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation.

Since the adoption of the resolution, some notable progress had been made, including the holding of the annual United Nations High-level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament, the adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (Iran nuclear deal) and the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). In 2018, the United Nations Human Rights Committee had affirmed that nuclear weapons violated the right to life and the General Assembly had decided to hold a conference on establishing a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East. Despite such positive developments, various setbacks had also occurred, including the United States' withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and the United States' and Russian Federation's withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF). The global nuclear weapons budget had increased to US\$ 100 billion per year.

He introduced the panellists: Ms. E. Whyte Gómez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa-Rica to the United Nations Office in Geneva, who, as President of the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, had successfully led the negotiation of the landmark TPNW; and Ms. E.G. Tudor, Chief, Public Information Section, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

Ms. E. WHYTE GÓMEZ, *panellist* said that the theme of the General Debate at the current Assembly, *Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation* was a good context in which to consider progress towards the implementation of the resolution on a nuclear-weapon-free world. Nuclear weapons existed, with potential thousands of times greater than that of the weapons that had been used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Such weapons were incompatible with human life, yet the risk of their use, both from rational decisions and from miscalculation, was increasing. Investment in weapons, in particular upgrading nuclear arsenals, diverted resources away from international development and cooperation. Parliamentarians should commemorate the International Day of the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which was marked on 26 September each year.

Nuclear weapons posed one of the greatest problems of humanity. National laws must reflect the needs of people, and consideration must be given to whether human beings had the capacity to manage the technology they created. A process had been launched in 2010, culminating in the adoption in July 2017 of the TPNW.

In 1946, the United Nations General Assembly had adopted its first resolution, intended to lay the foundations for a nuclear-weapon-free world. Seventy-three years on, more than half of the global population lived in countries that had renounced nuclear weapons altogether. Yet while some were making efforts to reduce their weapons stocks, others continued to upgrade their arsenals. Despite an increase in CTBT ratifications, there had been setbacks in standard-setting, in particular the withdrawal of major nuclear States from the INF and the Iran nuclear deal. Parliaments had a key role in expediting the CTBT's entry into force.

Human scourges, such as slavery, colonialism, apartheid and the use of chemical weapons, anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions had been banished from society. Prohibition had been the first step to delegitimize such conduct and bring about changes of attitude. Those changes had taken decades. The TPNW set out a strong, comprehensive prohibition of a range of activities involved in the

lifecycle of nuclear weapons. In ratifying the TPNW, States agreed not to develop, experiment with, keep, stock, use, store, or threaten to use nuclear weapons or other explosive nuclear devices. The adoption of the TPNW had been a milestone; in adopting it, 122 States had shown that nuclear weapons were not legitimate for security in the XXI<sup>st</sup> century.

The TPNW filled a vacuum in international law identified by the International Court of Justice in 1996. It called on nuclear-weapons States to respect certain legal obligations, including on the decommissioning and destruction of their nuclear arsenals and the decommissioning or irreversible conversion of all nuclear-weapons-related facilities, with monitoring by a competent international authority. The TPNW had been linked specifically to the pre-existing international legal architecture on nuclear non-proliferation, contained innovative provisions on victim assistance and called for international cooperation.

Political leadership, dialogue and cooperation were essential to agree specific nuclear disarmament programmes. Innovation and fresh thought were required, along with political leadership to mobilize the agenda for the elimination of nuclear weapons. History showed that nothing lasted for ever; nuclear war would come to an end. The question was whether the human race could master the technology it had created, or whether that technology would eliminate its creator. The answer was a matter of choice. Every effort was a step in the right direction. The international community must do its utmost to ensure that the Treaty entered into force.

Ms. E.G. TUDOR, *panellist* said that the IPU Assembly, particularly through the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, had for many years shown leadership by adopting resolutions on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and on nuclear disarmament. That support helped to maintain momentum towards achieving a global ban on nuclear testing. Parliaments played a key role in international arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament, above all through ratifying international treaties and enacting legislation for their implementation; parliamentarians reflected the will and desires of their constituencies; and parliamentarians could spread the message on banning nuclear testing better than almost anyone else. She urged the global parliamentary community to keep the CTBT in mind whenever nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation were discussed.

The CTBTO had been working continuously on the universalization of the CTBT. Signatures currently totalled 184, with 168 ratifications. It was one of the most adhered-to arms control conventions of all time and a vital part of the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament architecture, without which nuclear testing would certainly have continued. Yet, it was still not in force. Ratifications were needed by eight countries listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty: China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the United States of America. While focus often remained on those ratifications, every new signature represented progress, which should be celebrated. The CTBTO was continuing its work on confidence-building, education and outreach with the Annex 2 States to create an environment conducive to signature and ratification.

The CTBT verification regime was transparent, effective, and non-discriminatory. It was based on three mutually-reinforcing pillars: an international monitoring system, which monitored the Earth for any sign of a nuclear test explosion; an international data centre, which collected and produced related data products for all States signatories in near real time; and an on-site inspection process. While the monitoring system and data centre were already operational, on-site inspections would only begin once the CTBT had entered into force.

The verification regime operated worldwide and around the clock, representing an investment of US\$ 1 billion. Once completed, it would comprise 337 monitoring facilities supported by a global communications and data-processing infrastructure. It had already provided States signatories with reliable, accurate and timely data following each announced nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the only country to have conducted a nuclear test in the XXI<sup>st</sup> century. Data from the verification regime was also increasingly useful for civil and scientific purposes, such as tsunami warning or climate monitoring. No State could build and deploy such a system alone. Frequent outreach to the scientific community, including through the biennial Science and Technology Conference, allowed the CTBTO to remain at the cutting edge of scientific knowledge. The Organization was also preparing for entry into force by strengthening its on-site inspection capabilities. The CTBTO's permanent Technology Support and Training Centre had recently been inaugurated.

The next five-yearly NPT Review Conference would take place in 2020, affording an opportunity to take stock of global commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. The desire for a comprehensive nuclear test ban was contained in the preamble to the NPT, and the CTBT had long played a critical role in NPT review. As the Review Conference approached, negativity must not prevail. A key aim must be to preserve the integrity of the institutions and instruments already in place,

and to build trust in them and around them. The CTBT must be strengthened by the Review Conference; parliamentarians had a key role in that regard. While the capabilities of the CTBTO had already proven that much progress had been made, there was no room for complacency. The status quo, in which a degree of security had been achieved through a treaty in operation but not fully in force, was no substitute for a truly binding global legal commitment.

### Debate

Mr. B. RAJIĆ (Slovenia) said that a nuclear-weapons-free world could only be achieved through progressive nuclear disarmament and respect for the NPT. Despite its commitment to nuclear non-proliferation, the Government of Slovenia had not acceded to the TPNW, which it did not consider to be in line with the NPT or with NATO's nuclear deterrence policy. The Government of Slovenia was committed to maintaining effective international weapons control, disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and considered breaches of the INF Treaty and the inability of the parties to reach agreement and return to full compliance to be particularly regrettable. Implementation of the Iran nuclear deal was crucial for nuclear non-proliferation in general and for peace and security in the Middle East in particular; despite the withdrawal of the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran should keep the deal alive by continuing to uphold its commitments. Parliaments, as legislators, had an important role to play in disarmament and should keep in mind their responsibility for preserving world peace.

Mr. J. KRABAL (Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie – APF) said that peace was fragile and could not be taken for granted; constant dialogue was essential. Parliamentarians had a key role in that regard, and had much work ahead to ensure that history did not repeat itself. Parliaments must reaffirm that peace and stability could not be achieved without nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. They must ensure that international treaties were signed, ratified and implemented. The IPU handbook *Supporting Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament* could provide important guidance in that regard. While the APF was doing its utmost to promote disarmament, the international community as a whole could do more and must work together to share the values of peace and sovereignty of States. Signature and ratification of the NPT must be promoted, and non-proliferation should be accompanied by multilingualism; parliaments must use their plural yet united voice to spread the message that peace was the only thing worth striving for.

Ms. S. LUCAS (South Africa) said the human and environmental devastation caused by decades of nuclear testing were well known and still being felt. War, violence and persecution, which had uprooted and displaced 65 million people around the world, should be impetus enough to seek a safer world, free from nuclear weapons. The Government of South Africa, as a signatory to the TPNW, had voluntarily dismantled its nuclear weapons programme and remained of the firm view that the only solution to the problem of nuclear weapons was their total elimination. It was unacceptable that a few countries kept arsenals and stockpiles of nuclear weapons as part of their strategic defence and security, while expecting others to remain at their mercy. The detonation of such weapons, particularly by non-State actors, would cause an unmitigated disaster. All States should therefore sign and ratify the TPNW and parliaments should legislate and increase funding for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The use of billions of dollars to build weapons and military capabilities was utterly unacceptable while the threats of climate change, poverty, inequality and injustice continued to grow. South Africa would continue to harness the peaceful use of nuclear technology to further socioeconomic development. Attention should be drawn to the situation of parliaments that were being prevented from ratifying international treaties prohibiting nuclear weapons, and consideration should be given to how to assist and support them.

Mr. A. SUWANMONGKOL (Thailand) said that the Government of Thailand was fully committed to the goal of achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world, and was doing its utmost to promote and preserve peace and security in the South-East Asia region, including through implementation of the Bangkok Treaty, which aimed to establish a nuclear-weapons-free zone in South-East Asia and provided a legal foundation for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Although the NPT had served as the cornerstone of disarmament for 50 years, heightened tensions between States was challenging its relevance. The international community must work together to ensure that the NPT was implemented in a comprehensive and balanced manner. The adoption of the TPNW had been a crucial milestone. Thailand had been one of the first States to sign and ratify the TPNW. The support of parliaments would be crucial to advance the objectives of the TPNW and its entry into force. The National Assembly of Thailand had passed the requisite legislation for ratification of the CTBT.

Mr. A. KLIMOV (Russian Federation) said that the concerns about nuclear security were well justified. The Government of the United States of America had unilaterally terminated the Iran nuclear deal, was planning to take missiles into space, and was seeking to divest itself of its international commitments with regard to nuclear non-proliferation. The Russian Federation, as a nuclear State, insisted on the importance of respecting treaties on international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, and gave particular priority to compliance with the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START Treaty), concluded in 2010 between the Russian Federation and the United States of America. The Russian Administration hoped that the Russian–American dialogue on arms control, which had been renewed in Geneva in July 2019, would continue. Implementation of the NPT remained a major priority for the Russian Federation. Despite the adoption of 14 IPU resolutions on nuclear disarmament, parliamentarians still needed to bolster steps to prevent any further escalation of tension and loss of control over weapons. Cooperation among all stakeholders was essential to preserving strategic stability; there was no reason why nuclear weapons could not be withdrawn from the territories of all States. To that end, the effectiveness of diplomatic efforts must be ensured.

Mr. A. AL-KINANI (Iraq) said that the TPNW was the first legally binding instrument on the prohibition of nuclear weapons; those States that had signed and ratified it were proud to have done so. Every State must respect the Treaty and remain committed to its implementation. Political support was required to move towards a nuclear-weapons-free world. The Middle East was riddled by war and conflict. The whole international community must, together, strive to build peace through disarmament.

Ms. K. KARUNANIDHI (India) said that the Government of India remained committed to a world free of nuclear weapons. Disarmament could be achieved through a gradual process, underpinned by universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework. Meaningful dialogue between all nuclear-weapons States was needed to build trust and reduce the salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems and related material, equipment and technologies posed a grave and constant threat to international security. In India, a robust national export control system had been put in place to prevent and combat proliferation. The international community must prevent terrorists and non-State actors from obtaining weapons of mass destruction. With that in mind, since 2002, India had tabled several resolutions on the matter, adopted by consensus in the United Nations General Assembly. India participated in and adhered to several multilateral export control regimes and the control lists of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). India was ready to begin negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear-weapons convention and supported the immediate commencement of the negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty. Genuine multilateralism was the key to overcoming threats to global peace and security.

Mr. M. AL MEHRZI (United Arab Emirates) said that more than 70 years had passed since the first use of nuclear weapons in wars, the environmental and human impact of which had been catastrophic. All relevant forums should be used to ensure that the proliferation of such weapons was brought to an end. Peaceful use of nuclear energy required transparency and the adoption of clear policies on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and disarmament. The Government of the United Arab Emirates considered the accession to relevant international agreements to be particularly important in that regard, and therefore undertook to ensure full transparency in its peaceful use of nuclear energy, in line with the guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). A national programme for the development of nuclear energy, as a clean energy source, was being implemented with a view to ensuring that energy demands were met, while attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Parliaments must work together to encourage disarmament and ensure that nuclear energy was only ever used for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Y. AOYAGI (Japan) said that the NPT was the international foundation for building an international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. During the 2020 NPT Review Committee meeting, Japan intended to host a high-level dialogue on increasing transparency and understanding between nuclear-weapons States. The effectiveness of the NPT must be ensured. The Japanese Government had not participated in the negotiation of the NPT, which had disappointed many Japanese people. Japan's diplomatic policies in that regard had raised doubts about its commitment to the elimination of nuclear weapons, despite having been the only country to have suffered the consequences of atomic bombs. Parliamentarians had a role to play in questioning their governments' diplomatic policies. The Japanese Parliament was strongly in favour of the total abolition of nuclear weapons.

Mr. A. AL AMRI (Oman) said that those who had nuclear weapons felt protected, while the rest of the planet was threatened by the very existence of such weapons. Oman, as a State party to the NPT, called for constructive dialogue as the only way forward; without it, devastating wars arose. The international community must use all available forums to work together in direct negotiation, in a constructive manner. States that continued to build their nuclear arsenals would eventually find themselves in situations of conflict. A weapons-free world was the only solution.

Mr. A.D. GHEORGHE (Romania) said that during the Cold War, the world had been seconds away from a nuclear disaster. A nuclear-weapons-free world should be the goal of the whole of humanity to ensure a peaceful future. Failure to implement internationally agreed instruments on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation showed that much still needed to be done. Nuclear proliferation remained one of the greatest threats to world peace and to life on Earth. It was the role of parliamentarians to build bridges between nations, to create a global, unified policy on nuclear non-proliferation. Romania remained committed to strong multilateral disarmament, through consolidated cooperation with nuclear-weapons States and careful consideration of the international security environment. The NPT continued to be the best tool for achieving a nuclear-weapons-free world. Nuclear disarmament should be gradual and collective, with the ultimate aim of the full implementation of all non-proliferation treaties and agreements. A global ban on nuclear testing was crucial. Parliamentarians must put more pressure on their governments and be a global voice in favour of a nuclear-weapons-free world, built on respect for ethics, dialogue and cooperation.

Ms. A. SHKRUM (Ukraine) said that the resolution adopted by the Standing Committee in 2014 had been the first call for parliaments to promote nuclear disarmament. The best way to do so was to lead by example. With that in mind, Ukraine had signed and ratified the CTBT and had voluntarily given up one of the world's largest nuclear arsenals, comprising 176 intercontinental ballistic missiles and strategic bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons, in exchange for guarantees of peace, security and territorial integrity offered by other nuclear-weapons States such as the Russian Federation and the United States of America. One of those States had since invaded Ukraine and annexed Crimea. Such flagrant disregard for international agreements did not encourage other States to give up their weapons. Guarantees of peace and security offered through multilateral agreements must be upheld by the international community, and those violating such agreements must be sanctioned.

Mr. W. MUTOMBA (Zimbabwe) said that in a bid to move towards a nuclear-weapons-free world, Zimbabwe participated actively in international forums and regional workshops to promote implementation of international treaties on chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. To create a nuclear-weapons-free zone in Africa, the Government of Zimbabwe was encouraging the remaining seven African States that had not yet done so to sign and ratify the CTBT. Zimbabwe's ratification of the CTBT was evidence of its commitment to nuclear disarmament. Zimbabwe had participated in a regional meeting held in Dar-es-Salaam calling for the total abolition of all weapons of mass destruction. Eastern and southern African countries, including Zimbabwe, called for an international treaty banning the production of fissile materials and other nuclear explosive devices.

Mr. S.A. ARBAB (Pakistan) said that Pakistan called for the universalization of the NPT. In line with the spirit of Article 6 of the Treaty, Pakistan had consistently supported the goal of a nuclear-weapons-free world, to be established through the Conference on Disarmament. His Government had consistently supported the CTBT and actively participated in its negotiation. Pakistan had consistently called for the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in South Asia, had issued a declaration renouncing the acquisition or manufacturing of nuclear weapons, and had called for adherence to the NPT by all States in the region. Pakistan had also proposed holding a regional conference on nuclear non-proliferation. All efforts would be wasted, however, if long-standing disputes between nations were not addressed.

Mr. B. QASIM (Palestine) said that the objective of a nuclear-weapons-free world was a noble one. Palestine called for support for all international agreements and treaties on nuclear disarmament and for the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East. Palestine was at particular risk, since it was occupied by a nuclear-weapons State that did not respect international law. Full implementation of the NPT was essential.

Mr. M. ALBOAINAIN (Bahrain) said that parliaments had a vital role in freeing the world of nuclear weapons. The CTBT and NPT constituted the foundation for the international community's disarmament efforts. Parliamentarians had an important role to play in cooperation with other stakeholders, to bring an end to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Bahrain was party to several



international agreements and instruments for disarmament. The fact that some nuclear-weapons States were not upholding their commitments, was cause for concern. The Islamic Republic of Iran must disarm, in order for a nuclear-weapons-free zone to be established in the Middle East. It was particularly unfortunate that some States were still seeking ways to continue to develop nuclear weapons.

Mr. M.B.M. AL-AHBABI (Qatar) said that an increasing number of countries were seeking to obtain nuclear weapons. The international community must work together to counter that trend and build a world free of all weapons of mass destruction. Prevention of conflict was the key to disarmament; States felt safer when they possessed weapons. Constructive, joint efforts were required to find a solution. The proliferation of such weapons was self-perpetuating: if a State such as Israel possessed over 100 nuclear weapons, its neighbouring countries would also seek to obtain such weapons as protection.

Mr. M. KAVAKEBIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the most practical way to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons was to ensure respect for the provisions of the NPT. Supporting the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East would pave the way for the rest of the world. Unfortunately, there had been a distinct lack of progress in that regard. Israel had the audacity to continue its illegal nuclear weapons programme, with the support of the United States of America, which posed a grave threat to other States and to international peace and security. Israel had a long and dark record of crime; its possession of nuclear weapons constituted a significant threat. The unilateral decisions made by the United States, such as its illegal withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action also undermined global security. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran had prohibited the manufacture, possession and use of any type of nuclear weapon and other weapons of mass destruction. Parliamentarians must promote a world free of nuclear weapons by engaging in multilateral dialogue, raising awareness about the dangers of nuclear weapons and promoting the benefits of their total elimination. The parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran was ready to cooperate towards disarmament and non-proliferation objectives and to making the world a safer and better place. Lastly, he called on Bahrain to avoid any policies that aimed to cover up the threat of Israel's nuclear arsenals.

Mr. M.E. CHARBONET MARTELL (Cuba) said that the people of Cuba were pleased to live in the first densely populated nuclear-weapons-free zone in the world. Disarmament could not be subject to conditions; the only guarantee that nuclear weapons would not be used was their total elimination. The selective and isolated application of provisions on non-proliferation would not be effective. Comprehensive, up-to-date disarmament programmes were essential. The acquisition of nuclear weapons diverted essential resources away from other pressing socioeconomic matters, such as poverty elimination, education and health care.

Ms. E. WHYTE GÓMEZ, *panellist* welcomed the calls for renewed dialogue. That dialogue must be honest, and must take place among countries with and without nuclear weapons. Parliaments had a key role, not only in setting national standards but also in exercising their oversight role and encouraging support for multilateral approaches. Certain governments were backtracking on their commitments; the international community must consider how to respond peacefully to the withdrawal of States from multilateral agreements and how to promote dialogue. The TPNW was fully aligned with the existing disarmament architecture, particularly the legal obligations set out under the NPT and the CTBT.

The MODERATOR thanked all participants and the guest panellists for their contributions to the discussion and their actions to implement the 2014 resolution. The CTBTO looked forward to continuing its work with the global parliamentary community, taking the disarmament agenda forward.

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

The PRESIDENT said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had estimated that between two and five per cent of global annual GDP was generated by crime, the greatest sources of which were illicit drug manufacturing and trafficking, smuggling of weapons and people, corruption, fraud, extortion, kidnapping and theft. Money laundering had massive economic and social consequences: it expanded the black economy, undermined the global financial system and raised questions of credibility and transparency. It also perpetuated crime by enabling criminals to effectively use and deploy their illegal funds and further allowed criminals to make legitimate profits by manipulating their illegal funds into legitimate businesses. Ultimately, money laundering undermined human

development, international security and national economies. It destroyed the integrity of a country's financial system, diminished government tax revenues and weakened government control over the economy.

The Standing Committee would be addressed by two keynote speakers: Ms. J. Jolic, Head, Unit for European Union Member States and Neighbourhood, Economic Crime and Cooperation Division (ECCD), Department for Action against Crime, Council of Europe; and Mr. A. Odat, Head, Legal Committee and Vice-President, Human Rights Council, House of Representatives of Jordan.

Ms. J. JOLIC, *keynote speaker* said that money laundering and financing of international terrorism was an important issue for parliaments around the world, given the global magnitude of the problem and its impact on individual societies. Financial systems were being abused to legitimate criminals' ill-gotten gains. That abuse could only be prevented through cooperation, which implied a certain degree of harmonization of legal frameworks. Several international instruments and standards on various aspects of organized crime contained provisions on the criminalization of money laundering.

A brief review of national legislation had shown shortcomings with regard to which predicate offences were listed in law, causing difficulties for cooperation when the predicate offence had been committed in one country while the money laundering had taken place in another. There were discrepancies between laws with regard to what constituted knowledge of money laundering and how to prove it. In some countries, money laundering cases could not be tried without proof of the predicate offence; in some countries, a conviction for that offence was required, while others only required proceedings to have been initiated. Those requirements caused problems when the jurisdiction in which the money laundering had taken place required a trial for a predicate offence, which had taken place in a jurisdiction that would not initiate proceedings for that offence. In self-laundering cases, in which the predicate offender had also laundered the proceeds of that offence, focus tended to be placed on trying the former rather than the latter offence. In such cases, lack of evidence of the predicate offence would prevent a trial and consequently prevent a case being brought for money laundering, despite the potential availability of evidence of that offence.

Stand-alone money laundering was also particularly problematic. Cases such as the Panama Papers and the offences committed by Mossack Fonseca, a professional money laundering company, were well known. Jurisdictions that did not have the wherewithal to prosecute such entities deprived themselves of the possibility of eliminating a whole sector of money laundering service providers. Many jurisdictions did not criminalize counsel of money laundering; without being able to try the money launderer, it was not possible to try the financial adviser that provided the instructions as to how to conduct the offence. Many jurisdictions also did not provide for the prosecution of legal entities, such as Mossack Fonseca; in such cases, the individuals involved would have to be tried separately. Across the board sanctions also differed in severity between jurisdictions. Even in jurisdictions where good legislation was in place, implementation in practice could be problematic.

As a result of those legal challenges, there tended to be a lack of prosecutions of money laundering and terrorist financing cases, and a particular lack of convictions. Courts tended not to use circumstantial evidence. Even when the circumstances allowed for it, the judiciary or the prosecution tended to be more inclined to look at whether proceedings had been initiated for predicate offences before initiating proceedings for money laundering. Countries also tended not to launch proceedings for money laundering against foreign nationals. Sanctions tended to be low and disproportionate to the criminality at hand, and no other sanctions than imprisonment were imposed, which meant that an individual who had been sentenced could, having served that sentence, bid in a public tender for a company and subsequently use or abuse public resources.

The role of parliaments was not only to legislate, but also to be more engaged in finding out about the issues at hand and follow more actively what was being done in their respective jurisdictions and what measures their governments were taking to deal with money laundering and terrorist financing.

Mr. A. ODAT, *keynote speaker*, said that the impact of money laundering did not stop at national borders. It threatened State security and could only be stopped in a coordinated, collective effort. Impunity must be overcome and every criminal held to account. Parliaments had a role to play in setting up the relevant legislative framework to fight such crimes. In some countries, national legislation on the matter was lacking, which constituted a legislative gap that prevented money laundering from being addressed. Money laundering was a growing phenomenon, particularly owing to the increase in electronic financial transactions. It was often linked to other crimes, such as trafficking in drugs, weapons and persons, and it posed a threat to national and global economies.

Money laundering could be defined as any act or procedure seeking to conceal, transfer or change the nature or identity of any proceeds of illegal or illegitimate activities to conceal the original source of those funds. Transferring illegal funds in the knowledge of their illegal source, concealing illegal funds or information on how they had been disposed of, or using funds in the knowledge that they had been derived from criminal offences, all constituted crimes of money laundering. It was an organized, global crime, which had been facilitated by freedom of movement and the development of technology.

Under Jordanian law, money laundering was considered a separate crime to its predicate offence. In some jurisdictions, however, the two were connected by law, which could lead to legal gaps that allowed for impunity. The economic, social and political consequences of money laundering were significant. Large amounts of money were lost from the formal economy, exchange rates were affected and the stock market was impacted. Money laundering skewed the distribution of income and widened the poverty gap meaning that government spending increased. Groups conducting money laundering could gain power and influence political decision-making, which could pose challenges to security and stability. The social impacts, such as lack of justice and unequal distribution of wealth, would have serious repercussions. International efforts to end organized crime and money laundering must be properly coordinated, and must begin with a focus on predicate crimes, in particular trafficking in drugs. A coordinated, international strategy was essential, to ensure harmonized legislation and avoid duplication of effort.

Mr. M. SULAIMAN (Malaysia) said that Malaysia's Anti-Money Laundering Act had been brought into force in 2001, criminalizing money laundering and lifting bank secrecy provisions for criminal investigations involving more than 150 predicate offences. The Act provided for the investigation, freezing, seizure and forfeiture of the proceeds of serious crimes and suspicious transactions, reporting and record-keeping, and for the establishment of the Financial Intelligence Unit within the Central Bank. In 2014, the Central Bank proposed amendments to the Act before Parliament. The amended Act was renamed Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act. Several trends had been identified in Malaysia, including: the use of cash transactions as the preferred method of receiving, transferring and spending illegal proceeds; use of third party accounts to move the illegal proceeds of criminal activities and receiving funds on behalf of or transferring funds to foreign terrorist fighters; and the use of social media for soliciting funds for foreign terrorist fighters. Combating money laundering required international cooperation, capacity-building and enhanced surveillance. Legislative weaknesses and implementation gaps must be studied and rectified.

Ms. S. MUSTAFA (Bangladesh) said that in Bangladesh, money laundering was criminalized under the Money Laundering Prevention Act, which included provisions for imprisonment, fines and confiscation of monies laundered. Offences under the Act were tried by specialist judges. The Anti-Corruption Commission, Criminal Investigation Department, National Board of Revenue, Directorate of Environment, Security and Exchange Commission, and Department of Narcotics Control were all involved in investigating cases of money laundering. The Criminal Investigation Department investigated cases related to predicate offences involving illegal trade in firearms and narcotics, kidnapping and trafficking of women and children, black marketing and terrorist financing. The Bangladesh police force was working with the national Financial Intelligence Unit, and had registered 395 cases of money laundering since the entry into force of the money laundering prevention Act in 2012. Bangladesh was cooperating with other countries and international organizations to combat money laundering and make the world a safer place.

Mr. Z. OBRADOVIC (Serbia) said that the National Strategy for the Fight against Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism had been adopted by the Serbian Government in 2008, with the objective of establishing a complex and comprehensive system for combating money laundering and financing of terrorism. In implementing the Strategy, 12 laws had been enacted, including on the prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism, as well as several amendments to the Criminal Code. Significant efforts were being made to promote cooperation between all stakeholders. Reforms had been undertaken, and new institutions established, such as the Gaming Board. The Administration for the Prevention of Money Laundering, under the Ministry of Finance, played an important role, as did the Financial Intelligence Service. One particular project funded by the European Union aimed to implement recommendations made by MONEYVAL and ensure compliance with European Union standards by increasing the quantity and quality of reports of suspicious activities, improving financial intelligence work, enhancing the capacity of the Administration for the Prevention

of Money Laundering, and improving cooperation between the administration and taxpayers, State authorities and all other stakeholders. Serbia's new National Strategy for the Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of terrorism was expected to be adopted by the end of 2019.

Mr. S. KIRANAND (Thailand) said that Thailand's Anti-Money Laundering Office was responsible for implementing domestic laws and regulations in line with the International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism. The Terrorism and Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Financing Act provided that any updates to the United Nations Security Council consolidated list of those involved in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction would be made known to the Thai authorities. The Anti-Money Laundering Office served as a focal point in the region, playing a prominent role in coordinating with other stakeholders to evaluate any risks of national or international money laundering and financing of terrorism. The use of modern technologies, such as financial technology and crypto assets, while on the one hand providing greater efficiency in financial transactions, could also open up opportunities for financial abuse. With that in mind, legislative and executive responses must be put in place to cope with the implications of technological development. Anti-money laundering agencies must pay due attention to evolving technologies. The IPU should consider putting financial technology on its agenda.

Mr. M.R. MOUSSA HABIB (Egypt) said that money laundering was a complex crime that required a coordinated international response. Money laundering weakened GDP, affected exchange rates and was closely connected to the financing of terrorism. Local, regional and international authorities must work together to fight those crimes, both of which posed a grave risk to international security and financial structures. In Egypt, steps had been taken to address money laundering through legislation and surveillance. All parliaments must take the necessary steps to fight that phenomenon, using capacity-building, workshops and legislation. The IPU should seek to develop a legislative model that could be used by parliaments as guidance when drafting domestic laws. Governments must strengthen cooperation, facilitate exchanges of information and strengthen coordination between stakeholders.

Mr. M.S. BENMASSOUD (Morocco) said that in Morocco, efforts were being made to bridge technological and legal gaps that left open the door to money laundering, which was having a negative impact on the economy. Several laws had been adopted in line with international conventions and agreements on fighting financial crimes. Domestic legislation was in place to fight terrorism, and the Central Bank of Morocco had issued a circular for all banks on the importance of due diligence, knowing the customer, and assessment and classification of risks. Money laundering was criminalized by law, and standards were in place on the procedures for combating financing of terrorism. The parliament of Morocco did its utmost to remain up to date with all international developments in that regard.

Mr. Z. YU (China) said that China had a zero-tolerance attitude to money laundering and was party to four international instruments that addressed it. China was a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and had been involved in setting up the Eurasia Group on Combating Money Laundering. China had enacted anti-money laundering legislation and had revised the law governing the People's Bank of China, in order to name the Central Bank as the main body responsible for fighting money laundering. An anti-money laundering analysis centre had been founded, and a legal system to prevent money laundering had been set up, which included the criminalization of more than 300 named offences, all of which were upstream to the offence of money laundering. Concealing illicit funds gained from those crimes, such as trafficking in drugs, weapons and persons, could be punished by deprivation of liberty for up to 10 years.

Ms. S. KARANLAJE (India) said that the impact of money laundering was manifold and knew no borders. Its economic, social and development impacts were significant, and without taking action against financial criminality and corruption in public life, the SDGs could not be met. The international community must therefore come together to address those scourges in a coordinated effort. India had taken a comprehensive approach, including the ratification of international instruments, the enactment of legislation, and the establishment of an investigating agency and a specialized court. India's financial intelligence unit was an independent body, which reported to the Economic Intelligence Council and was headed by the Minister of Finance. Legislation on the prevention of money laundering empowered officers of the Directorate of Enforcement to conduct investigations in cases that involved offences of money laundering. Information technology and data analysis tools were being used to identify high-risk cases. Money laundering was a global threat that could not be contained by one nation alone. Strong cooperation and coordination were therefore essential.

Mr. W. MUTOMBA (Zimbabwe) said that in Zimbabwe, anti-money laundering and proceeds of crime legislation had been enacted in 2018. Zimbabwe was a member of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group, the objective of which was to adopt and implement measures to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism and serious crime. In joining the group, Zimbabwe had pledged to implement the recommendations of the FATF. A national task force had been set up, led by the financial intelligence unit of the Royal Bank of Zimbabwe, to monitor and investigate any suspicious monetary transactions. Reports issued by the task force were disseminated among national law enforcement agencies and circulated to international partners as appropriate. The national task force also elicited explanations from individuals who exhibited great wealth without any appropriate lawful means of obtaining it. In the event that the suspect failed to provide satisfactory evidence that his or her wealth was legal, the suspected illegal funds would be confiscated by the State. Under that procedure, in September 2019 the Government of Zimbabwe had frozen several bank accounts suspected of involvement in money laundering activities.

Ms. H. MKHALIPHI (South Africa) said that multilateral cooperation was crucial for addressing money laundering. As a member of the FATF, South Africa was undergoing the fourth review of its domestication of the Task Force's recommendations. Previous reviews had, following robust parliamentary debate and public consultation, given rise to legislative amendments to bring South Africa's Financial Intelligence Centre Act into line with the standards set by FATF. The current review would ascertain the efficacy of those amendments. The parliaments of other States undergoing review should remain cognizant of the recommendations and any potential legislative and oversight shortcomings that might require parliamentary intervention. Only through the adherence to multilateral commitments could governments curb money laundering and its disastrous political, economic and social consequences.

Ms. P. IKOUROU-YOKA (Congo) said that money laundering was plunging societies into insecurity, weakening economies and hampering development. In Congo, money laundering had not been specifically criminalized. Laws had instead been passed on corruption and fraud, which was an important step. At the institutional level, a national anti-corruption and anti-fraud commission had been established. Parliaments were being called on to strengthen legislative frameworks and enhance cooperation. Parliamentarians must step up their oversight and ensure that they were informed about all situations that could lead to money laundering. Regular capacity-building and training were therefore essential. The Government of Congo was working with the international community to develop a framework to combat money laundering and corruption.

Ms. H. FAYEZ (Bahrain) said that Bahrain had long had legislation in place to address money laundering, as well as having joined regional and international cooperation efforts in that regard. As a member of the FATF, every effort was being made in Bahrain to implement the Task Force's recommendations. A national committee had been set up to design policies for the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing. Bahrain had been assessed by and was reporting regularly to the IMF. State-funded terrorism should also be taken into account. The Israeli regime, for example was funding terrorist organizations, and businesses in Lebanon were funding Hezbollah. In 2017, the Islamic Republic of Iran had been investigated for crimes of funding terrorism. Eliminating State-funded terrorism would contribute significantly to restoring peace in the Middle East.

Mr. A. WALLACE (Australia) asked whether model laws on money laundering would be sufficiently adaptable to a multitude of jurisdictions, and if so, how the IPU was facilitating the dissemination of such model laws. He wondered whether a coordinated campaign against money laundering was envisaged, or whether different jurisdictions were too diverse to apply a truly coordinated approach. Illegal casinos, both physical and virtual, were used by money launderers all over the world. He wished to know whether any mechanisms were in place anywhere in the world to deal with money laundering through casinos.

Mr. C.C. MLOMBWA (Malawi) said that money laundering was a complex and high-level crime. In 2016, an anti-money laundering Act had been adopted in Malawi following the discovery that huge sums of government money were being paid into private accounts without delivery of any services. While the Act had provided for the creation of a financial intelligence authority, challenges persisted regarding an abject lack of political will to implement the Act and allow that authority to function. An anti-corruption bureau had been established to assist the financial intelligence authority, but the heads of both institutions had been appointed by the Executive. There were high levels of crime in the highest echelons of government, which meant that both the financial intelligence authority and the anti-corruption bureau were unable to function effectively owing to political interference.

Mr. P. DALLIER (France) said that France's National Assembly had been working to strengthen legislation on money laundering. That notwithstanding, problems persisted with regard to tax havens, and the need to follow financial flows. In Europe and elsewhere, certain States did not wish to cooperate. The best means of making legislation effective would be to insist that such States lift their fiscal secrecy and cooperated with those wishing to prosecute money launderers. Matters such as shadow banking and cryptocurrencies were also challenging.

Ms. J. JOLIC *keynote speaker*, responding to the questions raised on the diversity of jurisdictions, said that international standards included a degree of flexibility. Neutral evaluation processes tended to use peer pressure as a means of encouraging States to strengthen their efforts. Differences in legislative systems and approaches to predicate offences contributed to the lack of a truly coordinated approach. While it was the prerogative of States to decide how to legislate, common denominators needed to be found on outstanding issues for coordination to be achieved. Casinos, whether virtual or physical should uphold certain standards, including identifying who was bringing in money and taking a record of amounts over 10,000 euros or US\$ 15,000. Supervisory bodies were also required. The amount of due diligence that casino supervisors carried out could vary, however, and if an online casino was not registered, monitoring it would be impossible. Parliaments should expect to be considering changes to legislation to take account of virtual currencies and virtual financial service providers. Various problems were already in evidence with regard tracking the sending and receipt of virtual assets. Similarly, with regard to shadow banking, tracking was problematic.

Mr. A. ODAT *keynote speaker*, thanked all the participants for their valuable contributions to the discussion and their efforts to highlight the obstacles to fighting money laundering, such as the absence of a truly coordinated international approach and the lack of clarity regarding responsibility for prosecution when money was laundered across borders. Every country should have a supervisory body, to act as a point of contact in international cooperation. Money laundering was a global crime; it could only be fought in a coordinated, global approach with an international reference authority to provide guidance. Parliaments could seek to develop a binding international instrument to combat money laundering.

*The sitting rose at 6.40 p.m.*

## SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 11.10 a.m. with Mr. J. Echániz (Spain), President of the Committee, in the Chair.*

*A video on women, peace and security was played.*

### **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 CHAIR said that the purpose of the expert hearing was to make IPU members better aware of the interlinkages between climate change, peace and security, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian assistance and development in preparation for the next resolution. The Committee would have an opportunity to exchange views with key actors in the area, identify practical next steps and present good practices. The expert hearing was also a halfway checkpoint in the drafting of resolution. Mr. S. Samarasinghe (Sri Lanka) and Mr. Y. Sow (Senegal) would join Ms. C. Roth (Germany) as co-Rapporteurs. The co-Rapporteurs would incorporate the views of the Committee into the resolution. The present discussion would not address the substance of the resolution but rather the concepts relevant to it. The resolution would be formally debated during the 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly. He introduced the panellists.

Mr. D. MESSNER (Director of the Institute for Environmental and Human Security of the United Nations University), *panellist*, said that climate change had long been perceived as an environmental challenge but was also associated with security risks and destabilization. While climate change had the potential to unite the international community against a common threat to humanity, it could also sow division and crisis if action was not taken.

A key driver of climate change were greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gas emissions had increased dramatically during the industrial revolution, warming the planet and leading to basic changes in the earth system. Those changes had security consequences. The way to mitigate climate-driven security threats was to bring emissions down and keep the global temperature rise below 2 °C, as outlined in the Paris Agreement.

Climate change had given rise to "conflict constellations" that could destabilize societies. Conflict constellations included food shortages, water crises, extreme weather events and migration. The water crisis, in particular, could become a large-scale problem afflicting entire subregions. His organization had identified a series of hotspots for climate-driven security challenges in the event of 3 to 4 degrees of warming. The hotspots were all over the world therefore a global answer was needed. Many of the hotspots were already failed States which would be further weakened by environmental impacts. The number of failed States was also likely to rise. The situation was concerning given that failed States were often a starting point for conflict.

Climate change had a number of security dimensions. First, it impacted human security by causing problems, such as food and water shortages. Second, the human security threat could result in a real security threat, destabilizing countries and subregions. Third, the dynamics would extend across countries, for instance, through migration. Fourth, climate change could bring about distributional crises. Indeed, those affected most were often the lowest emitters and would be likely to seek compensation for loss and damages. Fifth, a new type of human rights debate would arise with climate risks undermining people's living conditions, livelihoods and dignity. Sixth, climate change would overstretch the global governance system. It was therefore vital to strengthen risk reduction capacities around the world and make sure that climate change was on the agenda of decision-makers.

Climate change and global warming were related to "tipping points" in the earth system. Indeed, entire ecosystems would transform or even collapse if temperatures reached a certain tipping point. For example, the Greenland ice sheet could melt irreversibly with 1.7 degrees of warming, leading to a 7-metre sea level rise and thereby completely changing the geography of the planet. It was for that reason that the Paris Agreement was very urgent.

Ms. S. GEBREYES (Country Director, Lutheran World Federation), *panellist*, said that her organization worked on the front line dealing with the effects of climate change on people and communities in Ethiopia. Some 70 to 75 per cent of the Ethiopian population made a living from agriculture. Many livelihoods were therefore being lost as rains became increasingly unpredictable and droughts became more frequent and intense. The situation forced people to adopt negative coping mechanisms, such as displacement and migration.

The causes of insecurity in Ethiopia were many. One common cause was droughts and floods caused by El Niño and La Niña. While El Niño and La Niña were natural, cyclical occurrences, they used to occur every 8 to 10 years but were currently occurring every other year. Another common cause of insecurity was conflict. Periodic localized conflicts had always existed as a result of inter-communal competition over scarce resources, such as water and land. However, in 2017 and 2018, they had escalated to unprecedented levels in the country. The link between climate change and conflict could not be underestimated. Lastly, the situation was being compounded by a number of co-stressors, including environmental degradation, socio-economic pressure and infrastructure development.

There were many consequences to the above developments. First, displacement and migration had soared. Ethiopia was home to a total of 3.2 million internally displaced people and 900,000 refugees from neighbouring countries. It was estimated that a total of US\$ 1.314 billion and US\$ 643.4 million in humanitarian assistance was needed for nationals and refugees respectively. Second, the situation had had an adverse impact on the economy. Despite relatively good macro-economic indicators, the Government had been diverting resources to the humanitarian cause, thereby stifling economic growth and hindering the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Third, non-economic losses and damages had also arisen, including a loss of cultural identity and health system breakdown. Fourth, there were challenges within the humanitarian response itself. Not only was there a funding shortfall, but humanitarian assistance was also highly compartmentalized. It meant that humanitarian workers could not link humanitarian development to the peace-security nexus.

Ethiopia was bearing the brunt of climate change despite having contributed little to historical greenhouse gas emissions. Although the country was committed to being a low-carbon economy, it also aimed to become a middle-income country by 2025 through rapid industrialization. Marrying those

two objectives would be a massive undertaking that required the assistance of the international community. For Ethiopia, climate change was not the future but the present with many people already facing dire problems, such as food insecurity and water shortages, even at 1 °C of global warming.

The international community should respond in three ways. First, it should provide support in linking humanitarian assistance and development to the peace-security nexus. Second, it should increase funding for adaptation and resilience-building as well as to ensure a just transition to renewables. Third, legislators should step up their role in the climate and migration crisis by passing and enforcing laws, holding governments to account, assigning budgets, improving governance and creating safe, regular and orderly migration pathways.

There was currently no binding legal framework protecting internally displaced people and migrants in the context of climate change.

Mr. G. GIRARDI (Chile), *panellist*, said that the digital revolution was the biggest challenge for politics and democracy, including in the context of climate change. For example, the Internet was leading to a consumption model that exacerbated global warming. Similarly, some technology companies had a monopoly over data collection and artificial intelligence but were not using it for peace, security and climate change mitigation.

Although climate change was a natural phenomenon that had happened throughout history, the pace of change had accelerated in recent years as a result of human activity, leaving the world unable to adapt. It was vital to keep global warming below 2 °C to prevent catastrophic effects, such as water shortages, famine, illness and mass migration. Global emissions could not exceed 450 ppm by 2050 if warming was to be kept below 2 °C. Yet, at the current pace, global emissions would reach 1,000 ppm, making global warming irreversible. China, the United States of America and India alone produced 16.4 per cent of global emissions. Overall, global emissions had increased by 1.7 per cent since 2007 with the numbers continuously increasing. Europe was the only region that had reduced emissions. The current consumption model was unsustainable. The international community should aim to be carbon neutral by 2030 because 2050 was too late.

Chile hoped to align science and politics during the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In fact, the country was already taking measures in that regard. For example, it had set up a parliamentary committee on the future of science made up not only of parliamentarians but also of scientists and academics. Scientists and academics were able to vote and submit draft bills as part of their role in the committee. Similarly, an event entitled the Future Congress took place every year in Chile, which brought together philosophers, scientists and parliamentarians from all over the world to discuss important issues, including climate change.

The international community must cooperate to develop technologies that could generate renewable energy, such as solar power. The Atacama Desert had the potential to provide energy for the whole planet at a cheap price. There was a need to put in place a global fund to develop hydrogen as an energy of the future. Indeed, the heat-generating power of hydrogen was three times higher than that of oil. Energy efficiency and efficient use of water were also important. Countries must develop technologies that desalinated sea water in an environmentally friendly manner. It was also necessary to reforest 900 million hectares of land. Follow-up and implementation of the above policies was needed in addition to transparency. Advanced countries must provide poorer countries with funding for development. In a world full of climate sceptics, the international community must work together to tackle global warming rather than focus on national interests.

Mr. B. RAJIĆ (Slovenia) said that climate change was a pressing global challenge that had political, economic and social consequences. Environmental degradation and climate change triggered significantly more migration than political instability and armed conflicts. Immediate action was necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Consistent and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement was key in the transition to a low-carbon society and economy. It would not be possible to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs without moving towards a circular economy, as Slovenia had done. The main indicator of the effects of global warming was water. There was a need for more debate at the UN Security Council on the effects of water supply disruption on international peace and security. Parliamentarians had a significant role to play in the above actions.

Mr. S. KEITEL (Chile) said that natural disasters could cause a great deal of economic, social and environmental harm, including the destruction of infrastructure, damage to flora and fauna, and loss of lives. His country had introduced legal provisions to deal with natural disasters, including the possibility of declaring a state of emergency. A state of emergency allowed the Government to limit certain rights with a view to protecting the population and ensuring national security. There had been a



number of instances where Chile had declared a state of emergency following a natural disaster, including after the 2010 earthquake and tsunami. At that time, the armed forces were able to quickly restore public order. Countries prone to natural disasters must develop the right policy and legislation. Chile could serve as an example for many other countries.

Mr. J.B. CHUN (Republic of Korea) said that it was regrettable that the international community, including his own country, had ignored the climate crisis. The Republic of Korea was the seventh largest producer of carbon dioxide in the world, with emissions increasing rapidly over the past ten years. He called on the Korean Government to implement the Paris Agreement. The Korean National Assembly should support the Government's international commitments on climate change. The climate crisis was an urgent existential threat to all human beings.

Mr. S. MOHAI (South Africa) said that all countries must work harder to limit climate change. Parliaments should strengthen oversight to ensure their countries' nationally determined contributions were implemented. The largest emitters should adopt more aggressive commitments in line with the Paris Agreement. It was unacceptable that zero-emission commitments came from small, vulnerable countries that had contributed the least to climate change. Another important step was to prioritize research. Developed economies must also provide secure, predictable and sustainable funding to developing countries with a view to building their climate change capacities.

Southern Africa had been identified as a climate change hotspot, with the region likely to become drier and warmer even under 1.5 °C of global warming. His country remained committed to the Paris Agreement

Mr. M. MOUSHOUTTAS (Cyprus) said that climate change had led to more frequent natural disasters, such as severe droughts and flash floods, causing major financial strains and broad humanitarian crises. The situation had triggered population displacement and regional conflict while also posing a wider threat to peace and development. National parliaments had a pivotal role to play in reducing the risks associated with natural disasters. They must seek to better understand the relationship between climate change and peace and security, adapt all relevant legislation and encourage international and regional cooperation. A global institutional framework was needed to prevent and manage short- and long-term environmental impacts. Parliaments must ensure that national budgets prioritized environmental concerns over military arsenals. Collective action was required on environmental sustainability given it was a common concern and a shared obligation.

Ms. W. SYIEM (India) said that her country had taken several steps towards tackling climate change. For example, the Government had introduced a national action plan which sought to better understand climate change while also pursuing sustainable development. It had also launched the National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change and banned plastic waste from the parliamentary house complex.

Parliamentarians had a key role to play in addressing climate change. Through their legislative, oversight and representative functions, parliamentarians should develop and implement the right laws and policies. They were also well-placed to ascertain whether budgetary allocations were in line with climate change targets. It was paramount for parliamentarians to raise issues pertaining to global warming in parliament and at international and regional conferences.

She asked the experts for their opinion on establishing linkages between adaptation and mitigation measures.

Ms. A. ALJASIM (United Arab Emirates) said that national parliaments could strengthen peace and security by scrutinizing the budget and monitoring the implementation of policy. The resolution should address ways to bolster parliamentary engagement in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. It was important to appoint parliamentary experts on climate change and ensure that parliaments played a key role in distributing resources. There was a need to exchange good practices and experiences, including between experts and parliamentarians. Strengthening cooperation between donors and UN agencies was also necessary with a view to providing aid to countries suffering from natural disasters. Parliamentarians must put pressure on governments to ratify and implement international instruments on climate change, including the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. The United Arab Emirates had adopted action plans that maintained a balance between environmental protection and social and economic development.

Mr. D. OCHIENG (Kenya) said that it was vital to reduce and manage climate change disasters. Although the consequences were felt most strongly in vulnerable countries, climate change was a security risk affecting the entire world. There was therefore a need to work together. All bodies dealing with climate change must be well-resourced and well-funded. Countries must build up their human and

technological capacities, including by strengthening government institutions. National action was particularly important. Politicians should launch national campaigns, promote laws and policies that inspired confidence, and allocate budgets to climate change. It was important for parliamentarians to tackle climate change through their representative, legislative and oversight roles.

Mr. W. MUTOMBA (Zimbabwe) said that climate change was one of the biggest threats to global development, with developing countries at the most vulnerable. Cyclone Idai was proof that climate change stalled development and posed a serious risk to food security and adaptive capacity. The Government of Zimbabwe had developed a national climate change response strategy which sought to integrate climate change policy into development plans at national, provincial and district level. It had also upgraded the climate change office into a fully fledged department with the aim of building climate resilience. The Zimbabwe Recovery and Resilience Framework (ZRRF) had also been set up in conjunction with the World Bank and other UN agencies. The fund programme aimed to strengthen recovery capacity, build resilient coordination and promote disaster risk management and mitigation.

Mr. A. ALTHAWADI (Bahrain) said that the Constitution of Bahrain contained provisions that promoted a balance between environmental preservation and economic development. Bahrain had ratified the Paris Agreement and included risk mitigation measures in all national action plans. Similarly, the country had carried out awareness-raising campaigns in schools and involved many different stakeholders in their work on environmental preservation, including UN agencies, civil society and academics. A number of government bodies had also been set up to monitor climate change questions, such as the Supreme Council for the Environment.

Mr. H.O. MOHAMED HASSANEIN (Egypt) said that the SDGs would only be achieved if the international community worked together to address climate change. Climate change threatened human life, negatively affected resource availability and triggered migration and displacement. Certain groups were more vulnerable than others, such as young people. It was vital to protect young people from the effects of climate change. Countries must respect international agreements on climate change, particularly the Paris Agreement.

Ms. P. IKOUROU YOKA (Congo) said that there were many new threats associated with climate change, such as conflicts, resource scarcity, changes to flora and fauna, and migration. Political leaders must not remain indifferent or future generations would suffer. It was the duty of parliamentarians to ensure that governments respected their international climate change commitments. Congolese parliamentarians had placed climate change at the forefront of their work. Actions taken included raising awareness among populations and exercising regular oversight of the Government. The President had also set up a fund specifically for climate change management. The country had recently discovered several peatland sites on its territory which would help to regularize the climate.

Ms. L. VASYLENKO (Ukraine) drew attention to environmental and climate-related threats resulting from armed conflicts. A total of 7 per cent of Ukraine's territory was under Russian occupation, a large part of which was heavily industrialized and affected by war. Combat-related activities had made environmental monitoring impossible in an area where 4,500 potentially hazardous industrial sites were located. Abandoned chemical plants, coal mines and heavy industry sites had caused significant soil and water pollution. Whole towns and villages were therefore deprived of drinking water for months at a time. It was common for parties in armed conflict to use natural resources to gain military advantages. That had also been true in Ukraine, which had recorded 89 cases of deliberate water poisoning by Russian-controlled military groups the previous year. National parliaments and the international community as a whole must ensure that environmental treaties contained provisions for application in times of war. Greater accountability was also needed for international crimes committed against the environment.

Mr. A. AL-KINANI (Iraq) said that climate change was a challenge for development, causing instability and armed conflicts. Countries must find ways to mitigate or even avoid climate change. One solution was to reduce greenhouse gases. Political, economic and humanitarian measures were also needed. All stakeholders should establish an institutional framework to raise awareness and promote resilience.

Mr. S. RAKHMANOV (Belarus) said that some of the biggest polluters were not accepting their responsibilities in relation to climate change and instead gaining profit at the expense of others. Belarus had been working on climate change with international organizations, such as the United Nations. It hoped to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 35 per cent. The country had many forests which were helping to mitigate climate change.

Mr. A. SUWANMONGKOL (Thailand) said that climate change was associated with risks, such as conflict and violence. All parties to the UNFCCC must examine ways to implement the Paris Agreement, which was the only agreement that offered adaptation and mitigation solutions. Thailand had set carbon emission reduction targets. It also played an active role on climate change within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a particularly vulnerable region. The Thai Constitution required the country to develop its first domestic law on climate change by 2020. Parliamentarians must use their oversight function to ensure effective implementation of domestic law. ASEAN parliaments were committed to interregional cooperation. They hoped to develop a regional strategy to strengthen peace and security in the context of climate change.

Mr. A. WARE (Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament - PNND) said that climate change and nuclear weapons were an existential threat to peace, security and the survival of human civilization. Parliaments and governments had an obligation to phase out budgets for the nuclear weapons and fossil fuel industries. Instead, they should reallocate those budgets to support peace, disarmament and the climate, as promoted by the *Move the Nuclear Weapons Money* campaign launched at the 135<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly. Some banks, pension funds, cities and governments had already adopted policies that moved away from fossil fuels and nuclear weapons, but more effort was needed in that regard.

Mr. S.A. ARBAB (Pakistan) said that climate change was a threat to prosperity and development. While countries could act nationally, the implications of climate change were global. Pakistan had taken many steps towards tackling climate change. For example, it had passed a climate change act and established a climate change council.

Parliaments must legislate on climate change and strengthen oversight of national and international commitments. They should improve consistency between national climate legislation and other societal goals, such as poverty reduction and gender equality. It was also important to raise awareness among parliamentarians and build cross-party support to address climate risks. Lastly, parliamentarians must promote the showcasing of good practices and foster strong links between legislators and relevant civil society organizations.

Mr. C.I. ZARATE (Philippines) said that environmental problems required governments to proactively manage and protect resources. Yet, they also undermined the capacity of governments to ensure strong resource management by putting pressure on socio-economic development and increasing the risk of conflict and violence. A better understanding was required of the causal relationship between climate change and conflict. It was necessary to conduct more locally grounded research as well as to raise awareness. The solution was not to increase or protect production but to establish better systems that gave vulnerable people fair and equitable access to resources.

Ms. S. SUBULWA (Zambia) said that climate change had affected economic growth and development in Zambia. For example, dams and rivers had dried up, which had had a negative impact on energy generation. The situation was particularly problematic given that the majority of the population depended on mining and farming. The Government of Zambia was building up national capacities, for instance, by developing an early warning system and planting new trees. There had also been a move from rainfed farming to irrigation and conservation farming.

Mr. K. NABIZADE (Azerbaijan) said that water supply systems were negatively affected not only by climate change, but also by population growth, demographic change and urbanization. Half of the global population would be living in water-stressed areas by 2025. Use of wastewater, water nutrients and water energy were becoming important strategies to deal with the problem. For example, developing countries were increasingly frequently using wastewater for irrigation purposes. While the strategy posed health risks if done inappropriately, safe management of water yielded many benefits, such as increased food production. One of Azerbaijan's key objectives was to ensure efficient and productive use of water in all areas. The country had signed numerous conventions in that regard. The international community must join forces to solve the water problem. In particular, it must help developing countries to put together a water protection policy.

Mr. B. MERJANEH (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the climate was changing and emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, were increasing. Yet, the United States of America had withdrawn from the Paris Agreement. Similarly, China had refused to reduce emissions unless the United States did the same. Import taxes were also being imposed on countries. The reason for the above situation was that the world was participating in a frantic economic race with no thought for the climate or humanity itself. The Bretton Woods agreements were no longer relevant to current realities. It was vital to establish a new global economic system which promoted human rights, development, equality, justice and environmental protection without posing a threat to peace and security.

Mr. D. MESSNER *panellist*, said that the world was not on track to achieve its climate objectives, but time was running out. Three actions were necessary. First, it was vital to scale up climate protection and disrupt old practices. Second, there was a need for a long-term roadmap to create stability and certainty in the face of disruption. Third, creating attractive futures was equally as important as crisis diagnosis and climate protection.

Ms. S. GEBREYES *panellist*, said that the world was already feeling the effects of climate change. The present generation was the last one that could change the situation. The international community must fight to keep global warming at 1.5 °C or below.

Mr. G. GIRARDI *panellist*, said that it was unlikely that the Paris commitments would be fulfilled. The current data showed that global warming could go up as high as 4 °C. Adaptation was therefore needed just as much as mitigation. The situation would bring many societal challenges, with the poorest most affected. Collaboration and unity were urgently needed in order to stand up to the largest emitters, such as the United States and China. Parliaments had a responsibility to tackle climate change even when challenged by interest groups, including the fossil fuels industry. The current generation had the fate of humanity in its hands. He invited parliamentarians to participate in COP 25. The outcome document of COP 25 should be not just a declaration but an instrument to be implemented.

Mr. Y. SOW (Senegal), *co-Rapporteur*, said that it was promising that parliamentarians were calling for more debates on the link between climate change and security with a view to building capacities in risk management and climate resilience. He was also encouraged by the concrete actions taken by parliaments to reduce emissions. He added that the resolution must focus on peace and security rather than on sustainable development. It was also important to engage youth in the drafting of the resolution since they were most affected by climate change.

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany), *co-Rapporteur*, said that climate change was a common struggle for the whole world. It was not a phenomenon of the future but one of the present as well as a matter of life or death. The resolution was a chance to share knowledge about climate-related problems. Topics to be discussed included human security, human rights, refugees, climate justice, loss and damage, loss of biodiversity, prevention and implementation. There was a specific role for young people and women in the climate change agenda.

### **Any other business**

The CHAIR said that the Bureau had decided to allocate all the sessions of the Committee at the 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly to the resolution.

*The sitting rose at 1.25 p.m.*

## Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

**SITTING OF MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER**

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9.15 a.m. with Ms. T.V. Muzenda (Zimbabwe), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

### **Adoption of the agenda** (C-II/141/A.1)

*The agenda was adopted.*

### **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Doha (April 2019)**

*The summary record was approved.*

### **Debate on the theme *Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production***

The PRESIDENT said that the Standing Committee's first discussion would be on the theme of its next resolution, *Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production*. The topic would be introduced by three experts: Mr. Peder Jensen, Head of Secretariat, International Resource Panel, who would speak about resource efficiency and the concept of the circular economy as part of sustainable consumption and production; Mr. Jovan Kurbalija, Founding Director, DiploFoundation, who would give an overview of the topic of digitalization and its relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and Mr. Daniel Spoiala, Senior Community Manager, European Union–African Union Digital Economy Taskforce, who would focus on "digital for development". The three co-Rapporteurs were also present. They would be responsible for preparing the draft resolution, which would be open for consideration and submission of proposed amendments in January 2020. The amendments would be discussed and the resolution finalized by the Standing Committee during the 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly.

Mr. P. JENSEN *panellist* said that the rapidly growing global population coupled with the unequal distribution of the planet's resources constituted an enormous challenge: one third of the food currently produced in the world went to waste, and more than half of the cities that were projected to be needed by the middle of the twenty-first century had not yet been built. Climate change was a critical threat, which required a strong and sustained response; the world's biodiversity was diminishing and plastic was seeping into the environment. The current generation would be the first likely to die from causes related to lifestyle choices, rather than from communicable diseases. Tackling those challenges was therefore a choice and a collective responsibility.

The SDGs were the global community's common aspiration, which could not be met without mobilizing resources. The International Resource Panel had been set up to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly on resource consumption trends and outlook. The Panel had produced a report, *Natural Resources for the Future We Want*, which presented projections up to 2060 based on current trends, and would be updated every four years as progress was monitored. The report looked into the use of four types of resources: biomass, fossil fuels, metals and non-metal minerals.

Resource consumption had grown exponentially with no sign of abating, while productivity was decreasing. There were two key factors behind that imbalance: large-scale investment in building infrastructure in developing countries, and the shift in production away from resource-efficient countries. Both factors were an outcome of globalization, and could only be mitigated through knowledge-sharing and technology transfer to ensure that resources were not drained. Almost 90 per cent of biodiversity loss and water stress around the world was linked to resource extraction and processing; the way resources were used was critical to addressing biodiversity and climate degradation. While, from the production perspective, use of resources was greatest in emerging economies, from the consumption perspective, the footprint was largest in high-income countries, which pointed to differentiated responsibilities in addressing challenges related to resource efficiency.

Continuing with "business as usual" would see resource consumption more than double by 2060, with increasing conflicts over resources. Resource efficiency and the circular economy were crucial for sustainability. While growth in resource consumption could not be halted, it could be slowed considerably, as could emissions of greenhouse gases, which would be essential to meet the commitments set out in the Paris Agreement. Particular attention must also be paid to reforestation and the protection of water bodies. The advantage of increasing resource efficiency and reducing consumption would be an increase in the value of products, which would be economically beneficial.

An analysis of ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from material consumption in European Union member countries had shown material recirculation to be most effective, while product material efficiency and circular business models were also beneficial. Reducing material consumption and the cost of transport by applying circular models, such as car-sharing, had been shown to reduce carbon dioxide impact of materials by up to 70 per cent. Value retention policies or remanufacturing, when products came to the end of their life, could also be extremely beneficial. Products at the end of use often contained component parts that were still in good condition. Disassembling and repairing, recycling or remanufacturing could save 80 to almost 100 per cent of new material input, thereby reducing the burden on the environment and resource drain while maintaining value. Traceability and the data infrastructure for maintaining product information on all component parts were exceptionally important for such models to function. Circular models in cities had also been studied, such as industrial parks in China where recycled waste was used for heating purposes, and had shown the potential to result in massive savings if scaled up to all cities.

Business as usual was therefore not an option. Policies on resource efficiency and the circular economy, based on decoupling, were essential ingredients of an SDG-compliant economy. Applying appropriate policies would reduce social disparities, tackle climate change and boost economic growth.

Mr. D. SPOIALA *panellist*, joining the meeting via Skype, said that the European Union's "digital for development" policy was based on the idea of using digital tools to reduce resource impact. The concept was not new; it could be traced back to the World Summit on the Information Society in 2005, which had referred to "ICT for development" and focused on technology in agriculture for optimizing the use of resources, such as water, and reducing wastage. Through "digital for development", consideration was being given to how digitalization could change people's lives, and how the European Union could work in economic partnership with developing countries, rather than providing development assistance, to create jobs and boost economic growth.

"Digital for development" was based on four main pillars. The first was achieving affordable broadband connectivity, especially in Africa, through various means, including external investment and guaranteed loans for partner countries to deploy broadband. The second was to build digital skills, which were crucial for competitiveness, through numerous support projects, working in particular with young people in Africa. The third pillar was supporting digital entrepreneurship across Africa by providing financing and knowledge exchanges on how to use digital solutions and innovation to change lives and solve local problems. The last pillar, eServices, included the establishment of eGovernance systems, allowing for the connection of employment registries, the creation of eID systems, and the development of SIM technology, such as mobile payment systems. eAgriculture, eHealth and eEducation systems were also being set up, using a holistic approach, since all aspects of development were interconnected.

Digitalization was a tool that could be used for positive or negative outcomes; political manipulation through interference in elections, influencing voters and tracking opposition politicians could threaten democracy. The European Union's external policy was therefore careful to ensure strong and enforceable privacy rules and a human-rights-based approach in all partner countries, in particular through ensuring compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679. Discussions about privacy were often too late and guidance was not enforceable. While innovation must be promoted, care should always be taken to protect citizens' rights.

A partnership had been established between the European Union and the African Union, in the context of which a report had been prepared, proposing concrete actions for establishing a digital bridge between the two continents. The future of the European Union was intertwined with the future of Africa, and the partnership would be strengthened over the coming years to work together on priority areas, such as digitalization and climate change.

Mr. J. KURBALIJA *panellist* said that many governments and international organizations were acknowledging the link between digitalization, the circular economy and the environment. The Libra Association was currently holding its first meeting in Geneva to discuss the new Libra currency

proposed by Facebook, which had already caused considerable debate among financial authorities worldwide. In 10 countries, protests were ongoing on issues surrounding Uber. Those were just two of many issues involving digital companies that were being brought onto parliamentary agendas.

The SDGs were not only related to development, but also to overall political, economic and social life in developed and developing countries. The main challenge was bridging the gap between those who were developing technology and the rest of humanity. There were increasing degrees of confusion and contradictory dynamics surrounding digital issues. Geoeconomic and geopolitical awareness were essential. In 2016, the World Bank issued a report assessing the digital dividends enjoyed by society and looking into their distribution.

The number of briefings, hearings and discussions in which parliamentarians were discussing the future of digital policy were increasing. Parliaments were being called on to make complex choices regarding digital technologies, often without sufficient information or understanding of their impact. Data geopolitics were particularly important; the dynamics of data traffic were growing, particularly in Africa and Asia. While many digital issues were global, they could have a very specific impact at the national or local level, which posed a major challenge for parliaments.

The main question was who would be responsible for answering digital policy questions from parliamentarians, citizens, businesses and governments, such as on eCommerce, which currently received very few answers. The main issues on digital agendas worldwide included data and privacy, blockchain, digital identity, fake news, artificial intelligence, cybercrime and copyright. For the first time, the world's richest companies were no longer selling services but rather were selling our data to vendors in exchange for advertising space. That business model created considerable challenges with regard to taxation and consumer protection, among other issues. Good data governance was therefore essential and must take account of four major aspects: economy, security, law and human rights. The future of work was also an important political and social issue. While experiences with cyber currency in Africa were positive, many issues arose with regard to privacy and data protection. Governments around the world were trying to develop digital identification systems adjusted to local needs; there were many challenges associated with such systems.

The SDGs created horizontal links between all of the issues mentioned. There would be many challenges ahead related to ethics, artificial intelligence and automation. Parliaments would need to work together with businesses and academia, and take flexible approaches to tackling future challenges.

Ms. S.-M. DINICA (Romania), *co-Rapporteur*, asked what policy initiatives could be used to resolve the imbalance between developing countries having the highest resource demands while developed countries had the highest consumption.

Mr. P. MARIRU (Kenya), *co-Rapporteur*, said that material recirculation and product and material efficiency must be considered in the current developing country context of urbanization, infrastructure development and poverty alleviation. In Kenya, digitalization was being used for development and promoting access to services, an eGovernance system had been set up, whereby all government services could be accessed online, and a mobile financial services system had been developed, M-PESA, through which money could be transferred using mobile telephones.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium), *co-Rapporteur*, quoting Jeffrey Sachs, said that information communication technologies (ICTs) were the most powerful new tool for solving the world's major challenges. He asked Mr. Kurbalija to elaborate further on the links between the environment, the circular economy and digitalization.

Mr. P. JENSEN *panellist* said that high rates of material consumption by emerging economies could be explained by two things: heavy investment in building infrastructure to "catch up" with developed countries, which was a natural progression in development; and the outsourcing of production to emerging economies owing to the lower wages paid in those countries, meaning that development was driven by the economy, which hampered resource efficiency. Technology transfer was therefore essential, to ensure that efficient production technologies moved with jobs. Developing countries would need to ensure that environmental standards were upheld; the traceability of products was important in that regard.

The Executive Vice-President Designate for the European Green Deal, Frans Timmermans, had suggested that imported products could be taxed on embedded carbon dioxide, thereby adjusting to differences in efficiencies tied predominantly to salary differences. While the modalities of introducing such a tax would require discussion by the World Trade Organization, the key policy issue would be to ensure the traceability of every component used in every stage in the production process.

Technology transfer was an important aspect of infrastructure expansion; it would be unfair to suggest that the planet could not sustain the environmental impact of something happening in a developing country now, which had already happened in a developed country some years ago when the planet had been less burdened. The global community had a common responsibility to learn from mistakes of the past, and to protect the planet, the environmental buffer capacity of which had been eliminated by population growth.

Mr. J. KURBALIJA *panellist* said that there was indeed a clear link between the environment and digitalization. Jeffrey Sachs, however, had hailed ICTs as the solution to global challenges in 2010. Over the past nine years, especially since the publication of the World Bank report on digital dividends, which had suggested that digitalization had not resulted in an increase in productivity, considerations had been raised with regard to fairness. Some links remained valid, such as the issue of blockchain and distributed ledger technologies and traceability of production chains. Automation was also relevant, with some jobs disappearing from developing countries. Digitalization also increased energy consumption and had implications for inequalities and inclusion. Consideration must be given to the provenance and accuracy of information; currently only 5 per cent of Wikipedia articles about Africa were written by people in Africa. Clarity was essential in all discussions.

### Debate

Mr. S. PATRA (India) said that the SDGs mirrored the Indian Government's development agenda. The world's limited natural resources must be used effectively and efficiently, without putting undue pressure on non-renewables. India's Aadhaar digital identification system had been very successful and constituted a significant step towards mainstreaming digitalization and meeting the SDGs. In India, efforts were being made to ensure proper balance between the economic, social and environmental objectives of the SDGs, while promoting digital connectivity for all, expanding the use of clean and renewable energy, and taking measures to ensure housing, sanitation and basic education for all. Under the Digital India programme, the Government had used sustainable digital technologies to provide digital governance serviced to all citizens in an affordable and efficient manner. Initiatives to promote digitalization and the circular economy were contributing to a cleaner, greener and more sustainable environment. The Parliament of India had held numerous discussions and participated in many national and regional events on the attainment of the SDGs. Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy with a focus on responsible production and consumption, and the pursuit of innovation were national priorities in that regard.

Mr. K. YAKURA (Japan) said that his party had set up a project in 2015 to collect opinions and make proposals regarding the revision of regulations on food waste reduction, which had resulted in the adoption of new legislation in that regard. A national campaign had been launched including efforts to reduce food waste at the production stage and provide support for food banks. Consideration was also being given to how to use ICTs and digitalization to optimize food production and consumption. Several pilot projects were under way to explore how to reduce food waste, including by limiting excessive agricultural production using artificial intelligence to analyse meteorological data. A digital system was being used to announce discounted prices to customers via SMS when food in shops was approaching its expiry date. Under the new food waste reduction legislation, companies were encouraged to use ICTs to reduce food loss, while increasing their profits and workforce efficiency. The aim was to significantly reduce food wastage by 2030 and to serve as an example to other countries.

Mr. D. VELKOVSI (North Macedonia) said that his country had an industrial strategy in place for the period 2018–2027, which included a strategic goal on catalysing green industry and green production. The approach promoted sustainable models of production and consumption, which were resource and energy efficient, non-polluting and safe, to ensure that products were managed responsibly throughout their lifecycle, with a focus on small- and medium-sized enterprises in manufacturing. The strategy focused on awareness-raising and training on the circular economy, green production, closed-cycle manufacturing, energy efficiency and clean production. An open data strategy had been adopted, and legislation on electronic documents, electronic identification and trust services had been enacted. A national strategy for sustainable development had been adopted, and a national council for sustainable development established to oversee its implementation. As a member of that council, he would advocate for a clear framework to support the manufacturing sector in facing the challenges of transition to a circular economy. Parliamentarians must legislate to stimulate investment in digitalization and the circular economy.



Mr. B. RAJIĆ (Slovenia) said that resource and energy use was constantly increasing as technological advances failed to counteract growing consumption. The transition to a low-carbon, circular economy was a priority for Slovenia, which required radical changes in consumption and production patterns, with better use of resources to reduce waste and optimize waste management. Increased energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources were essential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Innovation in transport was particularly important in that regard. The Government of Slovenia had submitted its first voluntary national review on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to the United Nations in 2017. Slovenia was establishing a green economy partnership, bringing together representatives of the State, the economy, local communities, civil society and other stakeholders. A decree on green public procurement had been issued. Pursuing sustainable goals was a common task, which could only be achieved through a united approach. Parliamentarians had a key role to play, and must take action immediately.

Mr. Z. YIN (China) said that the Chinese authorities had taken measures in a number of fields, harnessing the opportunities presented by new technological and scientific developments, such as the Internet of things, artificial intelligence, big data and robotics, with a view to attaining the SDGs. Legislation on eCommerce had been enacted. Traditional manufacturing practices had been transformed through digitalization and automation, which had bolstered production quality. In services, online retail now accounted for a significant proportion of retail consumption and provided considerable employment. From the consumer perspective, more than 200 million people were buying online and were educated online. The development of the digital economy had played a pivotal role in attaining the SDGs. It presented opportunities for hard-to-reach and vulnerable members of society to enjoy the fruits of development. It also offered equal access to financial services. The Chinese authorities would continue to drive development forward, and viewed data as a key resource. Efforts would be made to reduce poverty by bridging the digital divide.

Mr. A. HASHIM (Malaysia) said that there was a positive correlation between waste generation and income. It was becoming increasingly clear that digital changes were driving societal transformation. If the global population reached 9.6 billion by 2050 as predicted, the equivalent of almost three planets would be required to provide the natural resources needed to sustain current lifestyles. Digital technologies were a driving force behind societal change needed to meet the SDGs, in particular Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production. Yet while technologies could be beneficial in many respects, decarbonization and the building of circular economies could not be achieved by technology alone; a radical reversal of current trends was required. The Internet of things, artificial intelligence and robotics could enable real-time insight into responsible consumption and production across the supply chain, thereby empowering companies to make better decisions. A particularly pressing matter of energy efficiency was linked to eCommerce deliveries and the significant return rate of online purchases, which was considerably higher than for physical shops. While the economic benefits of sustainable production and consumption were well recognized, the social benefits remained largely overlooked.

Mr. S. MOHAI (South Africa) said that no nation would be immune from the impacts of climate change; the world's young people were demanding action. The transition to a circular economy would allow decisive action to be taken. A circular economy would depend on investment in proper waste infrastructure and technology. A significant portion of environmental levies from private businesses should therefore be reinvested in the development of infrastructure. Businesses, financiers and civil society must be given incentives to maximize the results of a circular economy. South Africa's circular economy could yield much greater benefits if more waste was recycled. Owing to weak infrastructure, tonnes of recoverable and recyclable waste were disposed of, much of which ended up in landfill and dumping sites. Plastic bag regulations and levies had not yielded positive results. A "good green deeds" programme had been launched to change public attitudes and behaviours regarding responsible waste management and keeping neighbourhoods clean. Efforts were also being made to increase waste recycling, waste-to-energy and waste beneficiation. Legislation was being amended to allow independent operators to run clean-up and processing operations in various waste management sectors.

Mr. S. KIRANAND (Thailand) said that in Thailand, several policies and plans had been put in place to promote efficient use of resources, reduce waste and pollution, and promote sustainable consumption and production. The Thai Government had long been promoting the circular economy, and a green public procurement plan had been adopted to encourage a shift towards environmentally friendly production, services and consumption patterns. A no-plastic campaign had also been

launched. Thai companies were actively promoting circular design, supply and resource recovery. Thailand's Policy 4.0 had been implemented to establish a value-based economy driven by innovation, technology and creativity. A village broadband Internet programme benefited three million people in hard-to-reach areas, granting them access to knowledge and information, and to the digital economy. Legislation had been strengthened to promote the circular economy, including through optimized waste management, in particular for electrical and electronic equipment waste. Parliaments must be active change agents for the transition to a circular economy, encouraging a shift in their constituents' behaviour as consumers. Green and digital literacy should be enhanced to prepare the public to face future challenges. Technology and knowledge transfers should be actively encouraged, and domestic legal frameworks should be shaped to accelerate progress towards the circular economy for attaining the SDGs.

Mr. R. AL HASANI (Oman) said that in Oman, efforts were being made to promote innovation and use technology to improve efficiency in production and consumption, with a view to attaining the SDGs. Progress had been made in building infrastructure, in particular in optimizing the transport system by using new technologies, scientific research and innovation in logistics. A holistic programme for increasing and streamlining manufacturing was in place. Efforts were also being made to support the transition to renewable energy, and to optimize water use and minimize wastage. Progress required an environment conducive to innovation, with incentives for businesses to use innovative approaches. A national centre had been established in Oman to conduct research, oversee innovation and production, and ensure that the most recent and up-to-date technologies were being used.

Mr. Q.A. DUONG (Viet Nam) said that in Viet Nam, through the national strategy for sustainable development, efforts were being made to: encourage green economic growth and develop the use of clean and renewable energies; increase the life span of products through domestic manufacturing; reduce the use of toxic and non-recyclable materials; develop the market for recyclable materials; encourage consumers to reduce, sort and recycle their waste; reduce the cost of waste collection; and encourage industrial zones to exchange by-products. Parliaments should ensure that comprehensive policies were in place for research and innovation, which covered the social, technological and commercial aspects and took account of cost-benefit analysis. Efforts should be made to raise awareness among manufacturers and the public on the responsible use of products. Motivation for adopting circular economic models should be promoted, including through flexible taxes on production. Cooperation was essential to promote the transition to the circular economy and optimize the use of resources. A policy on fostering innovation and technological development was also essential, in particular to reduce pollution and limit the environmental impact of production and consumption.

Ms. R. ABUNAYAN (Saudi Arabia) said that over recent years, Saudi Arabia had experienced agricultural and industrial expansion, rapid population growth and urbanization, all of which posed challenges, in particular with regard to waste management. Recycling and reusing, and optimizing energy recovery played an important part in Saudi Arabia's approach to the conservation of natural resources, job creation and the conversion of waste to energy. Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 included strategic objectives for reducing all types of pollution, protecting the environment and natural landscapes and promoting ecologically sound urbanization. Projects to boost waste disposal included the establishment of a national recycling company, the upgrade of municipal waste management systems and an initiative to recycle food waste. Significant results had been recorded at the municipal level. That notwithstanding, challenges persisted, including increasing quantities of waste, lack of environmental awareness, failure to separate waste and the need for better coordination and stronger legislation. Targets should be set to increase circularity and open up possibilities for seeking digital solutions. The more political emphasis was placed on such matters, the greater awareness would be of new products and services among suppliers and consumers.

Ms. A. MULDER (Netherlands) said that the Government of the Netherlands aimed to transition to a fully circular economy by 2050. Goals had been set to improve production efficiency by reducing the use of raw materials and increase the sustainability of the products used. The Netherlands had put in place agendas for action, knowledge, social matters and investment for the circular economy. The implementation of those agendas required close monitoring. Major changes were required in the way products were designed to reduce the need for end of material solutions. Governments should use their buying power and take fiscal measures to promote recycling, reusing, repairing and redesigning. New approaches should be taken to consumption; in Schiphol airport, for example, rather than purchasing lamps, light was being purchased, as service providers were more likely to find a

sustainable means of provision. The circular economy would have a significant impact on carbon dioxide emission reduction. At a recent inter-parliamentary meeting, parliaments of several European Union member countries had pledged to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions by more than 40 per cent by 2030, to set an example to the rest of the world. They could not, however, work alone. The entire global community must deliver on the circular economy, and must do it fast.

Ms. L. GUMEROVA (Russian Federation) said that the circular economy was crucial to attaining SDG 12 on sustainable models of consumption and production. Recycling, rejection of single-use items, repair and reuse, and separation of waste were all aspects of those models, some of which had in fact been common practice in the past. Digitalization could increase the scale of circular economic schemes, to allow for city-wide bicycle sharing schemes, such as the one in Moscow. Technologies such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of things and blockchain were being tested in pilot projects in the energy sector in the Russian Federation as part of a national technological initiative aiming to green the energy sector. An interdepartmental data system was being set up for all things related to forestry management and the timber industry to streamline production patterns. Digital technology coverage was being expanded, and online services, such as eGovernance, were being developed. The circular economy required optimizing each stage in the life cycle of every product; waste management was therefore particularly important. National targets had been set for increasing waste recycling. Individuals must all think and act on a global scale. With that in mind, the Russian authorities had made the relevant preparations to ratify the Paris Agreement.

Ms. W. BANI MUSTAFA (Jordan) said that significant progress had been made in Jordan with regard to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Legislation was in place on environmental protection, biodiversity and the prevention of cybercrime. Parliament was currently looking to passing a law on the recycling of solid waste. Renewables were crucial in the move towards clean technology that respected the environment and contributed to the green economy. The current use of resources was not fairly distributed; countries had unequal levels of resource consumption and pollution. The greatest carbon dioxide emitters should contribute proportionately to the solution, in line with the Paris Agreement. Developing countries must have access to affordable technologies. Digitalization and decent work were also closely connected. Tensions persisted between people and technology; automation could result in unemployment. Measures must therefore be taken to create jobs, with education being provided to equip people to meet the needs of the contemporary labour market. Parliamentarians must ensure that the requisite legislative framework was in place to support the circular economy.

Mr. A. ALDEQBASI (Kuwait) said that the efforts of the global community and of individual countries were not meeting the planet's needs with regard to mitigating the effects of climate change. Existing international legal frameworks for environmental protection were not sufficient. Calling for parliaments to legislate was important, but not enough; countries rightly wanted to protect their national interests. Measures must therefore be taken to ensure that transnational and multinational companies upheld their responsibilities. The resolution to be adopted by the Standing Committee should therefore call on industry to meet its obligations and respect global interests. Rigorous oversight was essential: corporations must be monitored and held accountable through taxation, among other measures, and must contribute to a clean environment for future generations. The global community must work together to meet the SDGs. Those flouting international law and undermining the efforts of governments should be held accountable.

Mr. L.M. KHUMALO (Zimbabwe) said that the Government of Zimbabwe had established a fully fledged ministry to look specifically at the matter of digitalization. The ministry was responsible for the establishment of new online services, analysis of global data on weather, setting up services for eLearning and teaching, eCommerce and online financial services in support of banks with limited cash reserves. The ministry was currently setting up a universal regulation system and coordinating its activities with Zimbabwe's national development plan.

Mr. H. IDDRISU (Ghana) said that significant efforts were being made in Ghana to transition from an informal to a formal economy, and to mainstream digital technology in all aspects of life. Consideration must be given to the fact that Africa had been left behind in respect of attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. Many aspects of development relied on digital technology, while several African countries were not fully digital. Consideration must be given to the impact of automation and artificial intelligence on the labour market. The IPU should seek to work more closely with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

to share information, knowledge and data in that regard. Countries that were industrial producers were not mindful of the environmental consequences of production, yet those consequences would have a global impact. Digitalization should not be limited to production and consumption; it had a key role in attaining many of the SDGs, such as on health care. While investment in digitalization was generally led by the private sector, governments had a responsibility to create an enabling environment.

Ms. A. KALMARI (Finland) said that she had found the comments regarding the circular economy particularly encouraging. Companies needed to take greater responsibility to ensure that their products were easily recyclable, renewable and reusable. Food waste was unforgivable in a world where there was not enough food for all. Challenging environment targets had been set in Finland, and the Finnish authorities hoped that others would follow suit. Renewable energy was particularly important; brave steps needed to be taken to move away from fossil fuels and fossil-fuel-based economies. The proportion of renewable energy used in Finland had doubled, and was currently at 40 per cent. That was a major achievement for such a cold country; significant investments had been made in repairing buildings and improving energy efficiency. Waste separation and recycling should go without saying. Everyone should strive to ensure a clean planet for future generations.

Mr. P. JENSEN *panellist* said that he was encouraged to hear about the efforts being made and activities undertaken. He agreed that the best way to reduce resource consumption was to reuse, repair and remanufacture. Recycling of materials should be a last resort. Efforts must be made to lengthen the service life of products, thinking in terms of product standards and life-cycle extension, with waste management as the last step. Information on the contents of each product would therefore be crucial. Legislators had a key role to play in that regard. The European Union's "right to repair" initiative was particularly interesting, as it would require legislation encouraging longer life cycles for products owing to the possibility of repair.

Mr. J. KURBALIJA *panellist* said that the SDGs were the link between the circular economy, environment and digital development, providing shared contexts and shared values. He welcomed the examples of bottom-up initiatives, such as M-PESA in Africa, and Aadhaar in India; parliaments should encourage such initiatives, and should indeed ensure that wisdom, ideas and creativity were shared worldwide. The IPU should encourage cooperation with other organizations to gather evidence on the circular economy, environment and digitalization. The interplay between the environment, the circular economy and digitalization should be mapped. That would require standard-setting at the international level, which could be encouraged through the resolution to be adopted by the Standing Committee.

Ms. S.-M. DINICA (Romania), *co-Rapporteur*, welcomed the suggestions made and examples given of how to drive digitalization and the circular economy to preserve the environment. The example of food waste reduction efforts in Japan was particularly interesting, and the legislative framework underpinning it was especially important. The involvement of all stakeholders was important; parliaments could be directly involved in monitoring efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Education was also crucial. The co-Rapporteurs would welcome any specific proposals with regard to the transition to a circular economy for inclusion in the draft resolution.

Mr. P. MARIRU (Kenya), *co-Rapporteur*, thanked all those who had contributed to the discussion and said he had been particularly interested to hear about strategies employed at the national level, in particular with regard to procurement. He agreed that it was important to bear in mind the contextual differences between developed and developing countries. Partnerships were crucial, not only between developed and developing countries but also between the public and private sector. Information campaigns were needed, both for the public and for industry. Systems of incentives and sanctions to encourage sustainable production and consumption were also important. The role of small and microenterprises should not be ignored. Practical targets should be set and parliamentarians had a key role in legislation and regulation.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium), *co-Rapporteur*, welcomed the testimonials and statements given, which had all been very interesting. A bottom-up, whole-of-society approach was essential, with education at its centre. Monitoring and evaluation were particularly important to show the results achieved. Innovation must begin from the design stage, but must also be cost efficient: if a green deal was not a fair deal it would not succeed. Mobile and online technologies had a role in all spheres of life: the iCow mobile application in Kenya was a fine example of how mobile technologies could be used to simplify farmers' lives and enhance economic gains by indicating where cows could be bought and sold. The advantages of such technologies were clear, and they resulted in broader engagement in green deals and the circular economy.

**Parliamentary contribution to the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 25)**

The PRESIDENT said that the IPU was organizing a parliamentary side event at the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 25) to give parliamentarians an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the main issues for discussion at the Conference. An outcome document would be adopted, the preliminary draft of which had been prepared by the rapporteur appointed by the Chilean Senate, Guido Girardi. The draft had been posted for consultation on the IPU website for consultation. The Standing Committee was invited to provide comments and ideas for use in further refining the text, before its presentation to the parliamentary meeting. Proposals could be submitted in writing before 15 November 2019.

Mr. G. GIRARDI (Chile), *Rapporteur*, said that climate change was an urgent issue, which was already having catastrophic consequences around the world, not only in the form of natural disasters, but also owing to generally decreasing water levels, which were having a significant impact on food production. Many countries were not complying with the Paris Agreement. If current trends continued, the temperature of the planet would rise by two degrees Celsius over the coming 20 years, resulting in large-scale water loss. The possibility of adapting to such a change was very slim. Immediate action was crucial.

The use of data and artificial intelligence was an essential part of modern life, yet it posed challenges to democracy and therefore required clear governance. In Chile, policymaking and science had been combined in the Future Congress, bringing together politicians and experts from science and academia, in partnership with the Nobel Foundation. The parliamentary meeting in the context of COP 25 should be used to send a message to the world that parliaments should stand with science to face the challenges that lay ahead.

The draft outcome document called for an urgent response and reiterated the will of parliamentarians to place science and evidence at the heart of policymaking. Climate change scepticism remained, which threatened the very existence of life on earth. The outcome document also underscored the role of parliamentary democracy in responding to those challenges. Achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 would be too late; it must be achieved as soon as possible. Even if carbon neutrality was achieved by 2030, a period of 50 to 100 years would still be required for the climate to recover. Renewable energy supplies were crucial and must be harnessed as a matter of urgency. Each country had its own competitive advantage in that regard. Green jobs, electric vehicles, waste reduction and the circular economy were all essential. The protection of waters and replanting of forests were also crucial. Reforestation would aid soil recovery and provide a multitude of opportunities for humanity.

Tackling the climate crisis required resources. Consideration should be given to setting up a global "green fund", to ensure social justice and the right to development for all. Education should be enhanced, the right to knowledge guaranteed for all, and transparency ensured with regard to the implementation of all climate-related agreements. Parliaments must ensure that their governments were accountable for the decisions they made and for upholding the commitments they undertook. Legislation had a key role in climate protection. Parliaments must regulate water consumption, deforestation and the use of renewable energies, and legislate to move towards carbon neutrality, control the use of plastics and oblige recycling and reuse. The future was in the hands of parliaments, yet politics continued to live in the past. Science and politics must be united for progress.

**Debate**

Ms. S. KARANLAJE (India) said that climate change was the most pressing global challenge. States parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) should do their utmost to uphold their commitments under the Convention. Developed countries should support climate change actions in developing countries. India had committed to ambitious climate targets, including the significant reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, and had adopted a national action plan on climate change, which included provisions on transitioning to renewable energy, promoting sustainable habitat, managing water supplies, sustaining the Himalayan ecosystem, promoting sustainable agriculture and fostering strategic knowledge on climate change. Initiatives had been undertaken to plant trees and protect forests. Government subsidies were being given for organic farming, waste management, water recycling, electric cars, and solar power and hydroelectricity production. An initiative to make India free from single-use plastics had also been launched. Developing countries faced the double challenge of adapting to a changing climate while pursuing sustainable development. Developed countries must therefore take the lead on climate change action

and offer support to developing countries. Parliamentarians must strengthen oversight to ensure that their governments met their obligations under international commitments. Her delegation would submit in writing its suggested amendments to the draft outcome document.

Mr. K. YAKURA (Japan) said that sustainable development could only be achieved in a stable global environment. Achieving SDG 13 on climate action was thus fundamental to the attainment of all of the other SDGs. Yet greenhouse gas emissions continued to increase. The most recent reports from the World Meteorological Organization stated that that global temperatures over the previous five years had been the highest ever recorded. Counter measures were needed immediately and should no longer be considered to be a cost: they were an investment in the future of humanity. Japan had set targets to become carbon neutral and to significantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. By creating a virtuous circle of environment and growth, Japan would take the lead in a paradigm shift in environmental policies. Innovation was the key to decarbonization; hydrogen technology could be used to produce electricity to replace energy from other energy sources. Hydrogen was clean, affordable, portable and storable. Using solar energy and other forms of surplus power, water could be electrolysed to produce hydrogen without any carbon dioxide. Using hydrogen for energy would contribute significantly to achieving a carbon-neutral society. The Japanese delegation would submit a proposed amendment to the outcome document on the inclusion of a reference to the use of hydrogen, which was not mentioned in the preliminary draft.

Ms. S. BOGOSAVLJEVIC BOSKOVIC (Serbia) said that climate change would have great and far-reaching consequences for the planet. Serbia had therefore taken various measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and had submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions to Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions to the UNFCCC Secretariat in June 2015. Serbia was party to the Paris Agreement and the Serbian Parliament was aligning domestic legislation with that instrument, including through the preparation of a new law on climate change. Serbia had sustained drought and flooding in 2012 and 2014 respectively, with material damage totalling more than 5 billion euros. In November 2014, the Serbian Government had set up the National Climate Change Council. The law on reducing greenhouse gas emissions would be adopted later in 2019.

Ms. S. REHMAN (Pakistan) said that Pakistan was deemed the world's seventh most vulnerable country in the climate change crisis, as it was situated at the foot of the Himalayan glaciers, which were in a state of accelerated melt. It was calculated that some US\$ 8 million over 10 years, or 6 per cent of GDP per year, were lost to climate stress. Desertification was particularly worrying. Efforts were therefore being made to build a greener Pakistan, by fostering a green economy, and in particular by undertaking reforestation programmes to grow "lungs" for the cities and the mountains. Residual crop burning and the use of brick kilns were being reduced, and large-scale emissions from industry were being prevented to mitigate the severe smog, which was having environmental and health implications. As one of the countries with the lowest levels of greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan was a victim of climate injustice; the newfound impetus to translate pledges into action was therefore particularly welcome.

Pakistan required investment support for the use of renewable energy sources. Progress had been made in scaling up the use of solar energy; the Parliament of Pakistan was the first to become completely dependent on solar power. Single-use plastics had also been banned from Parliament. A climate change caucus had been set up in the Senate as a voluntary entity for increasing climate change literacy and stakeholder confidence. Two provinces had already been declared plastic-free. Maintaining international dialogue was essential to understanding climate-related challenges. Pakistan, as the largest urbanizing country in South Asia, which was suffering severe drought and flooding, faced a barrage of challenges in a world that had thus far been in denial. Global leaders must create forums for regional advocacy, as climate change knew no borders, and concerted, joint efforts were therefore needed. Women were disproportionately impacted by climate change and should therefore be at the heart of initiatives to mitigate it. The time had come to move from clichés to action.

Mr. N.S. AL-HAIDAR (Qatar), describing the efforts of the Qatari authorities to mitigate the negative effects of climate change, said that the Emir had donated US\$ 100 million to small island developing States and other developing countries to bolster their efforts to fight climate change and its effects. In preparing for the football World Cup, which would take place in Qatar in 2022, every effort was being made to use solar energy on a large scale and limit carbon dioxide emissions by using cooling technologies to save water and energy. A goal had been set to increase the production of renewable energy in Qatar to 200 megawatts per year over the coming two years, and to raise that

production to 500 megawatts per year thereafter. Particular importance was placed on preserving Qatar's unique environment. A global balance must be struck between meeting development needs and strengthening international efforts to limit climate change.

Mr. L.M. KHUMALO (Zimbabwe) said that Zimbabwe had prioritized 10 of the SDGs, including SDG 13 on climate action. An interministerial committee had been set up to scale up climate change warning systems. Zimbabwe had acceded to the Paris Agreement and, in that context, had accelerated the use of renewable energy sources for both domestic and industrial purposes. Zimbabwe had suffered the impact of climate change when it had been hit by Cyclone Idai, which had destroyed infrastructure and resulted in the displacement of more than 52,000 people. Drought was a common affliction, which had led to severe electricity shortages and low water levels, which in turn restricted irrigation and affected agricultural production, resulting in severe food shortages.

Mr. G. GIRARDI (Chile), *Rapporteur*, said that the climate change crisis required urgent action, with the transition to a post-carbon era achieved as quickly as possible. Consideration must be given to the fact that the target for reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide to 50 parts per million by 2050 would need to be met in the context of a rapidly growing population, in need of food and clothing. Business as usual would therefore only result in a significant increase in emissions. The world was therefore facing a colossal energy challenge; carbon emissions must be reduced as a matter of extreme urgency. Technological innovation should therefore focus on renewable energy and solar energy in particular. The pooling of scientific resources through collaboration was essential; everyone must contribute to climate change mitigation.

Energy consumption models must be changed. While agriculture was one of the sectors most affected by climate change, it was also the cause of the most emissions. Food and water were being wasted. The disappearance of insect pollinators was a cause for grave concern; bees were involved in the production of 30 per cent of the world's food. Innovation was key. The move towards hydrogen use was particularly important. All parliaments should set shared, common goals. The world's most prominent scientists would be present at COP 25. Their expertise should be harnessed and every opportunity to engage in dialogue should be optimized. Climate change denial should be countered through specific proposals based on robust evidence, to lead the world away from looming disaster.

*The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.*

## **SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2019**

(Afternoon)

*The meeting was called to order at 2.35 p.m., with Ms. V. Muzenda Tsitsi (Zimbabwe), President of the Committee, in the Chair.*

### **Elections to the Bureau**

The PRESIDENT said that the nominations received for the six vacancies on the Bureau of the Standing Committee were: for the Asia-Pacific Group, Mr. I. Sereewatthanawut (Thailand), to complete the first term of Thailand to April 2020, and Ms. S. Rehman (Pakistan), to complete the first term of Pakistan to April 2021; for the Eurasia Group, Mr. R. Marian (Republic of Moldova), for a two-year term; and for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), Ms. M. Carvalho (Brazil) and Mr. B. Scotland (Guyana), both likewise for a two-year term. She took it that the Committee wished to approve those nominations.

*It was so decided.*

The PRESIDENT invited the Committee to approve the work plan proposed by the Bureau for the next Assembly, namely to dedicate all of the Committee's working sessions to preparing and discussing the resolution.

*It was so decided.*

The PRESIDENT added that, following a consultation process to which the Bureau had contributed, the Executive Committee had decided at its meeting of that morning to rename the Committee, which would accordingly be known in future as the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development.

**Follow-up to the IPU resolution *Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints***

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee would examine how IPU Members had followed up on the resolution *Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints*, including through good practices in parliamentary engagement. She introduced the two expert panellists who would first share information about key developments that had occurred since 2014, the year of the adoption of the resolution, in the areas of disaster risk reduction and population dynamics, respectively: Ms. Kirsi Madi, Director of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR); and Ms. Alanna Armitage, Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Ms. K. MADI, *panellist*, illustrating her remarks with a slide presentation, said that disasters were exacting an ever-rising toll, with adverse implications for poverty reduction, the global economy and decades of sustainable development gains, particularly as climate change was now an exacerbating factor in extreme weather events. Risk reduction investments, however, helped to prevent losses from disaster while also bolstering economic activity and producing socio-economic and environmental co-benefits. Steps taken to address the root causes of background risks furthermore promoted forward-looking planning, long-term capital investment and entrepreneurship. Risk was nonetheless increasingly systemic, as exemplified by natural-hazard-triggered technological, or Natech, events, which had cascading impacts on business communities, critical infrastructure and basic services, supply routes and global trade. A shift away from the management of risk in disconnected silos was therefore essential to its reduction.

Of the 28 actions recommended in the IPU resolution, one had been achieved (recommendation 15) and the other 27 remained as urgent and relevant as ever to building disaster risk reduction and resilience. It was thus gratifying that governments and the IPU had participated so extensively in the post-2015 development agenda and the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. The various interlinked and mutually reinforcing agreements that had since emanated, among them the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, were also fully aligned with the IPU resolution. Sharing many common indicators for the measurement of progress, those agreements acknowledged that development, climate change and improved urban planning must all be risk-informed.

The IPU resolution was in fact a vital enabler of the Sendai Framework, which insisted on an inclusive people-centred approach to disaster risk reduction and recognized the critical role of parliamentarians in supporting the achievement of its four priorities for action: improving understanding of disaster risk; strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience; and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The Sendai Framework also incorporated seven global targets designed to mobilize action for tackling such underlying drivers of disaster risk as environmental degradation, rapid urbanization and population growth in hazard-exposed areas.

To those ends, the Sendai Framework called on parliaments to enact or amend relevant legislation, set the necessary budget allocations and hold governments to account, all with a view to creating an enabling environment for investment to reduce disaster risk, foster sustainable development and trigger long-term socio-economic and environmental benefits. Indeed, parliaments could play a pivotal role in strengthening the inclusiveness and legitimacy of national disaster risk reduction action, supporting a "whole-of-society" approach and mainstreaming risk management considerations in key development sectors. Through their key functions, leadership and advocacy, parliaments also had an especially vital role to play in supporting the achievement of target (e) of the Sendai Framework, which was substantially to increase by 2020 the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies. In short, parliamentary action to implement the IPU resolution under discussion was essential to achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework, in line with the outcomes of the recent United Nations high-level summits and meetings aimed at accelerating progress through a decade of action. She looked forward to working closely with IPU Members towards building a more resilient future.

Responding to questions from Mr. N. EVANS (United Kingdom) and the representative of GHANA concerning, respectively, the impact on disaster risk reduction of the general lack of commitment to the official development assistance target of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product and the number of developed and developing countries having met target (e) of the Sendai Framework, she said that she would be pleased to communicate the relevant details to interested



delegations separately. Full data were available, however, in the most recent Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, published in 2019 and accessible via the UNDRR website. Ninety-one countries had reported through the online Sendai Framework Monitor on their progress towards that target, although the indications were that some 120 countries were well on their way to its accomplishment. Concerted and coordinated efforts were nevertheless needed to accelerate action over the coming decade for implementation of the Sendai Framework. She therefore urged parliaments to hold governments to account in terms of their commitment and shared responsibilities on that score.

Ms. A. ARMITAGE, *panellist*, also illustrating her remarks with a slide presentation, said that the understanding of population and environment had evolved since the adoption of the IPU resolution, which focused on the negative impacts of population dynamics, especially population growth, on the environment, climate change and disaster risk. Efforts to slow such growth would have little or no effect, however, on climate change, resource use or the human footprint on the environment unless sustainable production and consumption patterns were achieved and waste vastly reduced. Countries with lower fertility rates in fact produced the highest emission levels, whereas almost all those with high fertility rates essentially produced zero emissions per capita. The claim that population growth was a primary driver of climate change should be treated with scepticism, always remembering, moreover, that inhabitants of the poorest countries contributed the least to climate change but were the most likely to feel its impact.

The IPU resolution also called for the integration of population and sexual and reproductive health in disaster risk reduction, with the development community taking a leading role, all of which resonated fully with the UNFPA mandate and was also incorporated into the Sendai Framework. In that regard, the answer lay in measures for further strengthening crisis prevention, resilience, preparedness and early action in order to decrease the historic levels of humanitarian need, especially in view of the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters induced by climate change. Investments in population and sexual and reproductive health were central to increasing climate and natural disaster resilience, for which the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) listed four entry points: healthy and empowered populations; climate-resilient health systems; services and protection in and before emergencies; and population, health and gender data in order to assess and act on vulnerability to climate change.

The IPU resolution further called for better data and mapping, which were areas of major global, regional and national emphasis, including for UNFPA, with a focus on risks faced by vulnerable populations so as to minimize disaster. With the help of its Minimum Integrated Service Package (MISP) calculator, UNFPA was improving data with the aim of readily estimating and supporting the core needs of women and girls in emergencies. UNFPA also worked in support of high-quality census data that could be widely disseminated and used in conjunction with other geospatial data to enhance disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Currently operating in numerous African countries, its Geo-Referenced Infrastructure and Demographic Data for Development (GRID3) programme offered promise on that score by combining multiple data gathered through innovative remote-sensing and geographic information system methodologies to estimate local populations, including in hard-to-reach or conflict-affected areas. Another new key initiative was the web-based UNFPA Population Data Platform, a dynamic and interactive tool with built-in applications designed to improve disaster risk assessment with a view to, *inter alia*, informing risk reduction policies and budgeting and increasing the efficiency of targeted interventions.

Parliamentarians could further enhance their role in promoting risk-resilient development by working for budgeted emergency preparedness and response and disaster risk reduction plans that integrated sexual and reproductive health and also included an emphasis on national adaptation plans prepared under the Paris Agreement. Another area meriting parliamentary support concerned the collection and use of better and more dynamic population data through new technologies and innovation. UNFPA looked forward to continuing its long-standing partnership with parliamentarians by working with the IPU and UNDRR to increase the focus on risk resilience in all countries.

In reply to a question from Ms. W. BANI MUSTAFA (Jordan) about risk planning for unpredictable situations such as those faced by her country in struggling to provide for unforeseen numbers of Syrian refugees, she said that the capacity for swift access to real-time data was key to accelerating appropriate responses to unanticipated events. Data estimates generated by the tools she had mentioned could be used as a basis for scaling up those responses, which also depended on good resilience planning and systemic support.

Ms. K. MADI, *panellist*, agreed that real-time data was vital to understanding situations in a new and ever-changing risk landscape that had grown in complexity since the IPU resolution was adopted. Strong disaster risk governance and whole-of-society engagement were likewise indispensable for risk resilience and response, which also demanded solidarity and international cooperation.

The PRESIDENT thanked the expert panellists for their informative presentations and invited contributions from the floor.

Mr. S. MAAROUF (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the war and acts of terrorism imposed on his country had destroyed its thriving economy, with adverse consequences for its inhabitants and their access to food, health, education and other services. Coupled with the prevailing lack of security and peace, the unjust economic sanctions likewise imposed on the country severely impeded its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It was time for parliaments to play their role in cracking down on supporters of terrorism and war.

Mr. S. ALMUTAWA (United Arab Emirates) said that his country had developed legal, regulatory and strategic frameworks for disaster management, which were overseen by a dedicated national authority. It had furthermore invested in high-quality infrastructure with a view to reducing disasters and their socio-economic and environmental impact. It had built Masdar City, one of the world's most sustainable urban communities, and was working systematically towards achievement of the targets set in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It would also host the tenth session of the World Urban Forum in 2020. Cooperation was fundamental to addressing risks, a challenge that no country was capable of overcoming single-handedly.

Mr. I. SEREEWATTHANAWUT (Thailand) said that, in common with many others, Thailand was set to turn into an ageing society much sooner than anticipated. It had therefore called on countries within its region to develop or enhance legislation to protect older persons and guarantee their right to, among others, dignity, security and health care, without discrimination. A further challenge related to the natural constraints impeding progress towards the SDGs, exemplified in his region by the hazardous transboundary hazes that would persist in the absence of acceptable alternatives to weed elimination through burning. In the light of those realities, the aim was to allocate resources to resilience planning and measures for a healthy ageing society and to research on cost-effective and environmentally friendly approaches and solutions to problematic natural constraints.

Ms. W. SYIEM (India) said that, in India, the frequency and unpredictability of extreme weather events had added to the country's burdens and challenges, threatening its limited natural resources, hampering its development and causing huge losses of life and property. It had therefore enhanced its disaster preparedness, mainstreamed disaster risk reduction in its development process, launched an eight-point national action plan on climate change, and established a national fund in support of adaptation measures. Its national disaster response force was the world's largest and its national disaster management plan was fully aligned with the Sendai Framework. The Indian Parliament had also actively pursued remedial, preventive and other measures pertaining to climate change, environment, air pollution and forests.

Ms. L. GUMEROVA (Russian Federation) said that her country's allocation of adequate resources for the implementation of plans and programmes had been key to their accomplishment. The resulting impact on environment protection was evidenced by figures showing reductions in urban air pollution and solid waste disposal through recycling. Forest restoration was under way, assisted by the deployment of new technologies for monitoring deforestation, while the need for rational use of natural resources to promote sustainable development had prompted the ban on drift-net fishing in Russian waters. Best practices should be shared and emulated in the interest of progress towards attainment of the SDGs, for which adequate targeted funding was also essential. For its part, the Russian Federation had already achieved the SDG targets for maternal, neonatal and under-5 mortality.

Mr. H.Y. JOO (Republic of Korea) said that population density and urbanization were both high in his country, which consequently relied mostly on apartment blocks for housing, giving rise to the potential for severe damage and loss of life from earthquakes. The most powerful Korean earthquake ever recorded, in 2016, had challenged safety perceptions and highlighted the need to include earthquake risks in the country's disaster risk management plans. At that time, major facilities were already required by law to install vibration sensors, but further legislation had since been passed in support of earthquake-resistant designs in areas of active faults. Noting that such proactive and preventive actions were more protective of lives than reactive steps, he pledged his utmost to develop legislative and policy measures for ensuring public safety.

Mr. S. MOHAI (South Africa) said that his Parliament had stepped in to speed up the pace of agricultural land transfers under a post-apartheid land reform programme introduced to eradicate discrimination against women in land matters by ensuring their equitable access to land and empowering them to participate productively in ownership, food security and agricultural reform. Parliament had also allocated adequate funding for a commission of enquiry to investigate allegations of State corruption and fraud and fast-track the recovery of embezzled assets. An anti-corruption strategy was being developed to promote public and private accountability and the revenue services were working to eliminate illicit financial flows. With a view to ending tax evasion, South Africa had also signed bilateral agreements on double taxation and tax information exchange with various tax haven countries.

Mr. M.R. MOUSSA HABIB (Egypt) said that millions were driven into poverty each year by disasters. Risk management was therefore key to sustainable development, entailing a decisive role for parliamentarians. Egypt Vision 2030 embodied an ambitious long-term strategy for improving life quality based on the three economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainability so as to avoid compromising the rights of future generations to a better life. Egypt continued to play a pivotal role in climate change negotiations and was fully committed to the Paris Agreement. Its Parliament exercised careful oversight of national environment-related programmes and had enacted legislation to promote the economic and investment environments, control financial markets and amend the law on mineral wealth. It was also working with ministries to produce a budget for disaster risk reduction.

Mr. K. YAKURA (Japan) said that no country was exempt from natural disaster, which in Japan and elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region struck with frequent regularity, wreaking havoc on lives and inflicting heavy economic damage. With its extensive experience and knowledge of natural disaster, Japan was well placed to assist others in developing the disaster prevention and mitigation measures essential to safety and sustainable development alike. It had thus supported disaster reduction activities at the international and regional levels by providing information and personnel, training, and various forms of help for victims. In order to build resilience, all countries should prioritize disaster prevention and strengthen disaster governance, including through adequate resource allocation, mainstreaming of disaster prevention in policymaking, proper supervision and other appropriate measures. Parliaments too must play their part by recommending effective actions.

Mr. S. ALRAHMA (Bahrain) said that sustainable development was increasingly challenged owing to rapid population growth and urbanization, which had implications for the SDGs. Urban infrastructure policy must therefore seek to ensure that the benefits of urban expansion were shared, inclusive and focused on vulnerable groups, with guaranteed universal access to social services. Across the globe, parliamentarians had a responsibility to find legislative solutions for addressing the unsatisfactory pace of progress towards sustainable development, which was out of step with population growth, and for promoting achievement of the SDGs. Efforts to deal with demographic change and urbanization were ongoing in Bahrain, where parliamentarians had been involved in developing the current national economic strategy aimed at improving living standards for citizens.

Ms. W. BANI MUSTAFA (Jordan) said that a national centre for security and crisis management had been established in Jordan but that legislation was needed to ensure that it was fully empowered to perform its expected functions, including in the areas of institutional cooperation and science-based policymaking. Having experienced disastrous consequences of extreme weather events precipitated by climate change, Jordan had also recently opened a water and mountain rescue centre with a view to averting similar tragedies in future. Jordan annually reviewed its strategic plans in the light of developments relating in particular to its hosting of Syrian refugees, for which it lacked the necessary financial resources and no longer received international assistance. It was therefore striving to improve the quality of its data and analysis methods and to build a more enabling legislative environment for disaster risk management.

Ms. G. JOURDA (France) said that she had witnessed in her part of France the devastating impact of flooding, in particular its costly human and economic repercussions. The rest of France was similarly vulnerable to climate change effects, such as the submergence of coastal areas from sea-level rise. Whereas the public authorities mobilized in the face of natural disasters, the private sector remained inert, failing to protect the poorest in society for whom insurance was unaffordable. She had therefore set in motion a national review aimed at addressing that situation through legislative reform and measures to support the efforts of elected officials in assisting local at-risk communities. The IPU resolution had been extremely relevant to improving disaster risk management, which also crucially entailed regular updating of the systems in place for dealing with unexpected disasters.

Mr. R. EL HILAA (Morocco) said that, in addition to legislating for disaster risk reduction, parliaments should ensure that a regular budget allocation was made for dealing with unforeseen disasters.

The PRESIDENT thanked participants for their contributions and invited final comments from the expert panellists.

Ms. K. MADI, *panellist*, said that it had been a privilege to hear about so many and varied experiences. A full understanding of risk in a complex interconnected environment was instrumental to national disaster risk reduction efforts, including with respect to budgeting, and UNDRR stood ready to provide support on that score. She agreed with the importance of updating, which in turn underscored the importance of involving the whole of society, including youth, in the process of national and local capacity-building for risk reduction. Leading and supporting that process in conjunction with local authorities was central to ensuring that strategies materialized and were followed through with the necessary budgeting at the local level. Public participation and empowerment strengthened preparedness, response and resilience, as did investments in the social sectors so as to leave no one behind. Access to relevant information was key to building urban resilience, with nature-based solutions offering a critical way forward. UNDRR looked forward to working with IPU Members and was available as a resource for advancing the disaster risk reduction agenda.

Ms. A. ARMITAGE, *panellist*, said that it had been a great pleasure to hear the heartfelt interventions concerning the challenges and lessons learned around the topic of discussion. Effective disaster risk reduction relied greatly on population data for pinpointing vulnerabilities and would certainly be facilitated by the new data generation tools she had outlined. Such data were equally critical for identifying demographic transitions under way and planning responses and services to match consequent needs. In preparing for the upcoming Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, the focus was on the overlap between population dynamics, natural disaster response and climate change adaptation. Given the uneven impact of disasters and climate change on different population subgroups, it was important to be aware of varying population characteristics and differentials in vulnerabilities. The good overall progress achieved in disaster risk reduction was exemplified in the normative framework now in place. UNFPA was similarly willing to work with parliamentarians and governments to ensure the adequacy of preparedness and response to all disasters, including by drawing on best practices from around the world.

The PRESIDENT thanked the panellists for enlightening the Committee on their areas of expertise and for offering to IPU Members the assistance of their respective organizations in those areas.

*The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.*

## Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m. with Mr. P. Katjavivi (Namibia), Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

### **Adoption of the agenda** (C-IV/141/A.)

*The agenda was adopted.*

### **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Doha (April 2019)**

*The summary record was approved.*

### **Panel discussion: *Respect for international law in keeping with the UN Charter and other relevant resolutions***

The CHAIR said that international law was the legal system that governed relations among States. It aimed to prevent conflict between nations and facilitate peaceful settlement of disputes. The panel discussion would consider whether the current enforcement regime, including international tribunals and the United Nations Security Council, was sufficient to restore respect for international law. Panellists would outline the incentives that existed to encourage countries to abide by international law and assess whether those incentives could be strengthened. They would debate whether United Nations sanctions could be more effective and fairer. Lastly, there would be a discussion on the lessons learned from managing conflicts such as the one in the Balkans in the 1990s. He introduced the panellists.

Mr. T. BIERSTEKER (Graduate Institute Geneva), *panellist*, said that he would give a general presentation on United Nations sanctions. Sanctions were used frequently but were mostly disliked. The general perception of sanctions was that they did not work and harmed innocent people. However, sanctions did work in certain circumstances and the degree of harm varied depending on the types of sanctions applied. Paradoxically, sanctions were both overused and underutilized at the same time.

Sanctions were restrictive measures of an economic, diplomatic or legal nature applied to achieve specific political goals. One purpose of sanctions was to coerce an actor into changing their behaviour. The intention in those cases was to resolve an armed conflict, counter terrorism, reduce the proliferation of weapons, prevent human rights violations or support transitional arrangements. A second purpose of sanctions was to constrain an actor who could not be persuaded to change their behaviour. A final purpose was to send a signal on the normative unacceptability of a particular behaviour.

Sanctions were never applied in isolation but in conjunction with at least one other policy intervention, such as mediation or use of force. More than one type of sanction was needed for it to be effective. The typical combination was an asset freeze, a travel ban and an arms embargo. The types and scope of sanctions varied enormously. Some sanctions were extremely targeted on a handful of individuals. United Nations sanctions against Sudan, Mali, the Central African Republic and Guinea Bissau were targeted sanctions. Other sanctions were extremely broad or even comprehensive, such as the sanctions currently in place against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. There were also sanctions regimes that combined both targeted and broad sanctions.

The United Nations had first started using sanctions in the 1960s and 1970s against Southern Rhodesia and South Africa. There had been a massive increase in UN sanctions activity after the Cold War, a cooling off after the 2000s and a resumption in volume over the past decade. Initially, the United Nations had applied more comprehensive sanctions, for instance against Iraq, Haiti and Serbia in the 1990s. Over time, however, UN sanctions had generally become more targeted. There were some exceptions to that trend, such as in Libya in 2011 where broad financial and energy sector sanctions had been introduced.

Sanctions did sometimes work but not very often. One example of an effective sanctions regime was that applied to Libya in 1999. Libya had changed its behaviour in the direction of a UN Security Council resolution as a result of the sanctions. However, it had not been the application of sanctions but the suspension of sanctions that had triggered the change. In most cases, sanctions were ineffective. For example, sanctions had been ineffective in Rwanda in 1994 because they had been applied too late. Some sanctions were too limited, such as the UN sanctions applied against Sudan on only four individuals. There were even cases of sanctions making the situation worse, as in Haiti in 1994 where the Government had increased its human rights violations following sanctions. On average, UN sanctions were effective only 20 per cent of the time. Nevertheless, it was important to recognize that UN sanctions were applied to the most difficult conflicts in the world.

The suggestion that sanctions were underutilized stemmed from the relationship between sanctions and mediation. In mediation efforts, sanctions threats or the promise of sanctions relief could bring parties to the table and secure a peace agreement. The interactive effect of sanctions combined with other measures needed to be more appreciated.

Ms. A. THEOLOGOU (Cyprus), *panellist*, said that respect for international law was one of the most fundamental bastions of international affairs. All actions of the international community aiming to preserve peace and security should be in line with international law, including the UN Charter. However, in practice the situation was more complex. National interests often prevailed even if they ran counter to international obligations. Double standards also persisted. Since the end of the Cold War, the UN Security Council had encountered difficulties in fulfilling its mission to preserve international peace and security. It was therefore being increasingly called into question. However, the international system was essential to the safety of all countries and must be protected.

There had been times when the international community had witnessed, tolerated or even openly supported practices falling short of international law, such as in the case of Cyprus. The Turkish invasion and occupation of Cyprus was in contradiction to the UN Charter. The UN Security Council had in various resolutions condemned the illegal regime and called for the withdrawal of Turkish troops. Yet, the international community continued to tolerate the situation.

The only way to uphold the values of peace, security and stability was to remain committed to respect for international law with no exceptions. Chaos would prevail if the international community became more lenient in its obligations. The common endeavour of the international community should be to resolve long-standing international problems, such as the situation persisting in the Middle East and Cyprus. It was the duty of parliamentarians to push governments to reaffirm the supremacy of international law.

Mr. F.H. NAEK (Pakistan), *panellist*, said that respect for international law was a prerequisite for security, stability and sustainable growth. At the heart of international law were human rights, which were safeguarded in various treaties, covenants and customs. One of the most important human rights instruments was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Several mechanisms were in place to ensure that human rights were upheld, including the UN Human Rights Council, the human rights treaty bodies, and tribunals, such as the International Court of Justice. Major challenges arose when a nation disobeyed a human rights instrument.

The illegal occupation of Kashmir by India went counter to international law. India was a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which protected the right to life and prohibited all forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. Yet, Indian forces had systematically violated the human rights of the Kashmiris, including through torture, hostage taking and rape. The inaction of the international community over Kashmir was a threat to people's lives. It also called into question the legitimacy of the United Nations as an organization and its ability to enforce its resolutions and laws.

Enforcement of international law had been weak due to a lack of enforcement bodies. The most prominent mechanism of enforcement was the UN Security Council, which could impose economic, diplomatic or military sanctions. However, UN Security Council sanctions involving armed force had never been used in the form contemplated by the UN Charter. The UN Charter set out a system whereby Member States reserved armed forces ready to respond to the call of the Security Council. No such system had ever been put into place. There was another problem with the mechanism: the veto of the five permanent members. As a result of the veto, the Security Council had been accused of being highly unrepresentative and undemocratic. UN sanctions could be more effective if adopted with maximum possible support from all members of the Security Council. Sanctions should be contingent upon the dynamics of the conflict in question. They would be meaningless if neighbouring countries kept supplying individuals, groups or regimes targeted by sanctions with money, arms, mercenaries or trading opportunities.

There was a need to provide incentives towards compliance with international law. Currently, sovereign States were not obliged to comply unless they had consented to it. Another good way forward was conflict prevention, which meant intervening before tensions reached a real breaking point. However, prevention presented a host of problems in practice. The Security Council was ill-equipped in that regard. Deploying peacekeeping forces in a preventive capacity could play a useful, protective and deterrent role.

Mr. A. ALJOWAILY (Ambassador of Egypt to Serbia), *panellist*, said that sanctions regimes should be used to strengthen international peace and security. They were not an end in and of themselves but a means to achieving peaceful politics. There was a need for a clear and comprehensive system for lifting sanctions in addition to one for imposing them. When applying sanctions, the international community must make a clear distinction between legitimate authorities and illegal parties, who should not be subject to the same approach. Sanctions should not be politicized or they would lose their credibility. It was important to distinguish between multilateral UN sanctions and unilateral sanctions. While the former were legitimate, the latter were not.

Parliamentarians should bear in mind the practical aspects of implementing sanctions. First, it was very difficult to bring all sanctions together into one overarching text or master list. Although sanctions regimes were set out in UN Security Council resolutions, they were often subject to change as situations developed. Second, implementation assistance notices existed for every sanctions regime, which guided national authorities in implementing the sanctions. However, those notices were rarely published in languages other than English or French, and the type of language used was often ambiguous. It was therefore difficult to translate the texts into concrete national legislation. It was particularly important to ensure that any exemptions to sanctions, for instance on medical or religious grounds, were clear. Third, every sanctions regime had a sanctions committee and a group of experts which supported its implementation. It was vital for the groups of experts to have fair geographical representation. Fourth, more than one sanctions regime was sometimes implemented alongside another without a clear mandate from the Security Council. It was important to follow up on each set of sanctions individually. Fifth, every sanctions regime must be a "living" regime in that it must adapt with the changing environment.

When Egypt had been a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 2016 and 2017 it had conducted a meeting with countries affected by sanctions. It was important to listen to countries affected by the sanctions in order to improve the system.

Ms. I. DIMIC (Slovenia) said that respect for international law was one of the cornerstones of democracy. Slovenia was a strong advocate for the rule of law, including international criminal law and transitional justice. It supported efforts to bring to account perpetrators of the most serious crimes and stood behind the work of international tribunals, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC). Slovenia sought to promote cooperation between the ICC and the UN Security Council. Close cooperation between the United Nations and the IPU was also important, as it brought the parliamentary perspective into global processes. Slovenia contributed to the rule of law by enforcing judgments of international courts, such as the European Court of Human Rights, and expected other countries to do the same. Parliamentarians as law-makers played an important role in that process. The 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU was a good time to reinforce global commitments to respecting the rule of law.

Mr. A. TOUMI (Morocco) said that respect for international law was the foundation of global prosperity, peace and security. He asked why sanctions were applied only 20 per cent of the time. He also noted that sanctions were generally applied to developing countries. Decisions on economic sanctions were no longer made in multilateral organizations but in country forums, such as the Group of 7 (G7) and the Group of 20 (G20). Those decisions were likely influenced by the major powers. Multilateral organizations must go back to the principle of one country, one vote. It was wrong to give more weight to countries with greater economic power. There was also a need to strengthen the relationship of the IPU with the United Nations. The IPU should push to be more involved in UN decision-making processes as well as to ensure greater equity in those processes.

Mr. A. CHIBAYA (Zimbabwe) said that parliaments played three important roles in ensuring respect for international law. First, they approved international treaties and conventions. Second, they used their oversight function to ensure that governments fulfilled their commitments under international law. Third, they ensured that the provisions of international law were domesticated.

Mr. A. AL AMRI (Oman) said that parliaments must adopt legislation to combat scourges such as climate change and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The panellists should offer recommendations on how to ensure respect for international law. Enforcing laws was key to ensuring stability. Some members of the Security Council were using their veto power to block the adoption of laws. He supported plans to reform the United Nations. However, all countries should be involved in those plans.

Baroness HOOPER (United Kingdom) said that the panellists had outlined the gaps that still existed in the implementation of international law. The emergence of new technologies and instant communications had been advantageous when it came to transparency. Parliamentarians should focus on ways to ensure compliance with United Nations agreements. They should also make sure that sanctions were monitored. UK parliamentarians had the opportunity to debate such issues and question the relevant ministers. There were also select committees and all-party backbench groups which could interview experts, prepare reports and put pressure on the Government. She asked how the international community could succeed in applying sanctions against the individuals responsible for bad policies rather than against the country as a whole. Indeed, the people who suffered most from sanctions were often the poorest and the most innocent.

Mr. Z. OBRADOVIC (Serbia) asked the panellists to clarify what should happen if sanctions turned out to be unfounded. Sanctions had been imposed on Serbia in the 1990s for acts of aggression committed during the Balkans war. Those sanctions had later been lifted after some courts had ruled that there was no evidence of such aggression. Nevertheless, the people of Serbia had suffered greatly as a result of the sanctions. Power relations often came into play when making decisions to impose sanctions. NATO countries had known that they were violating the UN Charter when they had bombed Yugoslavia in the 1990s yet they had not been subject to sanctions. International tribunals should have a clear mandate to establish criminal responsibility for violations of international law. They must not be abused politically nor should they deliver a selective form of justice.

Mr. S. THAROOR (India) said that Mr. Naek had misrepresented the facts on Jammu and Kashmir. It was ironic and absurd that a State responsible for inflicting countless cross-border terrorist attacks on Jammu and Kashmir was trying to masquerade as a champion of international law and human rights. India expected better from an IPU forum. Pakistan had forgotten its own obligation under UN Security Council resolutions: to end its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. It had also blatantly disregarded its other commitments under international law, such as those under the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration.

Respect for international law and the UN Charter was a constitutional obligation in India. The Indian Parliament had therefore incorporated UN regulations and resolutions into domestic law. India had always stood for peaceful mediation in conflict situations as well as impartiality and non-arbitrariness in the resolution of disputes. As a result, it believed that the United Nations should continue to improve its peacekeeping capabilities. India itself had contributed the largest cumulative number of troops to the United Nations. There was also a need to reform the composition of the Security Council and its role in global affairs. Respect for international law suffered if the Security Council was widely perceived as unrepresentative. While India accepted that targeted sanctions could sometimes work, it was impossible to justify comprehensive sanctions against a State. Comprehensive sanctions harmed innocent people far more than the rulers at whom they were aimed.

Parliaments were the national bodies best placed to prevent violations of international law. They could prevent or remedy violations of international law by holding debates, passing legislation, promoting public education and monitoring government progress in complying with international treaties and conventions.

Mr. T. FUKUI (Japan) said that the digital economy was developing at a remarkable speed, promising to bring with it the innovation necessary to develop economies and resolve societal issues. At the same time, there were concerns about privacy. The problem of data protectionism had arisen as different platforms collected, stored and used huge amounts of personal data. Data protectionism restricted the use and flow of data. It was important to build an international framework to promote the free flow of data while also maintaining a proper balance between the advantages and potential problems. At the 2019 G20 summit, world leaders had released the Osaka Declaration on the digital economy which encouraged the formulation of international rules relating to the digital economy,



particularly with regard to data flow and e-commerce. The understanding and cooperation of citizens was essential when formulating rules on digital trade. It was critical for parliamentarians to ensure that those rules were fair and supportive of societal development.

Ms. F. MD. NORDIN (Malaysia) said that the United Nations was an essential instrument for world peace and security. Therefore, it was important to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and the IPU. Malaysia was committed to the peaceful settlement of international disputes and to the fulfilment of its obligations under international law. Respect for international law touched upon preventive diplomacy. It would be more efficient to prevent conflict rather than to react to it. Enforcement of international law was a fundamental challenge. Sanctions were costly to impose, challenging to coordinate and often ineffective in accomplishing their goals. The idea that sanctions were superior instruments of enforcement was deeply entrenched in scholarly and public discourse. However, in many cases, sanctions in fact undermined the enforcement of international law. She suggested looking into alternatives, such as reversible rewards, which involved offering a sum of money to the target in return for compliance. Reversible rewards could be preapproved in an enforcement fund to ensure credibility.

Mr. H.O. MOHAMED HASSANEIN (Egypt) said that parliamentarians must recognize and challenge the double standards that existed in the international order, especially in the Arab region. It was questionable whether the global community was abiding by international law in cases such as Palestine. The global community had failed to maintain the sovereignty of certain States. It had also failed to resolve conflicts through peaceful means. Strengthening international law was therefore vital. There was also a need to reinforce cooperation between the United Nations and the IPU as well as to build the capacities of IPU Member Parliaments. Countries should enforce the initiative launched by Egypt during its membership of the UN Security Council, namely to find an overarching international framework to combat terrorism. It was also necessary to redress shortcomings in the way in which the international community dealt with other issues, such as human rights. Egypt reiterated its commitment to respecting international law.

Mr. M. KARAKAYA (Turkey) said that Ms. Theologou had made baseless claims regarding the so-called Turkish occupation of Cyprus. The Cyprus problem was not an issue of occupation or invasion. There had been a partnership between the two sides in the 1960s under which the island was divided. In 1974, the Greek Cypriots had expelled Turkish Cypriots from the partnership in violation of many treaties and human rights norms.

Mr. S. YANG (Cambodia) said that the United Nations did not go far enough in its efforts to mediate, negotiate or investigate situations before imposing sanctions. Sanctions could intensify people's suffering and exacerbate an already dire situation, as had been the case in Cambodia. It seemed that the international community put pressure on small, poor, less powerful countries to respect international law and human rights but did not do the same for large, rich, more powerful countries. Mr. Biersteker should provide his opinion on the abovementioned points.

Mr. K. BAYRAMOV (Azerbaijan) said that the international world order was undermined when the decisions and resolutions of the United Nations were not implemented or were implemented selectively. The consequences were many, including a violation of trust, a reduction in the level of interaction between States and an increase in conflicts and tensions. Yet, Armenia continued to openly ignore international law in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict during which it had occupied 20 per cent of the territory of Azerbaijan. In particular, Armenia had violated four UN Security Council resolutions adopted in 1993 requiring an immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces from Azerbaijan. Article 25 of the UN Charter clearly stated that UN Member States must accept and carry out the decisions of Security Council. He asked therefore why the UN Security Council had not taken measures against States such as Armenia which were in violation of its own resolutions. Mr. Biersteker should clarify whether it came down to unwillingness, lack of decisiveness, or even intentional inaction.

Mr. O. HAMAYEL (Palestine) said that it was necessary to avoid double standards and impunity in the enforcement of international law. The international community should not be held hostage by major powers, especially those with veto power at the UN Security Council. Parliamentarians should therefore fight for UN reform. Sanctions could be effective if applied properly.

He asked Mr. Biersteker what to do when a State systematically violated the UN Charter and refused to obey UN resolutions, for instance by occupying territory and committing acts of murder. Parliamentarians should have a clear mandate to defend international law, including in the case of Palestine. States who violated international law should have their membership of international organizations called into question.

Mr. M. MELKUMYAN (Armenia), responding to the representative of Azerbaijan, said that, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, which was Armenian, had held a referendum and voted for independence from Azerbaijan. For the past 30 years, delegates from Armenia and Azerbaijan had attempted to address the matter peacefully within the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The representative of Azerbaijan did not seem to understand democracy.

Mr. T. BIERSTEKER, *panellist*, said that he had been struck by the number of concerns raised on the issue of justice, especially in the context of bilateral conflicts. In response to the representative of Morocco, he wished to clarify a misunderstanding in that it was not 20 per cent of sanctions that were applied. Rather, it was 20 per cent of sanctions that were effective in either coercing, constraining or signalling. There were specific criteria for making those determinations. The United States of America, France and the United Kingdom wrote 90 per cent of UN resolutions and therefore had a great deal of power and influence.

In response to the representative of Oman, he wished to make two recommendations on how to ensure respect for international law. First, those who were applying sanctions needed to follow up on any resolutions passed. Otherwise, sanctions would be defined by the targets and not the ones deciding on the measures. Second, the United Nations Security Council could increase the number of vetoes needed to block actions, especially in the case of genocide and mass crimes against humanity.

Responding to the representative of the United Kingdom, he said that sanctions against individuals were being applied increasingly more often since the 2000s. One pertinent issue in that regard was how to protect the due process rights of individuals targeted by sanctions. One way to do that was to put in place mechanisms that could remove individuals from a sanctions list if necessary. It was much easier to apply sanctions than to remove them and there were many instances of sanctions remaining in place for years. The UN Security Council made all the decisions with regards to sanctions. It was an issue that also concerned the question from the representative of Serbia on what to do when sanctions were unfounded.

He agreed with the representative of India in that it was difficult to justify comprehensive sanctions. It was for that reason that there had been a massive move towards targeted sanctions. However, the problem lay in keeping targeted sanctions targeted. Parliaments could help in that regard. National governments were responsible for interpreting UN Security Council resolutions, and ministries were responsible for their implementation domestically. However, it was the private sector actors, such as banks and financial institutions, that actually enforced certain kinds of targeted sanctions. From their standpoint, it was less costly to apply comprehensive blocks on a country than against an individual.

In response to the representative of Cambodia, it varied as to whether the United Nations went far enough before imposing sanctions. The United Nations was often involved in mediation efforts prior to the application of sanctions, but there were exceptions, such as in the case of in Libya. It was important to look at the interactive effects of sanctions with other measures rather than seeing them as a separate instrument. Responding to the representative of Azerbaijan, the lack of measures taken by the UN Security Council against States violating international law was intentional inaction. Certain States received protection from permanent members of the Security Council. As a result, those States were neither condemned nor made the object of sanctions.

Ms. A. THEOLOGOU, *panellist*, said that double standards persisted in the process for enforcing respect for international law, whether that be in Cyprus, Armenia, the former Yugoslavia or Syria. Countries such as Turkey persistently refused to respect the rule of law, with real consequences on people's lives. According to the United Nations, the Republic of Cyprus was the only country recognized on the territory in question. Turkey had invaded Cyprus in 1974 and was currently doing the same in north Syria. Indeed, Turkey had been the object of sanctions many times in history. Respect for international law was vital if the global community wished to make the world a more peaceful place.

Mr. F.H. NAEK, *panellist*, said that UN sanctions would be more effective if they were adopted with maximum support from all Security Council members. Sanctions should be contingent on the dynamics of the conflict in question. They required political will and the right expertise. All 193 UN Member States were responsible for implementing sanctions. Sanctions were meaningless if neighbouring States continued to supply the groups or regimes targeted by sanctions with money, mercenaries or trading opportunities. The Security Council had the ability to apply secondary sanctions on States that failed to comply with the original sanctions, but it rarely did so.

Pakistan condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The country was a huge victim of terrorism, having lost thousands of civilians, army personnel and enforcement personnel to the scourge. It was committed to fighting terrorism and had already spent billions on that purpose. Pakistan wished to see a peaceful settlement of the problem in Jammu and Kashmir pursuant to UN Security Council resolutions. The problem must be resolved through a free, fair and impartial plebiscite. The United Nations should send a mission to Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir to ascertain the facts.

Mr. A. ALJOWAILY, *panellist*, said that delegates had raised concerns on three levels. Firstly, there was a need to reform the multilateral system as a whole to better resolve international disputes. Secondly, the United Nations must restructure its institutions to better serve multilateralism. Thirdly, deficits existed on the operational level, for instance with regard to the groups of experts and the language in the documents.

Mr. S. THAROOR (India) said that the IPU should not be misused as a platform to ventilate bilateral disputes. It was unacceptable that a panellist raising a private dispute had the opportunity to speak again and again without others having a right to reply. The setup had created an imbalance which was not helpful for constructive dialogue. The IPU must choose impartial panellists rather than ones who engaged in polemics.

The CHAIR said that he had taken note of the comments from the representative of India. It was not helpful to engage in a dialogue that encouraged further disagreements. Doing so would defeat the purpose of the Committee.

A representative of PAKISTAN said that the representative of India had made accusations which were not correct. UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir were alive and in order. Under those resolutions, Jammu and Kashmir was a disputed area whose future should be determined by the people through a fair, transparent and impartial plebiscite. The IPU should send a fact-finding mission to Jammu and Kashmir. The region was currently under lockdown, with one military officer to every nine citizens and thousands of people without food. The representative of India had an erroneous understanding of international law and human rights.

#### **Panel discussion: *The 2019 IPU survey on the relationship between parliaments and the United Nations***

The CHAIR said that the IPU had conducted a survey on the relationship between parliaments and the United Nations. The survey sought to strengthen the role of parliaments in the implementation of international agreements as well as to help parliaments hold governments to account for their decisions at the United Nations. The idea was to bring the people closer to the United Nations through their elected representatives.

Mr. A. MOTTER (IPU Secretariat), *panellist*, said that the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs had been created with one objective in mind: to strengthen the relationship between national parliaments and the United Nations. The survey had shown that there was still a long way to go for the relationship to take root. There were two parts to the relationship. The first was to bring parliaments, and therefore the people, into UN decision-making processes. The second was to exercise oversight over governments at the United Nations. The survey had consisted of eight questions. Five of those questions had been for all IPU Member Parliaments and three had been for developing countries with UN country offices.

The first sign that something was wrong was in the participation rate. Out of 179 IPU Member Parliaments, only 50 had responded to the survey. It was important to ask why that had been the case. Possible reasons could have been a lack of interest, capacity or authority to engage with the United

Nations. Among the 50 participating parliaments, there had been an even split between developed and developing countries. However, the split had in fact signalled a problem. It showed that the developed world was more concerned by the relationship because the number of developing countries worldwide was greater.

The first question of the survey had asked what authority the parliament had to summon the permanent representative to the United Nations. It was encouraging to hear that 37 out of 50 parliaments did have that authority. However, only 8 made good use of that authority. The second question had asked whether parliamentarians were included in country delegations to the United Nations. The result had been good, with 38 parliaments responding that its members were included. However, in 32 cases, parliamentarians were selected primarily by the government. It was therefore unclear whether the selection included parliamentarians from the opposition. Ideally the selection would go through Speaker's office or the IPU Group to ensure full representation. Only 18 parliaments made the selection in the latter way. The third question had laid out five key UN decision-making processes conducted in 2018. Parliaments had then been asked whether they had received a government report on those processes and held a debate. One of the most fundamental of those processes had been the General Assembly Resolution entitled *Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union*. The result had been very poor in that regard. Only 10 parliaments had received a report on the Resolution and 4 had held a debate. The fourth question had asked parliaments whether they had been informed of the government's position on UN reform processes. Parliaments had also been asked whether they had held a debate on the matter. Again, the results were not encouraging, with only 20 parliaments having been informed and only 6 having held a debate. The fifth question had asked whether parliaments had received a report on the government's financial contributions to the United Nations. A total of 23 had said that they had received a report but the majority knew nothing about UN funding.

The final three questions had been asked only of developing countries. The sixth question had asked whether parliaments had the authority to summon the Resident Coordinator of the UN country office. The Resident Coordinator guided the country office in delivering UN programmes and was the direct interface with the government. Out of 28 parliaments, 15 had said that they did have the authority to summon the Resident Coordinator. However, only one country had actually used that authority. The seventh question had asked whether parliaments had opportunities to work with the United Nations to strengthen parliamentary capacities. While 10 had said that they did, 18 had said that they did not. The result was not necessarily negative, as other entities outside the United Nations worked to help parliaments. However, it was another indication of a weak relationship of national parliaments with the United Nations. The eighth question had referred to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which was a plan establishing what the United Nations would do in a country over a four-year period. Parliaments had been asked whether they had opportunities to review the plan. Only three parliaments had said that they did.

There were two overarching conclusions from the survey. Firstly, parliaments were mostly absent from key UN processes. Secondly, parliaments were not using their full oversight potential. The study was the first of its kind and would be repeated in a few years to assess progress.

The CHAIR said that the IPU would continue to work on improving the relationship between national parliaments and the United Nations.

Ms. M. KIENER NELLEN (Member of Parliament, Switzerland), *panellist*, said that the Executive Committee had drawn a number of conclusions from the survey. First, the survey had shown that there were very serious gaps to address with regard to parliamentary oversight at the United Nations. Second, parliaments received very little information regarding UN activities. Third, the poor return of survey responses was disappointing.

It was clear that closer cooperation was needed between secretaries general of parliament and IPU bodies, including the Executive Committee. In particular, secretaries general of parliament needed to be more systematic in responding to IPU surveys. Mr. P. Schwab, President of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliament (ASGP), had offered his help in that regard. There had been a better response rate in the past for surveys on specific issues such as the Sustainable Development Goals. It suggested that parliamentarians were much better informed on those issues than they were about UN processes. The flow of information between the United Nations and parliaments must be more systematic.

Many governments did not consult their parliaments about their work at the United Nations, including on important matters such as the country report to the UN Human Rights Council. Parliaments should be informed about key UN processes from external sources, such as the UN itself or the IPU. The aim should be to make the voices of parliaments heard in a more systematic and timely manner, thereby giving them more influence.

Opposition parties found it considerably more difficult to be included in country delegations to the United Nations. She suspected that parliamentarians from the opposition were rarely included in the delegations of countries that had not responded to the survey.

The year 2020 would be important for strengthening parliamentary participation at the United Nations. Among the events taking place was the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament and the anniversary of the Beijing Declaration. Both events would be an opportunity to pass resolutions that brought parliaments closer to UN decision-making processes.

One positive example of cooperation had been on the issue of terrorism and violent extremism. Given that the IPU had a strategy that was in line with the UN strategy on the issue, it had been able to sign a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The memorandum of understanding would be particularly helpful in engaging parliamentarians at a regional level.

The CHAIR said that the Namibian Parliament welcomed the survey but regretted that many parliaments had not responded. However, it was important not to be discouraged. The survey had allowed the IPU to identify the gaps and therefore help parliaments improve. The Namibian Parliament had itself completed the survey. Although the executive led the discussions at the United Nations, Namibian parliamentarians were included in the national delegation from time to time. Moreover, the African Union had tasked Namibia with leading a lobby group on UN reform. The Head of State participated in debates at the UN General Assembly and reported back to Parliament. Parliamentary oversight of UN activities was mainly focused on implementing government projects supported by the United Nations. The Namibian Parliament had a very close working relationship with the UN country office. The director of the Speaker's office regularly assisted and advised the work of the UN Resident Coordinator. For example, the director was the focal point for the committee tasked with evaluating the Country Programming Framework for the period 2019–2023.

In conclusion, it was necessary to build upon the results of the survey. He recommended that a follow-up survey be performed every second or third year to track progress and improve. The survey had shown that it varied as to whether governments were supportive of parliamentary engagement at the United Nations. The Namibian Government was itself very supportive.

Mr. S. ALMUTAWA (United Arab Emirates) commended the efforts of the IPU in strengthening the relationship between the IPU, national parliaments and the United Nations. In particular, he commended the Memorandum of Understanding between the IPU, UNOCT and UNODC. It was an important framework that would strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. In particular, it would enhance the role of parliamentarians in that regard. There was a need to establish a global database on terrorism and violent extremism as well as to converge the efforts of parliaments around the world. Parliamentarians were included in delegations of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations and took part in seminars and workshops there. It was very important to raise awareness among local communities on the importance of strengthening relationships with the United Nations. The IPU should organize joint initiatives with the United Nations with a view to building capacities and sharing experiences. It should develop a guidebook for parliamentarians on ways to strengthen their role at the United Nations. A mechanism was also needed to enable the smooth flow of information between the two organizations.

Mr. F.H. NAEK (Pakistan) said that engaging national parliaments systematically at the United Nations would strengthen global governance, confront democratic deficits in intergovernmental affairs, support representational democracy and better connect the United Nations with global opinion. The Government of Pakistan was very supportive of parliamentary involvement at the United Nations.

Former UN Secretary-General Mr. Boutros-Ghali had once said that the United Nations must promote democratization of globalization before globalization destroyed the foundation of democracy. Establishing a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly was an indispensable step towards that goal. The UN General Assembly was not representative of the people and usually consisted of diplomats appointed by the government. By contrast, a UN Parliamentary Assembly would represent the citizens of the world rather than governments. The idea was not to reject the UN General Assembly but to complement it with a parliamentary dimension. However, seats at a UN Parliamentary Assembly must

be appointed in a democratic way. States could choose whether the members came from national parliaments or whether they were directly elected. The ultimate goal would be for all members to be directly elected. Starting as a largely consultative body, the rights and powers of the UN Parliamentary Assembly could be expanded over time as its democratic legitimacy increased. The purpose would be for elected representatives to exercise a parliamentary function directly at international level. He urged the IPU to support the formation of a UN Parliamentary Assembly.

Mr. A.A. DIALLO (Burkina Faso) said that the results of the survey were worrying since they indicated a huge gap between parliaments and the UN system. The IPU must build on its work to associate parliaments more directly with the United Nations. It was important to create a United Nations of the people rather than a United Nations of States.

Baroness HOOPER (United Kingdom) said that the survey provided a very valuable basis for discussions. The Secretariat should indicate the one country that had responded positively to the sixth question of the survey. She was unaware of who had completed the survey on behalf of the United Kingdom. She was also unaware of questions that had been raised with regard to her country's contribution to the UN budget. It was the function of parliamentarians to monitor the activities taking place at the United Nations. She hoped that her Parliament would pay more attention to the activities of the United Nations following Brexit. The survey should become a regular feature of the Committee.

Mr. A.A. DIALLO (Burkina Faso) said that Cote d'Ivoire was the only country from West Africa which had participated in the survey. The Committee must raise more awareness of such surveys. If his country had been aware, it would have responded.

The CHAIR said that it was important to raise awareness at all forums in Africa, including at the Southern African Development Community, the Economic Community of West African States and the Pan-African Parliament.

Mr. A. MOTTER, *panellist*, said that the representative of the United Arab Emirates was correct to say that the IPU had signed a memorandum of understanding with UNOCT and UNODC, the aim of which was to implement UN agreements on terrorism. Although the memorandum of understanding was a positive move, the survey had not intended to cover the implementation of UN agreements. Instead, the objective of the survey had been to ensure parliamentary input into UN decision-making processes.

A UN Parliamentary Assembly, as proposed by the representative of Pakistan, would not be feasible for a number of reasons. First, governments would never agree to it. Second, it would require UN Charter reform. Third, huge problems would arise in selecting members. Fourth, there was no guarantee that citizens would feel represented at a global level given that many already felt disconnected from their national representatives. While, in theory, the proposal sounded very attractive, in reality, it had many legal, logistical and political challenges. Instead, the position of the IPU was to use what was already there. Each country already had a national parliament and national government. The United Nations engaged mostly with national governments. The way forward was therefore to strengthen parliamentary oversight over government activities at the United Nations. The position was a feasible one given that some parliaments were already doing it. After holding many discussions on whether to establish a UN Parliamentary Assembly, it was overwhelmingly clear that there was no appetite for one.

Ms. P. TORSNEY (IPU Secretariat) said that there was a person or office within each national parliament responsible for receiving and responding to IPU communications. The abovementioned survey had also been sent to parliamentary committees dealing with the United Nations. In response to the representative of the United Kingdom, it was the British Group of the IPU that was responsible for IPU communications within the British Parliament.

Parliamentarians must be more proactive on UN affairs. They should push their parliaments to respond to IPU communications. They should insist on discussing UN matters in parliament. They should put pressure on governments and ambassadors to support IPU efforts at the United Nations. The IPU was working hard to involve parliamentarians in UN processes in 2020, such as in the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations and in the drafting process for other important UN General Assembly resolutions. However, the IPU would be more successful in those efforts with the help of parliamentarians. Indeed, parliaments had been excluded from the outcome document of the 2019 UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development despite huge efforts from the IPU to include them. Delegates were encouraged to speak to their foreign ministers and UN ambassadors.

### **Overview of major UN-related activities for 2020**

Ms. P. TORSNEY (IPU Secretariat) said that many UN-related activities would take place in 2020. There would be events to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations. The annual parliamentary hearing would be held in February. The exact date and topic for the hearing had not yet been set. The IPU would soon send out a letter to national parliaments in that regard. Parliamentarians should register their interest with their Speaker should they wish to be a delegate. In May, the General Assembly would also be passing a new resolution on interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU.

### **Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee**

The CHAIR said that the following nominations had been received to fill vacancies on the Bureau: Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium), Mr. R. Peña Flores (Costa Rica) and Ms. P. Tohmeena (Thailand).

*The nominations were approved.*

*The sitting rose at 5.55 p.m.*

## Forum of Women Parliamentarians

### SITTING OF SUNDAY, 13 OCTOBER

*The sitting was called to order at 10.45 a.m. with Ms. S. Kihika (Kenya), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, in the Chair.*

#### **Election of the President of the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians**

*As recommended by Ms. A. Tolley (New Zealand) and Ms. H. Al-Helaissi (Saudi Arabia), Ms. G. Čomić, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia was, by acclamation, elected President of the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.*

*Ms. G. Čomić (Serbia) took the Chair.*

#### **Welcome remarks**

The CHAIR said that she was honoured to serve as President of the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. The IPU had made a tremendous impact on the world, especially on the role of women. Women parliamentarians must ask themselves what further change they wished to see in the future. They should build on the progress made by previous generations of women and prepare the world for generations to come. It was important to embrace men as allies in the fight for women's rights. Women remained the minority in decision-making positions. Therefore, change was not possible without the support of men.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON (Mexico), *President of the IPU*, said that the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was one of the most prominent sources of energy and dynamism within the IPU. It must use its power to create new opportunities for future generations. There was a need to ensure full implementation of the Geneva Conventions, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, the first commitment of the Forum should be to boost the representation of women in parliaments. Indeed, women represented half of the global population but only 24 per cent of seats in parliament. Increasing the participation of young people, especially young women, was also vital. People under 30 made up more than half of the global population but only 2.2 per cent of seats in parliament. Inclusiveness was a precondition for democracy.

The IPU must take clear, affirmative action on gender equality, particularly to bring more women into parliament. Doing so would help the 2.5 billion women and girls who were subject to laws that discriminated against them. Female empowerment would only be possible if women enjoyed all their human rights. The IPU must renew its commitments, redouble its efforts and build a clear road map on women's rights.

Women parliamentarians must participate in the work of the IPU. They must be present at meetings with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) as well as at major UN Women conferences. The idea was to bring a parliamentary dimension to the United Nations but also to have women represent themselves directly. She encouraged delegates to put forward their ideas on how to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration in 2020.

#### **Adoption of the agenda**

*The agenda was adopted.*

#### **Activities to advance gender equality**

##### **(a) Report of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians**

Ms. S.F. HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that she would brief the Forum on the work of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians. First, the Bureau had agreed to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CEDAW by holding a panel discussion at the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians entitled *Eliminating discrimination in law*. The panel would discuss ways to lift legal barriers for the full enjoyment of women's rights.



Second, the Forum would hold a debate on the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights entitled *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*. The debate would give the Forum the opportunity to discuss amendments to the resolution from a gender perspective.

Third, the Bureau had held a joint meeting with the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians at the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Doha which had focused on combating sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments. Participants had highlighted the role of men and young people in spreading knowledge, raising awareness and triggering strong, efficient parliamentary action. The discussion would continue during the Parity Debate entitled *#NotInMyParliament: National and regional strategies* taking place during the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly. The Bureau wished to emphasize that parliaments had an obligation to end sexism, harassment and violence against women. There was also a need to raise the interest of men in the fight.

Lastly, the IPU would be launching its *Guidelines for the elimination of sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament* at the present Assembly. The Guidelines were a tool to assist parliaments in designing and implementing a comprehensive response to sexism and harassment.

### **(b) Report of the Gender Partnership Group**

Ms. A. ALBASTI (United Arab Emirates) said that she would present the report of the Gender Partnership Group. The Group had reviewed the composition of the delegations attending the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly. A total of 30.3 per cent of parliamentarians attending were women. The percentage was low compared to the 32.9 per cent record achieved in 2016. Nevertheless, the number of single-sex delegations was also low. Only 14 out of 138 delegations with more than two members were all-male.

The work of the Group was having a positive effect, but there was much room for improvement. The Group had put forward amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules which would introduce more severe penalties for single-sex delegations. She urged delegates to support those amendments. The Group had also discussed the importance of respecting gender quotas when appointing people to decision-making positions at the IPU. Delegates should monitor their geopolitical groups to ensure the right balance of male and female candidates. Another important assignment of the Group had been to agree a road map on combatting sexism and sexual harassment at IPU Assemblies and other organized meetings. Lastly, the Group would be holding dialogues with delegations from parliaments which had few women members. It was a chance to discuss ways of enhancing female participation.

### **(c) Update on recent IPU activities for the promotion of gender equality**

Ms. Z. HILAL (IPU Secretariat), *Secretary of the Forum*, said that the IPU played an active role in promoting CEDAW. For example, it regularly wrote to parliaments urging them to monitor their country's progress towards ratifying and implementing the Convention. Furthermore, the IPU and the CEDAW Committee had issued a joint statement entitled *Women's political leadership: Striving for a 50 per cent balance in 2030* to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CEDAW and International Women's Day.

Other activities undertaken by the IPU on gender equality included preparing the *Guidelines for the elimination of sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament*. The Guidelines were a tool offering parliaments practical guidance on the topic. The IPU had also launched its new parliamentary database, New Parline, which contained information about parliaments around the globe. The database was missing information on women's caucuses as well as on specialized parliamentary bodies for gender equality. Delegates were encouraged to provide that information.

### **Contribution to the work of the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly from a gender perspective**

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany) said that she invited women parliamentarians to take part in an expert hearing entitled *Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences*. The expert hearing was being held in preparation for a resolution to be adopted in April 2020 by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security. The aim of the resolution was to raise awareness of the security implications of climate change. Women were heavily affected by the climate crisis therefore their contribution was needed.

The CHAIR said that the next item on the agenda of the Forum was the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights entitled *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*. The Forum would split into two groups for the discussion. Group one would discuss ways to ensure that universal health coverage was

responsive to the needs of women and girls. Ms. S.F. Hosseini (Islamic Republic of Iran) would chair the group and Ms. A. Tolley (New Zealand) would be the Rapporteur. Group two would discuss ways to lift legal, social, economic and financial barriers for women's and girls' access to health-care services. Ms. S. Ataullahjan (Canada) would chair the group and Ms. H. Al-Helaissi (Saudi Arabia) would be the Rapporteur. The purpose of the discussion was to review the draft resolution from a gender perspective and come up with amendments.

Mr. Md.H. MILLAT (Bangladesh), *co-Rapporteur of the draft resolution entitled "Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health"*, said that universal health coverage was a system in which people everywhere could access quality health services without falling into financial hardship. Universal health coverage was a human right, yet at least half of the global population did not have access to it. Some groups more than others faced barriers in accessing health services, including women. Women faced barriers due to limited financial resources, less autonomy, less decision-making power, and restrictions on their mobility. Many women also worked in the informal sector, meaning that they did not benefit from social protection schemes and had higher out-of-pocket expenses. It was not possible to achieve universal health coverage without addressing the needs of women, children and adolescents.

The resolution placed women at the heart of universal health coverage. It expressed concern that women did not always have sufficient resources to pay for essential health care. It made a specific reference to the principle of non-discrimination. There was an emphasis on making primary health-care services available, accessible and affordable to women and other vulnerable groups. The resolution also called on parliaments to reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality by strengthening sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health services, promoting in particular breastfeeding, immunization and early childhood development interventions. An appeal was made to ensure that health sector interventions for protecting sexual and reproductive health, especially for adolescents, were combined with preventive and educational measures. In that context, it was particularly important to combat child marriage, early and unintended pregnancies and gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation. He urged the Forum of Women Parliamentarians to provide their input on the resolution.

Ms. M. CARVALHO (Brazil), *co-Rapporteur of the draft resolution entitled "Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health"*, said that the resolution would serve as a guide for parliaments on universal health coverage. The aim was to ensure easy access to quality services with a particular emphasis on primary health care. Although her own country of Brazil had a successful health-care system, many other populations did not have access to even the most basic services. It was necessary to raise awareness of the problem in parliament. Parliamentarians must push for measures in areas such as vaccine coverage, early childhood development and rare diseases. The international community must achieve universal health coverage by 2030 in order not to leave anyone behind.

*The Forum split into two groups.*

*The sitting in plenary was suspended at 11.45 a.m. and resumed at 2.35 p.m.*

### **Panel discussion: *Eliminating discrimination in law***

The CHAIR said that 2019 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CEDAW, which was one of the most widely ratified international treaties. By ratifying the Convention, States had committed to abolishing existing discriminatory laws and adopting new ones to promote gender equality. Laws and conventions could help to break gender stereotypes. No country had achieved full gender equality, with billions of women and girls still affected by gender-based discrimination in law.

The panel discussion would identify ways to lift legal barriers for women and girls so that they could fully enjoy their human rights. The aim was to help parliaments translate CEDAW into a reality. Parliamentarians should consider how they themselves could contribute to ending discrimination in law. For example, they could call on the government to review or repeal discriminatory legislation. They could request a parliamentary debate or hearing. They could even instigate a new bill to empower women and girls. She introduced the panellists: Ms. H. Gbedemah, Chairperson of the CEDAW Committee; Ms. A. Vadai, Chairperson of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law and member of parliament of Hungary; Mr. M. Timbine, Vice-President of the National Assembly of Mali; Ms. A. EL Yassir, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia; and Ms. J.A. Hunt, Regional Director of Equality Now.

Ms. H. GBEDEMAH, *panellist*, said that the CEDAW Committee was a UN treaty body responsible for monitoring and implementing the CEDAW Convention. With 189 States Parties, CEDAW was the only near-universal international treaty that comprehensively protected the human rights of women. It had been a driving force for transformative change. Not only did it deal with human rights but also recognized human rights as indispensable to development. Despite CEDAW, women continued to be underrepresented in decision-making positions, whether in national and local governments, in parliaments or in the private sector. State Parties must consider the reasons for the low representation of women in decision-making positions. Potential reasons included disinterest, the unwillingness of women to put themselves forward and a perceived lack of qualified women.

Much progress had been made since the adoption of CEDAW. However, there was a long way to go before the international community would achieve "substantive equality" between men and women in all spheres of life. It was important to understand the meaning of "substantive equality". Substantive equality referred to a system which eliminated all forms of discrimination and allowed women to compete and participate equally with men. Such a system would not see gender equality in terms of neutrality or protectionism. Instead, it would correct any historical and social foundation on which inequality was based. There was also a need to understand the meaning of "discrimination against women". Discrimination against women was a social or cultural ideology grounded in stereotypes promoting the inferiority of one sex and the superiority of another. It was usually accompanied by an action, whether intentional or not. The result was the exclusion of women or restriction of their rights.

The CEDAW Committee had been working together with the IPU for many years to end gender-based discrimination. At its 45<sup>th</sup> session, the Committee had issued a statement on its relationship with parliamentarians. The statement aimed to strengthen the role of parliaments in the process for ratifying CEDAW. Unfortunately, CEDAW was the human rights convention with the largest number of reservations. It showed that, despite many ratifications, not all State Parties were fully committed. Other objectives of the statement were to strengthen the role of parliaments in the implementation of CEDAW as well as in the drafting of country reports. There was also a section on the relationship of the Committee with the IPU.

Without CEDAW, there would be no normative process safeguarding the rights of women. Women's rights would suffer in many different areas, including nationality, education, employment, health and family. A world without CEDAW would be torturous. It would not be a world where development could thrive.

Ms. A. VADAI, *panellist*, said that the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law had been addressing the issue of statelessness in support of the *I Belong* campaign of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights set out the right to nationality. It gave every individual the right to a legal connection with a State, including protection of their civil and political rights. Yet, more than 10 million men and women worldwide were stateless with no sense of belonging. One of those people was Maha Mamo, who was the face of the abovementioned *I Belong* campaign. She had been born in Lebanon to Syrian parents of different faiths which had left her stateless for 29 years. Recently, she had finally obtained Brazilian citizenship.

A key cause of statelessness was gender discrimination and inequality in nationality laws. A total of 25 countries worldwide discriminated against women in their ability to confer nationality to their own children on an equal basis with men. Similarly, 50 countries denied women equal rights with men in their ability to acquire, change or retain their nationality as well as in their ability to confer their nationality on their spouses. Stateless people faced many human rights violations and hardships. For example, they were unable to travel, go to school, own or lease property, work, marry, vote and be buried. It left them vulnerable to economic problems, family separation, emotional distress, sexual exploitation, child marriage and human trafficking.

Parliamentarians should review the nationality laws in their own countries and amend any discriminatory provisions. They should speak out against statelessness and gender-based discrimination in law. They should sign up for the *I Belong* campaign and read the IPU-UNHCR handbook entitled *Nationality and Statelessness* which contained good practices on preventing statelessness.

Mr. M. TIMBINE, *panellist*, said that the Constitution of Mali prohibited all forms of discrimination against women. Nonetheless, implementation of the Constitution had been difficult and discrimination still existed. Implementation was hindered by a number of factors. First, there were sociocultural obstacles. Mali was a patriarchal society which forced women to be submissive to men. Second, there were religious obstacles. Approximately 95 per cent of Mali's population was Muslim and certain

aspects of the Qur'an, such as polygamy and unequal inheritance rights, contradicted international law. Third, many women were not actually aware of their own rights. Most women lived in rural areas and were unable to read. As a result, they could not consult the documents that set out their rights.

Mali had achieved significant results in relation to eliminating discrimination against women. Women were becoming more involved in politics, development and lawmaking and men were becoming more gender-sensitive. However, even more progress was needed. Education and awareness-raising were key to ending gender inequality. The international community, including parliaments, could help in that regard. Most discrimination did not occur in legislation but in day-to-day life. Parliamentarians must therefore go beyond laws. It was important to remain constantly vigilant as any progress made could easily be lost.

Ms. A. EL YASSIR, *panellist*, said that the IPU was a key partner for UN Women, particularly in its multi-stakeholder strategy, *Equality in law for women and girls by 2030*. Repealing discriminatory laws was a matter of urgency. More than 2.5 billion women and girls worldwide were negatively affected by discriminatory laws. Women could not inherit equally as daughters and spouses in 30 to 40 countries. A total of 11 countries did not allow women to get a national ID card on their own and 18 countries prevented women from getting a job. To date, no country had achieved gender equality in law although many had the political will to do so. As lawmakers and overseers of legislation, parliamentarians were best placed to drive change. There were concrete actions that parliamentarians could take. For example, they could conduct a gender review of legislation and pass or reform laws to end discrimination. They could assign an adequate budget to the implementation of gender-sensitive reforms and take action on the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee. Similarly, they could hold the government to account on its promises to eliminate gender-based discrimination.

The CEDAW anniversary would not be meaningful unless the international community mobilized and took action immediately. Parliamentarians should work in partnership with UN Women offices in their respective countries. By joining forces, it would be possible to achieve unprecedented results by 2030. Accomplishing gender equality required the participation of brave individuals who were unafraid to speak their mind and willing to withstand personal and political attacks. Reaching parity in parliaments would accelerate equality.

Ms. J.A. HUNT, *panellist*, said that her organization, Equality Now, partnered with local, national, regional and international bodies to protect the rights of women and girls around the world. There had been considerable international commitment to ending sex discriminatory laws through initiatives such as CEDAW and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A government that maintained sex discriminatory laws was sending a clear message that it did not value women and girls. It did not make sense that a mother could not pass on citizenship to her children when a father could. The only reason why such laws were in place was to penalize women and keep them from realizing their full potential.

Equality Now published reports on sex discriminatory laws around the world. The reports covered all aspects of life, including marriage, violence and economic situation. Changing sex discriminatory laws would allow women to become equal citizens.

Several countries had a law in place which absolved rapists from punishment if they married their victims. Such laws committed women to a life of violence and put the shame on them rather than on the perpetrator. However, efforts were under way to change those laws. Indeed, Jordan had recently seen the abovementioned law change thanks to the work of a multi-stakeholder coalition. The coalition had been made up of NGOs, other organizations and women parliamentarians from across the region, all of which had taken on a different role in the endeavour. For example, civil society had brought expertise from the ground and parliamentarians had advocated for change within parliament. Similar developments had occurred in other countries, such as Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. The experience had shown the importance of working together.

The CHAIR said that 2020 was a milestone year for gender equality and women's empowerment. It marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Empowerment Principles, and the fifth anniversary of the SDGs, including SDG 5 on gender equality. Despite those commitments, no country in the world had achieved gender equality. Parliamentarians had a critical role to play in addressing that. In a collaborative project supported by the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability, the IPU and other partners, such as the World Bank, UN Women and the Council of Women World Leaders, had prepared a set of short videos to raise awareness of gender equality among parliamentarians as well as to mobilize action. Parliamentarians should provide their feedback on the videos.

*One of the videos was shown.*

Ms. G. KARELOVA (Russian Federation) said that the Forum of Women Parliamentarians should be a platform to promote dialogue on ending all forms of discrimination against women. Although more effort was needed, the Russian Federation had done a great deal to promote gender equality. For example, it had introduced laws and implemented a national strategy on women. In addition, the Council of the Federation had set up a standing committee to promote projects for women's empowerment. One such project aimed to promote women to high-level decision-making positions.

Ms. S.-M. DINICĂ (Romania) said that all legislative developments in Romania had been initiated by both women and men. Romania had introduced gender equality education into the school curriculum and obliged local authorities to allocate funds to tackling domestic violence, including to victim protection. It had put in place legal sanctions for street harassment and increased penalties for all forms of gender-based discrimination. A law on the sex offender registry had also been passed. The law established an electronic database listing the perpetrators of sexual crimes against children. Under the law, sexual aggressors would be closely monitored.

Improving legislation was just the first step. The next step was to follow up. It was crucial to raise awareness of the laws, implement and monitor them, allocate budget, assess the results and propose amendments. The Forum should hold a future meeting on how to follow up on gender equality legislation.

Mr. S. KIRANAND (Thailand) said that Thailand had passed the Gender Equality Act in 2015, which prohibited gender-based discrimination against men, women and people from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. The Labour Protection Act aimed to close the gap between men and women in the workplace. For instance, it prohibited sexual abuse and harassment and prevented employers from dismissing female workers on the grounds of pregnancy. There had also been a push to address the needs of vulnerable groups, such as incarcerated women. Under one policy, pregnant inmates were allowed to give birth in hospital rather than in prison. Lastly, the Parliament had set up a committee to protect the rights of children, youth, women, elderly people, people with disabilities, ethnic groups and LGBT people.

Ms. S. BOŽIĆ (Serbia) said that it was necessary to protect women from discrimination in all contexts. Serbia ranked high when it came to gender equality. There were 93 women in the National Assembly of Serbia. The Speaker of Parliament was a woman and eight parliamentary committees were also chaired by women. Serbia had introduced laws to promote gender parity and fight discrimination. There was an independent body to ensure respect for legislation. Combating violence against women was also a key priority. An awareness-raising campaign was under way to sensitize women and girls about their rights. It was necessary to ensure that budgets were gender-responsive.

Ms. R.M.J. ARENAS (Philippines) said that the Philippines had taken 15 years to pass a law on reproductive health which had finally been enacted in 2012. It was one of the most contentious pieces of legislation in the country's history. Although the law was imperfect, it was a big achievement considering the divisive nature of the subject.

The Philippines had one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancies in South-East Asia. Local governments and schools must work together to implement the law on reproductive health. It was particularly important to deliver accessible reproductive health education. Currently, the absence of monitoring and oversight by local governments was hindering full implementation of the law. The President of the Philippines had recently issued an executive order to urgently address unmet needs on family planning. Congress must set guidelines and standards for evaluating implementation of the law.

Ms. S.H. YOU (Republic of Korea) said that she had been personally involved in the fight for women's rights in her country. For example, she had contributed to the establishment of a 30 per cent quota for women candidates standing for elected positions within her party. She had also played a role in abolishing the patriarchal family registration system in her country.

The Republic of Korea had introduced many measures for gender equality over the years. The Kim Dae-Jung Administration had set up a Ministry of Gender Equality and Family and introduced a women's affairs policy. The Roh Moo-Hyun Administration had laid the foundation for a free childcare system and championed free school lunches. The current Moon Jae-In Administration had increased the proportion of women in the cabinet to 30 per cent. Furthermore, one female prosecutor had been a catalyst in raising awareness of violence against women in Korea in the context of the #MeToo movement.

Ms. L. LI (China) said that gender equality was enshrined in Chinese law, including in the Constitution. Discrimination against women was banned in many areas of life, such as in the workplace and in marriage. Women were protected against domestic violence. There was equality between men and women in land ownership. Overall, men and women had equal opportunities. Women were happier and safer thanks to the above protections.

In China, women were active participants in political, social and economic life. They represented 24.9 per cent of parliamentarians and 20.4 per cent of Communist Party members. A total of 44 per cent of people in employment were women. Women constituted 33.7 per cent of judges, 39 per cent of scientists, 30 per cent of entrepreneurs and 55 per cent of Internet start-up founders. Women were at the heart of China's development policy.

Ms. N. BILANKULU (South Africa) said that it was estimated that 137 women worldwide were killed by members of their own family every day. Decisive and immediate action was therefore needed to protect women. Parliaments must use their oversight function to end gender discrimination. They should review national laws from a gender perspective. They should call for a campaign to end discriminatory practices in families, schools and communities. They should create a level playing field between women and men.

South Africa had been reforming its legislation to remove all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls. It had set up a number of gender-responsive institutions, such as the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities and the Commission for Gender Equality. For the first time in history, the country had a cabinet with equal numbers of women and men. The Government was also in the process of finalizing a bill on forced and child marriage. The President had declared a national crisis on gender-based violence and set out an emergency plan to be implemented within six months. The plan included measures to strengthen the criminal justice system, increase support to victims and enhance the socioeconomic position of women. There were also plans to introduce severe penalties for perpetrators, including bail and parole denial.

Ms. O. ATANIYAZOVA (Uzbekistan) said that Uzbekistan had made a great deal of progress in empowering women in all spheres of life. Equality between men and women was guaranteed by law. The Parliament had set up a committee on women, the head of which was the Deputy Prime Minister. The Senate had a Chairwoman. The Parliament had also passed a number of significant laws, including one on equal rights and opportunities for men and women and one on protecting women from violence. Nonetheless, discrimination was not just a legal matter but a matter of day-to-day life. Uzbekistan stood ready to organize a Summit of Women Speakers in the future.

Ms. S. BAN (Cambodia) said that Cambodia had taken many steps towards promoting gender equality. For example, it had provided women with decision-making power and a right to education. More women leaders were needed if change was going to happen. Women leaders would act as role models for younger girls. The support of men was required to advance women's rights. Industry, government and civil society must come together to provide women with opportunities. Cambodia would continue to promote gender equality by strengthening its policies and laws.

Ms. I. ALWAZIR (Palestine) said that the violence taking place in Palestine was an obstacle to gender equality. Nevertheless, the country had made progress on women's rights. It had been working hard to introduce laws that were fair to women and children. There was even a committee responsible for keeping national laws in line with CEDAW. The country had also established a 30 per cent quota for women in the Palestine National Council. Women's access to health services was improving, particularly in the area of reproductive health. Efforts had been made towards early detection of breast and uterine cancers.

Ms. S. ALIYEVA (Azerbaijan) said that gender equality was key to development, democracy, tolerance and social justice. It was the root cause of many human rights violations. Azerbaijan had enshrined gender equality in its Constitution and prohibited all forms of discrimination. The country was committed to CEDAW. It had introduced new legislation on gender equality, including a law that prohibited domestic violence. The Parliament had set up a committee on women's and children's affairs and held public hearings attended by more than 200 NGOs. It was important to get more women into decision-making positions. There was also a need to help refugees, many of whom were women and children. Empowering women would lead to a more peaceful, prosperous, secure and equal world.

Ms. K. KARUNANIDHI (India) said that the Constitution of India prohibited discrimination on grounds of gender and granted civil, political, socioeconomic and cultural rights to every citizen on an equal basis. The State was obliged to provide women with equal pay for equal work and involve them equally in the governance of the country. Over the years, the Parliament had consistently endeavoured to translate the ideals of the Constitution into reality. It had passed many laws that protected women against social discrimination, violence, rape, child marriage, dowry and other harmful phenomena. For example, the law on inheritance now gave girls equal rights to property. In 1993, the Government had introduced a constitutional amendment which had obliged local administrative bodies to reserve one third of seats for women. Thanks to the amendment, one million women were currently elected to local bodies. Other measures included mainstreaming gender budgeting into legislation, policy and programmes and setting up the National Commission for Women. India was also a signatory to a number of UN conventions on women and girls. Parliaments were powerful agents of change, particularly with the involvement of women. The absence of women in decision-making processes resulted in the neglect of their concerns.

Ms. N. LESUUDA (Kenya) said that women across the world faced the same challenges when seeking leadership positions. They must continue to stand up and make their voices heard. Women parliamentarians must also speak up on behalf of their female constituents, particularly rural women. Kenya had put in place over 20 laws that prohibited discrimination against women, including laws on domestic violence and female genital mutilation. However, implementation of those laws had been a challenge. Parliamentarians must hold their governments to account on the commitments they had made to gender equality nationally, regionally and internationally. It was vital to ensure the independence of oversight bodies, such as national human rights institutions and ombudsmen. Kenya had made great strides in encouraging women to seek election. Currently, three governors and three elected senators were women.

Ms. L. VASYLENKO (Ukraine) said that the world would remain unequal as long as discrimination persisted against women and girls. The Parliament of Ukraine had taken measures to promote a gender-sensitive culture across the country. Together with the Government, it had adopted a nationwide social programme on equal opportunities and introduced gender budgeting.

In Ukraine, a prominent entity in the fight for women's rights was a gender platform made up of civil society organizations working with and for women. The platform continually emphasized the need to establish additional monitoring and control mechanisms on gender equality in the occupied territories and annexed Crimea. In those areas, women suffered high levels of discrimination. Many women were victims of domestic violence and were often used as shields in combat. They also faced financial discrimination. One example of financial discrimination was the decision that was taken to sack teachers of Ukrainian language, literature and culture, many of whom were women.

Ms. Z. YILDIZ (Turkey) said that Turkey had adopted CEDAW in 1985 and had submitted all of its reports to the CEDAW Committee. The country had amended its laws to uphold the principle of equality between women and men. The Civil Code put an end to sex discrimination and made women equal to men in family and society. A new labour law prohibited gender discrimination in employer-employee relations. The Penal Code contained provisions on gender equality and domestic violence.

Ms. I. ALMLOHI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that she did not fully understand the situation of Maha Mamo and asked the panellists to provide clarification.

The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, responding to the representative of Ukraine, said that Crimea had voluntarily returned to the Russian Federation following a referendum. There was no discrimination on the basis of gender or ethnicity in the areas in question.

Ms. C. MIX (Chile) said that Chilean society was male-dominated and patriarchal but gender equality had advanced over the decades. In 2019, Chile had amended its Constitution to acknowledge the rights of "people" instead of just "men". It had also established women's quotas which had resulted in the election of 35 women to Parliament. Chile had legalized divorce in 2014 and granted mothers the right to open savings accounts for their children in 2013. It was not until 2005 that a law on family violence had been enacted. More recently, femicide and street harassment had been established as criminal offences. There was also a law that made it possible for pregnant teenage girls to continue their education. Another milestone was the legalization of abortion in certain circumstances: when a woman's life was in danger, when a foetus was unviable and when a pregnancy had resulted from rape. Other measures included setting up the Ministry for Women and Gender Equity and passing a law establishing a woman's right to a life free of violence.

Ms. C.I. LÓPEZ CASTRO (Mexico) said that there were high numbers of women in the Mexican delegation to the IPU and in the Mexican Parliament itself. Both the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and the President of the Senate were women. Women parliamentarians had been active in proposing laws for gender equality. Among the laws proposed by women were a law on inclusion in the workplace and a law on obstetric violence. Mexico was obliged by law to ensure parity across the executive, legislative and judicial branches as well as across all levels of government, namely the federal, state and municipal levels. The country had recently approved leave for parents whose children had cancer. The measure would be particularly helpful for women who were the main carers. Key economic challenges facing Mexico included encouraging women to enter the workplace and ensuring equal wages.

Ms. M. SUBULWA (Zambia) said that discrimination and violence against women was rife in public and private life, including in parliaments. Zambia had introduced a number of laws to promote gender parity. They included a law which promoted equal opportunities in employment, a law on gender equity and equality, and a law which gave women equal access to land. There was also the Penal Code which prohibited rape of women and girls. Electoral violence was a worrying phenomenon in Zambia. It discouraged women from taking up political positions as well as from voting. As a result, the representation of women in Parliament was suffering. Both male and female parliamentarians in Zambia had freedom of speech. Women were represented in all parliamentary committees, including as chairs and vice-chairs. Parliament's rules provided that chairs and vice-chairs of committees be of opposite sexes.

Ms. M. ESPINALES (Nicaragua) said that Nicaragua was a signatory to CEDAW and had incorporated it into its national laws. For example, the country had passed a law on equal rights and opportunities, a law on violence against women and a law on the protection of the family. The idea was to create a welfare state for women. The Parliament of Nicaragua was gender-sensitive given that 50 per cent of its members were women. The IPU should pledge its support for the Convention of the International Labour Organization concerning the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work. She urged countries to ratify the Convention.

Ms. M. NDIAYE (Senegal) said that Senegal had made progress on gender equality. For example, it had granted women the right to confer their nationality on their children and would soon make rape a criminal offence. The country had achieved parity in a number of political bodies, including the National Assembly. However, more women were needed in the Government itself. It was important to carry out an awareness-raising campaign in rural areas with a view to addressing the socioeconomic and religious obstacles holding women back. Women had the same intrinsic worth as men. They should be encouraged to participate actively in politics rather than to just stand in the background.

Ms. S. KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA (Cyprus) said that delegates should commit to the points raised in the video on gender equality. They must raise questions in their parliaments, hold hearings and propose new bills. Her most recent proposal had been a draft law penalizing sexist speech. The anniversaries taking place in 2020 were an opportunity to devise a real plan of action for women. Parliamentarians must act and not just talk.

Ms. N. AL KHAROOSI (Oman) said that most Arab countries had committed to gender equality. Women and men should have equal rights to inheritance. CEDAW did not mention the fact that compensation for the accidental killing of a woman was half that of a man. Country reports on CEDAW should be scrutinized by parliament before they were submitted to the Committee.

Ms. E. ANYAKUN (Uganda) said that discrimination against women was still a prominent issue in Uganda. It was important to deal with it comprehensively. Although laws were in place, there was also a need to involve cultural and religious leaders who had influence in Ugandan society. The Government had put in place a national gender policy, a gender and equity strategy for social protection and various intervention programmes, such as the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme. It had also set up the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development. It was now a legal requirement for every project to have a certificate of gender and equity responsiveness before the Parliament could approve a budget.

Ms. O. NAVAAN-YUNDEN (Mongolia) said that Mongolia had 13 women parliamentarians, which was the highest in its history. However, the number of women in government remained low at one out of 13 cabinet ministers. Her country had introduced a 25 per cent quota for women parliamentarians but the quota should be higher. The perception in society was that women were not



capable of being politicians. Women politicians were often subject to online criticism even on non-political matters, such as their appearance. It was vital to change public attitudes towards women. Women were the driving force of political and economic development. Laws and legal procedures were not enough. Action was needed.

Ms. A. ASKAROVA (Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries – TurkPA) said that eliminating discrimination in legislation was the first step to reaching gender equality. Gender equality was not only a human right but a means of achieving peace, prosperity and sustainable progress. She encouraged countries to adopt CEDAW. The present discussion would help to improve the mechanisms and tools available to promote women's rights.

Ms. H. GBEDEMAH, *panellist*, said that there was more to gender equality than laws alone. However, it was not possible to catalyse change without laws. Laws conveyed a message of political will. It was clear that countries had introduced laws in areas highlighted by CEDAW, such as access to land, reproductive health, labour practices, childcare, education, quotas and nationality. She took note of additional areas that were not covered directly in CEDAW, such as climate change, women refugees, women with disabilities, electoral violence and sexist speech. There were many positive examples of implementation, such as gender budgeting. The CEDAW Committee dealt with culture and religion in its dialogues with State Parties. Culture and religion were at the root of many issues related to gender equality. The fight for gender equality would not be easy. Advocates of the cause should expect backlash and resistance. It was, nevertheless, important to keep up the good work.

Ms. A. VADAI, *panellist*, said that a great deal remained to be done about statelessness. Responding to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, Maha Mamo was the face of the UNHCR / *Belong* campaign. She was born to Syrian nationals: a Christian father and a Muslim mother. Syrian law did not recognize interreligious marriages therefore her parents had fled to Lebanon. Maha Mamo was therefore born stateless. It was the job of parliamentarians to make sure that children in such situations could enjoy their basic rights.

Mr. M. TIMBINE, *panellist*, said that men should be encouraged to speak up in discussions on gender equality. Every woman should take it upon herself to mobilize four people: her father, her husband, her brother and her son. It would then be possible to win the fight for gender equality.

Ms. A. EL YASSIR, *panellist*, said that the interventions from the floor had highlighted the relevance of ensuring equality in law. Countries must repeal all discriminatory laws that directly or indirectly impacted women and girls. It was a human rights issue. Women's agency in making change happen was important. However, the responsibility for change did not lie with women alone if the laws and structures did not enable that change. Delegates had spoken up on issues highlighted by UN Women, such as equal pay, unpaid care work, parental leave, nationality and the need to hold perpetrators of violence to account. Although progress had been made, more remained to be done. The international community must join forces to achieve gender equality in law.

Ms. J. HUNT, *panellist*, said that laws were a fundamental basis for women's rights. She wished to make three points. First, it was important to understand the meaning of equality. For example, real equality was not just about offering women paid maternity leave but also about offering it to men so that families had choices. Collaboration with civil society could help in those discussions. Second, women parliamentarians were often subject to violence and threats, including death and rape threats. Male and female parliamentarians should stand in solidarity to expose and call out such behaviour. Third, equal pay in law did not necessarily translate into equal pay in practice. One way forward was to oblige companies to publish their gender pay information. The public were then able to hold companies to account.

### **Elections to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians**

The CHAIR said that there were three vacancies on the Bureau: one from the Eurasia Group, one from the African Group and one from the Twelve Plus Group.

Ms. Z. HILAL (IPU Secretariat), *Secretary of the Forum*, said that the IPU Secretariat had received one nomination from the Twelve Plus Group: Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine).

*The nomination was approved.*

The CHAIR said that the remaining vacancies would be filled in the near future.

### **Report of the discussion group rapporteurs**

Ms. A. TOLLEY (New Zealand) said that group one had focused on ways to ensure that universal health coverage was responsive to the needs of women and girls. A total of 106 delegates had participated (82 women and 24 men), with 22 delegates taking the floor.

The group had discussed how women and girls were at particular risk of not receiving a full package of essential health services despite bearing higher costs. There was a need to adapt policies on universal health coverage to meet the health needs of women and girls. Health coverage schemes were good but not enough for women who worked in the informal sectors. Children and young people had particular health needs. Women, children, adolescents, people living with disabilities and elderly women should receive special financial protection for essential health care. Providing protection to migrants, refugees and stateless people was also important. Women living in remote or rural areas faced difficulties in accessing essential health services locally, especially during pregnancy.

It was important to provide training for women as health professionals or as volunteers. Policies on universal health coverage should offer a number of key services, including access to safe, effective, affordable, acceptable and modern methods of family planning as well as awareness, prevention and early detection of cervical and breast cancer. There was also a need to provide support to young girls during puberty as well as to victims of domestic and sexual violence. Women must have the choice to decide on the medical procedures that concerned them. Women should be at the heart of health care.

Ms. H. AL-HELAISSI (Saudi Arabia) said that group two had discussed ways to lift legal, social, economic and financial barriers to women's and girls' access to health-care services. A total of 64 delegates had taken part (48 women and 16 men), with 15 delegates taking the floor. Health was key to the education and economic empowerment of women and girls. However, access to health was often affected by gender discrimination in law and in practice. It was important to remove the many barriers to women's full enjoyment of their right to health. Countries must implement robust legal frameworks that guaranteed gender equality. It was vital to address gender-based violence and harmful practices such as early marriage and female genital mutilation. Universal health coverage must have a gender lens. Gender budgeting was one way of catering to the specific health needs of women and girls. Gender analysis of needs and gender-sensitive performance indicators were therefore crucial. Delegates had placed a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and adolescents. There was also a need to pay special attention to women in vulnerable situations, such as rural women and women living in humanitarian settings, such as armed conflicts. By placing women in decision-making positions, such as in parliaments, health-related policies, budgets and laws would be gender responsive. Although much had already been achieved, there were still many shortcomings. Hard work, dedication and understanding were needed from both men and women in decision-making positions.

*The reports were adopted.*

The CHAIR said that the Rapporteurs would draft amendments to the resolution and present them to the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

### **Venue and date of the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians (Geneva, April 2020)**

The CHAIR said that the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians would take place at the 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva in April 2020.

*The sitting rose at 5.25 p.m.*

## Forum of Young Parliamentarians

### SITTING OF MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.45 p.m. with Mr. M. Bouva (Suriname), President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, in the Chair.*

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON (Mexico), *President of the IPU*, said that in the context of the IPU, young people were not the future, they were the present. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians was active and was making change. Owing in large part to the work of the Forum, representation of young parliamentarians was increasing and that should be celebrated. Credit should be given to parliaments that were encouraging young parliamentarians. While in the IPU, "youth" was defined as being under 45 years of age, more than half of the world's population was now below the age of 30. Yet 30 remained the minimum age for candidates in 75 per cent of lower houses of parliament around the world.

In 2016, the IPU and the United Nations had organized a joint campaign entitled *Not Too Young to Run*. Consideration might be given to running another similar campaign in future. Young people were perfectly capable of taking good decisions. In Mexico, the Constitution was open with regard to the minimum age for election. She had been elected to Parliament at the age of 21 and thus urged all members of the Forum to offer opportunities to younger generations. As members of parliament and decision-makers, they must ensure that the current younger generation and future generations had more opportunities than those who had gone before. Young people were concerned about a slew of contemporary challenges, such as climate change, development, employment, education, and digitalization and other new technologies, the results of which were impossible to predict. Preparations needed to be made for the future of work through new models of education. Young parliamentarians had a key role in taking decisions and legislating for those who were even younger, thereby protecting new generations and ensuring a brighter future. The 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU should be celebrated with a renewed commitment to young parliamentarians.

The PRESIDENT said that the Forum of Young Parliamentarians was proud to have a young, progressive, and driven IPU President, who was setting an example to everyone in the Organization. He assured Ms. Cuevas Barron of the Forum's constant and continuing support.

The IPU SECRETARY GENERAL said that the IPU's first resolution on youth participation had been adopted by the 122<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly in Thailand in 2010, marking the beginning of the IPU youth movement. It was a pleasure to see so many young parliamentarians now attending IPU Assemblies. He assured the Forum of his continued support and cooperation and said that he hoped that the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the youth movement would be celebrated in 2020.

The PRESIDENT said that the IPU's commendable progress towards rejuvenating its structures and including young people in its activities had been achieved under the leadership of the Secretary General.

#### **Adoption of the agenda** (FYP/141/A.1.rev)

*The agenda was adopted.*

#### **Election of one Board member from the Asia-Pacific Group**

The PRESIDENT announced that there was a vacancy for a female Board member from the Asia-Pacific Group. The candidature of Ms. R. Nikhil Khadse (India) had been received. In the absence of any objections, he would take it that the Forum wished to elect Ms. Nikhil Khadse.

*It was so decided.*

#### **Country updates on youth participation**

Ms. E. AFANASIEVA (Russian Federation) said that in the spirit of the resolution adopted in 2010, the youngest parliamentarian in the Russian Federation was 21 years old and the youngest senator was 32 years old. She had been elected at the age of 26. Efforts had been made to devise

new means of interaction with young people, and in particular to promote women's participation in politics. A female mentorship programme had been set up and an annual "Future Forum" was held to promote young people's participation in political affairs and discuss issues affecting young people, such as healthy lifestyle and environment. Focus was also placed on promoting interethnic harmony between young people.

Mr. S. PATRA (India) said that India had one of the youngest populations in the world. In recent years, considerable progress had been made with regard to youth political participation in India, with 12 per cent of Lok Sabha members currently aged under 40. The Indian Constitution provided for a minimum voting age of 18 years. The minimum age for running for the lower house was 25 years, and for the upper house 35 years. In education, student elections in colleges and universities empowered young people in the education system. The Election Commission of India provided for systematic education for voters and electoral participation initiatives, thereby driving youth empowerment. Progress on the promotion of youth political engagement would continue to be bolstered.

Mr. I. KHODJIEV (Uzbekistan) said that the world was facing rapid change and unprecedented challenges, which were affecting young people disproportionately. The youth population was growing in Uzbekistan, where more than 60 per cent of the population was under 30 years old, which placed significant responsibility on the State. Creative ways to engage young people in public life were needed. A new law on youth protection had been adopted and a youth commission had been established in the legislative chamber of the Oliy Majlis. The commission was responsible for amending legislation to include provisions on youth protection, such as in housing matters.

Mr. A. ZARIE (Syrian Arab Republic) said that he had been elected to parliament at the age of 28 years. Young people were a source of energy, which should be nurtured. The war in the Syrian Arab Republic had stripped young people of their political, civil and economic rights. Entire regions had been destroyed, access to education had been lost and the economic situation was extremely difficult. Investment in the younger generation was essential; young people needed to be involved in the affairs of the country.

Mr. H.O. MOHAMED HASSANEIN (Egypt) said that he had been elected to parliament in 2015 at 25 years of age. The election of someone so young had been unprecedented in Egypt. The IPU played an important role in drawing greater attention to vital global issues. Young people were a vital force for development, peace and security, yet harnessing their potential required constant education and awareness-raising to equip them with the resources and skills they needed. The Government of Egypt had made significant efforts to bolster youth participation in politics. A quota system had been established for youth representation in legislative councils, as a result of which 31 per cent of members of parliament were young parliamentarians. A national academy for youth development had been set up. Young generations needed to be involved in decision-making. Young parliamentarians should encourage governments to establish inclusive policies, acknowledge young people's rights and include them in decision-making on issues that affected them.

Mr. P. BAZEGO TEBUSELI (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Congo set 30 years of age as the minimum age for running for office in the upper house of parliament, and 20 years for the lower house. Recent Senate elections had resulted in young senators accounting for 37 per cent of Senate membership, which represented significant progress.

Mr. A. CHIBAYA (Zimbabwe) said that to be actively and effectively involved in decision-making, political engagement should begin from an early age. Zimbabwe had an affirmative action programme to ensure access to education and opportunities to participate in the economic, political and other spheres of life. The national youth policy provided a framework for youth empowerment. A children's parliament had been set up to encourage political engagement among young people.

Mr. B.G. TUNKARA (Gambia) said that the most recent elections in Gambia had resulted in a unified democracy with a coalition government and a swathe of new parliamentarians. Gambia had a young population, with more than 60 per cent below 25 years of age. Young people were becoming increasingly interested in politics. At the age of 31, he was the second youngest parliamentarian in Gambia. Since the end of the 22-year long dictatorship, a constitutional reform was under way and a youth caucus had been set up to advocate for young people all over the country and to participate in the constitution drafting process. The first draft of the new constitution would be put to Parliament in November. Efforts were also being made to increase women's participation in politics.

Ms. S. BOZIC (Serbia) said that young people were the future of every country and every nation. In Serbia, much had been done to promote youth participation in politics. A dedicated youth ministry had been set up and legislation on youth had been enacted in 2011, prohibiting discrimination against young people and providing for the adoption and regular updating of a national youth strategy. The Government of Serbia was committed to investing in young people. As such, it had established an advisory youth council. Youth offices had been set up at the local level for youth policy development, monitoring the application of local youth action plans, cooperating with partners and liaising with young people. A young talent fund awarded grants to high school and university students to further their professional development. Improving employment and self-employment opportunities for young people was a top priority. Young parliamentarians must create a new vision of youth prosperity; the future of society was in their hands.

Ms. A. ALJASIM (United Arab Emirates) said that young people around the world were envisioning a better society, with youth taking the lead in development. The majority of the world's young people lived in developing countries and were not sufficiently involved in politics and decision-making. Solutions to contemporary challenges, such as sustainable development, climate change, security and migration, could not be found without the involvement of young people and their energy and sense of innovation. The Parliament of the United Arab Emirates believed firmly in the role of young people in decision-making for the future, and therefore provided significant opportunities for them to develop their leadership skills. The United Arab Emirates Government had five female ministers, with an average age of 38 years. Initiatives had also been conducted to promote youth participation in public life at the regional level, including the establishment of the Arab Youth Centre and the provision of scholarships for young people, to encourage them to work towards a better future and to take pride in their culture.

Mr. A.P. DA SILVA (Timor Leste) said that a young parliamentarians' group had been established in the National Parliament of Timor Leste. The support of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians would be sought for drafting legislation, capacity development and budget planning. It was hoped that the group would help to foster youth participation in politics, and thereby to increase the number of young parliamentarians in the National Parliament. Around 80 per cent of the population of Timor Leste was under 45 years of age, while only 26 per cent of parliamentarians were in that age group. Greater efforts were therefore needed to achieve proportionality.

Mr. V. MUHAKWA (Rwanda) said that over 78 per cent of the population of Rwanda was under 35 years old. The Government had therefore set up a variety of programmes for youth empowerment. A national youth policy had been in place since 2006, with a view to producing a healthy, productive and economically and socially active population. A youth sector strategy had also been developed, which was linked to the economic development and poverty reduction strategies. The Government of Rwanda had established a dedicated youth ministry to ensure that young people's needs were streamlined into government activities. Rwanda's young people were represented in the lower house of Parliament and in the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA). A YouthConnekt initiative had been launched in 2012, which aimed to connect young people from all over Rwanda with entrepreneurs, resource persons and influencers. The YouthConnekt programme had been broadened to the regional level, and a YouthConnekt Summit for Africa had been held in Kigali in 2018.

Mr. O. ALTABTABAE (Kuwait) said that while everyone dreamt of a better world, very few of those dreams were translated into reality. Every country deserved better; racism, discrimination and corruption were rife around the world. Young people must not suffer; they were the foundation of the community and must be supported. They could not become parliamentarians by dreams alone; success was borne of hard work. Kuwait had a student parliament and trade union activity at Kuwait University, to encourage young people's involvement in public life. He introduced a student from Kuwait, who was accompanying the delegation of Kuwait.

The student from KUWAIT said that he was happy to represent the Kuwaiti youth at the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly, which was an opportunity for him to garner inspiration for future participation in political life.

*Ms. C.I. López Castro (Mexico), Member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, took the Chair.*

Mr. J. SAKAJA (Kenya) said that Kenya had a young parliament with 50 senators under 35 years old. A total of 18 acts of Parliament, bills and motions had been passed focusing on matters relating to young people, including on the national employment authority, which aimed to promote youth employment and internships. Youth disenfranchisement constituted one of the greatest threats to security. The Government of Kenya was therefore focusing on the economic empowerment of disengaged young people and the provision of employment opportunities. A capacity-building programme, through mentorship, had been started in the Young Parliamentarians Association to equip young parliamentarians to fulfil their parliamentary duties and optimize their impact. The important issue was not how many young people were elected to parliament, but what their capabilities were when they took office and the quality of their leadership capacity.

Mr. I. SEREEWATTHANAWUT (Thailand) said that constitutional democracy had been restored in Thailand after eight years. Following elections, 25 per cent of Thailand's members of parliament were young parliamentarians, which was higher than the global average. Both the number of young people who had stood for election and the number elected were testament to the trust placed in the younger generation. Yet trust was always accompanied by expectations. Citizens all over the world were looking for new ideas from new faces, seeking energetic, smart and responsible representatives who were able to handle contemporary challenges. Young parliamentarians had a responsibility to focus on the wellbeing of the people they represented. They must strive to ensure full respect for international law, and work together to bring peace, development and prosperity to the world.

Ms. M. OSORU (Uganda) said that the world's young parliamentarians were the leaders not only of the future, but of the present. The Government of Uganda had set up a youth-led soft loan project to motivate young people to set up enterprises. A youth parliament had been established and national school debates were held to give young people a platform to discuss matters that were important to them, which would subsequently be taken up and discussed by Parliament. Bills specifically on youth issues were also being drafted. Young people outside politics also needed support; consideration must be given to how to make the voices of disengaged young people heard. The root causes of impediments to youth participation in politics must be addressed and young people must be given the means to fund their political campaigns.

Mr. J. MOKHTAR (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the young generation had always been drivers of change in the world. Every effort must be made to meet the needs of young people, implement their perspective for the future and endow them with the necessary means to contribute to society. Young people must be allowed to take control of politics, seek innovative solutions to contemporary challenges, and participate in the evolution of society. Young people must fight against discrimination and defend the interests and identity of their country. Sanctions against countries impacted negatively on citizens' ability to build a better future. Young people were disproportionately affected in that regard. With that in mind, the Iranian Parliament was seeking to legislate to improve employment prospects for its young people.

Mr. J. VILLANUEVA (Philippines) said that he had been elected at the age of 25 years. In the Philippines, a reform law had been passed to set up a dynamic youth council to train and equip young people with the skills to participate in politics and to guarantee youth participation in every local government authority. Youth unemployment was a growing concern. The Parliament of the Philippines had therefore taken measures to eliminate the fees for paperwork required for first-time job-seekers. Education was the key to youth participation in society. Universal access to education was being promoted in the Philippines. Legislation had been enacted to ensure free, good quality tertiary education for certain university modules, which would benefit nearly 1.5 million students. Funding for such initiatives remained challenging, but would also remain a priority.

Ms. V.S.Y. WONG (Malaysia) said that significant political change had taken place in Malaysia, with a significant reduction in the minimum voting age. The minimum age to stand for election had also been reduced to 18 years. The definition of "youth" had been revised to 30 years of age and under, with a view to empowering young people. Employment opportunities were being provided for former young offenders and young people with social difficulties, through the Yellow Ribbon Project, which aimed to raise community awareness and enhance support systems for former convicts and to empower young people. Every effort was being made in Malaysia to involve young people in decision-making, in particular on issues that affected them.

## Contribution to the work of the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly

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

Ms. Á. VADAI (Hungary), *President of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law*, presented the work of her Committee, which was mandated to support parliamentary engagement for respect of international humanitarian law and refugee protection issues. The Committee worked closely with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Committee had been addressing two priority issues: ending statelessness and ensuring respect for international humanitarian law. Many elements of international law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, clearly stipulated that everyone should have the right to a nationality, to a sense of identity, to State protection, and fundamental civil and political rights. Yet 10 million people remained stateless around the world. A lead figure in the UNHCR #IBelong Campaign to end statelessness by 2024 was Maha Mamo, the daughter of a Syrian Christian father and Syrian Muslim mother, born in Lebanon, who had been stateless for some 30 years and had fought an arduous battle to acquire Brazilian citizenship. Ms. M. Mamo had become a figurehead for stateless persons.

Stateless persons could not travel, attend school, work, marry or vote. Parliamentarians therefore had a responsibility to give a voice to those who were deprived of their rights. Gender-based discrimination with regard to the confirmation of nationality was particularly serious, and occurred in 25 countries, while 50 others discriminated against women in their right to change nationality or confer nationality on non-national spouses. In three countries, men were discriminated against with regard to nationality. The elimination of gender-based discrimination with regard to nationality was enshrined in several pieces of international law, and nine of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Parliamentarians had a key role to play in reviewing their domestic legal frameworks with regard to nationality and citizenship rights, giving stateless persons a voice and a vote by granting them citizenship. Parliaments must legislate against discrimination, and should all sign up to the UNHCR #IBelong campaign. The IPU and UNHCR had worked together to publish a handbook for parliamentarians on nationality and statelessness, which was a particularly useful tool.

The IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law had also marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Geneva Conventions. The Conventions were a unique body of international law that protected all citizens and guaranteed their rights in situations of conflict. They had a fundamental impact on the day-to-day during conflict, enabling the wounded to pass through checkpoints, children to receive food, and detainees to contact their families. Stronger political will was required to ensure respect for international humanitarian law. Violations must be denounced in the strongest possible terms. Rape was increasingly used as a form of war crime during conflict situations. Gender-based violence must be tackled. Respecting human dignity at all times was as important as ever before and particularly complex given the increasing difficulties in differentiating between civilians and combatants, with non-State actors increasingly involved in conflict. She called on all young parliamentarians to celebrate the Geneva Conventions, to keep respect for international humanitarian law at the forefront of their minds, and to speak out on any violations.

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

Mr. K.A. EL-KARIM DARWISH (Egypt) said that statistics showed that 36 per cent of the global population and 37 per cent of the population of the Middle East were deprived of basic health coverage. Some 12 per cent of the global population spent more than 10 per cent of their household income on health-care services. The IPU should encourage national parliaments to adopt the draft resolution on universal health coverage to ensure that all people had access to health-care services without incurring financial hardship. In Egypt, the Government had the political will to provide health care. A series of measures had been taken to ensure health coverage across the whole territory of Egypt. Campaigns were under way against communicable diseases, and legislation had been enacted to ensure that all citizens had health insurance. Poverty and poor education had an impact on health and must be taken into consideration. Efforts must therefore be made to improve living standards, raise young people's awareness about health-related matters, and ensure that media campaigns were in place to counter risks.

Mr. A.D. GHEORGHE (Romania) said that the right to health was a fundamental human right, linked to the fundamental right to life. Health was a cross-cutting key component of sustainable development. Education and health literacy were critical for public health. Social welfare and legal

systems must be strengthened to promote health, and effective environmental policies were essential to ensure access to clean water. Biosecurity must be strengthened to prevent epidemics. Parliamentarians, as keepers of democratic sovereignty, were the voice of the people. They therefore had a key role in promoting links between academia and the executive, to guarantee evidence-informed decision-making on all matters related to health. Global security must be centred on health promotion and disease prevention.

Ms. R.B. ITAMARI CHOQUE (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the Government of Bolivia was investing significantly in programmes to guarantee employment, housing, education and health. A programme for productive development was in place, which encouraged young people's involvement in development projects. Much was being done to ensure economic empowerment; job creation programmes had been set up, and access was being granted to finance and loans to enable young people to create their own resources and acquire investments. Social housing was being provided for young people, to improve their quality of life, in particular for those moving from rural to urban areas. Every effort was being made to reduce poverty and achieve the SDGs. All of those efforts were intrinsically linked to good health and the attainment of SDG 3.

Ms. J. MIJATOVIC (Serbia) said that universal health coverage was a priority for the Government of Serbia, including equal access to good quality health care for all. The main causes of death in Serbia were related to noncommunicable diseases, in particular stroke and type 1 diabetes. A public health policy had been adopted, with a focus on health promotion, disease prevention, and increasing the life expectancy of the population. Parliamentarians must listen to their constituents. In Serbia, in 2003, problems had been identified with regard to access to health care for children, new mothers and pregnant women, in response to which, the Speaker of the Serbian Parliament had proposed a new law on health care for new mothers and pregnant women, allowing them unrestricted access to health care, irrespective of contributions to the national social security system.

Ms. G. KATUTA (Zambia) said that the Government of Zambia was working towards the achievement of universal health coverage through its national health plan. New legislation on health care had been enacted in 2018 and the health budget had been increased by 1.4 per cent to increase coverage. Over half of that budget was spent on primary health care to ensure access to primary care in rural areas in particular. Around 650 jobs in health care had been created, and health centres had been set up around the country to improve access to health care. School fees had been reduced for primary and secondary education and for nursing schools.

Mr. D. IMBAGO JÁCOME (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health – PMNCH) said that PMNCH welcomed the efforts of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians to support universal health coverage and the inclusion of women, children and adolescents at the heart of that agenda. Young people had the capacities and skills required to take the lead in decision-making spaces and processes, providing an innovative and important approach to problems that had long needed a solution. The IPU was in a uniquely privileged position to offer a safe space for young parliamentarians to contribute to efforts to attain universal health coverage. Particular attention should be paid to the world's 1.2 billion adolescents, nine out of ten of whom lived in low- and middle-income countries and faced multiple barriers to the knowledge, information and health care they needed. Parliaments must ensure that adolescents' and young people's right to access health services was guaranteed under all circumstances, without discrimination. They must also ensure that adequate funds were allocated to improving health-care services where needed most, in order to deliver health interventions for adolescents and young people with an emphasis on primary care. The global parliamentary community must ensure that young people were meaningfully engaged in decision-making, thereby guaranteeing true partnerships and opportunities for intergenerational dialogue, and increasing the ways of effectively tackling issues that affected young people's lives.

*Mr. M. Bouva (Suriname), President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, resumed the Chair.*

### **Update and discussion on the Forum's work plan and activities (2019–2020)**

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU*, said that the Forum of Young Parliamentarians was the driver of IPU youth activities. Since the Forum's previous meeting in Doha at the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum 2019 had taken place and had been attended by Ms. R. Al Manthari (Oman), member of the Board of the Forum, who had brought a parliamentary perspective to the deliberations.



The IPU had sent a communications toolkit on youth participation to all IPU Member Parliaments to encourage them to mark International Youth Day on 12 August. An extensive social media campaign on youth participation in parliament had been launched, which had included data, infographics and political messages on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, using the hashtag #youngmps. A series of interviews with young parliamentarians, entitled *Voices*, had been launched on the IPU website. A statement by the President of the Forum had also been posted on the IPU website and on social media.

The Sixth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians had been held in September 2019 in Paraguay and had been well attended by young parliamentarians from around the world, 40 per cent of whom had been women. The Conference had focused on achieving the SDGs and empowering youth through wellbeing. Practical training sessions had been held on mentorship, leadership and communication, all of which had been very well received. It was hoped that such training sessions would become a regular feature of the Global Conference. To that end, a survey had been distributed seeking suggestions for themes to be taken up in future. The Board of the Forum had discussed the matter and had suggested the topics of youth policies and gender equality, the latter in line with the forthcoming 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

With regard to upcoming activities, the Future Policy Award for youth empowerment policies would be presented during the present IPU Assembly. The IPU President and the President of the Forum had been members of the jury for those awards. Lastly, the IPU Secretariat was preparing the next issue of the biennial youth participation report due to be published in 2020.

Ms. R.B. ITAMARI CHOQUE (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that it was particularly important for young parliamentarians to participate in events such as the Global Conference and the ECOSOC Youth Forum. To talk about young people was to talk about the future. Young parliamentarians by definition conducted their work from a youth perspective. The training sessions held during the Conference in Paraguay had been especially useful and should become a regular feature of the Global Conference.

Mr. S. PATRA (India) said that gender equality in youth policies was a particularly important topic. Sub-themes, such as empowerment, could also be useful for training programmes. India had experience in that regard, having adopted a bottom-up approach, using self-help groups who worked at the village, district, municipal, state and national levels. Governance at the village level had quotas for women's participation. The mentorship café and training hub that had been introduced at the Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians were excellent initiatives and should be continued. Consideration could be given to adding an innovation hub, where young parliamentarians could come together to share ideas and best practices from around the world, and foster mutual understanding.

Mr. H.O. MOHAMED HASSANEIN (Egypt) said that a training hub for high-level leadership could be considered. All governments should be encouraged to lower the minimum age for running for election to 25 years. Egypt had done so in 2014. There were currently five Egyptian parliamentarians aged under 30, who contributed positively to the work of the Egyptian Parliament.

Ms. L. LI (China) said that the Chinese Government prioritized youth participation in politics. There were currently 52 young deputies in China, from all walks of life, including start-up creators, village leaders, artists and craftsmen. Young people were also encouraged to participate in the Communist Party Congress. Youth leagues and federations at various levels also brought together young people who were passionate about politics. Young parliamentarians, as youth representatives, must work together at the international level to share experiences, build mutual respect and foster cooperation.

Ms. C.I. LÓPEZ CASTRO (Mexico) said that participation in the Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians was particularly important. Given the amount of discussion on legislating for youth participation in politics and setting quotas in that regard, it would be interesting to hear about progress and outcomes at the next IPU Assembly. Consideration must be given to how best for young parliamentarians to maintain contact with the next generation, keep abreast of the issues that interested them and ensure that their views were represented. In Mexico, the minimum age for voting and standing for election had been reduced to 18 for municipal elections in Mexico City.

The PRESIDENT urged all members of the Forum to attend the next Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, which was due to take place in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU*, reminded participants that a workshop on gender and youth electoral quotas would take place the following day, and encouraged them to attend.

### Preparations for the 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly (April 2020)

The PRESIDENT announced that the Forum would be required to appoint two rapporteurs to prepare youth overview reports on the subjects of the resolutions to be debated at the 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, *Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences* and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, *Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production*.

Pursuant to its Rules and Working Modalities, the Board of the Forum had designated Mr. O. Altabtabaee (Kuwait) as the rapporteur to prepare a youth overview report on peace and security and climate-related disasters. It had also designated Ms. M. Tiendrébéogo (Burkina Faso) to prepare a youth overview report on digitalization and circular economy to achieve the SDGs. In the absence of any comments or objections, he would take it that the Forum approved those designations.

*It was so decided.*

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany) announced that the Standing Committee on International Peace and Security was preparing a resolution for adoption at the 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly on the topic of climate-related disasters and the humanitarian impact of climate change as a multiplier of existing conflicts and challenges. In preparation, a hearing with eminent experts would be held during the present Assembly. Young people's voices must be heard and she therefore encouraged as many young parliamentarians as possible to attend.

### Debate on youth policies

The PRESIDENT said that the Future Policy Award 2019 would focus on policies that empowered young people through decent and sustainable jobs, and promoted civic and political participation for sustainable development and peace. The IPU, the World Future Council and other organizations had worked together to identify the world's most effective policies for empowering young people. The winners would be announced on Wednesday 16 October at 3 p.m. during a special segment of the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly. He urged all young parliamentarians to attend.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU*, said that the IPU's cooperation with the World Future Council, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and International Labour Organization (ILO) on the Future Policy Awards had afforded an opportunity to conduct research into policies that empowered young people around the world. The IPU had used the opportunity to take stock of laws and policies around the world and study lessons learned and good practices with regard to designing and implementing youth policies.

Youth participation was the key to impactful youth policies. Young people faced specific barriers to their political participation, such as age-based discrimination when running for political office, lack of networks, and lack of financial capacity to fund political campaigns, as well as cultural impediments. The space and mechanisms for inclusive youth participation must therefore be ensured. When young people participated in politics, they became active agents of their own development in a manner that positively affected society as a whole. Their engagement not only resulted in better policies, but was also a vehicle for empowering youth more generally and enhancing their political participation. The *Not Too Young to Run* movement in Nigeria had encouraged young people to push for lower ages of eligibility to run for office. The campaign had been successful, with the minimum age having been reduced in 2018, but the movement had continued seeking to remove other barriers to youth participation, such as campaign financing requirements. Youth inclusion for tokenism did not constitute genuine youth participation. Youth participation required young people to contribute to decision-making on an equal footing to adults. The youth perspective should be included in sectoral initiatives as well as comprehensive policy frameworks.

According to the Baku Principles, which had been adopted at the First Global Youth Policy Forum in 2014, youth laws and policies must be: rights-based – designed and implemented within a human rights-based framework, in line with the country's global and regional commitments; inclusive – ensuring equal opportunities for every young person to achieve their full potential in life; participatory – designed, developed, implemented, monitored and evaluated with the meaningful participation of young people, and with the involvement of all concerned stakeholders at all levels and in all settings; gender-responsive; comprehensive; knowledge-based and evidence-informed – developed and

regularly updated, based on the collection, analysis and dissemination of quantitative and qualitative information; fully resourced with adequate, transparent and dedicated resources for implementation; and accountable with regular monitoring and evaluation.

Youth-focused laws and policies should be developed in partnership with young people and other stakeholders in a participatory process. Young people therefore needed to be involved in parliamentary discussions and committee work. Parliamentary youth engagement mechanisms should be created, such as youth committees and caucuses, and an inclusive framework for youth participation must be established, incorporating gender, race and religion, among others. The effectiveness of youth policies should be monitored and evaluated. Parliaments must hold governments to account to make sure that youth policies were implemented properly. Any legal reforms should undergo a youth impact assessment, and parliaments should use their budgetary function to ensure that youth policies were adequately resourced. The use of age disaggregated data by public institutions and parliamentary research services should be promoted. Lastly, digital engagement should be promoted, not only with and between young parliamentarians but also with parliament itself as an institution.

The IPU wished to know whether young parliamentarians were familiar with the Baku Principles, whether they considered it was possible to apply those principles in their national contexts, how young parliamentarians could apply the principles to their daily work, whether young parliamentarians had been involved in the development of their national youth policy frameworks, and what good practices they could share from the national level.

Mr. S. TYNKKYNNEN (Finland) said that the main obstacle to young people's access to parliament was lack of sufficient funding for electoral campaigns. In Finland, a bill was currently under consideration, which would place budget ceilings on campaigns at 50,000 euros for European elections, 30,000 euros for national parliamentary elections and 7,500 euros for municipal elections, in order to prevent the use of exorbitant budgets used by some politicians to buy their way into parliament.

Mr. F.J. HURTADO MIRA (President, Democrat Youth Community of Europe – DEMYC) said that his Organization was committed to youth participation in politics. In Europe, there appeared to be a new tendency to open political party membership up to young people. As a result, there were many young European parliamentarians. That approach should be promoted all over the world.

### **Any other business**

The PRESIDENT welcomed representatives of the 100 Million Campaign, the European Students' Union (ESU) and the All-African Students Union (AASU) and invited them to address the Forum.

Ms. G. POTTON, *Head of Activism, 100 Million Campaign*, said that after Kailash Satyarthi had won the Nobel Peace Prize for decades of work to end child labour, he had recognized that despite all of the efforts made and advances in policy and legislation, some 100 million children remained outside justice. Recognizing that young people were the strongest advocates for children's rights, he had founded the 100 Million Campaign, which worked with representative youth organizations, such as regional students' unions, to ensure that young people were free, safe and educated.

Ms. S. NAJID, *North Africa Representative, AASU*, said that the AASU was the largest student movement in Africa, representing a large intellectual community, and was present in 54 countries. The Union fought for equal access to good quality education, including higher education, and for the protection of students' rights. The Union was run exclusively by students, through a democratic governance system. Its strategic priorities included: the right to education; capacity building; gender parity; democracy and good governance; and migration and mobility. The Union had received a certificate of merit from the United Nations in 2000, and worked with several international partners, including the African Union and the European Commission.

Ms. M. DARMANIN, *Human Rights and Solidarity Coordinator, ESU*, said that the ESU was an umbrella organization for student organizations around the European Union, representing the social, economic, political and educational interests of students. She had been inspired to hear about the work being done by young parliamentarians around the world to empower young people. Young people must be given the opportunity to empower themselves. The IPU should therefore continue to open its dialogue to young people to help them shape the future they wanted.

The PRESIDENT thanked the three representatives and said that there were many common aspects in the work of the Forum and their institutions, in particular guaranteeing the rights of young people and ensuring their participation in the development of policies that affected their future. There was therefore fertile ground for more sustainable cooperation in future.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU*, said that many members of the Forum had been taking up responsibilities during the present Assembly. The Forum was intended to infuse the youth perspective into all aspects of the Assembly and work of the IPU. She therefore encouraged young parliamentarians to consider the vacancies available on the boards of committees, and to stand for election.

The PRESIDENT thanked all those who had participated and declared the Forum of Young Parliamentarians closed.

*The sitting rose at 6.05 p.m.*

## Speakers' Dialogue on governance

### SITTING OF TUESDAY, 15 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.45 p.m. with Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (Mexico), President of the IPU, in the Chair.*

The PRESIDENT said that the Speakers' Dialogue was being held in preparation for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. The idea was to identify important issues and share best practices. The sitting would address two topics: the economy and development, and security and human rights.

*Mr. J.F. Mudenda (Zimbabwe) took the Chair.*

The CHAIR said that participants would first discuss the economy and development. It was the role of parliaments to bridge the gap between the haves and have-nots. One way to do so was through the budgetary process. His Government often held hearings with the general public to determine the priorities for the budget. It was important to craft the budget in a way that produced integrated development.

Carrying out systematic evaluations of development projects was also important. For example, governments must evaluate whether new hospitals had trained staff and adequate supplies. There was also a need to ensure that development was sustainable. To that end, it was advisable to manufacture goods locally instead of importing them.

Climate change impinged upon economic development by giving rise to such phenomena as droughts. His country produced its electricity from the Zambezi River. Droughts therefore left many industries without power, such as the mining and agriculture industries. Mitigation measures must be put in place. The digital economy could help to raise standards of living, especially for people living in rural areas.

Parliaments should exercise robust oversight over the executive on two fronts. First, they should examine how public policy affected the economy. Second, they must monitor and evaluate the impact of the budget on the national development matrix. In particular, they should combat illicit flows of money and make sure the government acted within the budget.

Mr. D. SYLLOURIS (Cyprus) said that his country had set up six parallel parliaments each dealing with a separate issue. The issues were as follows: research, innovation and e-governance; culture and education; environment, ecology, sustainability and health; citizens and society; a children's parliament; and a youth parliament. Each parallel parliament worked on the issues in question and presented solutions to the national Parliament. The idea was to foster an interactive relationship between society and Parliament. His country had also set up a "House of Citizens" where people could go to monitor the work of the Parliament.

Mr. J. CLARKEN (CEO of Oxfam Ireland and Executive Director of Oxfam International) said that the world was witnessing a global inequality crisis. The 26 richest people owned as much wealth as the world's poorest 3.8 billion people. Many people in developing and developed countries alike contributed greatly to economic growth but did not receive the benefits. In fact, many were working in awful conditions, enduring 80-hour weeks and suffering abuse at the hands of their employers.

Inequalities were having a profound impact on societies. They had undermined trust and caused an eruption of popular anger, leading to terrifying outbreaks of fascism, racism and sexism. Inequality was also linked to a narrowing of democratic space. Extreme wealth gave people the ability to buy elections, act with impunity, influence the media and push for self-serving laws.

However, extreme inequality was not inevitable. The international community could end inequality in three ways: pay people a living wage; invest in public services, such as education and health care; and tackle tax dodging. There was also a need for cooperation on issues such as global tax reforms, technology and ecological disruption. It was important to promote ideals that spoke to the reality of people's lives. For example, success indicators should look at the well-being of citizens instead of just GDP. Business models should be more equitably structured to share value and power. Similarly, businesses must be run on 100 per cent sustainable energy, pay their fair share of taxes and offer a living wage to every worker within the supply chain.

Mr. C. CHAUVEL (Global Lead, Inclusive Processes and Institutions, United Nations Development Programme – UNDP) said that UNDP had conducted research with the Pew Research Centre around the social contract. According to the findings, people across the globe from advanced, emerging and developing economies considered the gap between the rich and the poor as either a very or a moderately big problem. One of people's biggest fears was a fear of automation where computers would take over jobs. There were concerns that automation would lead to greater economic insecurity and increase inequalities. Moreover, many people no longer believed that their children would be better off than themselves. Those people were more likely to lose faith in democratic institutions and turn to demagogic solutions.

Presiding Officers of Parliament could change the situation through the exercise of soft power. They could increase the literacy of parliamentarians on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, parliamentarians should be encouraged to align economic, social and environmental considerations. Presiding Officers could act as patrons of groups that promoted knowledge exchange within parliaments. They should put in place knowledge development plans for members of parliament. Chairs of key parliamentary committees should meet on a regular basis to discern trends. There was also a need to restore faith in democratic institutions by interacting with civil society through youth parliaments, community cabinets and other parallel engagements. The procedures of parliament must always be up-to-date and aligned with national priorities. Working methods must be gender-sensitive and accessible to people with disabilities.

Mr. O. BIRLA (India) said that the Parliament of India had taken many measures towards improving economic development. For example, it had introduced a nationwide goods and services tax which unified taxes across 27 state jurisdictions and thereby simplified tax collection. It had also passed a bill to maintain standards on wages. India was willing to cooperate with others by setting up companies abroad. Those companies could help to enhance local employment and promote local production of goods. A number of parliamentary committees were headed by senior parliamentarians whose responsibility was to bring the budget in line with the needs of society. Other initiatives included electrification of all villages and progress on water supply. India was also doing well in the e-commerce and ICT industry.

Ms. M.N. MENSAH-WILLIAMS (Namibia) said that Speakers of parliament and Presiding Officers controlled how money was spent on development. They must have the capacities to make the right decisions and set the right priorities. Development was not about the economy alone but about other issues such as gender, education and health. For example, many girls in Africa dropped out of school due to a lack of sanitary pads. Development projects must find solutions to such issues. Parliamentarians should make sure they were exercising oversight over the government. It was particularly important to monitor government commitments to international issues such as terrorism. Parliaments could improve international trade by participating in multilateral organizations such as the World Trade Organization and the IPU. Overall, it was important to take care of the people, for instance, by giving them a living wage and empowering women to take part in politics.

Ms. S.S. CHAUDHURY (Bangladesh) said that economic growth alone was not enough to address inequality. Parliamentarians must tackle the causes of inequality. Those most affected by inequality were vulnerable people, such as women. The majority of people living in poverty were women. It was not possible to tackle inequality without addressing feminization of poverty. Parliamentarians must come up with better taxation policies, fiscal laws and economic frameworks to end inequality. Better working conditions and better wages were especially necessary. It was important to ensure that economic growth was inclusive and able to generate employment.

Ms. C. GOTANI HARA (Malawi) said that developing countries faced a number of extra challenges. Firstly, development partners and donors often came with an agenda that was different to the national agenda. As a result, developing countries ended up addressing non-priority issues just to secure funding. Secondly, parliamentarians did not always have the expertise to properly scrutinize the budget. Thirdly, parliaments were not financially independent. It meant they had to ask the executive for funding if they wished to scrutinize their actions. Development partners, such as UNDP, should provide resources not only to the executive but also to parliament. Parliaments would then be better placed to fulfil their oversight role.

Ms. R.A. KADAGA (Uganda) said that the Ugandan Parliament had been fighting hard for a minimum wage. The Minister of Gender was putting particular pressure on the government. Every ministry in Uganda was required to present a plan of action for minority communities and a plan of

action on gender and equity. Similarly, all policies must be evaluated for their human rights impact. Parliamentarians did not currently have the expertise to evaluate taxation and its impact on society. She hoped to provide training in that regard.

Mr. A. AL MAHMOUD (Qatar) said that the main challenges facing development were dictatorships, inequality, illiteracy, sectarianism and a lack of pluralism. Global economic instability was on the rise as a result of factors, such as Brexit and the trade war between the United States of America and China. To remedy the problems, it was important to enhance the role of women and to strengthen democracy. Parliamentarians should pay particular attention to youth, especially in developing countries, who should have access to jobs and an education. UNDP should assist countries locally and regionally in implementing the SDGs. Overall, parliaments should contribute to the welfare of people and protect the environment. Not only should parliaments pass legislation and make budget allocations but they should also exercise oversight.

Mr. C. LEEKPAI (Thailand) said that one issue that all societies had in common was inequality, especially economic inequality. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to convey the grievances of the people to the government as well as to scrutinize the budget. However, they could not implement projects without cooperation from the government. During his time as Prime Minister, he had taken measures to reduce inequality. For example, he had set up a fund to help underprivileged children gain access to education. He had introduced free health care services for the poor. It was also important to reduce corruption and promote good, honest governance, including on financial matters. He had not achieved economic equality but had ensured equality before the law.

The PRESIDENT announced that participants would go on to discuss the second topic of the sitting: security and human rights, which would be introduced by Mr. S. Tharoor (former UN Under-Secretary-General and MP from India) and Mr. M. Miedico (Special Advisor to the Under-Secretary-General, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism).

The discussions highlighted that the United Nations was strongly committed to engaging with parliamentarians on counter-terrorism, and 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. Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights set forth that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person". 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.

Efforts to prevent terrorist attacks had shown that security forces needed instruments to be effective. Dismantling terrorist plots required legislation setting out the intervention of the criminal justice system and security institutions. Criminalization must be done properly such that freedom of expression was maintained.

The rights of victims must be protected, to avoid double victimization; that was precisely the intention of the joint IPU-UN programme – to offer parliamentarians the chance to share good practices, be innovative and find the right balance.

Broad prevention to address the root causes (e.g. lack of integration and development, unemployment) was very important when it came to sustainable responses to terrorism. Ideas of tolerance and interfaith dialogue must be promoted. As Nobel Peace Award winner Malala Yousafzai said: "With guns you can kill terrorists, with education you will kill terrorism". It was also about building the resilience of communities; parliamentarians represented those communities and brought their voices to the United Nations. Hence the importance of the Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG), with strong leadership from first the United Arab Emirates and now Austria.

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.

## 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*

WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2019

(Morning)

*The open session of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law was called to order at 11.40 a.m. with Ms. A. Vadai (Hungary), President of the Committee, in the Chair.*

The CHAIR welcomed all participants and said that 2019 marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Geneva Conventions, which constituted the basis of international humanitarian law. The occasion afforded an opportunity to highlight the protective power of international humanitarian law, and the urgent need to take action when violations occurred. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) witnessed the everyday achievements of international humanitarian law, from the wounded being allowed to cross checkpoints, to children receiving much-needed food, and detainees being able to send messages to their families. In such instances, it was clear that respect for international humanitarian law was possible, and that it made a meaningful difference. International humanitarian law made human beings human, even in the most inhuman situations.

Mr. B. CHARLIER, (Legal Adviser, ICRC) *panellist*, said that the Geneva Conventions had been adopted in 1949, in the aftermath of the Second World War. Until that time, international instruments had only afforded protection to the military wounded and those left on the battlefield. The ICRC had therefore proposed the adoption of a treaty specifically dedicated to the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The Geneva Conventions also sought to afford protection during non-international armed conflict. The idea that States should take into account victims of conflicts within their own territory had been particularly important for the humanitarian community and for States. All four of the Geneva Conventions contained a common Article 3 that applied to situations of non-international armed conflict.

The four Geneva Conventions had been adopted in 1949 to ensure, during conflict: 1) the protection of military personnel on land; 2) the protection of military personnel at sea; 3) the protection of prisoners of war; and 4) the protection of civilians. The adoption of four such pivotal treaties so soon after such a large-scale episode as the Second World War was particularly remarkable. The Conventions were apolitical; they did not preclude efforts to defeat the enemy. International humanitarian law thus accepted many things that would be unthinkable during peace time. There was no rule prohibiting soldiers from killing other soldiers in combat. The capture and detention of enemy soldiers was also legitimate and outside judicial process. International humanitarian law also allowed for collateral damage, accepting, under very precise circumstances, that innocent civilians might be killed or injured. International humanitarian law was thus very distinct from the law applicable to international peace and security. It did not distinguish between who was "right" or "wrong", but rather acknowledged that, since war was a fact of life, those who were not participating in the fighting, whomsoever they were, deserved to be protected. The rules of international humanitarian law were basic, and appealed to a common sense of humanity.

Parliaments were in a unique position to improve implementation of international humanitarian law. The Geneva Conventions had been universally ratified, but were far from being universally implemented and respected. Parliaments must therefore ensure ratification of all other international humanitarian law-related treaties, adopt implementing legislation at the national level to translate those instruments into reality, and oversee States' fulfilment of their responsibilities by, among others, integrating international humanitarian law into security and defence force training, ensuring respect for obligations on the transfer of weapons, and ensuring due diligence. Parliament's budgetary role was also important and should be used to ensure that humanitarian actors had the means to perform their duties.

Ms. J. LUSENGE, (President, Female Solidarity for Integrated Peace and Development (SOFEPADI)), *panellist*, said that her home country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, had been in a situation of conflict for many years. The population had been massacred, civilians were being



taken into slavery, and children were being abused and dragged into conflict as soldiers. It was in the interests of many of those in power and those who were pocketing the country's resources, for the population to remain poor, oppressed and abused. The number of armed groups was increasing, rendering the application of international humanitarian law particularly difficult. General awareness of international humanitarian law needed to be raised to enable a greater understanding, in particular among rebel groups. National leaders and parliamentarians must contribute to such awareness-raising measures. All too often, the authorities in States Parties to instruments of international humanitarian law did not feel that they needed to take an interest therein. Yet time must be allocated to providing training on those instruments and education on international humanitarian law should be provided in schools, in particular where children were likely to be recruited into conflict.

Having visited camps for displaced women, she had encountered many victims of the conflict, including a young girl, forced to act as a mother to her younger brothers and sisters, having witnessed her mother's brutal murder by machete; a child who had been cut from his mother's womb by machete; and the women of a village who had all been raped, tortured and terrorized by rebels. She had interviewed a young girl who had been taken as a sex slave, having lost her parents and brothers in a brutal raid on her village. The girl's father had been shot trying to protect his wife and daughter, following which her mother had been raped and killed, her brothers had been murdered and their bodies thrown into the family home, which had then been burned to the ground in front of her. Even in places where it did not seem relevant at the present moment, awareness of the Geneva Conventions must be raised; the future could not be predicted.

International and regional cooperation must be stepped up. Greater efforts must be made to bring criminals to justice and to end impunity. Militia groups were being hidden in neighbouring countries. They must be arrested and brought to justice. A strong message must be sent that violence against civilians was not acceptable. The arms trade contributed significantly to the problem; countries permitting and facilitating the illicit sale of weapons must therefore be stopped. Cooperation was essential to prevent such violence and brutality.

Ms. D. RUIZ VERDUZCO, (Head, Civil Society Initiatives, International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP)) *panellist*, said that the ICMP was a recently established intergovernmental organization, outside the United Nations system, headquartered in The Hague. In 2018, at the Paris Peace Forum, the ICMP had presented a road map on resolving the cases of missing persons, based on its experience in the Western Balkans. Solving the cases of missing persons required: a strong legal and institutional framework, rooted in cooperation and clarity of mandates; family participation and civil society engagement; use of state-of-the-art science and technology, including data processing and forensic science; and international cooperation.

No one was immune to the problem of missing persons: any country could be affected by natural disaster, man-made disaster such as aeroplane crashes or shipwrecks, migration, organized crime, or conflicts in which people perished and were buried in mass graves. State negligence could also result in disappearance; the number of cases of ordinary crimes involving women or minority victims that were not fully investigated was increasing. In situations of mass violence, bodies could pile up in morgues, and identification could become problematic. The issue of missing persons affected not only the victims themselves, but also their loved ones who were searching for them. In the case of armed conflict, the majority of those who went missing were men, which meant that the majority of those searching for and living with the challenge of missing persons were women. Even when women went missing, it tended to be women who looked for them. The question of missing persons therefore had a strong gender dimension.

The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance dealt exclusively with enforced disappearance, and had been ratified by only 62 States. Its scope and reach were therefore limited. The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, however, recognized the anguish and suffering caused by disappearance and required States or any other warring party to provide information to enable the ICRC to contribute to restoring family links. In the event that disappearance occurred outside situations of armed conflict, or that States refused to cooperate with international humanitarian law, human rights law came into play.

The human rights law framework required States to offer effective remedies to address loss of human life, dignity or security. Human rights law required all missing persons to be treated equally and thereby curbed the tendency for some victims to be given more importance than others. It treated the families of missing persons not only as victims but also as rights holders. The most important of those rights was the right to an effective investigation. The rights of families included the right to be mobilized, freedom of speech, and to participate in search efforts. Space for civil society mobilization was shrinking, however.

The impact on families of the missing was very deep. Family members suffering from significant anxiety were unable to work, and would therefore not receive their salaries. Yet, pensions and insurance could not be claimed for missing persons, since they had not been certified as dead. Remarriage was not possible, and retaining custody of children could be difficult. Land titles could not be transferred. The medical, psychosocial and financial implications for family members of missing persons were therefore significant. While the relief and aid that humanitarian agencies could provide to remedy that pain were very important, the State must provide protection and reparation.

The ICMP had been able to assist countries in the Western Balkans, where 40,000 persons had gone missing as a result of conflict. Thanks to the cooperation of the five States in the region, 70 per cent of those missing persons had been accounted for. A regional commitment had been concluded in 2018 to continue working to account for those still missing. Several Latin American countries had set up commissions on missing persons. In Iraq, legislation had been adopted to address the issue of missing persons, give specific mandates to search institutions, and provide reparation. A cooperation process had also been launched between countries in the Mediterranean region to identify migrants who ended up on the shores of Mediterranean countries, in particular Italy, Greece and Cyprus, whose families needed to be informed.

International humanitarian law had been the first body of law to require warring parties to share information on missing persons. Its continued implementation was essential. It had contributed decisively to ensuring rights to justice. Grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, which could give rise to disappearance, must be investigated responsibly and thoroughly. International humanitarian law acknowledged that States could not delegate responsibility and must use human rights to continue to uphold their obligations. Parliamentarians were in a unique position to discuss missing persons and to endow the State with sufficient power to address the situation of missing persons. They must ratify relevant international instruments and ensure implementation of the Geneva Conventions, to ensure that war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity were incorporated into criminal codes. They must also ensure adequate budget was allocated to efforts to address the situation of missing persons.

### Debate

Mr. Z. OBRADOVIC (Serbia) said that the lack of universal application of the Geneva Conventions had devastating humanitarian consequences, as evidenced in the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and many other States. Serbia had been bombed in 1999, beginning with air strikes, with 400,000 missiles launched. The bombs had hit 25,000 houses and had devastated schools and kindergartens, in contravention of international humanitarian law. The Government of Serbia was particularly committed to solving the cases of missing persons, which it believed would go some way to strengthening inter-State relations in the Western Balkans.

Ms. A. TALABANI (Iraq) said that, in Iraq, many crimes had been committed under the previous regime, the United States occupation, and by Daesh. Many people, in particular minorities, had been forcibly displaced and deprived of their civil liberties. Yazidi, Turkmen and Christian women had been taken as slaves. She asked what could be done to ensure respect for the Geneva Conventions when conflict arose between armed militias within a State, rather than between national militaries. The resistance forces in Iraq did not meet the definition of the regular army as set out in the Geneva Conventions. Their activities tended to fall under the definition of terrorism and be addressed under the Criminal Code. She asked how the Geneva Conventions could be implemented in such circumstances. The Parliament of Iraq had drafted legislation to counter the actions of such groups, but wished to know how it could be brought into line with the Geneva Conventions.

Ms. J. SALMAN (Bahrain) said that ratification of international humanitarian law treaties was not a guarantee of implementation. Parliaments must ensure that legislation was in place to criminalize violations of international humanitarian law. Training and awareness-raising should be conducted, and international humanitarian law should be translated into every language to ensure the broadest possible understanding of its provisions. Parliaments should hold governments to account through their oversight role, and should ensure that sufficient budget was allocated to humanitarian actors. Military training and awareness-raising was also needed. A parliamentary group could be set up to work on ensuring implementation of international humanitarian law.

The representative of AZERBAIJAN said that the Geneva Conventions were unique documents. Despite the Geneva Conventions being universally ratified, the main goal of parties participating in armed conflict was to win, and to kill as many opponents as possible. Humanity came second. Refusal

to return or exchange prisoners of war between countries constituted a violation of international humanitarian law. In the context of the ongoing dispute with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh, five years previously two civilians had been captured by Armenian military forces. Despite pressure from the international community and the ICRC, the Government of Armenia was refusing to return them to Azerbaijan. He asked how such a lack of implementation could be rectified, and how parliamentarians could be more active in the promotion of and advocacy for implementation of international humanitarian law.

Mr. S. MIRUHO MUGOROZI (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that several killing sprees had taken place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He had been a victim himself, which had inspired him to become a senator and a representative of the people. The world seemed to have stopped paying attention to the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as if unable to see the killing. He did not know his true name or age as his parents had been killed in front of him when he had been just a child. Laws preventing such brutality must be disseminated and awareness must be raised. The Democratic Republic of the Congo had much to offer in terms of resources; the multinational companies that operated there should do so under normal terms of business, rather than plundering the country's wealth as they were currently doing.

Ms. M. NDIAYE (Senegal) said that conflicts were arising all over the world, but the situation in Africa, and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in particular, was exceptionally difficult. Public awareness-raising and education on international humanitarian law were crucial. Conflicts were imposed on African countries over natural mineral resources. The people of Africa wanted to live in peace, in a safer world. She asked how States that failed to implement the Geneva Conventions were held to account.

Mr. S. ALKHATHLAN (Saudi Arabia) said that parliamentarians had an enormous responsibility to ensure respect for international humanitarian law. States had accepted the Geneva Conventions, yet did not implement them properly. The lack of political will in that regard constituted a severe obstacle. The lack of treaty monitoring mechanisms for the Geneva Conventions was also problematic. He asked whether the time had come to amend the Geneva Conventions and whether there was any scope for establishing a treaty monitoring body. Consideration should be given to the drafting of a new international convention on missing persons, and whether such a treaty would belong to the body of international humanitarian law or international human rights law.

Mr. H. HOVHANNISYAN (Armenia) said that particular attention needed to be paid to rectifying the lack of universal application of the Geneva Conventions. The IPU should do its utmost to raise awareness of the Geneva Conventions among its Member Parliaments. He wished to know how international humanitarian law could be applied in situations of inter-State tension that constituted neither a conflict nor a situation of peace, such as the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh where, in 2016, Yazidi civilians had been beheaded. He also wished to know whether international humanitarian law covered civilians killing military personnel in non-conflict situations.

Mr. R. MWEWA (Zambia) asked for a clarification regarding which neighbouring countries were considered to be supporting the cruelty and conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and whether a national commission for missing persons had been set up there.

The CHAIR said that it was clear from the discussion that international humanitarian law was a very sensitive matter. She would invite the Committee to consider continuing to organize side events on the topic at future IPU Assemblies, so that the discussion could continue. Parliamentarians must foster dialogue. Members of the IPU should use all IPU forums to talk and overcome misunderstandings.

Mr. B. CHARLIER, *panellist*, thanked all participants for having shared their stories, which demonstrated the continued relevance of international humanitarian law. Many of the questions raised were answered in the handbook for parliamentarians on international humanitarian law, co-published by the IPU and the ICRC, including the circumstances under which the Geneva Conventions applied, their role, the concept of collateral damage, and application in respect of non-State armed groups and terrorist groups. Although large-scale atrocities were being committed all over the world, international humanitarian law was in fact being applied in many places; attention tended to be paid only to situations in which it was not. Respect for international humanitarian law continued to save many lives and protect the dignity of many people. Regarding whether international humanitarian law should be amended, the law in itself should not be reinvented. The question was how to find better ways to implement it. Political will was essential in that regard.

Ms. J. LUSENGE, *panellist*, said she agreed that political will was the key; parliamentarians must work with governments to ensure respect for international humanitarian law. Oversight and parliamentary action that were not restricted by party lines were the key. Parliamentarians must be the voice for those who needed their rights defended. They must not be restricted by party politics and must speak out against violations of international humanitarian law. They must hold governments to account and boycott the multinational corporations that were supporting conflicts and insurgencies.

With regard to which neighbouring countries to the Democratic Republic of the Congo were supporting the conflict, United Nations reports had named Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, which had sent combatants into the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Young people were threatened with death if they did not kill others. All States must uphold their commitments under international humanitarian law. The Democratic Republic of the Congo did not have a commission for missing persons. It was hoped that the political change under way would establish the rule of law and give the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo back their dignity. Exploitation of people by the leadership of their State was unacceptable. Forced displacement was unacceptable. The brutality endured in central Africa, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen was unacceptable. Whatever the war or conflict, the abuse of power to exterminate people was unacceptable. Such inhumanity was unfathomable. Parliaments must exercise their oversight role and hold governments accountable, to allow people to live in dignity.

Ms. D. RUIZ VERDUZCO, *panellist*, thanked the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for having shared his personal experiences. New treaties were not necessary; the ICMP had the relevant legal framework in place to grant it legal personality and allow it to operate, and sufficient international legislation existed on missing persons to enshrine their rights to justice and reparation and those of their families. Domestic action was needed to ensure that those rights were respected. The ICMP was ready to assist any State in seeking the domestic solutions to address the issue of missing persons. The Western Balkans provided excellent examples of measures taken to account for missing persons. If there was no space for future generations to continue to search for their loved ones, the only outcome would be increased division in society and eternal conflict. Addressing the issue of missing persons was thus a contribution to building and maintaining peace. Existing universal human rights principles must be applied.

The CHAIR thanked all the guests and participants and called on all IPU Member Parliaments to consult the ICRC website and keep abreast of the work of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law and participate in its future activities. All the geopolitical groups had two members on the Committee, who were approachable and could be consulted in the event of any concerns. The Chairperson herself was also always available if any Member Parliaments had queries or concerns that they wished to raise with regard to international humanitarian law. The requisite international legislation was in place. All that was needed was the political will to implement it where needed and ultimately to build a world free of conflict, in which international humanitarian law was no longer required.

*The session rose at 1.10 p.m.*

## Parity Debate

### **#NotInMyParliament: National and regional strategies**

**SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER**

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9.15 a.m. with Ms. S. Koutra-Koukouma (Cyprus) acting as Moderator.*

The MODERATOR said that violence, sexual harassment and sexism were human rights violations, discrimination and negative expressions of stereotypes that blocked genuine gender equality. The parity debate would focus on such abuses and stereotypical behaviours in the workplace, particularly in parliaments. The title of the debate was *#NotInMyParliament*. The debate had the same name as a campaign launched by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) which sought to mobilize parliaments to end sexism and violence in their institutions. The focus of discussions would be to find solutions. There would be opportunities to explore national and regional parliamentary strategies and share concrete examples of actions. Discussions would also highlight how regional parliamentary assemblies could be catalysts in creating parliamentary environments free of sexism, sexual harassment and violence.

The parity debate was organized by the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians with a view to encouraging dialogue between women and men on issues of common interest. The active involvement of men was crucial to create a safe space for everyone in parliament. The debate would engage equal numbers of women and men. She introduced the panellists and welcomed the President of the IPU.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON (Mexico), President of the IPU, said that two IPU studies undertaken in 2016 and 2018 had provided evidence revealing high levels of sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments. The 2016 study had been a global study covering women parliamentarians from 39 countries. The 2018 study had been organized jointly with PACE and had focused on women parliamentarians and female parliamentary staff in Europe. The two studies had shown that sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments was everywhere irrespective of the region. The rules of politics had been created by men. It was vital to change those rules.

The 2016 global study had shown that 82 per cent of women parliamentarians who had taken part had been subject to psychological violence, 25 per cent to physical violence and 20 per cent to sexual harassment. The 2018 European study had shown that 58 per cent of women parliamentarians who had taken part had been the target of online attacks. Similarly, 40 per cent of women parliamentary staff participating in the 2018 European study had experienced sexual harassment, with male members of parliament reported as the perpetrators in 69 per cent of cases. Sexual violence and harassment particularly against women plagued workplaces all over the world with no workplace immune to the problem. It negatively affected a person's dignity, security and psychological and physical health while also creating a poisonous, damaging and dangerous climate. Parliaments were no exception. The IPU would continue to collect and analyse data through research projects in different regions of the world. At the same time, there was a need to focus on finding solutions to change the reality. Women and men were both an essential part of the solution.

The IPU *Guidelines for the elimination of sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament* would be launched on 25 November 2019 to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The Guidelines offered advice on how to devise and implement comprehensive, inclusive and gender sensitive policies. They also covered a complaints handling mechanism. It was through such policies that parliaments could demonstrate their commitment to ensure the safety and health of its workers. The Guidelines had been developed with the active contribution of parliaments. Broad consultations had also been held with experts.

The first step was to recognize that there was a problem in parliaments. All women had a right to work in a safe space free of sexual harassment and violence. She urged parliamentarians to implement the Guidelines in their own parliaments.

Ms. Z. HILAL (Secretary of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, IPU), said that the Guidelines were a tool to help parliaments take action against all forms of sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament. They included three key steps. The first step was to mobilize action. In doing so, it was important to examine the challenges and complexities involved in tackling

sexism in parliaments. Challenges included politicization of the issue and deep-rooted tolerance of sexist behaviour which made people reluctant to establish a complaints mechanism. The Guidelines recommended prerequisites for generating broad political will and encouraged parliaments to set up a working group to lead action. The working group should be designed to ensure inclusiveness and consider all interests at stake. It should be a cross-party group with gender parity that represented all categories of people working in parliament. One of the first tasks of the working group should be to assess the existing legal framework, policies and complaints mechanisms. There was also a need to collect data on sexist behaviour and gender-based violence. Having data was key to ensuring political support, assessing the situation and determining an appropriate course of action.

The second step was to incorporate standards into a policy. Doing so would require parliaments to determine the nature of the policy that they wished to put in place. For example, parliaments should consider whether they would amend an existing code of ethics or create a dedicated policy. The latter was very much recommended. Writing a plan of action was also a possibility. It was important to keep in mind that the nature of the policy would have an impact on its efficiency. Regardless of the policy, parliaments must embed within it certain critical clauses. For example, the policy must clearly state the objective to have zero tolerance of sexism, harassment and violence against women. It must indicate the roles and responsibilities of the different sectors in parliament. There must be a budget and a clear scope of application as well as provisions for monitoring and evaluation. Providing definitions and examples of prohibited behaviour was also paramount. The policy must include a strong complaints mechanism that was independent, inclusive, confidential, accountable and responsive. All investigations must be thorough, impartial and comprehensive. Lastly, the policy should feature remedies and reparations as well as disciplinary sanctions.

The third step was about implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The Guidelines offered advice on how to best implement the chosen policy. It was important to raise awareness of the policy. The policy should not just be about sanctioning but also about providing support. Therefore, people must receive training in that regard. Similarly, counselling services were extremely important. There might also be a need to change the overall workplace culture.

Ms. L. MAURY PASQUIER (President, PACE), *panellist*, said that it was vital to follow up on the results of the studies. Parliaments must lead by example in the battle against sexism, harassment and violence against women. It was for that reason that PACE had launched the campaign entitled *#NotInMyParliament*. Shining a light on the phenomenon was necessary if the international community wished to change attitudes and set up new legal frameworks.

The Council of Europe itself had taken a number of measures to combat sexism, harassment and violence against women. For example, it had raised awareness at many international conferences, such as the Second Eurasian Women's Forum and the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women. It would also be holding the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament during which there would be a debate on the role of national parliaments in combating harassment and hate speech towards female politicians and parliamentarians.

The campaign had had a significant impact on PACE and national parliaments alike. For instance, it was thanks to the campaign that PACE had begun revising its code of conduct and working on a handbook on the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. A number of developments had also taken place within European countries. A huge demonstration had been held in Switzerland to demand change on gender-based violence. Moreover, the number of women candidates in Swiss federal elections had significantly increased. The United Kingdom Parliament had published two independent inquiries into bullying and harassment in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Similarly, the Parliament of Austria had set up a mechanism offering counselling services to victims of harassment.

Although awareness of the phenomenon was increasing, the work was far from over. More women must be elected in order to change the dynamics within parliaments. It was particularly important to promote the participation of women in political parties and in electoral campaigns. As part of the campaign, PACE would continue to fight for legislative change through its parliamentary networks and committees. Parliamentarians should raise awareness of the campaign in their own parliaments and adapt it to their own contexts.

Mr. B. IDI GADO (Secretary General, African Parliamentary Union (APU)), *panellist*, said that the APU was committed to achieving equality, liberty, justice and democracy. As a result, it stood together with the IPU in the fight against sexism, harassment and violence against women. Figures showed that less than 25 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide were women. Similarly, one in two women were subject to disrespectful and degrading behaviour. Recognizing the problem was not

enough. The international community must take action to resolve it. Although many efforts were being taken, more work was needed. Parliamentarians must review the practices and instruments in place and amend them accordingly. Improving legal and institutional frameworks was another necessary measure. There was also a need for parliamentary organizations to promote cooperation and provide technical assistance. However, the most crucial step of all was to change attitudes. Attitudes were at the heart of people's behaviour towards women. Parliamentarians could help to change attitudes by breaking down stereotypes both on an individual and collective basis. Effective implementation of sanctions would also be a good response.

Ms. S. KIHKA (President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians), *panellist*, said that sexism, sexual harassment and violence against women was everywhere regardless of the region. Among the challenges facing women parliamentarians was a fear of reporting. It was common for women parliamentarians who had experienced sexual harassment to be blamed or further victimized after reporting an incident. There was also a perception that they were weak, unable to stand up for themselves or incapable of doing their job. For example, one woman parliamentarian in Kenya had lost her seat after she had reported an incident of sexual harassment. Similarly, another woman parliamentarian had been forced to apologize after being slapped by a governor. It was important to raise awareness that sexual abuse was the fault of the perpetrator and not of the victim. There was also a lack of confidential reporting mechanisms which deterred women from coming forward. Even when women did report an incident, the process took a very long time and investigators were often reluctant to convict. Capacity-building efforts were needed to ensure investigators understood what was at stake.

Despite the dire situation, women parliamentarians were getting stronger. In Kenya, women parliamentarians had recently staged a protest. They had boycotted a key plenary meeting and therefore deprived the Parliament of a quorum until members took the problem of sexism seriously. Among the measures taken by the Parliament of Kenya was extending the scope of the Sexual Offences Act to capture a wider range of incidents. The Parliament was also drafting a policy to strengthen reporting mechanisms. However, it was the poor implementation of such laws and policies that posed the biggest problem. Women parliamentary staff faced even greater difficulties than women parliamentarians in reporting incidents of sexual abuse because of power hierarchies. It was necessary to develop the capacities of women themselves so that they knew how to deal with situations of abuse. Educating people about what was appropriate was also vital if parliaments were to change mindsets. Lastly, social media had become another tool for terrorizing women.

Mr. M. HAMLYN (Strategic Director, Chamber Business Team, House of Commons, United Kingdom), *panellist*, said that it was important to involve everyone in parliament to tackle the problem of sexual harassment, including parliamentarians, staff and visitors. In 2017, the UK House of Commons had been propelled into the spotlight following allegations of bullying and harassment by some members of parliament. As a result, the party leaders had set up an all-party working group. In response to recommendations from the group, the House of Commons had established a new behaviour code and complaints procedure called the Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme. However, that scheme only applied to recent cases.

Meanwhile, the BBC had run a very high-profile news story setting out detailed stories of systematic bullying and harassment, mostly of female staff by male MPs. The staff had reported that they could get no redress from the existing system with senior managers and MPs reluctant to take action. As a result, a former judge had carried out an independent inquiry into bullying and harassment of House of Commons staff. Her report had described a culture of deference, subservience, acquiescence and silence in which bullying, harassment and sexual harassment had been able to thrive. There were three recommendations in the report. First, the House should suspend existing policies. Second, the new Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme should be extended to older allegations. Third, there was a need to establish an entirely independent process for determining complaints. Currently, the process was not fully independent because it still involved parliamentarians.

The House of Commons had taken a number of steps since the inquiry was published. The Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme would soon be open to non-recent cases. The House had also suspended the former discredited polices. It had set up an independent sexual misconduct advice service and an independent bullying and harassment reporting service which were completely confidential and run by companies separate from Parliament. There had also been a huge push for more training, including a programme called *Valuing Everyone*. The programme was mandatory for all staff and would be completed by new members as part of their inductions.

The biggest challenge had been establishing a wholly independent complaints process. Traditionally, it had been a privilege of Parliament to determine its own rules and judge its own members. Cases of sexual harassment had been a matter of the House's own Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards who ultimately reported to a select committee of parliamentarians. There would not be confidence in the procedure as long as parliamentarians were still part of it. Efforts were ongoing to further improve the independence of the complaints procedure.

Ms. B. FRESKO-ROLFO (Monaco) said that she was pleased to see men taking part in the debate and assuming their responsibilities alongside women in the fight against sexism, sexual harassment and violence. All work should be based on figures and data. Studies on gender-based violence should therefore take place more regularly.

Mr. D. MULUNDA (Zambia) said that his country was trying its best to ensure that women had equal rights, privileges and opportunities to men, including in employment. It had enacted legislation, such as the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act, which protected women against all forms of harassment. Under the Penal Code, anyone who harassed a girl under the age of 16 could be sent to prison for a maximum of 25 years. There was also a law establishing a victim support unit within the Zambian police. Certain categories of women were particularly victimized, such as widows.

Ms. S. KARANLAJE (India) said that women constituted almost half of the total population of India and played a major role in the pursuit for democracy. The Indian Constitution guaranteed the protection of women in all spheres. Her Parliament had enacted several laws to promote women's participation in social, economic and political life. There were also several schemes to protect women from all forms of violence and discrimination.

Women were the head of the family in her constituency. They were the ones making decisions about their children's education, health, daily needs and marriage. Girls also had the right to inherit property. The system was known as a matriarchal system of family.

Over the years, the representation of women parliamentarians had risen from 24 to 78 in the Lok Sabha and from 15 to 26 in the Rajya Sabha. Following amendments to the Constitution in 1993, one third of the total seats available in rural and local bodies had been reserved for women. Some 20 Indian states had later passed their own legislation increasing the number of reserved seats to one half. Women parliamentarians in India were able to take part in parliamentary deliberations without discrimination.

Lord DHOLAKIA (United Kingdom) welcomed the fact that the Guidelines included good practices adopted by different countries. It was particularly important to invest in women at the local level since many politicians started their careers there, as well as within political parties.

He was pleased about the policies put in place in the UK House of Commons. The problem was not just about the conduct of individuals but about the entire culture of the institution. He commended the fact that the complaints procedure in the UK Parliament would not only include parliamentarians but also external experts.

Language was one of the most crucial elements in the battle against gender-based violence. Parliaments must not tolerate language that incited hatred including by those at the very top of the institution. Many UK parliamentarians received hate mail.

Any parliament which did not follow the Guidelines should be questioned. In addition to the Guidelines, every IPU Member Parliament attending assemblies should make a clear statement on gender equality. There was also a need for education, training and welfare. Women must have the same starting point as men if their participation in parliament was to increase. Strong legislation was valuable but it alone was not sufficient. It was also vital to change attitudes. All policies should be regularly monitored for their effect on women.

Ms. S. ANDERSEN (Iceland) said that her country had a good track record on gender equality but was still concerned by sexism in parliaments. Iceland had recently hosted the first major international conference on the impact of gender-based violence, harassment and discrimination. Moreover, it was currently in the process of preparing a questionnaire for women parliamentarians and staff. The questionnaire drew its inspiration from the IPU studies. It showed that countries did not have to reinvent the wheel but could use existing material provided by the IPU.

Ms. H. FAYEZ (Bahrain) said that she had not heard of any cases of harassment in the National Assembly of Bahrain. Nevertheless, there were a number of written regulations and policies in place, including a code of conduct and the Penal Code. Panellists should clarify where and why the problem had started. In her opinion, it had started outside parliament, for instance, in the education system or in society at large. Panellists should also clarify how parliaments could enforce the laws they enacted.



Ms. S. SIRIVEJCHAPUN (Thailand) said that the Constitutional Court and the independent organs of Thailand were responsible for prescribing ethical standards in Thai institutions, including in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Those standards distinctly prohibited acts of sexual harassment. Furthermore, a new code of ethics was being developed for both houses. Perpetrators of sexual harassment were subject to serious sanctions. She recommended that the IPU sent questionnaires to parliaments annually with the objective of assessing implementation of the Guidelines.

Ms. L. GOGO (Kenya) said that the studies carried out by the IPU had assessed the situation of women in parliament. However, it was also important to assess violence against women parliamentarians in the home. What happened at work was often a reflection of what happened at home.

Ms. S. BOZIC (Serbia) said that parliaments should pass legislation to make women more visible in their institutions. Serbia had introduced quotas ensuring that 30 per cent of candidates on electoral lists were women. However, the aim should be to have more than 40 per cent of women in parliaments.

Ms. M.M. CHINOMONA (Zimbabwe) said that women parliamentarians must stand together in the fight against sexism, harassment and violence. Parliamentarians should encourage each other to speak up. Currently, male parliamentarians tended to heckle their female colleagues, making them feel out of place. It was essential to create an environment that was conducive to reporting complaints. Lastly, parliamentarians should raise awareness of the problem in the media. The media had the power to promote a violence free culture but also to perpetuate harmful stereotypes and reinforce the cycle of violence.

Ms. L. MAURY PASQUIER *panellist*, said that there was a need to carry out more studies in other countries and regions. Carrying out studies would allow parliaments to collect information and respond accordingly. However, it would also be an opportunity to talk about the problem and raise questions.

Mr. B. IDI GADO *panellist*, said that it was important to carry out a study in Africa. The APU stood ready to help in that regard.

Ms. S. KIHKA *panellist*, said that the IPU and the APU would be carrying out a joint study on the African continent. The experience of African parliaments might be different to European parliaments. Eventually the IPU would carry out studies of all the continents. If women were to play a bigger role in politics, they should be able to work without fear of harassment. It was important to share best practices.

Mr. M. HAMLYN *panellist*, said that it was vital to create an atmosphere that encouraged people to bring forward their complaints. The culture of harassment would change if people believed that complaints would be adequately addressed.

The MODERATOR encouraged parliamentarians to forward the Guidelines to their national parliaments and embrace them by the time of the next parity debate.

*The sitting rose at 10.45 a.m.*

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

### SITTING OF TUESDAY, 15 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 4.40 p.m. with Mr. U. Lechte (Germany) in the Chair.*

The CHAIR said that the present workshop was taking place in the context of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was the most widely ratified human rights treaty. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child supervised the implementation of the Convention and was at the forefront of national efforts to promote children's rights. Despite progress, there was still a long way to go to fulfil the objectives outlined in the Convention. Children continued to be subject to violence, forced labour, trafficking and other injustices. Child migration was particularly concerning. In 2016, 12 million children had been refugees or asylum seekers and 23 million children had been internally displaced. The workshop would address a number of questions, including the concrete impact of the Convention on the lives of children, ways to assess the Convention after 30 years of existence and the challenges that lay ahead. He invited a number of high-level speakers to give their introductory remarks.

Ms. M. GOJKOVIĆ, Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia, said that the former Yugoslavia had been one of first countries in the world to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The international community must review the measures it had taken thus far to protect the rights of the child and consider the remaining challenges. Hundreds of millions of children were living in poverty or were subject to violence. Over 260 million children did not attend school and 650 million girls got married before the age of 18. One in four children worldwide were denied a happy and safe childhood. The most vulnerable children were those living in conflict zones and those who had been displaced. Despite progress on the rights of the child, it was clear that there was more to do. The IPU must get more involved in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including child protection.

Serbia had taken many measures to protect children. It was paying particular attention to vulnerable groups such as children with disabilities and mental disorders, Roma children and migrants. Celebrities were also helping to raise awareness of the cause, including Mr. G Bregović, who had been named as UNICEF's Regional Coordinator for Europe and Central Asia. The National Assembly of Serbia had established a committee on the rights of the child which was chaired by the Speaker. Similarly, the Government was planning to propose a bill on the rights of the child and set up a children's ombudsman. Such measures would protect children from violence, abuse and negligence, including on the Internet. It was the duty of parliamentarians, civil society and celebrities to promote children's rights.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON, President of the IPU, said that the Convention on the Rights of the Child was one of the most ratified international instruments on the planet. Yet, the situation of children around the world indicated that much remained to be done. Children and adolescents were unable to vote. Therefore, politicians did not usually pay attention to them in their politics. However, it should not be about politics but about people, especially the most vulnerable people. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to change the current reality. They must help all children who needed protection, including migrants, refugees, internally displaced children and those subject to violence. Some children were not even protected within their own families.

It was not enough to have a catalogue of rights taken from a Constitution and an international instrument. Parliamentarians must translate those rights into national legislation and into public policy. There was also a need to ensure the necessary budgetary backing. In Mexico, she had been working with human rights committees and Save the Children to create a comprehensive child protection system. She had put pressure on the Government to provide a budget for the cause earlier than would have otherwise been the case. The work was not easy and required a great deal of effort nationally. However, politicians must unite behind a cause as important as children's rights. Children were not the future but the present. Parliamentarians must respond to the problems and concerns of children with solutions.

The CHAIR said that the present workshop would produce a declaration to be presented to the IPU Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights and adopted by the Assembly, and introduced the panellists.

Ms. A. KHAN (Director, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia), *panellist*, said that the international community was marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention established a common legal framework for the protection and promotion of children's rights. It had inspired change for children in nearly every nation. The international community had taken action by developing national agendas, promoting ombudspersons for children, restructuring budgetary allocations and making interventions targeting child survival and development. As a result, the lives of millions of children worldwide had improved. Since 1990, child mortality had decreased by more than 50 per cent. The number of undernourished children had almost halved and more children than ever were in school. The success was to a large extent due to the work of parliamentarians. Nevertheless, too many children were still being left behind, many of whom were the most vulnerable, such as children with disabilities, refugee and migrant children, and children living in conflict zones. Far too often, those children were also girls.

There was a nexus between the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the SDGs. While the Convention outlined the standards for the realization of children's rights, the SDGs articulated social and economic targets. It was possible to reach children in need by implementing the SDGs nationally through policy, laws and budgets. Many children could not currently vote but would be the voters of the future. Agreements such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child were not optional policies but existing legal obligations. Not only was it a legal duty to promote children's rights but also a collective, moral responsibility.

The world of 2019 presented a host of new challenges compared to the world of 1989 when the Convention had first been adopted, including climate change, rapid urbanization, increased migration and digitalization. Those challenges had a direct impact on children's rights. The anniversary of the Convention was an opportunity to take stock of progress but also to accelerate it. In 2019, the Convention on the Rights of the Child remained very relevant. Children and young people themselves were claiming their voice and demanding action, particularly on climate change. The onus was on parliamentarians to take action. In doing so, the perspective of children and young people must be included. All policy must be based on improved, coordinated, timely and reliable data. Child-centred policy must be complemented with sufficient investments, resources and budget to ensure full implementation and sustainability. When governments invested in children, societies were more peaceful and prosperous.

It was also clear that the threats to children's rights were too great for UNICEF or any one government to tackle alone. The IPU had an important role in encouraging regional cooperation and dialogue between all nations, including on the issue of children's rights. Governments must reaffirm their commitment to children's rights and sign a global pledge in that regard.

Mr. G. BREGOVIĆ (Musician, UNICEF Regional Coordinator), *panellist* said that the anniversary of the Convention provided an opportunity to reflect on the progress made on children's rights. However, it was also a chance to realize that millions of children continued to have their rights violated. The experiences that people had as children profoundly impacted the rest of their lives.

In many ways, the children of Europe and Central Asia were living better lives than ever before. Since 1990, the number of children dying before their fifth birthday had been halved. The number of children who were out of school had also decreased by 50 per cent. Much of that success was down to important policy changes made by parliaments and governments. However, that success was not enough.

Mr. Bregović's work with UNICEF would focus on advocating for the most vulnerable children. It was estimated that at least 75 per cent of children living with disabilities in Eastern Europe, Central Europe and Central Asia could not access quality, inclusive education. The vast majority faced discrimination and remained segregated from their communities. Similarly, Roma children continued to be one of the most vulnerable groups in the region. They were more likely to be born underweight, less likely to be registered at birth, less likely to be fully immunized and more likely to leave school early. Millions of children were also on the move. The majority of those children were fleeing violence, poverty or conflict and did not have access to education, health care or shelter. New challenges had also arisen, such as the Internet and climate change. He encouraged parliamentarians to recommit to the rights of children, especially of the most vulnerable.

Ms. A. KHAN *panellist*, said that the Convention on the Rights of the Child remained very relevant in representing the commitments of governments, civil society and international institutions on the rights of children, including child migrants and refugees. It was critical to take stock of progress made towards key aspects of the Convention. Children made up only one third of the world's population but represented half of the world's refugees. Nearly 50 million children had migrated or been displaced across borders and more than 28 million children had fled violence and insecurity. Since 2014, nearly 450,000 refugee and migrant children had made the harrowing journey to Europe. A third of those children were alone, unaccompanied or separated from their families.

The world was at a crucial point. Parliamentarians should push their governments to implement UNICEF's six-point Agenda for Action. The Agenda sought to protect children on the move from violence, abuse and exploitation, end detention of migrant children, keep families together and give children legal status. The Agenda would also ensure that every refugee, migrant and internally displaced child had access to learning, health care and other quality services. Lastly, it called for the international community to address the underlying causes of migration as well as to introduce measures to combat xenophobia and discrimination. It was crucial to engage young people themselves in policy formulation.

Ms. A.D. MERGANE KANOUTÉ (Member of Parliament, Senegal), *panellist*, said that children in Senegal faced many problems. Problems included child begging and genital mutilation, both of which were entrenched in the culture and traditions of society. There was also a problem of child sex abuse which had previously been considered taboo. Statelessness was another challenge. Not all children were registered at birth, which meant they were unable to go to school. Some children had parents with mental health problems whilst others were living with disabilities and conditions such as autism.

Many different organizations, including women's groups, had taken action to help children. For example, they had organized a big demonstration in the capital and in other regions. Their actions had led to new draft law that criminalized rape, including child rape. Women parliamentarians and women from civil society had also fought for a new law on citizenship which, for the first time, allowed mothers to transfer citizenship to their children. Efforts were also being made to introduce a Children's Code which would complement the Family Code. Despite progress, barriers still remained. For example, the implementation and enforcement of laws was not effective, largely due to sociocultural factors. Moreover, child victims of rape did not usually receive the support they needed.

The rape and murder of young girls had recently led to a public outburst that had made women more determined to ensure that such events never happened again. International organizations should work together with local organizations which were better placed to tackle the situation.

Mr. C. LUMINA (Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child), *panellist*, said that there were divergent views on the achievements of Convention. The broad assessment of the Committee was that the Convention had contributed significantly to improving the lives of children. It had done so in three main respects. First, it had encouraged the adoption of national laws and policies as well as the creation of institutions devoted to the realization of children's rights. That was particularly true in circumstances where children were most vulnerable, such as in labour exploitation, trafficking and child marriage. Second, it had provided a framework allowing governments to increase their investments in support of the realization of children's rights. Third, it had helped empower children to play an increasingly important role in shaping their own lives. Despite the progress, many challenges remained. For example, implementation of the commitments outlined in the Convention was weak and the resources allocated to the implementation were insufficient. As a result, violations against children persisted, particularly in the context of migration. Moreover, the Convention had three optional protocols addressing the sale of children, the involvement of children in armed conflict and a complaints procedure. Those optional protocols had low ratification rates, which had worked against the full realization of children's rights. He called on parliamentarians to encourage their governments to ratify the protocols.

Child migration was a phenomenon affecting all regions of the world. The Committee had provided the State Parties to the Convention with general comments on how to best integrate aspects of the Convention when dealing with child migrants. In September 2012, the Committee had also devoted a whole day of discussion to the rights of migrant children. Four factors were particularly concerning. First, there was a lack of effective national legal and institutional frameworks for child migrants and weak enforcement in cases where such frameworks did exist. Second, child migrants did not have sufficient access to basic services, such as health, education and birth registration. Third, administrative detention of child migrants had become routine. Fourth, there were insufficient

resources for the protection of child migrants. Therefore, the Committee had routinely called on State Parties to put in place robust mechanisms for the protection of child migrants based on the principle of non-discrimination.

Parliaments could play a critical role in supporting the realization of children's rights. First, they could use their legislative function to adopt national laws which translated the commitments of the Convention into national obligations. National legislation must be compliant with children's rights. Second, parliaments could strengthen their government's adherence to the Convention through their oversight role, for instance, by setting up parliamentary committees that addressed the rights of children. Third, parliaments should ensure adequate budgetary allocations. It was not sufficient to ratify an instrument. States must commit resources to ensure effective implementation of their commitments. Fourth, parliamentarians should raise awareness among their constituents of the commitments made by the State on children's rights.

Ms. S. AQTASH (child refugee), *panellist*, said that she had left Afghanistan four years previously and moved far away from her home, school and friends. Nevertheless, she considered herself lucky. She had a roof over her head, attended school and had made new friendships. Her family were also pursuing a legal process. Other children in her situation had not had the same opportunities. She had been afraid to leave her home. However, her life had been at risk where she used to live. Just leaving the house had been dangerous, especially for girls. The journey to reach Serbia had been long and dangerous. She had been hungry and thirsty the whole time and had had to share accommodation with strangers. Although she had found some peace in Serbia, her journey was still not over. It would be many years before her family would have a house to call home.

She wanted to hold onto her dreams. In Serbia, her art had been displayed in three exhibitions. She had also attended language, business and computer classes. She hoped to finish school and write books that could inspire others. She wanted to feel free and safe. Girls were stronger than people thought. War and displacement had stolen five years of her life. However, it had also taught her to stand up for her rights regardless of her age. Politicians must remember her words when drafting laws and taking decisions that could affect her life and those of others.

Ms. J. BESODIĆ (Balkans Migrations and Displacement Hub Program Director for Save the Children), *panellist*, said that Save the Children was celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The initial objective of the organization had been to organize relief efforts but also to find more sustainable solutions to end the suffering of children. It was the founder of Save the Children who had initiated the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which had become the inspiration for the Convention. By 2030, Save the Children aimed to ensure that no child died from preventable causes. It also aimed to provide learning opportunities and protection to all children.

Ms. Besodić would present the experiences of child migrants in the Balkans but those experiences were also illustrative of other regions. From January to September 2019, almost 50,000 refugees and migrants had reached the Balkans. However, the countries of the region were struggling to provide adequate support, especially to vulnerable children, such as unaccompanied children. For example, Bosnia and Herzegovina could offer accommodation to only half of the 7,000 migrants and refugees in the country.

Data collected across different transit routes did not match from country to country. It was therefore clear that underreporting of refugees and migrants was high. It showed that many migrants and refugees were invisible, putting them at greater risk. People were relying on smugglers and traffickers, which made them vulnerable to abuse. Not all countries were collecting disaggregated data on children, especially not data disaggregated by age. However, such data was important when planning interventions. Programming was also very rarely data driven. There was a mixed migration portfolio in the region which meant that needs were frequently changing. Accurate data was necessary to ensure that programmes could respond to the changing context.

Parliamentarians were responsible for ensuring lasting change. Relief efforts alone would not be enough. There was a need to evoke a cooperative effort from all nations. Moreover, States must fulfil the commitments of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. She emphasized the importance of evidence, resources and investments as well as accountability and oversight. It was vital to ensure respect for the best interests of children at borders but also within countries.

Ms. M. DARMANIN (Human Rights and Solidarity Coordinator for the European Students' Union; 100 Million Campaign), *panellist*, said that there were many laws and policies in place to promote the rights of the child at the international, regional and national levels. It was therefore frustrating that hundreds of millions of children were still exploited for labour, living in conflict zones or

without access to education. Many countries were not on track to reach the SDGs, especially those on children and young people. It was important to ask why, given that the means, resources and knowledge existed to end human rights abuses against children. Potential reasons included a lack of political will and a lack of oversight in the allocation of budgets and resources.

The decisions of politicians had left children marginalized for reasons they had no part in creating. There was no justification for any elected representative to perpetuate an approach which fueled extreme nationalism, intolerance and division. Young people and youth representatives must have the opportunity to hold all policies, promises and pledges to account. However, a great deal remained to be done to include young people in politics. People under 30 constituted more than half of the world's population but less than 2 per cent of parliamentarians. Investing in the capacities of young people was crucial to ensure their genuine and sustainable involvement.

The European Students' Union advocated for good quality education systems that fostered diversity and offered inclusive and equitable opportunities for all. National economies and democracies were only as strong as the education systems. It was necessary to address not only the internal structures of education systems but also the multilevel injustices that marginalized certain groups and deprived them of an education. It was for that reason that the European Students' Union had joined forces with other regional students' representatives from around the world to support the 100 Million Campaign. The campaign called for a world where all young people were free, safe and educated. Achieving real sustainable change needed stronger commitment and collective power at the grassroots level. Communities should be at the forefront of efforts to realize the rights of children. Progress was possible if the international community took joint and immediate action. Protecting the rights of children was a political choice.

Ms. A. GERKENS (Netherlands) said that online child sexual abuse was a taboo subject that must be put on the table. There were gaps in legislation all around the world which hampered the fight against the phenomenon. Even in the western world, children were not safe because of the Internet. New guidelines on implementing the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography placed an explicit focus on the issue of child sex abuse. She would propose a resolution on the topic to the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights. She urged parliamentarians to review their own legislation. They should not be afraid to address the topic, because many children were suffering as a result.

Ms. I. ALWAZIR (Palestine) said that the Palestinian Legislative Council had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Some 53 per cent of the population of Palestine were children. Many Palestinians, including children, had experienced human rights abuses. The occupying power had killed thousands of children or imprisoned them in inhumane conditions. It had used force against children in disproportionate ways. The United Nations should provide international protection to the Palestinian people and ensure that Israel was held to account for its crimes.

Ms. J. SALMAN (Bahrain) said that it was important to bridge the gap between legislation and reality. Bahrain was at the forefront of efforts to improve legislation promoting children's rights. Her Parliament would soon be discussing a law on reformative justice for children to protect them from ill treatment, including by their own parents. Those who did not respect the law would be subject to penalties. The country also hoped to set up a centre for children's rights and a number of juvenile courts. Those courts would employ experts in child psychology who would support children going through the system.

Ms. E. OLIVERA (Chile) said that abuse of children persisted in her country. She herself had been raped as a child. It had been those experiences that had motivated her to get into politics. She had been working hard to combat child abuse, including child sex abuse. Chile had adopted two laws recently. One law regulated the recording of interviews with children to ensure children were not revictimized. Another law had overturned a statute of limitations under which people only had 10 years to report child abuse after they turned 18.

Ms. A.D. MERGANE KANOUTÉ, *panellist*, said that the discussion had shown that violations of the rights of the child occurred in every country. With the right determination and political will, it was possible to bring about positive change.

Ms. A. KHAN, *panellist*, said that the legislative, oversight and budgetary role of parliamentarians would be instrumental in fulfilling the commitments of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. There was a continued challenge to ensure legislative commitments were followed by actual implementation. That was particularly true in the case of sexual exploitation and abuse, whether

physical or online. It was necessary to have a firm, well-established judicial system based on restorative justice, including trained police and witness investigators. Politicians must engage with young people when developing laws and systems. It was their voice that would allow politicians to form a society that serviced the best interests of children. There was a long way to go but collective power would bring about change.

Mr. C. LUMINA, *panellist*, said that each State Party was obliged to provide a report within two years of ratifying the Convention and thereafter at periodic intervals of five years. It was through those reports that the Committee on the Rights of the Child was able to monitor progress. The Committee always provided the State Party with a set of concluding observations after assessing the report. Parliaments must ensure the implementation of those observations by holding their governments to account.

Ms. J. BESODIĆ, *panellist*, said that parliamentarians must ensure there was a child lens for all legislation and policy. The child lens should apply not only to legislation and policy dedicated to children's rights but to all legislation and policy. It was also important to collect and act upon the right data.

Ms. M. DARMANIN, *panellist*, said that there was a need for better enforcement of laws and more budgetary allocations. A fraction of global military expenditure could cover the gap in education financing. She urged parliamentarians to keep opening up their discussions to young people, who must hold them to account.

*The sitting rose at 6.25 p.m.*

## **Workshop on Sustainable Development Goal 8: Achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all: The economic challenge of our time**

**WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER**

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9.40 a.m., with Ms. G. Cuevas Barron, President of the IPU, in the Chair.*

The PRESIDENT, introducing the workshop on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 (decent work and economic growth), said that the IPU was mandated to review all matters of relevance to parliamentarians and, more importantly, to those whom they represented. It had accordingly decided to increase its focus on economic issues, bearing in mind that the global economy had not yet fully recovered from the financial crisis of 2008 and was, moreover, forecast to undergo a downturn. It was difficult to envision how the employment market would be affected in the longer term by the new technologies and automation already having an impact on jobs. The resulting uncertainty shone a spotlight on employment legislation and the protection of workers' rights and benefits. Parliaments must therefore do their utmost to address issues relating to SDG 8, including by scrutinizing their own national labour laws. In working to strengthen its economic agenda, the IPU looked forward to learning from the experiences of its Members in the areas of employment legislation and job creation.

*Ms. A. Tolley (New Zealand), moderator of the first panel discussion, took the Chair.*

### **Panel 1:**

#### **Full employment: The challenge of job creation in the twenty-first century**

The MODERATOR introduced the panellists who would be making presentations relating to the challenge of full employment: Ms. S. Dasgupta, Chief, Employment and Labour Market Policies Branch, Employment Policy Department, International Labour Organization (ILO); Ms. A. Byhovskaya, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and Senior Policy Advisor, Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Mr. J. Sakaja, member of the Kenyan Senate and Chairperson of its Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare; and Mr. A. Gryffroy, member of the Belgian Senate and of the Flemish Parliament's Committee for the Economy, Work, Social Economy, Innovation and Science Policy. She invited the panellists to make their presentations.

Ms. S. DASGUPTA, *panellist*, in her presentation, said that the key question was whether full employment and decent work for all were feasible. As growth did not always naturally lead to job creation, policies were needed to boost employment, which in turn begged the question of whether raising aggregate demand in a Keynesian way was the answer or whether supply created its own demand, thereby requiring a focus on skills development. Since the financial crisis of 2008, global economic growth had been steady but had not yet returned to pre-crisis levels. Indeed, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had scaled down global economic growth forecasts to only 3 per cent. Most countries had rising public debt, with investment stalling in the real sector and channelled instead towards speculative gains. The United States–China trade war persisted and the number of migrant workers had risen sharply in the past five years. Well recognized for its negative impacts on growth and employment, inequality was also significant and persistent within countries and social groups and between rural and urban areas.

As to the current global labour market, the challenge related to the number of new jobs needed simply to keep pace with the growth of the working age population. Full and productive employment was also about quality, however, which meant decent work, adequate pay for all and observance of labour rights. Vulnerable own-account work was increasing with the spread of the gig economy in which so many young people were employed. Workers, moreover, did not share the fruits of productivity growth, which led to a gap in corresponding wage growth. Collective bargaining had declined in many countries, while in emerging countries the quantity and quality of employment were a concern, especially given the number of disengaged young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs). Gender gaps also remained in employment, wages and unpaid care, with women globally earning some 20 per cent less than men.



Technology, demography and environmental change were the future work drivers. In the realm of technology, challenges included its impact on future jobs, depending on whether it augmented or replaced labour, and regulation of the new forms of work it created. With regard to demography, the challenges related to the implications for social protection systems in the light of ageing populations and the increasing labour force concentration in Asia and Africa, and also in the latter case to the creation of sufficient numbers of quality jobs. As to environmental change, the effects of the move towards sustainable production remained ambiguous. The demographic shift from a three-stage life of education, work and retirement to a multi-stage life involving different working scenarios over the life course must also be taken into account in policymaking. Paid jobs in the care sector were furthermore projected to rise, raising questions about how to make those jobs more decent.

Concerning the future of employment, technology would lead to both the creation and loss of jobs, even in developing countries, which would be affected by production reshoring. The greatest impact was anticipated in manufacturing and construction and in the hotel, restaurant, wholesale and retail trades, with jobs in education and training, human health and social care at much less risk. Policymakers must also explore substitutes for the routine jobs performed by less educated and lower paid workers, which were set to disappear. Indeed, the changing nature of jobs called for different forms of labour market governance and for transition towards the many green job opportunities expected to arise in the renewable energy sector and the circular economy, although the development path to that end in poorer countries was currently uncertain. Jobs would also be created in the care, service and digital sectors, with the proviso in the latter case that jobs could become rapidly obsolete.

Comprehensive and holistic national employment strategies were therefore required to foster coherent macro-economic, industrial and wage policies, supported by labour standards and green investment aimed at spurring a virtuous spiral. The newly adopted ILO Centenary Declaration on the Future of Work underlined the need for reorientation towards a human-centred growth path, aided by pro-employment economic and social policies, and for reinvigoration of the social contract for social justice. It thus emphasized investment in human capabilities, institutions, and decent and sustainable work. Bold, urgent and committed action by parliamentarians was clearly crucial to the delivery of SDG 8.

Ms. A. BYHOVSKAYA, *panellist*, in her presentation, said that continuing technological changes would pose an obstacle in the coming years to quality job creation. While many of the related figures painted a frightening doomsday scenario, policymakers and legislators must bear in mind that such figures were often exaggerated and outdated. It was true, however, that middle-skilled workers would be hit hardest by automation, although they were likely to welcome the opportunity to perform more interesting and rewarding non-routine tasks. Some employers were nonetheless hesitant to invest in the training and work-based learning needed to cope with technological change. Others had introduced such measures as individual training accounts and educational training leave for the benefit of their workers, except those workers were invariably unable to afford to retrain unless they received financial compensation. The work-related challenges associated with technological change were particularly acute in emerging economies and developing countries already struggling to address youth employment issues.

Technological change was furthermore concentrated in the countries responsible for driving that change through high investment in technological research and development. Industrial policies elsewhere should therefore be aimed at building the technology sectors and linkages with the green economy. Unfortunately, however, public investment in the technological sphere was extremely low in certain regions, which were therefore behind in laying the foundations for promoting job mobility.

Another issue associated with technology diffusion was the further segmentation of global value chains, with the result that companies operating across borders might fail to comply with the labour standards and minimum wage levels in host countries along the value chain. Organizational changes in manufacturing and the emergence of new non-standard forms of employment, such as platform work, must also be taken into account. Estimates were that up to 5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) might need to be channelled into training and social protection costs arising from the move towards digitization and a green economy. Certainly, more public investment was needed in technological infrastructure in order to create jobs and new occupational opportunities for workers.

Mr. J. SAKAJA, *panellist*, in his presentation providing a developing country perspective on the subject, said that job creation was vital to addressing the high percentage of unemployment and underemployment among constituents such as those he represented. Policymaking and legislation must be linked with the realities in many developing countries, where millions of disenfranchised, disengaged and jobless youth posed a greater threat than terrorism. The challenge must be translated

into an opportunity, especially as the younger generations were the creators of technology, which indeed changed rapidly. Technological skills were transferable, however, enabling creative industries to remain resilient to global economic shocks.

Having resolved with his fellow parliamentarians to address the lack of economic opportunities for young Kenyans, he had spearheaded legislation providing that one third of all procurement opportunities must be reserved for young people, women and persons with disabilities. As with tax relief and subsidies, the aim was to incentivize the private sector to create jobs that the public sector could not possibly provide. He had also introduced a bill that had led to the establishment of a national employment authority, which brought together all stakeholders for the purpose of regularly aligning the education curricula with job market needs. Internships and soft skills development were provided in addition to enable young people to adapt to the shifts under way.

The fact that the labour force in Africa would soon equal those of China and India combined should be seen as an opportunity to internationalize by training young people for work that contributed to the global economy. Failure to overcome that challenge would encourage the young to migrate to the developed world, whereas they must instead be seen as the trustees of posterity in their own countries. The green economy indeed offered many future job opportunities, as in the case of the renewable and geothermal energy sectors in Kenya. It must be said, however, that developing countries faced a burden disproportionate to their contribution to climate change. He would be pleased to share information concerning successful Kenyan labour legislation that could also work for other developing countries.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY, *panellist*, in his presentation, said that the European Union aimed to achieve full employment by 2025, to which end it must learn from past mistakes, such as the enactment of legislation to protect workers' rights that was too rigid. Indeed, the differences in legislation in neighbouring European countries favoured the ability of some over others to take jobs for which they were equally qualified.

A focus on four key areas was therefore needed, the first of which was the need for greater flexibility, with steps taken to convince unions of that need in the interest of achieving full employment. Second, legislation should be enacted to eliminate any threat posed by artificial intelligence in order to create a level playing field in the job market. Third, a labour migration policy should be formulated in the light of employment needs. Fourth, lifelong learning should be deemed crucial to the ability of individuals to transfer to other types of jobs. It was also less costly than unemployment. Overall, a package of measures was needed to cover all target groups, including the younger and older generations, women, persons with disabilities and migrants, which called in turn for a balance between rigidity and flexibility.

The MODERATOR thanked the panellists for their presentations and said that full employment was not necessarily achieved in the same way, as it depended on the starting point. In her country, for instance, there was now a fourth generation of individuals who had never worked. Full employment was not therefore simply about job creation. It was also about supporting work habits in individuals and in family structures. She invited comments and questions from the floor concerning issues raised in the presentations.

Mr. S. PATRA (India) said that, despite the many skilling and reskilling programmes targeted at young people in his country, youth unemployment remained a major problem. He therefore asked for suggestions of specific policy initiatives that might help to address job supply and demand.

Ms. S. DASGUPTA, *panellist*, replied that young people unable to find jobs after skilling and reskilling could end up feeling more frustrated than ever. Indian unemployment figures had risen owing to the failure to create new jobs in a growing economy focused on speculative industries. The huge manufacturing sector offered many opportunities, however, and emerging economies must therefore develop viable industrial and pro-employment macro-economic policies as a way forward to full employment. In India, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme could be scaled up to further improve jobs and wages at the lowest levels, in particular for women. Agro-processing was another immense area still to be tapped, especially if steps were taken to formalize workers, who did not work informally by choice but because of lack of opportunities in the formal sector. Other options to consider included investment in start-ups, access to soft financing for young people, and tax incentives for certain industries.

Mr. A. Cissé (Mali) agreed that youth unemployment created a dangerous breeding ground for jihadist recruitment, as was the case in Sahel countries, including Mali. He wondered what policymakers could do prevent the spiral of such recruitment into the terrorist groups wreaking havoc in his region and beyond.

Mr. J. SAKAJA, *panellist*, said that it was important to engage young people politically in order to give them the sense of identity and inclusion that would prevent their vulnerability to recruitment by terrorist groups. In Kenya, a fund established to increase economic opportunities for youth had helped on that score, as had the provision of cultural and sports activities for young people.

Mr. P. BAZEGO TEBUSELI (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that his country was dealing with an extremely complex set of internal political and security problems, some of them prompted by the activities of armed groups. Against that backdrop, it was difficult for it to take on board suggestions for addressing issues relating to full employment and job creation.

The MODERATOR said that such situations highlighted the need for global conversations to heed local conditions. Full employment and job creation were indeed not the foremost concern in settings where security was a daily preoccupation.

Mr. J. FAKHRO (Bahrain) said it was unclear whether SDG 8 was truly achievable by 2030 in the light of the impact of technological advances on the creation of new jobs for growing populations. He also wondered how education could best be harnessed towards its achievement and how economic growth could be successfully linked to job creation.

Mr. A. MOTTER (IPU Secretariat) wondered why a gradual reduction of the working week was rarely ever mooted as a policy solution to the problem of full employment. Such a reduction would make it possible to share the available work, improve the quality of life and facilitate the transition to a green economy.

Ms. A. BYHOVSKAYA, *panellist*, responding to comments made, said that job creation was not necessarily linked with economic growth per se. It was more a matter of developing industrial or other policies that unlocked the potential of different sectors to create jobs. Another challenge related to productivity gains and to how growth was being distributed, shared and channelled into job creation. The fact that many large companies were retaining their financial assets made it difficult to measure growth in GDP and translate it into employment figures.

Overall, the achievement of SDG 8 by 2030 was perhaps elusive, especially in the light of such other problems as youth disengagement, which called for a fresh approach. It was also important to safeguard the quality of employment by preventing a further slide towards informality and the imposition of flexible working conditions detrimental to household incomes. As to a gradual reduction in working hours, it was more feasible in developed countries, some of which were already proposing a four-day working week or had introduced collective agreements whereby workers accepted a pay cut in return for time off to pursue training or perform family care duties.

Ms. S. DASGUPTA, *panellist*, said that some job creation could occur without growth through redistribution, notably in developed countries where shorter working weeks were possible through job-sharing. In many developing countries, however, especially in Africa, economic growth was essential to job creation. She was nonetheless optimistic that SDG 8 could be achieved by 2030 if minds were resolutely focused towards doing so.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY, *panellist*, said that unemployment was lower in countries with good social protection systems. Jobs in the public sector were funded from the public budget, however, which had to be weighed against a country's net economic value in order to avoid indebtedness. Countries with growing private economies creating more private-sector jobs were able to allocate more public funding to social protection.

Mr. J. SAKAJA, *panellist*, said that the discussion had revealed the starkly contrasting situations in different parts of the world. The notion of a reduced working week, for example, was inconceivable in countries such as Kenya, where jobs were lacking. An expert compilation of strategies that might succeed in different countries would therefore be helpful to legislators. In times of surplus, it would also be prudent to ring-fence allocations to small and medium-sized enterprises and the private sector

with a view to ensuring protection for vulnerable groups and job-seekers, irrespective of the state of the economy. Job creation was clearly a global issue, as evidenced by the recent xenophobic attacks by South Africans on other African nationals perceived as stealing their jobs. Such attacks provided a lens on what the future held unless collective action was taken to create jobs and achieve progress towards the achievement of SDG 8.

The MODERATOR thanked the panellists and participants for their contributions to the discussion.

*Ms. M.N. Mensah-Williams (Namibia), moderator of the second panel discussion, took the Chair.*

## **Panel 2:**

### **Decent jobs: The need for proactive labour legislation and other social policies**

The MODERATOR said that two of the panellists from the first discussion, Ms. S. Dasgupta and Ms. A. Byhovskaya, would be contributing to the second discussion on decent jobs, together with two others: Mr. T. Mansmann, member of the German Bundestag and its Committees on Labour and Social Affairs and on Economic Development and Cooperation; and Mr. S. Patra, member of the Indian Council of States. She invited the panellists to make their presentations.

Ms. S. DASGUPTA, *panellist*, in her presentation, said that decent work implied productive jobs providing an income adequate for living a life of dignity. Parliamentarians were key to realizing that aim by legislating to protect workers and promote jobs, including through the incorporation of employment policies into law. Serving as a basis for much of the labour legislation in place around the world, the ILO normative framework included eight core conventions relating to freedom from forced labour, child labour and discrimination at work, and freedom to form and join unions and bargain collectively. To date, 146 ILO member States had acceded to all eight conventions and were accordingly required to report on the implementation of each.

Technology featured large among the new areas for which labour legislation and governance was needed. In the platform economy, for example, where the relationship between employers and employees was unclear, the major challenge entailed how to ensure access for workers to social protection and benefits. Another important issue to be addressed through appropriate legal and policy frameworks – and one on which the ILO had adopted a labour standard – was the transition of workers from the informal to the formal economy, including through e-formality involving the application of new technologies.

It was also important to close gender gaps in labour-related matters through legislation providing for, inter alia, paternity leave, equal pay for equal work, and maternity protection. The ILO had furthermore recently adopted a groundbreaking convention aimed at ending violence and harassment in the workplace, which would need to be supported by national legislation once it entered into force.

Ms. A. BYHOVSKAYA, *panellist*, in her presentation, said that, irrespective of changes and developments, the protection and promotion of workers' rights should always remain paramount, which was unfortunately not the case in many countries. Although the platform economy accounted for only a small part of the workforce, it was challenging the employment relationship and employed a business model geared towards minimizing labour costs and operating across borders to evade jurisdictional responsibility in host countries. Without policy intervention, that model was easily replicated by non-platform companies. While on-demand platform workers in traditional sectors were winning court battles over their entitlement to employment rights, the situation was more difficult for those employed in home-based Internet jobs. Legislation was therefore needed to regulate the entire platform economy and to level the playing field for traditional companies placed at a competitive disadvantage as a result of offering permanent employment.

Other solutions included a guaranteed right to claim an employment relationship with an employer on the basis of hours worked as a percentage of the full-time work threshold; the establishment of additional labour inspectorates and of measures to enhance their efficiency; and the introduction of minimum wage floors. Workers must furthermore be encouraged to speak up about discrimination and abuse in the workplace, which monitoring technology might also help to identify. Blockchain technology, too, could be used to promote transparency along global value chains. Legislators could greatly assist progress towards decent jobs by raising awareness of all such issues.

Mr. T. MANSMANN, *panellist*, in his presentation, said that the ability to work and to earn an independent income was both a necessity and a privilege. Conditions must therefore be created to enable people in both developed and developing countries to live self-determined lives. Much could perhaps be learned from the model applied to overcome the many problems in his country, Germany, including the unemployment and youth unemployment rates, which were now very low as a result. Only a flexible labour market offered low-skilled workers the opportunity to prove themselves and companies the opportunity to test workers with as little risk as possible, with the ultimate aim of fostering synergy between the two. Education was the key requirement and indeed the social issue of the current time. The German vocational education and training system linked the theoretical with the practical, with students engaged in on-the-job training primarily but also in off-the-job training. The combination guaranteed highly qualified graduates who were exceptionally successful on the labour market.

Sustainable and rapid growth would be achieved only through a collective compromise, a principle that also applied to global free trade, which entailed unique challenges. Such trade was not a necessary evil to the detriment of workers, to whom it instead offered the opportunity to maximize the benefit of their own creativity. Order was a prerequisite for free trade and was provided by the World Trade Organization (WTO) as a negotiating forum. As to the struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, it was a relic of the past to be forgotten. The positive momentum driving the encouraging global economic trend must be sustained through robust strengthening of the synergy between workers and employers and the avoidance of over-zealous government involvement. The way forward was to reflect on how best-practice examples from different countries could be effectively transferred elsewhere.

Mr. S. PATRA, *panellist*, in his presentation, said that youth accounted for over one half of the population in his country, India, where limited financial resources exacerbated the immense challenge of creating employment for so many millions of young people. The aspirations to overcome that challenge nonetheless remained high. With many of the country's labour laws dating back to the pre-colonial period, the process of their consolidation had been ongoing throughout the decades since India had become a free democracy. Subsuming four major laws, a wages code had recently been enacted with a view to fixing a minimum wage, ensuring social security, increasing employer accountability and simplifying redress procedures for workers. An occupational health and safety code subsuming some 40 pre- and post-colonial laws was also poised for enactment in the near future.

India had huge resource requirements and, under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the Government was required to provide at least 100 days of paid employment annually to millions of rural workers at the bottom of the pyramid. To prevent any pilfering by intermediaries, wages were paid by direct bank transfer using Aadhaar, a 12-digit unique identity number. Other financial initiatives included Mudra Yojana, which was a scheme providing small loans to enable small and micro-enterprises to generate and sustain employment.

The MODERATOR thanked the panellists for their informative presentations and invited comments from the floor on the issues raised.

Mr. J. SAKAJA (Kenya), referring to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme, asked about its annual cost, how beneficiaries were identified, how much they were paid for the 100 days and what kind of work they performed. He also wondered whether any provision was made for those ineligible for the scheme, including urban inhabitants.

Mr. S. PATRA, *panellist*, said that the unique scheme was intended to increase meaningful engagement among rural communities and address the problem of disguised labour in the agricultural sector. Those eligible for the scheme were identified on the basis of their income in relation to the national poverty line demarcated by a planning commission. Anyone satisfying the qualifying conditions was automatically included. Hence, by default, 120 million individuals, amounting to 20 per cent of the active workforce, benefited from the scheme. A three-tier local governance mechanism, known as the Panchayati Raj system, provided work for the beneficiaries in projects for creating durable assets, such as roads, canals and schools, in their local areas. Federal and state funding was channelled into the scheme at the village, block and district levels, with beneficiaries receiving payment and indeed other benefits, such as subsidized food supplies, via the Aadhaar card containing their unique identity number. Full details of the scheme could be found on its dedicated website.

Responding to another question from the floor about what beneficiaries did after completing their 100 days of guaranteed employment, he said that the majority performed seasonal agricultural work twice annually and therefore generally worked under the scheme in the off-season. Depending on the availability of resources, the longer-term ambition was to increase the number of days of guaranteed employment to 200.

The MODERATOR said that the scheme was an impressive example of tangible action that could be taken to benefit citizens and increase their dignity through employment that helped in addition to prevent migration to urban areas and the problems associated therewith.

Mr. F. COSTA (Andorra) said that each country had its own labour-related challenges, which in his country related to the guarantee of decent wages for all, despite the existence of legislation designed to eliminate the gender pay gap. How did other countries address that issue?

Ms. S. DASGUPTA, *panellist*, said that the ILO's Global Wage Report 2018/19 focused on the gender pay gap, which was only partly explained by such factors as education. In most cases, it was unknown whether the gap was due to discrimination, social norms or other factors. A major change in mindset was needed to close the gap. As long as women's unpaid care work was not valued, their work in other spheres would also continue to be undervalued. Even so, the principle of equal pay for work of equal value was not always translated into reality.

The MODERATOR, recalling the dictum that women held up half the sky but did not hold half the power, said that no one would volunteer for 365 days of unpaid work, which was an apt description of a mother's job.

Ms. A. BYHOVSKAYA, *panellist*, said that the first problem relating to the gender pay gap involved tackling the informal economy in which many women were employed. Another problem was that women having completed their tertiary education, where they outnumbered and outperformed men, were still eventually paid less for equal work. Some companies were now required to reveal their gender pay gaps, however, and the hope was that the presence of more women in leadership positions, including in the public sector, would promote career and wage progression for other women. Jobs in the care sector should also be increased so that women caring for family members could instead enter the job market. Maternity, paternity and parental leave policies, too, should be reviewed.

Mr. A. MOTTER (IPU Secretariat) asked what explained the decline in the collective bargaining and unionization through which labour and wage standards had traditionally been set. What could be done to reverse that decline in order to ensure a bottom-up approach enabling workers to organize so as to claim their rights?

Mr. S. PATRA, *panellist*, said that, in India, most trade unions were supported or sponsored by political parties and that policy changes adopted by those parties had an impact on trade unionism and trade unions themselves, some of which had gradually lost relevance as a result.

Ms. S. DASGUPTA, *panellist*, agreeing that the linkage between trade unions and political parties could be problematic, said that trade unionism had always been less prominent in developing countries, where the many informal workers were invariably not unionized. Much more should be done, especially in rural areas, to encourage trade union membership, which was certainly falling. Another question was that of how to work with the huge corporations that wielded such influence over nation States. In the face of the vast inequalities prevailing in wealth and power, labour and social justice issues must be viewed through a different prism.

Ms. A. BYHOVSKAYA, *panellist*, said that non-unionization also applied to the self-employed, who were in fact prohibited by competition laws in many countries from organizing and engaging in collective bargaining, a situation that merited review. Political parties had indeed shifted their interest away from parts of the electorate traditionally represented by trade unions. The goal therefore was to support independent trade union movements representing workers and not political party interests. Trade union efforts were under way to organize workers in new sectors, including the platform economy, promote workers' rights in larger corporations and encourage training. Trade unions were thus working to diversify their activities and in turn increase their membership. In Europe, trade unions had not been involved to the same extent as employers in policy discussions concerning the future of

work in the digital economy. Worker engagement in political processes should therefore be strengthened by including representatives of the workforce in such discussions at an early stage. The failure to do so was another reason for the decline in union power.

Mr. T. MANSMANN, *panellist*, said that trade union membership in Germany had also decreased, albeit only relatively speaking. It was a disconcerting truth perhaps explained by the fact that workers benefited adequately from existing wage agreements and felt no need to join trade unions. That attitude displayed a lack of solidarity and altruism possibly more typical of workers in developed countries. Another factor in the decline was no doubt the growing move towards informality, a concern that policymakers and legislators would be keeping in sight.

The MODERATOR thanked the panellists and participants for their interesting contributions to the discussion.

*The sitting rose at 12.10 p.m.*

## Adoption of resolutions, final documents and reports

### SITTING OF THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 5.10 p.m. with Ms. M. Gojković (Serbia), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

#### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General debate on the theme *Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation***

(A/141/3-DR)

The PRESIDENT said that the General Debate had been productive, with more than 100 interventions made by numerous Member Parliaments and partner organizations. The Assembly had before it the draft outcome document of the General Debate, the Belgrade Declaration (A/141/3-DR), which sought to capture the key messages from the deliberations and identify specific avenues for parliamentary action and international cooperation to strengthen international law.

Mr. M. GRUJIC (Serbia), presenting the Belgrade Declaration said that he hoped it would become a parliamentary roadmap for strengthening international law. During the debate, participants had expressed support for strong and effective multilateral institutions with the United Nations at their core. Through the Declaration, they deplored all action not in compliance with international law and pledged to stand together to transform the vision for a better world into reality. The debate had identified avenues for parliamentary action to shape and implement international law, which were listed in the Declaration. Examples included: holding debates on international instruments at the early stages of their negotiation; ensuring the translation of international law into domestic legislation and overseeing its application; and exercising early warning of potential conflict and taking action to avoid escalation and help build bridges of dialogue and cooperation. While the Belgrade Declaration might not contain any exceptionally new ideas or revelations, it constituted an affirmation of the crucial role of parliaments in protecting and promoting international law, working together at the regional and international levels to hold governments to account and build a better, more peaceful and stable world for all.

*The 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly endorsed the draft Belgrade Declaration.*

#### Item 4 of the agenda

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

*(Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)*

(A/141/4-DR)

Ms. A. GERKENS (Netherlands), *Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*, presented the draft resolution entitled *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*, as contained in document A/141/4-DR, and said that the draft resolution had been prepared by co-Rapporteurs from Bangladesh, Brazil and Switzerland, with technical advice from the World Health Organization (WHO). The draft resolution included the reservation expressed by the delegation of India on preambular paragraph 8. The Standing Committee had held constructive discussions and had agreed that universal health coverage was a key aspect of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), lying at the heart of the concept of leaving no one behind, and had adopted the resolution by consensus. Universal health coverage must respond to the needs of all sectors of society, through design and delivery of health services that were people-centred, gender-responsive and rights-based.

The resolution underscored the key role of parliaments in providing policy and legal frameworks, allocating strong health budgets and promoting good quality health care for all. It also placed a strong focus on the need to include sexual and reproductive health in universal coverage. The resolution requested that parliaments worked to ensure the implementation not only of the resolution but also of the declaration that had emanated from the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage.

*The resolution was adopted by consensus.*



### **Address by the Director-General, World Health Organization**

Dr. T.A. GHEBREYESUS (Director-General, WHO), welcoming the adoption of the resolution, said that health was a political choice, which had been acknowledged by world leaders when they had endorsed the political declaration on universal health coverage at the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019. The declaration had brought governments together around a unified vision of a world in which all people could access the health services they needed, without suffering financial hardship. Parliamentarians had a crucial role to play in translating that political commitment into real results in the lives of people. There was much to do: projections based on current trends, showed that by 2030 up to five billion people would lack access to essential health services. Even where those services were currently available, their use could result in financial disaster. Every year, 930 million people around the world were exposed to catastrophic health spending. Those gaps not only imperilled people's health, but also made the world less secure and less prosperous.

Weak health systems were fertile ground for the spread of infectious diseases. An outbreak in one country could quickly become a global pandemic. Lack of access to affordable, quality health care was also a brake on economic growth, keeping people trapped in the cycle of poverty, sapping productivity and draining hope. Universal health coverage was therefore not just a moral imperative; it was a security imperative, and an economic imperative. Each year, almost 10 per cent of global GDP was spent on health. Parliamentarians were stewards of those investments, with a responsibility to ensure that nations got value for money.

The resolution adopted by the Assembly was comprehensive, and had, at its heart, the conviction that health was a human right, not a privilege. Its emphasis on equity, and ensuring essential services for women, children, adolescents and other vulnerable groups, including for sexual and reproductive health, was particularly welcome. The emphasis on primary health care was also important. All countries must shift from a focus on disease management to disease prevention and health promotion. The resolution also called on parliaments to ensure implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) to prevent, detect and respond to emergencies.

As parliaments sought to implement the resolution, the WHO called for their continued support in four key areas: legislating for universal health coverage to set a legal mandate for access to health services and financial protection; investing in universal health coverage by allocating public funds to health services and products, in particular primary health care; enabling universal health coverage by creating a platform for multisectoral cooperation to bring stakeholders together and create conditions in which health could flourish; and ensuring accountability for universal health coverage by building effective and transparent institutions and fostering meaningful dialogue with civil society to ensure that political commitments were more than just empty promises.

Thanking the co-Rapporteurs and the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, he said that the adoption of the resolution was the result of many months of hard work and cooperation. The WHO remained committed to working with all countries to make the right to health not just a vision, not just a resolution, but a daily reality for everyone, everywhere.

### **Declaration to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child** (A/141/3-Dec)

Ms. A. GERKENS (Netherlands), *Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*, said that she wished to draw the attention of the Assembly to the Declaration to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which had emanated from the IPU workshop on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and had been formally endorsed by the Standing Committee.

*The Assembly endorsed the Declaration.*

*A video was shown, giving highlights of a field visit, jointly organized with the United Nations Children's Fund, to a Serbian care facility, which provided services primarily for children with disabilities. The visit had afforded an opportunity to learn about reforms underway to strengthen child care in Serbia.*

Item 5 of the agenda**Reports of the Standing Committees****(a) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security**

Mr. J.I. ECHANIZ (Spain), *President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security*, presenting the report on the work of the Standing Committee during the current Assembly, said that during its session, the Standing Committee had held a panel discussion on follow-up to the implementation of the 2014 resolution *Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments*. The Committee had heard about progress and setbacks in nuclear non-proliferation since 2014. Delegates had underscored the need to build trust and foster dialogue to achieve a planet without nuclear weapons, and had mentioned the benefits of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The second panel discussion had been on the theme of *Criminalization of money laundering*. Two experts had explained the importance of harmonized legal frameworks and collaborative approaches to deal with money laundering, which was a cross-border crime. Delegates had shared information on the anti-money laundering laws adopted by their parliaments. They had highlighted the need to continuously strengthen legislation and remain up to date with the latest developments; technological advances provided new ways to circumvent the law.

In 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 Standing Committee had been addressed by three experts who had agreed that climate change constituted a threat to human security. It could either draw deeper lines of division in international relations, triggering distributional conflicts over water, land or the management of migration, or unite the international community in seeking solutions. The hearing would inform the draft resolution to be prepared for consideration by the Standing Committee at the 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly. The Bureau of the Standing Committee had met and decided that all meeting time allocated to the Standing Committee at the 142<sup>nd</sup> Assembly should be devoted to the negotiation of its forthcoming resolution. The Bureau had also taken note of an invitation to organize a study visit to Jordan.

*The Assembly took note of the report.*

**(b) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade**

Ms. T.V. MUZENDA (Zimbabwe), *President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade*, presented the report of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee had held two meetings, during which it had debated the subject item of its next resolution: *Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production*. Participants had stressed the importance of legislating on processes to promote the circular economy and ensuring that policies were evidence-informed. The Committee had discussed the preliminary draft outcome document of the parliamentary meeting to be held during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 25) on 2 December 2019.

At its second sitting, the Standing Committee had discussed the follow up to its 2014 resolution *Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints*. Participants had emphasized the need for national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, as well as better data and maps as a key precondition for disaster preparedness and response. Lastly, elections had been held to fill vacancies on the Bureau of the Standing Committee and a workplan had been adopted for the 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly, at which all of the time allocated to the Standing Committee would be used in drafting the resolution.

*The Assembly took note of the report.*

**(c) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs**

Mr. P. KATJAVIVI (Namibia), *Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs*, presenting the report of the work of the Standing Committee, said that the Standing Committee had discussed whether sanctions were a useful tool for upholding international law. Participants had noted that the effectiveness of sanctions depended on their timing and scope. The only legitimate sanctions were those imposed by the United Nations Security Council, yet, since the membership of the Security Council did not reflect the contemporary geopolitical balance of power, decisions on the imposition of sanctions did not necessarily reflect the will of the international community. The Standing Committee agreed that sanctions should only be considered after all tools of diplomacy had been exhausted.

The Standing Committee's second discussion had considered the findings of the IPU's first survey on the relationship between parliaments and the United Nations. The survey results had, unfortunately, been somewhat disappointing, mostly owing to the very low participation rate. It was unclear whether the lack of participation had been a reflection of lack of interest or lack of capacity. The Standing Committee had agreed that efforts must be made to bring the views of parliaments to the United Nations, since they included the opinions of the opposition and were therefore broader than the views of governments. Three members had been elected to the Bureau of the Standing Committee.

*The Assembly took note of the report.*

Item 6 of the agenda

**Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights for the 143<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly and appointment of Rapporteurs**

(A/141/6-R.1)

The PRESIDENT announced that, as indicated in document A/141/6-R.1, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights proposed to take up, as the subject of its next resolution, *Legislation worldwide to combat online sexual child exploitation*. The co-Rapporteurs would be Ms. A. Gerkens (Netherlands), Ms. J. Oduol (Kenya) and a member of the delegation of Thailand, yet to be appointed. In the absence of any comments or objections she would take it that the Assembly wished to approve that proposal.

*It was so decided.*

Item 7 of the agenda

**Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules**

(A/141/7-P.1)

The PRESIDENT announced that amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules, as contained in document A/141/7-P.1, had been proposed by the Gender Partnership Group with a view to encouraging gender balance in delegations to the IPU Assemblies by increasing sanctions for single-sex delegations and providing incentives to gender-balanced delegations. The proposal had been discussed by the Governing Council and was submitted to the Assembly for approval. In the absence of any comments or objections, she would take it that the Assembly wished to adopt the proposed amendments.

*It was so decided.*

## Closure of the Assembly

Mr. I. KHODJIEV (Uzbekistan), speaking on behalf of the Eurasia Group, thanked the host Parliament for its generosity and congratulated the IPU on a successful 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly. The discussions had been varied and interesting; the Eurasia Group particularly welcomed the reaffirmation of commitment to constructive dialogue and the search for common solutions to contemporary problems. Parliaments could and should play a significant role in problem solving.

Mr. J.F. MUDENDA (Zimbabwe), speaking on behalf of the African Group, expressed his heartfelt appreciation to the Government and National Assembly of Serbia for their generous hospitality. The African Group had particularly supported the discussion on the emergency item; climate change constituted a significant threat to humanity and required urgent and collective positive action. He urged all parliaments to proactively embrace the resolution adopted, and ensure implementation of the Paris Agreement. He expressed the African Group's support to the IPU and its commitment to fostering the observance of international law through parliamentary diplomacy.

Mr. A. ABDEL AAL (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, expressed his sincere appreciation to the Parliament of Serbia for the organization of the Assembly. He called for neutrality in the conduct of the IPU Assembly; failure to respect neutrality would undermine the mission of the IPU. He called on the IPU Member Parliaments to re-read the Charter of the United Nations and review decisions relating to the situation in Yemen and international law, and to ensure that those were respected and implemented. The President and Secretary General of the IPU should take care to uphold the principle of neutrality.

Mr. H.A. KHAN (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group thanked the National Assembly of Serbia and its Speaker for having hosted the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly in Belgrade. The Assembly had afforded an opportunity to discuss many important issues and challenges. The Asia-Pacific Group had successfully managed an extensive agenda, the most important aspect of which had been elections to the Executive Committee. The Group had endeavoured to respect gender balance in appointments to committees. He expressed gratitude to the President of the IPU for her continued support and guidance, and congratulated the Parliament of the Philippines on having taken over as Chair of the Asia-Pacific Group. Lastly, he paid tribute to the Secretariat of the IPU for its support to the National Assembly of Pakistan in conducting the affairs of the Asia-Pacific Group.

Ms. D. SOLÓRZANO (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) thanked the National Assembly of Serbia for its hospitality and organization in hosting the Assembly, and expressed appreciation to the technical staff who had contributed to its smooth running. Important matters had been discussed and decisions taken. Democracy was under threat; it could not exist without parliaments. Parliamentarians must uphold their duty to protect the peoples they represented. She expressed her Group's support to the President of the IPU, who was an excellent ambassador for the Latin American region. The functions of the presidency of the IPU must be respected. She reiterated the Group's commitment to global freedom, peace and security, and to defending human rights and parliamentary democracy.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, said that the Group had participated actively in the Assembly, meeting daily to discuss matters on the agenda and consider candidatures for nominations to bodies and committees. It fully supported the Belgrade Declaration and in the spirit of leaving no-one behind, had organized, during the Assembly, a seminar on the human rights of members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) community. He thanked the President of the IPU for her continued support, and the National Assembly of Serbia for its generosity in hosting and organizing the Assembly.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON, *President of the IPU*, thanked the National Assembly of Serbia and its Speaker, who had believed in the spirit of the IPU and ensured a successful Assembly, free from sanctions, in which all parliamentarians had been able to participate. The hospitality shown by the National Assembly of Serbia had been exceptional. The Assembly had been productive, with discussions focussed on international law, the roles and responsibilities of parliaments, and the importance of regional cooperation. The IPU and its Secretariat would always endeavour to work in line with the Statutes and Rules of the Organization, and in full respect of international laws and standards. The IPU was deeply committed to democratic processes, and its bodies and committees took decisions in full transparency.

She thanked all national and regional bodies that had contributed to the celebrations of the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Organization. Parliaments must always strive to uphold democratic principles and respect human rights. The Assembly had adopted important resolutions and declarations, which must be translated into action. Everyone, not just an elite few, must have access to health. Women and young people must be equitably represented in decision-making; their voices must be heard.

The standing committees had contributed significantly to the work of the Assembly, as had specialized workshops with partners. International humanitarian law was an important line of work for the Organization; parliaments must speak for refugees and migrants, who were the most vulnerable in society, and whose needs were not always taken into account in legislation and who did not have the right to vote. The importance of protecting the rights of children had also been emphasized.

She expressed concern regarding the situation in Ecuador, El Salvador and Peru, where the institution of parliament was being called into question. The IPU would continue to follow the situation closely. Every effort would be made to promote inclusive dialogue and seek effective solutions. She urged the authorities and all parties involved to take the necessary steps to ensure that the rights of parliamentarians were defended; parliaments were at the heart of democracy and should be able to work without interference.

She thanked all those who had worked over the past 130 years to make the IPU a strong and purposeful organization, and reiterated her gratitude to the National Assembly of Serbia for its generosity in hosting the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly.

The PRESIDENT thanked all participants for their active engagement in and contributions to the Assembly. The National Assembly of Serbia had been honoured to host the Assembly, which had been exceptionally well attended by more than 2,000 delegates. She welcomed the adoption of the Belgrade Declaration and thanked all participants for their contributions to the general debate. The choice of emergency item had been testament to the importance of direct action on climate change, and the resolution on universal health coverage had demonstrated the key role of parliaments in ensuring respect for the right to health. The celebrations of the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU had been an opportune moment to stress the importance of inter-parliamentary cooperation and building trust and confidence between nations. Other significant anniversaries had been marked and numerous panels had been held, with eminent experts. The conclusions of those panels would form the basis for future dialogue and activity in parliaments. The agreed conclusions were only the beginning of future work; implementation was crucial. Serbia would remain committed to working with the IPU and would strive to implement the Belgrade Declaration and continue the work of the IPU.

Ms. D. MUKABALISA (Rwanda) thanked the IPU and its Member Parliaments for entrusting the Parliament of Rwanda with hosting the 143<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly, and said Rwanda's horrific genocide would not be its defining moment. Security had been restored, national institutions had been strengthened and Rwanda had become the fastest growing country on the United Nations Human Development Index. Infrastructure was being built, links made with the global economy, and tourism was developing as a major industry. The requisite facilities were in place to host the Assembly, all participants would be able to obtain visas on arrival, and every effort would be made to ensure a successful meeting. She thanked the IPU and the National Assembly of Serbia, and looked forward to welcoming the IPU and its Member Parliaments to Kigali.

*A video was shown, highlighting the attractions of Kigali and encouraging all IPU Member Parliaments to attend the 143<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly.*

*The President declared the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly closed.*

## Belgrade Declaration

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

*Endorsed by the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Belgrade, 17 October 2019)*

We, Members of Parliament from over 140 countries and 25 regional and other parliamentary organizations, gathering in Belgrade, Serbia, at the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), mark the IPU's 130<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.



## Declaration to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

*Endorsed by the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Belgrade, 17 October 2019)*

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.

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

***Resolution adopted by consensus<sup>1</sup> by the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Belgrade, 17 October 2019)***

The 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*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,

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## Report of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

*Noted by the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Belgrade, 17 October 2019)*

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held two sittings on 15 and 16 October 2019 with its President, Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain), in the Chair.

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***

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.

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. 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. 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).

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.

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.

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***

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).

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.

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.

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*.**

On 16 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 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly.

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).

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° C 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.

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. 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.

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. The planet 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.

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. 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.

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 to 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.

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).

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.

During the meeting, the Bureau discussed its workplan. It was decided to devote all the time allocated for the 142<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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

## Report of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

*Noted by the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Belgrade, 17 October 2019)*

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade held its sittings on 14 and 16 October. Both sittings were chaired by the Committee President, Ms. V. Muzenda Tsitsi (Zimbabwe).

### **Debate on the theme *Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production***

The debate was organized on the theme of the Standing Committee's forthcoming resolution which should be adopted at the 142<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

### **Parliamentary contribution to the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference**

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).

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.

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.

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.

**Follow-up to the IPU resolution *Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints***

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).

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.

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.

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.

**Elections to the Bureau, work plan for the 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly and any other business**

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. Seree Wathana Wut (Thailand) and Ms. S. Rehman (Pakistan) from Asia-Pacific. The representatives of Asia-Pacific would complete their respective countries' Bureau term.

The Committee approved the Bureau's proposal to dedicate the Committee's sittings at the 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly to drafting the resolution.

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.

## Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Belgrade, 17 October 2019)*

With both Committee President and Vice-President unable to attend, Mr. P. Katjavivi (Namibia) chaired the session as the most senior member of the Committee Bureau.

After the formal adoption of the agenda and summary records of the previous Committee session (140<sup>th</sup> Assembly, Doha), Mr. Katjavivi introduced the first panel entitled *Respect for international law in keeping with the UN Charter and other relevant resolutions*.

The panel featured Mr. T. Biersteker (Professor, Graduate Institute of Geneva); Mr. A. Aljowaily (Ambassador of Egypt to Serbia); Ms. A. Theologou (Cyprus); and Mr. F.H. Naek (Pakistan). Thirty-eight delegations were present and 15 interventions were heard from the floor.

The discussion focused primarily on the question of whether sanctions were a useful tool to uphold international law, as well as on key bodies of international law such as the Security Council and international tribunals such as the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice.

After discussing the reasons why international sanctions might be imposed (i.e. to coerce behaviour change, to constrain a government's range of action, or simply as a warning against illegal behaviour), as well as the type of sanctions (i.e. economic and military; targeted or broad), it was noted that sanctions were effective in only about 20 per cent of situations and that in many cases they could actually make things worse. The effectiveness of sanctions depended in part on their timing and scope in each specific situation. What was certain was that the only kind of sanctions that were legitimate under international law were those imposed by the Security Council.

Besides their effectiveness, the other main question about sanctions had to do with the risk of politicization. As the Security Council's membership did not reflect the contemporary geopolitical balance of power, the decision on whether to impose sanctions did not necessarily reflect the will of the international community. The Permanent Five Members (P5) of the Security Council could use their veto power to block sanctions against them or their closest allies which explained somewhat why sanctions had only been imposed on weaker nations. That in turn gave rise to a "double standard" that called into question the whole sanctions regime.

Yet the sanctions regime remained one of the few ways to impose international law short of the threat or use of force. To the extent that international sanctions could work, governments and parliaments needed to strengthen their capacities to apply such sanctions through their respective jurisdictions. A host of administrative and legal capacities needed to be in place in each country to implement sanctions effectively by closing all possible loopholes and bringing to justice anyone who did not apply the law.

Sanctions should never be static but must be adapted to the changing circumstances on the ground ("a living regime"). In almost all cases targeted sanctions were more effective at hurting those who were responsible for breaking international law or who violate human rights than comprehensive sanctions that hurt a whole country indiscriminately. Sanctions should only be considered after all tools of diplomacy had been exhausted.

There was much vigorous debate amongst participants with many raising specific bilateral issues unique to their countries.

The second panel of the session revolved around the findings of the *2019 IPU survey on the relationship between parliaments and the United Nations*. Mr. A. Motter (Senior Advisor for economic and social affairs, IPU), presented the findings of that first ever assessment of the extent to which parliaments could influence UN decision-making processes and oversee their governments' positions at the UN. Ms. M. Kiener Nellen (Switzerland, member of the IPU Executive Committee) was the main discussant. Mr. Katjavivi, provided his observations as well before opening the floor to comments or questions. About thirteen delegations remained in the room for the segment and only four interventions were heard from the floor.

The survey's results were found to be somewhat disappointing. They were presented to the Committee as it was the IPU body mandated to help open the doors of the UN to national parliaments. The most worrying result was the low participation rate of just 50 parliaments out of 179 IPU Members. What could this mean: that many parliaments had no interest in following UN processes or simply that they had limited capacities to fill out the survey?

Overall the survey showed that:

- There was a big gap between the authority parliaments had to oversee UN affairs and their capacity or political will to actually exercise that authority.
- The bulk of parliaments were unfamiliar with key UN negotiation and reform processes.
- The participation of parliaments in UN meetings could be less effective than expected if parliamentarians were subject to government control.
- Many parliaments were unable to oversee their country's budget allocation to the UN system.
- The relationship between parliaments and the UN System in the field was generally tenuous.

Reporting on a meeting of the IPU Executive Committee where the survey had been discussed earlier in the day, Ms. Kiener Nellen said the survey had exposed a serious gap in the relationship between parliaments and the UN but also, most likely, the weakness of internal parliamentary services responsible for completing such surveys in consultation with members. Beyond that, it was also quite possible that parliaments were more interested in responding to surveys that touched on substantive policy questions (e.g. the SDGs) than on process questions such as the institutional relationship with the UN.

The Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) should be enlisted in future survey exercises to ensure a much higher response rate. Survey findings needed to inform the whole house, from the Executive Committee down to the Standing Committees and the IPU Geopolitical Groups. There was support for that particular survey of parliamentary engagement with the UN to be repeated every two or three years as a way of assessing progress overtime.

As one participant put it, "we need a UN of peoples, not of States", and the IPU must continue with its effort of bringing the views of parliamentarians to the UN so as to complement the limited views of the government of the day, which did not include the perspective of opposition parties.

In response to one participant's question about the proposed UN Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA), which some considered a more powerful tool of participation in UN processes and of oversight, it was noted that the governments that "owned" the UN would never agree to be subjected to the interference and scrutiny of such a body. In addition, the modalities whereby a UN Parliamentary Assembly would be constituted were far from clear. The IPU approach, which aimed to build on existing structures by strengthening the hand of national parliaments in international processes, was the only viable one.

At the conclusion of the second panel discussion the Committee Secretary, Ms. P. Torsney (Head, Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations), reported on the next two main processes on the IPU radar at the UN: a new resolution of the General Assembly on interaction between the UN, national parliaments and the IPU, due around May 2020, and the 75<sup>th</sup> UN anniversary summit in September. All parliaments would be called upon to support those processes in due course.

The Chair announced three nominations to fill vacancies on the Committee Bureau, as follows: Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium), Mr. R. Peña Flores (Costa Rica), and Ms. P. Tohmeena (Thailand). The nominations were confirmed by acclamation.

Following this, Mr. Katjavivi brought the meeting to a close.

## Addressing climate change

Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of India  
for the inclusion of an emergency item

## Results

Affirmative votes.....	809	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	1,173
Negative votes .....	364	Two-thirds majority.....	782
Abstentions .....	191		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan		Absent		Gambia (The)		Absent		Pakistan			21
Albania		Absent		Georgia		Absent		Palestine		11	
Algeria	16			Germany		19		Panama		Absent	
Andorra		Absent		Ghana	7		7	Paraguay	10		
Angola	14			Greece		13		Peru	14		
Argentina		Absent		Guatemala		Absent		Philippines	20		
Armenia			10	Guinea		Absent		Poland			15
Australia		14		Guyana		Absent		Portugal		10	
Austria		12		Haiti		Absent		Qatar	11		
Azerbaijan	12			Hungary			13	Republic of Korea		Absent	
Bahrain	11			Iceland		10		Republic of Moldova		Absent	
Bangladesh	20			India	23			Romania			14
Belarus		Absent		Indonesia	22			Russian Federation	20		
Belgium		13		Iran (Islamic Republic of)	19			Rwanda	12		
Benin		Absent		Iraq		15		San Marino	10		
Bhutan	10			Ireland		Absent		Saudi Arabia			14
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	12			Italy		17		Senegal		Absent	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		Absent		Japan	20			Serbia	12		
Brazil	22			Jordan		12		Seychelles	10		
Bulgaria		Absent		Kazakhstan	10			Sierra Leone		Absent	
Burkina Faso	13			Kenya	15			Singapore	12		
Burundi	12			Kuwait		Absent		Slovakia		Absent	
Cabo Verde	10			Lao People's Dem. Republic		Absent		Slovenia			11
Cambodia	13			Latvia		11		Somalia	13		
Cameroon		Absent		Lesotho		Absent		South Africa	17		
Canada		15		Liechtenstein		8		Spain			15
Central African Republic	12			Lithuania		11		Sri Lanka		Absent	
Chile	10		3	Madagascar		Absent		Suriname	10		
China	23			Malawi		Absent		Sweden		13	
Congo		Absent		Malaysia	14			Switzerland		12	
Costa Rica	10			Maldives		Absent		Syrian Arab Rep.			13
Côte d'Ivoire		Absent		Mali		Absent		Thailand	18		
Croatia		Absent		Malta		Absent		Timor-Leste	10		
Cuba		Absent		Mexico	20			Tonga	8		
Cyprus		10		Micronesia (Fed. States of)	8			Tunisia		Absent	
Czech Republic		13		Monaco		10		Turkey	19		
DR of the Congo		Absent		Mongolia		Absent		Turkmenistan	12		
Denmark		12		Montenegro		Absent		Uganda		Absent	
Djibouti		Absent		Morocco	13			Ukraine	10		7
Egypt		19		Myanmar	17			United Arab Emirates	11		
El Salvador	12			Namibia	11			United Kingdom		18	
Equatorial Guinea	11			Nepal		Absent		Uruguay	11		
Estonia			11	Netherlands		13		Uzbekistan		Absent	
Eswatini		Absent		New Zealand		11		Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)			15
Ethiopia		Absent		Nicaragua	8			Viet Nam	19		
Fiji		Absent		Niger	13			Yemen			11
Finland		12		Nigeria	20			Zambia	13		
France		18		North Macedonia		Absent		Zimbabwe	13		
Gabon	11			Norway		12					
				Oman			11				

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Articles 5.2 and 5.3 of the Statutes.

## Protection of civilians and international security: Demanding an end to Turkey's offensive in Syria

**Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of France, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland and Egypt for the inclusion of an emergency item**

### R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes..... 677      Total of affirmative and negative votes .. 750  
Negative votes ..... 73      Two-thirds majority..... 500  
Abstentions ..... 614

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan		Absent		Gambia (The)		Absent		Pakistan		21	
Albania		Absent		Georgia		Absent		Palestine	11		
Algeria			16	Germany	19			Panama		Absent	
Andorra		Absent		Ghana	14			Paraguay			10
Angola			14	Greece	13			Peru			14
Argentina		Absent		Guatemala		Absent		Philippines			20
Armenia	10			Guinea		Absent		Poland	10		5
Australia	14			Guyana		Absent		Portugal	10		
Austria	12			Haiti		Absent		Qatar			11
Azerbaijan		12		Hungary	13			Republic of Korea		Absent	
Bahrain	11			Iceland	10			Republic of Moldova		Absent	
Bangladesh			20	India			23	Romania	14		
Belarus		Absent		Indonesia	22			Russian Federation			20
Belgium	13			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	19			Rwanda			12
Benin		Absent		Iraq	15			San Marino	10		
Bhutan			10	Ireland		Absent		Saudi Arabia	14		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)			12	Italy	17			Senegal		Absent	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		Absent		Japan			20	Serbia			12
Brazil			22	Jordan	12			Seychelles			10
Bulgaria		Absent		Kazakhstan			10	Sierra Leone		Absent	
Burkina Faso			13	Kenya			15	Singapore			12
Burundi			12	Kuwait		Absent		Slovakia		Absent	
Cabo Verde			10	Lao People's Dem. Republic		Absent		Slovenia	11		
Cambodia			13	Latvia	11			Somalia			13
Cameroon		Absent		Lesotho		Absent		South Africa			17
Canada	15			Liechtenstein	8			Spain	15		
Central African Republic	12			Lithuania	11			Sri Lanka		Absent	
Chile	3	3	7	Madagascar		Absent		Suriname			10
China			23	Malawi		Absent		Sweden	13		
Congo		Absent		Malaysia			14	Switzerland	12		
Costa Rica			10	Maldives		Absent		Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
Côte d'Ivoire		Absent		Mali		Absent		Thailand			18
Croatia		Absent		Malta		Absent		Timor-Leste	10		
Cuba		Absent		Mexico	20			Tonga			8
Cyprus	10			Micronesia (Fed. States of)			8	Tunisia		Absent	
Czech Republic	13			Monaco	10			Turkey	2	17	
DR of the Congo		Absent		Mongolia		Absent		Turkmenistan			12
Denmark	12			Montenegro		Absent		Uganda		Absent	
Djibouti		Absent		Morocco	13			Ukraine	7		10
Egypt	19			Myanmar			17	United Arab Emirates	11		
El Salvador			12	Namibia			11	United Kingdom	18		
Equatorial Guinea			11	Nepal		Absent		Uruguay			11
Estonia	11			Netherlands	13			Uzbekistan		Absent	
Eswatini		Absent		New Zealand	11			Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	15		
Ethiopia		Absent		Nicaragua			8	Viet Nam			19
Fiji		Absent		Niger			13	Yemen	11		
Finland	12			Nigeria		20		Zambia			13
France	18			North Macedonia		Absent		Zimbabwe			13
Gabon	11			Norway	12						
				Oman	11						

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Articles 5.2 and 5.3 of the Statutes.



## Double standards of western countries in combatting terrorism, especially in resolving the conflict in Syria

### Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Turkey for the inclusion of an emergency item

#### R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes.....	156	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	646
Negative votes .....	490	Two-thirds majority.....	431
Abstentions .....	718		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan		Absent		Gambia (The)		Absent		Pakistan	21		
Albania		Absent		Georgia		Absent		Palestine		11	
Algeria			16	Germany		19		Panama		Absent	
Andorra		Absent		Ghana			14	Paraguay			10
Angola			14	Greece		13		Peru			14
Argentina		Absent		Guatemala		Absent		Philippines			20
Armenia		10		Guinea		Absent		Poland	5		10
Australia		14		Guyana		Absent		Portugal		10	
Austria		12		Haiti		Absent		Qatar			11
Azerbaijan	12			Hungary		13		Republic of Korea		Absent	
Bahrain		11		Iceland		10		Republic of Moldova		Absent	
Bangladesh			20	India			23	Romania		14	
Belarus		Absent		Indonesia	22			Russian Federation	20		
Belgium		13		Iran (Islamic Republic of)		19		Rwanda			12
Benin		Absent		Iraq		15		San Marino			10
Bhutan			10	Ireland		Absent		Saudi Arabia		14	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)			12	Italy		17		Senegal		Absent	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		Absent		Japan			20	Serbia			12
Brazil			22	Jordan		12		Seychelles			10
Bulgaria		Absent		Kazakhstan			10	Sierra Leone		Absent	
Burkina Faso			13	Kenya			15	Singapore			12
Burundi			12	Kuwait		Absent		Slovakia		Absent	
Cabo Verde			10	Lao People's Dem. Republic		Absent		Slovenia		11	
Cambodia			13	Latvia		11		Somalia			13
Cameroon		Absent		Lesotho		Absent		South Africa			17
Canada		15		Liechtenstein		8		Spain		15	
Central African Republic			12	Lithuania		11		Sri Lanka		Absent	
Chile		6	7	Madagascar		Absent		Suriname			10
China	23			Malawi		Absent		Sweden		13	
Congo		Absent		Malaysia	14			Switzerland		12	
Costa Rica			10	Maldives		Absent		Syrian Arab Rep.		13	
Côte d'Ivoire		Absent		Mali		Absent		Thailand			18
Croatia		Absent		Malta		Absent		Timor-Leste			10
Cuba		Absent		Mexico			20	Tonga			8
Cyprus		10		Micronesia (Fed. States of)			8	Tunisia		Absent	
Czech Republic		13		Monaco		10		Turkey	19		
DR of the Congo		Absent		Mongolia		Absent		Turkmenistan			12
Denmark		12		Montenegro		Absent		Uganda		Absent	
Djibouti		Absent		Morocco			13	Ukraine			17
Egypt		19		Myanmar			17	United Arab Emirates			11
El Salvador			12	Namibia			11	United Kingdom		18	
Equatorial Guinea			11	Nepal		Absent		Uruguay			11
Estonia			11	Netherlands		13		Uzbekistan		Absent	
Eswatini		Absent		New Zealand		11		Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)			15
Ethiopia		Absent		Nicaragua			8	Viet Nam			19
Fiji		Absent		Niger			13	Yemen			11
Finland		12		Nigeria	20			Zambia			13
France		18		North Macedonia		Absent		Zimbabwe			13
Gabon			11	Norway		12					
				Oman			11				

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Articles 5.2 and 5.3 of the Statutes.



## Urgent call for the restoration of representative democratic order and for respect for democratic principles in Peru

### Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Peru for the inclusion of an emergency item

#### R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes.....	174	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	593
Negative votes .....	419	Two-thirds majority.....	395
Abstentions .....	771		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan		Absent		Gambia (The)		Absent		Pakistan			21
Albania		Absent		Georgia		Absent		Palestine		11	
Algeria			16	Germany		19		Panama		Absent	
Andorra		Absent		Ghana	10		4	Paraguay	10		
Angola			14	Greece		13		Peru	14		
Argentina		Absent		Guatemala		Absent		Philippines	20		
Armenia			10	Guinea		Absent		Poland			15
Australia		14		Guyana		Absent		Portugal		10	
Austria		12		Haiti		Absent		Qatar			11
Azerbaijan			12	Hungary		13		Republic of Korea		Absent	
Bahrain			11	Iceland		10		Republic of Moldova		Absent	
Bangladesh			20	India			23	Romania		14	
Belarus		Absent		Indonesia			22	Russian Federation			20
Belgium		13		Iran (Islamic Republic of)			19	Rwanda			12
Benin		Absent		Iraq		15		San Marino			10
Bhutan			10	Ireland		Absent		Saudi Arabia		14	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)			12	Italy		17		Senegal		Absent	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		Absent		Japan			20	Serbia			12
Brazil	22			Jordan		12		Seychelles			10
Bulgaria		Absent		Kazakhstan			10	Sierra Leone		Absent	
Burkina Faso			13	Kenya			15	Singapore			12
Burundi			12	Kuwait		Absent		Slovakia		Absent	
Cabo Verde			10	Lao People's Dem. Republic		Absent		Slovenia		11	
Cambodia			13	Latvia		11		Somalia			13
Cameroon		Absent		Lesotho		Absent		South Africa			17
Canada		15		Liechtenstein		8		Spain		15	
Central African Republic			12	Lithuania		11		Sri Lanka		Absent	
Chile	13			Madagascar		Absent		Suriname	10		
China			23	Malawi		Absent		Sweden		13	
Congo		Absent		Malaysia			14	Switzerland			12
Costa Rica	10			Maldives		Absent		Syrian Arab Rep.			13
Côte d'Ivoire		Absent		Mali		Absent		Thailand			18
Croatia		Absent		Malta		Absent		Timor-Leste			10
Cuba		Absent		Mexico	10		10	Tonga			8
Cyprus		10		Micronesia (Fed. States of)	8			Tunisia		Absent	
Czech Republic		13		Monaco		10		Turkey			19
DR of the Congo		Absent		Mongolia		Absent		Turkmenistan			12
Denmark		12		Montenegro		Absent		Uganda		Absent	
Djibouti		Absent		Morocco			13	Ukraine			17
Egypt		19		Myanmar			17	United Arab Emirates			11
El Salvador	12			Namibia			11	United Kingdom		18	
Equatorial Guinea			11	Nepal		Absent		Uruguay			11
Estonia			11	Netherlands		13		Uzbekistan		Absent	
Eswatini		Absent		New Zealand		11		Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	15		
Ethiopia		Absent		Nicaragua			8	Viet Nam			19
Fiji		Absent		Niger			13	Yemen			11
Finland		12		Nigeria	20			Zambia			13
France		18		North Macedonia		Absent		Zimbabwe			13
Gabon			11	Norway		12					
				Oman			11				

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Articles 5.2 and 5.3 of the Statutes.

## Addressing climate change

### *Resolution adopted unanimously by the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly (Belgrade, 16 October 2019)*

The 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*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 139<sup>th</sup> and 140<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

*Adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 205<sup>th</sup> session and by the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Belgrade, 17 October 2019)*

### (a) Statutes

Amend Article 10.4 as follows:

10.4 Any delegation that for ~~three~~**two** consecutive sessions of the Assembly is composed exclusively of parliamentarians of the same sex shall automatically be reduced by one person.

Amend Article 15.2(c) as follows:

15.2(c) Any delegation that for ~~three~~**two** consecutive sessions is composed exclusively of parliamentarians of the same sex shall have a minimum of eight votes (instead of 10 for mixed delegations) at the Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. For delegations entitled to a certain number of additional votes, the overall calculation will be made on the basis of eight votes instead of 10.

### (b) Rules of the Governing Council

Amend Rule 1.2 as follows:

1.2 Each Member of the IPU shall be represented on the Governing Council by three parliamentarians, provided that its representation includes both men and women. Single-gender delegations will be limited to ~~two~~**one** members.

## **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS** **LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS**

Ms./Mme Maja Gojković

Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia  
*Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale de Serbie*

President of the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
*Présidente de la 140<sup>e</sup> Assemblée de l'Union interparlementaire*

Ms./Mme Gabriela Cuevas Barron

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
*Présidente de l'Union interparlementaire*

Mr./M. Martin Chungong

Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
*Secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire*

**I. MEMBERS – MEMBRES  
AFGHANISTAN**

RAHMANI, Mir Rahman (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the House of the People (Ind)
NHZTYAR, Abdullatif (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Elders
ELHAM KHALILI, Khadija (Mrs.)	Chair of the Committee for Cultural Affairs
	Member of the House of the People
	Deputy Chair of the Commission on Health, Sports and Youth (Ind)
IBRAHIM ZADA, Ghulam Abbas (Mr.)	Member of the House of the People
	Deputy Chair of the Commission on Natural Resources, Environment, Water and Energy and Land Administration (Ind)
MOHAMMAD RAHIM, Mohammad Mirza (Mr.)	Member of the House of the People
SHARIF, Sahera (Ms.)	Member Commission on Health, Sports and Youth (Ind)
	Member of the House of the People
	Commission on Natural Resources, Environment, Water and Energy (Ind)
HANIFI, M.Hanif Kahn (Mr.)	Member of the House of Elders
HAYAT, Nawaz Sharif (Mr.)	Complaints Hearing Committee
	Member of the House of Elders
	Telecommunications Committee
WAKILY, Mohammad Qais (Mr.)	Member of the House of Elders
	Complaints Hearing Committee
ARYUBI, Abdul Qader (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, House of the People
NASARY, Abdul Muqtader (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	
FATAH, Abdul Wasi (Mr.)	Secretary General, House of Elders
BAYAZIDI, Fakhruddin (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Chairperson of the Legislative Directorate, House of Elders
HASSAS, Pamiir (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Chief of Protocol, House of the People
KARIMI, Abdul Hadi (Mr.)	
SAHAK, Qudratullah (Mr.)	Director of Relations to the IPU, House of the People
NISARI, Qabool Ahmad (Mr.)	
	Secretary to the Speaker, House of the People
	Advisor to the Speaker, House of the People
	Assistant for the Speaker of the Upper House, House of Elders
SAMSOOR, Ahmad Malik (Mr.) Secretary	
JAMALI, Ahmad Zemay (Mr.) Secretary	
(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)	

**ALBANIA – ALBANIE**

HYSI, Vasilika (Mrs.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of Parliament
GJYLAMETI, Blerina (Ms.)	
	Member of Parliament (PS)
ULQINI, Musa (Mr.)	Parliamentary Committee on Economy and Finance
	Member of Parliament (PS)
	Committee on European Integration
ROSHI, Enver (Mr.)	Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Affairs
LITA, Korab (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
	Parliamentary Committee on European Integration
GJONCAJ, Genci (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the Albanian Parliament
GOLI, Genci (Mr.)	
BOCKA, Ilir (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	Secretary of the Albanian Parliament
SHAQIRI, Anita (Mrs.) Diplomat	
(PS: Socialist Party of Albania / Parti socialiste albanais)	

**ALGERIA – ALGERIE**

CHENINE, Slimane (M.) Chef de la délégation	Président de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
BENBADIS, Fawzia (Mme)	Membre du Conseil de la Nation
BOUZEKRI, Hamid (M.)	Membre du Conseil de la Nation
KHARCHI, Ahmed (M.)	Membre du Conseil de la Nation
CHIHED, Seddik (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
LABIDI, Nadia (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
MOHAMED, Djellab (M.) Membre du Bureau de la Commission du développement durable, du financement et du commerce	Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
BENZIADA, Mounia (Mme) Secrétaire	Cadre administratif, Conseil de la Nation
DADA, Mohamed Drissi (M.) Secrétaire général	Secrétaire Général, Conseil de la Nation
SALEM, Salah (M.) Secrétaire général, Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire Général, Assemblée populaire nationale
HICHEM, Haddad (M.)	Directeur du protocole du Président de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
SI BACHIR, Noureddine (M.) Secrétaire de la délégation	Chargé d'études et de synthèse, Assemblée populaire nationale
CHEBCHOUB, Abdelhamid (M.) Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent	
ABDELLAOUI, Laid (M.) Diplomate	

**ANDORRA – ANDORRE**

PALMITJAVILA, Meritxell (Mme) Chef de la délégation	Vice-Présidente du Conseil général (DA)
COSTA, Ferran (M.)	Membre du Conseil général (PLA) Président de la Commission de l'éducation, la recherche, la culture, la jeunesse et des sports
NAUDI, Carles (M.)	Commission des finances et du budget Membre du Conseil général (CC) Commission des finances et du budget Commission des affaires étrangères
VELA, Susanna (Mme)	Membre du Conseil général (PS) Commission de l'éducation, de la recherche, de la culture, de la jeunesse et des sports Commission de la santé
RICH, Eulàlia (Mme) Secrétaire de la délégation	Secrétaire des commissions, Conseil général
(DA: Democrats for Andorra / Démocrates pour Andorre)	
(PLA: Liberal Party / Parti Libéral)	
(CC: Committed Citizens / Citoyens engagés)	
(PS: Social Democratic Party / Parti Social-démocrate)	

**ANGOLA**

OLIVEIRA VALENTE, Maria Idalina (Ms.) Member of the Executive Committee and of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation	Member of the National Assembly (MPLA)
DANDA, Raul (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (UNITA)
PELINGANGA, Isabel (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (MPLA)
BARRICA, Nildeice (Ms.)	Adviser, National Assembly
(MPLA: Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola / Mouvement populaire pour la libération de l'Angola)	
(UNITA: National Union for the Total Independence of Angola / Union nationale pour l'indépendance totale de l'Angola)	

**ARGENTINA – ARGENTINE**

PINEDO, Federico (Mr.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation  
Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of  
Parliamentarians  
CREXELL, Carmen Lucila (Ms.)  
Member of the Standing Committee on Democracy  
and Human Rights  
ROZAS, Angel (Mr.)

URTUBEY, Rodolfo (Mr.)

CINCUNEGUI, Juan de Dios (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP  
POGORILES, Carlos David (Mr.)  
Adviser  
TUNESSI, Juan Pedro (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group  
Member of the ASGP  
CHERNIAK, Carlos (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

(FP: Frente Pro)  
(MPN: Neuquino Popular Movement / Mouvement populaire Neuquino)  
(BUCR: Bloque Unión Cívica Radical)  
(PJ: Justicialist Party / Parti justicialiste)

President pro tempore of the Senate (FP)  
Committee on Foreign Affairs and Worship  
Deputy chair of the Standing Committee on Monitoring  
of Public-Private Partnership Contracts  
Member of the Senate (MPN)  
Committee on Foreign Affairs and Worship  
General Legislation Committee  
Member of the Senate (BUCR)  
Constitutional Affairs Committee  
Federal Coparticipation Committee  
Member of the Senate (PJ)  
Chair of the Committee on Monitoring and  
Implementation of the Criminal Procedural Code of the  
Nation  
Constitutional Affairs Committee  
Director General of Parliamentary Diplomacy,  
International Cooperation and Workshop  
Adviser to Senator Angel Rozas, Senate

Parliamentary Secretary, Senate

**ARMENIA – ARMENIE**

MIRZOYAN, Ararat (Mr.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation  
GRIGORYAN, Srбуhi (Ms.)  
Bureau of the Committee on Peace and International  
Security  
BOSHYAN, Arman (Mr.)  
Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Development,  
Finance and Trade  
HOVHANNISYAN, Hovhannes (Mr.)  
Bureau of the Committee to Promote Respect for  
International Humanitarian Law  
KARAPETYAN, Anna (Ms.)  
MELKUMYAN, Mikayel (Mr.)  
Bureau of the Committee on UN Affairs

MAKUNTS, Lilit (Ms.)  
ISAYAN, Shake (Ms.)  
Bureau of the Committee on Democracy and  
Human Rights  
GALSTYAN, Tigran (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP  
HOVHANNISYAN, Artak (Mr.)  
ISRAELIAN, Arman (Mr.)

MELIKSETYAN, Samvel (Mr.)  
GHAZARYAN, Zabela (Ms.)  
Secretary of the Group  
KOSTANYAN, Vahan (Mr.)  
VARDANYAN, Armen (Mr.)

Speaker of the National Assembly (CC)  
Member of the National Assembly (BA)  
Standing Committee of Health Care and Social Affairs  
Member of the National Assembly (CC)  
Standing Committee on Health Care and Social Affairs  
Member of the National Assembly (CC)  
Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee on  
Science, Education, Culture, Diaspora, Youth and Sport  
Member of the National Assembly  
Member of the National Assembly (PAP)  
Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regional and  
Eurasian Affairs  
Member of the National Assembly (CC)  
Member of the National Assembly (PAP)  
Standing Committee on the Defence of Human Rights  
and Public Affairs  
Secretary General, National Assembly  
Head of the Protocol Department, National Assembly  
Head of the Foreign Relations Department, National  
Assembly  
Deputy Chief of Staff, National Assembly  
Senior Specialist of the Foreign Relations department,  
National Assembly  
Adviser to the Speaker of the National Assembly  
Assistant to the President of Parliament, National  
Assembly

(CC: Civil Contract / Contrat civil)  
(BA: Bright Armenia)  
(PAP: Prosperous Armenia Party / Parti arménien de la prospérité)



**AUSTRALIA – AUSTRALIE**

WICKS, Lucy (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Representatives (LPA)
O'NEILL, Deborah (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (ALP)
HILL, Julian (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (ALP)
WALLACE, Andrew (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (LPA)
MATULICK, Toni (Ms.) Delegation Secretary	Director, Procedure and Research, Senate
STEWART, Ruth (Ms.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
(LPA: Liberal Party of Australia / Parti libéral australien)	
(ALP: Australian Labor Party / Parti travailliste australien)	

**AUSTRIA – AUTRICHE**

SOBOTKA, Wolfgang (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Council (ÖVP)
BAYR, Petra (Ms.) Advisory Group on Health	Member of the National Council (SPÖ)
GRAF, Martin (Mr.)	Member of the National Council (FPÖ)
LOPATKA, Reinhold (Mr.) High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Extreme Violence	Member of the National Council (ÖVP)
WINTONIAK, Alexis (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, National Council
BRENNER, Brigitte (Ms.) Adviser to the Group	Head of EU- and International Services, National Council
RUND, Petra (Ms.) Adviser to the Group	Head of International Relations Department, National Council
Conseillère du Groupe	
VELBERG, Sophie (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	International Relations Officer, National Council
BEDNARIK, Andrea (Ms.)	Protocol Officer, National Council
KORCZAK, Florian (Mr.)	Foreign Policy Adviser to the Speaker, National Council
GABRIEL, Anna (Ms.)	Adviser to the Speaker, National Council
HAINDL, Markus (Mr.)	Press Secretary to the Speaker, National Council
(ÖVP: Austrian People's Party / Parti populaire)	
(SPÖ: Austrian Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate autrichien)	
(FPÖ: Austrian Freedom Party / Parti de la liberté)	

**AZERBAIJAN – AZERBAIDJAN**

ALASGAROV, Valeh (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Chairman of the Natural resources, Energy and Ecology
ALIYEVA, Sona (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (YA)
BAYRAMOV, Kamran (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (YA)
	Regional Affairs Committee
ISMAYILOV, Shahin (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (YA)
	Youth and Sport Committee
NABIZADE, Kamran (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
	Deputy Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources, Energy and Ecology
	Youth and Sport Committee
DZAFAROV, Ajdin (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
MAMEDOVA, Zahra (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Head Advisor of International Relations Department, National Assembly
HASANOV, Eldar (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
(YA: New Azerbaijan Party / Nouveau parti de l'Azerbaïdjan)	

**BAHRAIN – BAHREIN**

ZAINAL, Fawzia (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Council of Representatives
--	---

FAYEZ, Hala (Ms.)  
FAKHRO, Jamal (Mr.)  
ALRAHMA, Sadiq (Mr.)  
SALMAN, Jameela (Ms.)  
ABBAS, Fatima (Ms.)

ALTHAWADI, Abdullah (Mr.)

ALBOAINAIN, Mohamed (Mr.)

ABUNAJMA, Rashed (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP  
ADWAN, Haifa (Ms.)  
ALENEZI, Hanadi (Ms.)  
Secretary to the Delegation  
ALQATTAF, Ameerah (Ms.)  
Secretary to the Delegation  
MOOSA, Salman (Mr.)  
ALSHUROOQI, Nabeel (Mr.)

Second Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council  
Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council  
Member of the Shura Council  
Member of the Shura Council  
Member of the Council of Representatives  
Chair of the Committee on Woman and Child  
Member of the Council of Representatives  
Chair of the Committee on Human Rights  
Member of the Council of Representatives  
Head of committee of the Committee of Foreign Affairs,  
Defence and National Security  
Secretary General of the Council of Representatives  
  
Head of Media Department, Council of Representatives  
Parliamentary Relations Development Specialist,  
Council of Representatives  
Head of Parliamentary Relations Development  
Department, Council of Representatives  
Protocol Specialist, Council of Representatives  
Director of Presidential Affairs

## BANGLADESH

CHAUDHURY, Shirin Sharmin (Ms.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

RABBI, Fazle (Mr.)

CHOWDHURY, Noor E Alam (Mr.)

AL MAHMOOD SWAPON, Abu Sayeed (Mr.)

AHMED, Tofail (Mr.)

HOSSAIN, Md. Amir (Mr.)

MILLAT, Md. Habibe (Mr.)  
President of the IPU Advisory Group on Health

BABEL, Fahmi Gulandaz (Mr.)

MURSHEDY, Abdus Salam (Mr.)

RAHMAN, Pir Fazlur (Mr.)

MUSTAFA, Suborna (Ms.)

JAHAN, Shabnam (Ms.)  
Adviser

Speaker of Parliament (AL)  
Chairman of the Business Advisory Committee  
Chairman of the Committee on Petitions  
Chairman of the Standing Committee on Rules of  
Procedure  
Deputy Speaker of Parliament (AL)  
Chairman of the Library Committee  
Business Advisory Committee  
Committee on Petitions  
Member of Parliament, Chief Whip (AL)  
Chairman of the House Committee  
Business Advisory Committee  
Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure  
Member of Parliament, Whip (AL)  
Standing Committee on Public Accounts  
Member of Parliament (AL)  
Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of  
Commerce  
Business Advisory Committee  
Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure  
Member of Parliament (AL)  
Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of  
Industries  
Business Advisory Committee  
Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure  
Member of Parliament (AL)  
Standing Committee on Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Standing Committee on Ministry of Science and  
Technology  
Member of Parliament (AL)  
Standing Committee on Ministry of Posts  
Member of Parliament (AL)  
Standing Committee on Ministry of Youth and Sports  
Standing Committee on Ministry of Local Government,  
Rural development and Cooperatives  
Member of Parliament (JP)  
Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs  
Member of Parliament (AL)  
Standing Committee on Ministry of Cultural Affairs  
Member of Parliament

KHAN, Zafar Ahmed (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP  
NURUZZAMAN, Md (Mr.)  
MAHMOOD, Md. Tarique (Mr.)  
CHOWDHURY, Md. Toufiq-E-Leahi (Mr.)  
ASHRAF, Md Ali (Mr.)  
ZILANE, Abdul Quader (Mr.)  
ABSER, Md Nurul (Mr.)  
ISLAM, Md Taufiqul (Mr.)  
SIKDER, Abdus Sobhan (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

(AL: Bangladesh Awami League / Ligue Awami du Bangladesh)

(JP: Jatiya Party / Parti Jatiya)

Senior Secretary, Parliament

Additional Secretary, Parliament  
Director, Public Relations, Parliament  
Deputy Secretary & APS to the Speaker, Parliament  
Deputy Secretary, Parliament  
Deputy Secretary & PS to the Chief Whip, Parliament  
Assistant Director, Parliament  
APS to the the Deputy Speaker, Parliament

**BELARUS**

RAKHMANOV, Sergey (Mr.)  
Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Peace  
and Security, Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Council of the Republic  
Chairman of the Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs  
and National Security

**BELGIUM – BELGIQUE**

GRYFFROY, Andries (Mr.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation  
LACROIX, Christophe (Mr.)

Member of the Senate (N-VA)  
Transversal Matters - Powers of the Regions  
Member of the House of Representatives (PS)  
National Defence Committee  
Economy, Consumer protection and Digital Agenda  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives

DEBOUTTE, Reinhilde (Ms.)  
Member of the ASGP  
PELEMAN, Martin (Mr.)  
Deputy Secretary of the Group  
VERCAMMEN, Peter (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group  
ADAM, Koen (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

Deputy Director, House of Representatives

Senior Adviser, Senate

(N-VA: New Flemish Alliance / Nouvelle alliance flamande)

(PS: Parti Socialiste / Socialist Party)

**BENIN**

VLAVONOU, Louis (M.)  
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation  
KOUWANOU, Mathias (M.)  
SOSSOU, Dakpè (M.)  
VIDJINGNINOU, Fiacre (M.)  
Secrétaire du Groupe  
LOKOUN, Ange (M.)  
Aide de camp

Président de l'Assemblée nationale (UP)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale  
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale  
Chef du Service de la communication, Assemblée  
nationale

(UP: Progressive Union / Union Progressiste)

**BHUTAN – BHOUTAN**

DORJI, Tashi (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
WANGDI, Tshencho (Mr.)

Chairman of the National Council

RAI, Tirtha Man (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (DNT)  
Legislative Committee  
Member of the National Council  
Natural Resources and Environment Committee  
Member of the National Council  
Deputy Chairperson of the Economic Affairs Committee  
Member of the National Council  
Good Governance Committee  
Member of the National Assembly (DNT)  
Social and Cultural Committee

RAI, Anand (Mr.)

WANGMO, Tashi (Ms.)

TENZIN, Ugen (Mr.)

WANGDI, Dorji (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (DPT)  
Chairperson of the House Committee  
Economic and Finance Committee  
Good Governance Committee  
Member of the National Assembly (DPT)  
Legislative Committee  
Social and Cultural Committee  
Secretary General, National Council

WANGCHUK, Karma (Mr.)

Director, National Assembly

TSHERING, Chencho (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

DUBA, Duba (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

PRADHAN, Janakman (Mr.)

Secretary to the delegation

(DNT: Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa)

(DPT: Druk Phunsum Tshogpa)

**BOLIVIA – BOLIVIE**

GUZMÁN GÓMEZ, Beatriz Flora (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (MAS-IPSP)

ITAMARI CHOQUE, Ruth Betsaida (Ms.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (MAS-IPSP)

MENDOZA FERNÁNDEZ, Edith (Ms.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (MAS-IPSP)

Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

ZABALA MONTENEGRO, Mery Elina (Ms.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (UD)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs

(MAS-IPSP: Movement for Socialism / Mouvement pour le socialisme )

(UD: Democratic Unity / Unité démocratique)

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE**

RADMANOVIĆ, Nebojša (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives  
(SNSD)

Leader of the Delegation

ŠPIRIĆ, Nikola (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker of the House of Peoples (SNSD)

Leader of the Delegation

LEPER, Dženana (Ms.)

Department for International Affairs, House of Peoples

Secretary of the Group

ŽUŽA, Zoran (Mr.)

Department for Press, House of Peoples

ŽIVKOVIĆ, Gordana (Mr.)

Secretary of House of People, House of Peoples

MOČEVIĆ, Neda (Ms.)

Chief of Cabinet

(SNSD: Alliance of Independent Social Democrats / Parti social-démocrate indépendant)

**BRAZIL – BRÉSIL**

LINS, Átila (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PP)

Member of the Executive Committee, Leader  
of the Delegation

President of the Committee on National Integration,  
Regional Development and the Amazon

CUNHA, Sergio (Mr.)

Member of the Federal Senate (PSD)

ANASTASIA, Antônio (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker of the Senate

SILVESTRE, Irajá (Mr.)

Member of the Federal Senate (SDP)

Committee on social affairs

Commission on Economic Affairs

CAJADO, Claudio (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PP)

Committee on Foreign Relations and National Defence

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PSDB)

CARVALHO, Mariana (Ms.)

Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Democracy  
and Human Rights to the 141st Assembly

PORTO, Joaquim Passarinho (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (SDP)

ROCHA, Jose (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PL)

BACLEAR, João Carlos (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies

BUENO, Rubens (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies

VERDE, Cleber (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies

NASCIMENTIO, Gilberto (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Adviser

CAMPOS, Jefferson (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Adviser

CAETANO, João Pedro (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

CONTREIRAS DE ALMEIDA, Sergio (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

KASSMAYER, Karin (Ms.)

Adviser, Member of the ASGP

ARAUJO, Silvia (Ms.)

BARBOSA, Eduardo (Mr.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

(PP: Progressive Party / Parti progressiste)

(PSD: Social Democratic Party (PSD) / Parti social-démocrate)

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(PSDB: Brazilian Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate brésilien )

(PL: Liberal Party / Parti libéral)

Deputy Secretary General, Federal Senate

Director General, Chamber of Deputies

Federal Senate

Coordinator, Federal Senate

**BULGARIA – BULGARIE**

GLAVCHEV, Dimitar (Mr.)

Leader of the Delegation

MIHAYLOV, Georgi (Mr.)

KARASLAVOVA, Stefana (Ms.)

Member of the ASGP

ALEXandrova, Stefka (Ms.)

Administrative Secretary to the delegation

VLAYKOV, Radko (Mr.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

(GERB: Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria Party / Citoyens pour le développement européen de la Bulgarie )

(BSP: Bulgarian Socialist Party / Parti socialiste bulgare)

Member of the National Assembly (GERB)

Foreign Policy Committee

Committee on Budget and Finance

Member of the National Assembly (BSP)

Healthcare Committee

Foreign Policy Committee

Secretary General, National Assembly

State Expert, International Relations and Protocol,  
National Assembly**BURKINA FASO**

ILBOUDOU-THIOMBIANO, Elise (Mme)

Chef de la délégation

OUATTARA, Lassina (Mr.)

DIALLO, Ahmed Aziz (Mr.)

BAKYONO, Bienvenue (Mr.)

NOMBRE, Alphonse (Mr.)

ABGA, Armand (Mr.)

TAPSOBA, Tibo Jean Paul (Mr.)

OUEDRAOGO, Ousmane (M.)

TIENDREBEOGO, Mamata (Mme)

ZOROME, Rakièta (Mme)

Membre de l'ASGP

BAGUIAN, Mikail (M.)

Conseiller politique

TRAORE, Karamoko Jean Marie (M.)

TOE, Fidel (M.)

Conseiller

OUBDA, Karim (M.)

Conseiller

(MPP: People's Movement for Progress / Mouvement du peuple pour le progrès)

(PDS/METBA: Party for Democracy and Socialism-Builders' Party / Parti pour la démocratie et le Socialisme-Parti des Bâtisseurs)

(CDP: Congress for Democracy and Progress / Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès)

(UPC: Union for Progress and Change / Union pour le progrès et le changement)

Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDS/METBA)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPC)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP)

Secrétaire générale, Assemblée nationale

Conseiller technique, Assemblée nationale

Directeur de la diplomatie parlementaire, Assemblée  
nationale**BURUNDI**

NYABENDA, Pascal (Mr.)

Leader of the delegation

NIYONGABO, Anicet (Mr.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and  
Human Rights

Speaker of the National Assembly

Vice-President of the Senate

BIKORIMANA, Norbert (Mr.)  
 MANAYANJE, Kionie (Mr.)  
 KUBWIMANA, Usiel (Mr.)  
 NTAGAHORAHU, Jeanne Marie (Ms.)  
 TUYAGA, Anicet (Mr.)  
 High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism  
 and Violent Extremism  
 RWABAHUNGU, Marc (Mr.)  
 Member of the ASGP  
 NIYONZIMA, Renovat (Mr.)  
 Member of the ASGP  
 KAREKEZI, Jean (Mr.)  
 HAVYARIMANA, Venuste (Mr.)  
 HAKIZIMANA, Pascal (Mr.)  
 HABONIMANA, Jean Baptiste (Mr.)  
 MUNYANEZA, Oscar (Mr.)  
 NDAYISENGA, Richard (Mr.)  
 NICIMPAYE, Jean Nepos (Mr.)  
 SINZINKAYO, Gilbert (Mr.)  
 Secretary

Member of the Senate  
 Member of the Senate  
 Member of the National Assembly  
 Member of the National Assembly  
 Member of the National Assembly  
 Secretary General, National Assembly  
 Secretary General, Senate  
 Secretary, National Assembly  
 Secretary, National Assembly  
 Adviser, National Assembly  
 Adviser, Senate  
 Adviser, National Assembly  
 Adviser, National Assembly  
 Chief Protocol, National Assembly  
 Adviser, National Assembly

**CABO VERDE**

CORREIA, Austelino Tavares (Mr.)  
 President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation  
 COSTA, Isa (Ms.)

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (MPD)  
 Member of the National Assembly (MPD)  
 Committee on Economics, Environment and Territorial  
 Planning  
 Member of the National Assembly (PAICV)  
 Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Human Rights,  
 Security and Reform of the State  
 Technician, National Assembly

ÉVORA, Walter (Mr.)

GRAÇA, Francisco Assis (Mr.)  
 Secretary of the Group

(MPD: Movement for Democracy / Mouvement pour la démocratie)

(PAICV: African Party for the Independence of Cabo Verde / Parti africain pour l'indépendance du Cabo Verde)

**CAMBODIA – CAMBODGE**

KHUON, Sudary (Ms.)  
 Leader of the Delegation  
 CHHEANG, Vun (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

YANG, Sem (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly  
 Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, International  
 Cooperation, Information and Media  
 Member of the Senate  
 Chair of the Committee on Human Rights, Complaint  
 Reception, Investigation

CHHIT, Kimyeat (Mr.)

Member of the Senate  
 Vice-Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
 International Cooperation, Information and Media  
 Member of the National Assembly

BAN, Sreymom (Ms.)

Vice-Chair of the Committee on Education, Youth, Sport,  
 Cult, Religious Affairs, Culture and Tourism

SOK, Sokan (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly  
 Vice Chair of the Committee on Public Works,  
 Transports, Telecommunication, Posts, Industry and  
 Mines  
 Adviser, Senate

OUM, Sarith (Mr.)  
 Member of the ASGP

Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly

SRUN, Dara (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

Advisor, National Assembly

KHUON, Vilavann (Ms.)

Advisor, National Assembly

CHHEANG, Vannarith (Mr.)

Assistant, Senate

CHHIM, Sothkun (Mr.)

Assistant, Senate

KIM, Sochetra (Mr.)

Director of International Relations Department, National  
 Assembly

HEANG, Thul (Mr.)

SOK, Pisey (Mr.)  
Secretary to the delegation  
KOY, Malayvireak (Mr.)  
LY, Chanrainsey (Mr.)  
VANN, Nimol (Ms.)

KANG, Lychhou (Mr.)  
TE, Leina (Ms.)  
TEN, Vasna (Mr.)  
OUK, Rida (Ms.)  
KHIEU, Rithya (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative  
DJORDJEVIC, Milosh (Mr.)  
Staff

Deputy Director of the International Relations  
Department, National Assembly  
Assistant, Senate  
Assistant, National Assembly  
Deputy Chief of the Multilateral Relations Office,  
National Assembly  
Assistant, National Assembly  
Assistant, National Assembly  
Assistant, National Assembly  
Assistant, National Assembly

**CAMEROON – CAMEROUN**

KEGNE MAFONG ÉPSE FOTSO, Josephine (Mme)  
NGAYAP, Pierre Flanbeau (M.)  
OUMOUL EPSE AHIDJO, Koultchoumi (Mme)  
VINCENT DE PAUL, Emah Etoundi (M.)  
ABDOULLAYE, Daouda (M.)  
Membre de l'ASGP  
INDJECK, Daniel (M.)  
Conseiller  
MVONDO, Médard (M.)  
Secrétaire administratif

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)  
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale  
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)  
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)  
Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale  
  
Représentant de la Présidence de la République,  
Assemblée nationale  
Directeur de l'Administration générale, Assemblée  
nationale

(RDPC: Cameroon People's Democratic Movement / Rassemblement démocratique du peuple camerounais)

**CANADA**

ATAULLAHJAN, Salma (Ms.)  
President of the Middle East Questions Committee,  
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the  
Delegation

DAWSON, Dennis (Mr.)

RAVALIA, Mohamed Iqbal (Mr.)

SAINT-GERMAIN, Raymonde (Ms.)

ROBERT, Charles (Mr.)  
Member of the Executive Committee of the ASGP  
ETHIER, Céline (Ms.)  
Secretary of the Group  
MCTAGGART, Scott (Mr.)  
Advisor of the Group

Member of the Senate (CPC)  
Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Human  
Rights  
Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International  
Trade  
Standing Committee on National Finance  
Member of the Senate (IL)  
Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and  
International Trade  
Deputy Chair of the Standing Senate Committee on  
Transport and Communications  
Member of the Senate (ISG)  
Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and  
Technology  
Member of the Senate (ISG)  
Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and  
International Trade  
Standing Senate Committee on Internal Economy,  
Budgets and Administration  
Clerk of the House of Commons

(CPC: Conservative Party of Canada / Parti conservateur du Canada)  
(IL: Independent Liberal / Libéral indépendant)  
(ISG: Independent Senators Group / Groupe des Sénateurs indépendants)

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE**

VIGNER, Henri Mylla (M.)  
Chef de la délégation  
AZIZA ALIME, Soumaïne (Mme)

Troisième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale  
  
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale  
Commission de la défense

KOMBO-YAYA, Dieudonné (M.)  
Conseiller du Groupe

Conseiller diplomatique du Président de l'Assemblée  
Nationale

**CHILE – CHILI**

FLORES, Iván (Mr.)  
Second Vice President of GRULAC, Leader  
of the delegation  
GIRARDI, Guido (Mr.)

Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies (PDC)  
President of the Internal Regime and Administration  
Committee  
Member of the Senate (PPD)  
President of the Environment and National Assets  
Committee  
Health Committee

LETELIER, Juan Pablo (Mr.)

Member of the Senate (PS)  
President of the Treasury Committee  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies (UDI)  
Constitution, Legislation and Justice Committee  
President of the Education, Science, Technology  
Committee

COLOMA, Juan Antonio (Mr.)

KEITEL, Sebastian (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PEP)  
Sport and Recreation Committee  
Family and Senior Adult Committee  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies (Com)  
Human Rights and Native Peoples Committee  
Committee on Social Development, Overcoming Poverty  
and Planning

MIX, Claudia (Ms.)

OLIVERA, Erika (Ms.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (Ind)  
Committee on Housing, Urban Development and  
National Assets  
Sports and Recreation Committee  
General Secretary of the Senate

GUZMAN, Raúl (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP  
LANDEROS, Miguel (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP  
OSES, Juan (Mr.)

General Secretary, Chamber of Deputies

PEILLARD, Jacqueline (Ms.)  
FLORES, Gerardo (Mr.)  
Secretary  
FONTECILLA, Mariano (Mr.)  
Diplomatic Adviser

Sub Director of the Directorate of International  
Relations, Senate  
Director International Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies

(PDC: Christian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)  
(PPD: Party for Democracy / Parti pour la démocratie)  
(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)  
(UDI: Independent Democratic Union / Union démocratique indépendante)  
(PEP: Political Evolution Party / Parti de l'évolution politique)  
(Com: Comunes )  
(FRV-Ind: Social Green Regionalist Federation - Independent / Fédération régionaliste sociale et verts - Indépendant)  
(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

**CHINA – CHINE**

CHEN, Guomin (Mr.)  
Member of Executive Committee, Leader of the  
Delegation  
MINGJIN, Hao (Mr.)  
CHEN, Fuli (Mr.)

Member of the National People's Congress  
Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee

LI, Li (Ms.)  
YIN, Zhongqing (Mr.)

Vice Chairman of National People's Congress of China  
Member of the National People's Congress  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
Member of the National People's Congress  
Member of the National People's Congress  
Vice Chairman of the Financial and Economic Affairs  
Committee

YU, Zhigang (Mr.)

Member of the National People's Congress  
Constitution and Law Affairs Committee



QI, Tian (Mr.) Secretary	National People's Congress
OU, Ge (Mr.) Secretary	National People's Congress
HU, Luyao (Mr.) Secretary	National People's Congress
SHEN, Zheyi (Mr.) Secretary	National People's Congress
SU, Ziting (Mr.) Secretary	National People's Congress
XIA, Xianjun (Ms.) Secretary	National People's Congress
WEI, Xing (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	National People's Congress
WANG, Yu (Mr.) Secretary	National People's Congress
XU, Yu (Mr.) Secretary	National People's Congress

**CONGO**

IKOUROU-YOKA née ANGANDI, Pauline (Mme) Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale	Membre du Sénat (PCT) Secrétaire de la Commission santé, affaires sociales, famille, genre et développement durable
GOMA, Léandre (M.) Secrétaire administratif du Groupe	Conseiller juridique du Premier Secrétaire du Sénat

(PCT: Congolese Workers Party / Parti congolais du travail)

**COSTA RICA**

PENA FLORES, Rodolfo (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the Legislative Assembly
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**COTE D'IVOIRE - COTE D'IVOIRE**

OUATTARA, Siaka (M.) Vice-Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RHDP) Commission des affaires générales et institutionnelles
KOUAKOU, Kouassi Jean Marie (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDCI/RDA) Commission des affaires générales et institutionnelles
KOUASSI, Koffi Kra Paulin (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDCI/RDA) Commission des affaires générales et institutionnelles

(RHDP: Rally of Houphouetists for Democracy and Peace / Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la  
Démocratie et la Paix) (

PDCI/RDA: Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire / Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire)

**CROATIA – CROATIE**

DUJIC, Sasa (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Croatian Parliament (SDP) Committee on the Economy, Tourism Committee
MAKSIMČUK, Ljubica (Ms.)	Member of the Croatian Parliament (HDZ) Committee on Maritime Affairs, Transportation Gender Equality Committee
JOSIĆ, Željka (Ms.) VUKAS, Stjepan (Mr.) Secretary of Group	Member of the Croatian Parliament Advisor, Croatian Parliament
BAKOTA, Gordan (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)  
(HDZ: Croatian Democratic Union / Parti démocratique croate)

**CUBA**

MARI MACHADO, Ana María (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the People's Power (CPC)
CHARBONET MARTELL, Miguel Enrique (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power (CPC) Education Committee

LUNA MORALES, Estela Cristina (Ms.)  
Advisory Group on Health

Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power (CPC)  
Health and Sports Committee

FERRER GÓMEZ, Maria Yolanda (Ms.)  
Member of the Executive Committee, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power  
Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee

MORA GONZÁLEZ, Jesús Rafael (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group

Officer, National Assembly of the People's Power

TRISTÁ DEL TODO, Gustavo (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

REYES RICARDO, Mayra (Ms.)  
Diplomat  
STOJANKIC, Natalija (Ms.)  
Staff

(CPC: Communist Party of Cuba / Parti communiste cubain)

### CYPRUS – CHYPRE

SYLLOURIS, Demetris (Mr.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation  
NEOFYTOS, Averof (Mr.)

Speaker of the House of Representatives (Allileggii)

Member of the House of Representatives (DISY)  
House Standing Committee on Financial and Budgetary Affairs

KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA, Skevi (Ms.)  
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Member of the House of Representatives (AKEL)  
Chairperson of the House Standing Committee on Refugees-Enclaved, Missing, Adversely Affected Persons

MOUSHOUTTAS, Marinos (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives (DIKO)  
Deputy Chairperson of the House Standing Committee on Financial and Budgetary Affairs  
House Standing Committee on Energy, Trade, Industry and Tourism  
House Standing Committee on Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance  
Member of the House of Representatives (Ind)  
House Standing Committee on Development Plans and Public Expenditure Control  
Secretary General, House of Representatives

THEOLOGOU, Anna (Ms.)  
Bureau of the Committee on UN Affairs

SOCRATOUS, Socrates (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

CHRISTOU, Avgousta (Ms.)  
Secretary to the delegation

PERSIANI, Elena (Ms.)  
Secretary to the delegation

ELIADES, Constantinos (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

Senior International Relations Officer, House of Representatives

International Relations Officer, House of Representatives

(Allileggii: Solidarity Movement / Mouvement Solidarité)

(AKEL: Progressive Party of the Working People / Parti progressiste des masses laborieuses)

(DIKO: Democratic Party (DIKO) / Parti démocrate)

(DISY: Democratic Rally Party (DISY) / Rassemblement démocratique)

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

### CZECH REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE

VONDRÁČEK, Radek (Mr.)  
Leader of the delegation

Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies

KOLIBA, Peter (Mr.)

Member of the Senate (ANO 2011)  
Vice-Chair of the Committee on Health and Social Policy  
Member of the Senate (Ind)

NYTRA, Zdenek (Mr.)

Vice-Chair of the Com. on Regional Development, Public Administration and Environment

LEVOVÁ, Jana (Ms.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (SPD)  
Vice-Chair of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs

MORÁVEK, Jan (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies

SÍLEŠOVÁ, Jaroslava (Mrs.)  
KOŠAŘÍKOVÁ, Kateřina (Ms.)  
Secretary of the Group  
TUČKOVÁ, Alena (Mrs.)  
Secretary of the Group  
SECHTER, Jan (Mr.)  
GAJDUŠEK, Marek (Mr.)  
ŠIŠPERA, Ondřej (Mr.)  
Security Officer  
KUCHTA, Tomáš (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

Director of the Office of the Speaker

Adviser to the Speaker  
Protocol

(ANO 2011: ANO 2011)

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

(SPD: Freedom and Direct Democracy / Liberté et démocratie directe)

(Piráti: Pirate Party / Parti pirate)

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO**

BADIBANGA NTITA, Samy (M.)  
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation  
BALAMAGE N'KOLO, Boniface (M.)  
BAZEGO TEBUSELI, Papy (M.)  
MIRUHO MUGOROZI, Stéphane (M.)  
NIKOMBA SABANGU, Madeleine (Mme)  
MANARA LINGA, Didi (M.)

Vice-Président du Sénat (UDPS)

Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale

Membre du Sénat (MLC)

Membre du Sénat (PPRD)

Membre du Sénat (Ind)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PPRD)

Comité des droits de l'Homme

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ARC)

Commission économique, financière et du contrôle  
budgétaire

Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale

NGUVULU KHOJI, Jean (M.)

Membre de l'ASGP

KALE LOBOBI, Prosper Papy (M.)

Assistant du Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale

KABANGU DIBA-NSESE, François (M.)

Conseiller Coordonnateur du Bureau d'études du Sénat

Secrétaire du Groupe

KANIKA SUMBAYI, Philibert (M.)

Secrétaire administratif / Section nationale UIP/RDC,  
Assemblée nationale

Secrétaire administratif

MITONGA ZONGWE, Isidore (M.)

Conseiller Diplomatique du Premier Vice-Président du  
Sénat

DAMBANA SUNGU, Adrien (M.)

Chargé des missions du Premier Vice-Président du  
Sénat

IKAMBA BOSOSOLA, Popol (M.)

Assistant particulier de la Présidente de l'Assemblée  
nationale

MUKU LUNGU, Benjamin (M.)

Secrétaire

MALIWOSO, Mangbeza (M.)

Agent de sécurité

TSHINGA AHUKA, Paul Emile (M.)

Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

(PPRD: People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy / Parti du Peuple pour la Reconstruction et la Démocratie)

(UDPS: Union for Democracy and Social Progress / Union pour la Démocratie et le Progrès social)

(MLC: Movement for the Liberation of Congo / Mouvement de Libération du Congo)

(ARC: Alliance for Congo's Renewal / Alliance pour le renouveau du Congo)

Ind: Indépendant / Indépendante)

**DENMARK – DANEMARK**

SOENDERGAARD, Soeren (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Member of The Danish Parliament (RGA)

Cultural Affairs Committee

European Affairs Committee

BLIXT, Liselott (Ms.)

Member of The Danish Parliament (DPP)

Gender Equality Committee

Health and Senior Citizen's Committee

OLLDAG, Kathrine (Ms.)

Member of The Danish Parliament (SLP)

Fiscal Affairs Committee

Rural Districts and Islands Committee

SCHMIDT, Hans Christian (Mr.)

Member of the The Danish Parliament (PL)  
Vice chairman of the Transport and Housing Committee  
Cultural Affairs Committee  
Member of the The Danish Parliament (PL)  
Cultural Affairs Committee  
European Affairs Committee  
Deputy Secretary General, The Danish Parliament

VALENTIN, Kim (Mr.)

Higher Executive Officer, Danish Parliament  
International Consultant, Danish Parliament

JENSEN, Torben (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

LARSON, Claudius (Mr.)

RIIS, Peter (Mr.)

Secretary

HOUGAARD, Anders Christian (Mr.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

(RGA: The Red-Green Alliance / Unité-Alliance rouge-verte)

(DPP: Danish People's Party / Parti populaire danois)

(SLP: Social Liberal Party / Parti social libéral)

(PL: Liberal Party / Parti libéral)

**DJIBOUTI**

ALI HOUMED, Mohamed (M.)

Président de l'Assemblée nationale

Chef de la délégation

BOULHAN HOUSSEIN, Neima (Mme)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

MOHAMED DAOUD, Ali (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

OMAR MOHAMED, Hassan (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

Commission des finances

ROBLEH ABDILLAHIEH, Ahmed (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

IBRAHIM IDIRSS, Abdoukader (M.)

Directeur de procédure législative, Assemblée nationale

MOHAMED AHMED, Idriss (M.)

Directeur de Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée  
Nationale

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE**

FERMIN, Graciela (Mrs.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PRD)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy  
and Human Rights, Leader of the Delegation

Standing Committee on Human Rights

Standing Committee on Justice

SUÁREZ, Victor (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Justice Committee

Public Ministry Committee

**EGYPT – EGYPT**

ABDEL AAL, Ali (Mr.)

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Member of the Executive Committee

High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and  
Violent Extremism

Leader of the delegation

EL-KARIM DARWISH, Karim Abd (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives

Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee

Member of the House of Representatives

ABDELMALEK IBRAHIM, Margret Azer (Ms.)

Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

MOHAMED HASSANEIN, Hassan Omar (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives

MOSTAFA ELWANY, Rania Amr (Ms.)

Member of the House of Representatives

MOUSSA HABIB, Mahmoud Rashad (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives

FAWZI, Mahmoud (Mr.)

Secretary General

Member of the ASGP

EL-DIN NAGY, Alaa (Mr.)

Speaker's Office Manager, House of Representatives

NASR EL-DIN, Yassin (Mr.)

Head of the Protocol Department, House of  
Representatives

EL MAGHRABY, Mohamed (Mr.)

Security Officer

ALJOWAILY, Amr (Mr.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

ABDELRAHMAN, Zeinab (Ms.)

Staff

**EL SALVADOR**

QUIJANO, Norman (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (ARENA)  
President of the Political Committee  
Finance and Budget Special Committee  
Health Committee

URBINA, Yanci Guadalupe (Ms.)

Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (FMLN)  
President of the Treasury and Special Budget Committee

MERINO, Francisco (Mr.)  
High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Member of the Legislative Assembly (PCN)  
Financial Committee  
Financial and Budget Special Committee  
Education and Cultural Committee

ÁVILA AVILES, Rodrigo (Mr.)

Member of the Legislative Assembly (ARENA)  
Public Security and Fight Against Drugs Committee  
Treasury and Special Budget Committee

(ARENA: National Republican Alliance / Alliance nationale républicaine )

(FMLN: Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front / Front de libération nationale Farabundo Martí)

(PCN: National Conciliation Party / Parti de conciliation nationale)

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA - GUINEE EQUATORIALE**

NTUGU NSA, Atanasio-Ela (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Senate (PDGE)

OBONO EDJANG, Silvia-Paloma (Ms.)

Member of the Senate (PDGE)

TAMARITE CASTAÑO, Crescencio (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PDGE)

TOMO NGUEMA, María-pelagia Abeso (Ms.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PDGE)

EKUA ESONO ABE, Bienvenido (Mr.)

Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies

Secretary of the Group

MAYE OBIANG, Victorino-Nka (Mr.)

Secretary General, Senate

(PDGE: Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea / Parti Démocratique de Guinée Equatoriale)

**ESTONIA – ESTONIE**

KOKK, Aivar (Mr.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Estonian Parliament  
Chairman of finance committee of the Finance Committee

HELME, Helle-Moonika (Mrs.)

State Budget Control Select Committee (Isamaa)

Member of the Estonian Parliament (EKRE)

Cultural Affairs Committee

KIVIMÄGI, Toomas (Mr.)

Member of the Estonian Parliament (RP)

Deputy Chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee

TUUS-LAUL, Marika (Ms.)

Member of the Estonian Parliament (ECeP)

Social Affairs Committee

TAMP, Marju (Ms.)

Adviser in Foreign Relations Department, Estonian Parliament

Adviser to the delegation

(Isamaa: Isamaa Party / Parti Isamaa)

(EKRE: Conservative People's Party of Estonia / Parti populaire conservateur)

(RP: Estonian Reform Party / Parti de la réforme)

(ECeP: Estonian Centre Party / Parti estonien du centre)

**ESWATINI**

MAVIMBELA, Petros (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of the House of Assembly  
IPU Committee Finance Committee  
Agriculture Committee

BUJELA, Nokunceda (Ms.)

Member of the House of Assembly  
IPU Committee

DLAMINI, Mduduzi (Mr.)

Member of the House of Assembly  
Chairperson of the IPU Local Committee

SHABANGU, Treasure (Mr.)  
Secretary to the delegation

Committee Secretary/ Clerk, House of Assembly

**ETHIOPIA – ETHIOPIE**

IBRAHIM, Keria (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the House of the Federation (EPRDF)
AYENEW, Worku (Mr.)	Member of the House of the Federation (EPRDF)
GONDA, Hailu (Mr.)	Member of the House of the Federation (EPRDF)
ALAKO, Hiwot Hailu (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
SHOA, Kebede (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary, House of the Federation
GISLASSIE, Gebru (Mr.) Adviser	
YENENH, Raimond (Mr.) Adviser	
(EPRDF: Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front / Front populaire démocratique révolutionnaire de l'Ethiopie)	

**FIJI – FIDJI**

NAILATIKAU, Ratu Epeli (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of Parliament
RADRODRO, Salote Caraqeti (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (Soldelpa)
SUDHAKAR, Ashneel (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (FF)
EMBERSON, Jeanette Tanari (Ms.)	Deputy Secretary General to Parliament
TUDONU, Sefanaia Navuda (Mr.)	Executive Adviser to the Speaker
(Soldelpa: Social Democratic Liberal Party / Parti libéral social-démocrate )	
(FF: Fiji First / Les Fidji d'abord)	

**FINLAND – FINLANDE**

JÄRVINEN, Heli (Ms.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament (G)
KALMARI, Anne (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (CP)
TANUS, Sari (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (PDC)
TYNKKYNEN, Sebastian (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (PS)
HUTTUNEN, Marja (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Assistant for the International Affairs, Parliament
VUOSIO, Teemu (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Secretary for the International Affairs, Parliament
(G: The Greens / Les Verts)	
(CP: Centre Party / Parti du Centre)	
(PDC: Christian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)	
(PS: The Finns Party / Parti des Finlandais)	

**FRANCE**

JULIEN-LAFERRIERE, Hubert (M.) Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient, Chef de la délégation	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (REM) Commission des affaires étrangères
DALLIER, Philippe (M.)	Vice-Président du Sénat (R) Membre commission des finances
JOURDA, Gisèle (Mme)	Membre du Sénat (PS) Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées
MARIE, Didier (M.) Bureau de la Commission de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme	Membre du Sénat (PS) Commission des lois
DEL PICCHIA, Robert (M.) Groupe consultatif de haut niveau sur la lutte contre le terrorisme et l'extrémisme violent	Membre du Sénat (R) Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées
JANVIER, Caroline (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (REM) Commission des affaires sociales
LARIVE, Michel (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FI) Commission des affaires culturelles et de l'éducation

PARK, Zivka (Mme)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (REM)  
Commission du développement durable et de  
l'aménagement du territoire  
Secrétaire général de la Questure, Assemblée nationale

PALLEZ, Christophe (M.)

Membre du Comité exécutif de l'ASGP

SCHROEDT-GIRARD, Jean-Louis (M.)

Membre de l'ASGP

EIFERMANN, Didier (M.)

Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe

PREUVOT, Perrine (Mme)

Secrétaire administrative de l'ASGP

BOURASSÉ, Philippe (M.)

Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe

VELASCO, Karine (Mme)

Secrétaire administrative de l'ASGP

FALCONI, Jean-Louis (M.)

Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

Secrétaire général du Sénat

Conseiller, Assemblée nationale

Administratrice des services, Assemblée nationale

Conseiller, Sénat

Conseillère, Assemblée nationale

(REM: The Republic on the Move / La République en Marche)

(R: The Republicans / Les Républicains)

(PS: Socialist Party / Parti Socialiste)

(FI: La France insoumise)

**GABON**MOULENGUI MOUELE NGWAMASSANA, Sophie  
(Mme)Membre du Sénat (PDG)  
Commission des lois, des affaires administratives et  
des droits de l'homme  
Commission des finances, du budget et de la  
comptabilité publique

ONDO METOGHO, Emmanuel Claude (M.)

Deuxième Vice-Président du Sénat (PDG)

NZE BEKALE, Emmanuel (M.)

Membre, Commissions des finances

Membre du Sénat (PDG)

Président, Commissions des affaires économiques, de la  
production et des échanges

BEKALLE AKWE, Henry (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)

Commission des lois, des affaires administratives et des  
droits de l'hommeCommission des finances, du budget et de la  
comptabilité publique

FOUTI, Frately (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DEM)

Commission des lois, des affaires administratives et des  
droits de l'hommeCommission des finances, du budget et de la  
comptabilité publique

Secrétaire général du Sénat

KENGUEL, Michel Edouard (M.)

Membre de l'ASGP

SOUMOUNA, Edmond (M.)

Secrétaire du Groupe

ROSSATANGA, Lygie (Mme)

Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale

Directrice des relations interparlementaires, Sénat

(PDG: Gabonese Democratic Party / Parti démocratique gabonais)

(DEM: The democrats / Les démocrates)

**GAMBIA (THE) – GAMBIE**SANNEH, Momodou L.K. (Mr.)  
Leader of the DelegationDeputy Speaker of the National Assembly (UDP)  
Chairperson of the Committee on Defence & Security  
Standing Committee on Health, Women, Children &  
Refugee, Disaster & Humanitarian Relief  
Member of the National Assembly (NCP)  
Committee on Privileges & Ethics  
Committee on Monitor the Implementation of  
Government Projects

SAMUSA, Ma Janko (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (UDP)

TUNKARA, Billay G. (Mr.)

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Committee on Local Government & Lands, Ombudsman  
and IEC

SECKA SALLAH, Ndey Yassin (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly (PD)  
Committee on Health, Women, Children, Refugee,  
Disaster & Humanitarian Relief  
Assembly Standing Committee

NYASSI, Musa Amul (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (APRC)  
Chairperson of the Committee on Local Government &  
Lands, Ombudsman & IEC  
Committee on Agriculture & Rural Development  
Editor, National Assembly

MBOWE, Mamat (Mr.)

Secretary to Delegation

SALLAH, Matarr (Mr.)

Adviser

National Assembly

(UDP: United Democratic Party / Parti démocrate uni)

(NCP: National Convension Party / Parti national de la conversion)

(PD: Nominated Member - Geo-Political Constituency Representing Persons with Disability (Visually Impaired))

(APRC: Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction / Alliance patriotique pour la réorientation et la construction )

**GEORGIA – GEORGIE**

VOLSKI, George (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker of Parliament (GD-DG)

Leader of the Delegation

MIKANADZE, Givi (Mr.)

Secretary General, Parliament

Member of the ASGP

BROKISHVILI, Irakli (Mr.)

Chief Specialist, International Relations Department,  
Parliament

Secretary to the Delegation

NANOBASHVILI, Ioseb (Mr.)

Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

(GD-DG: Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia / Rêve géorgien - Géorgie démocratique)

**GERMANY – ALLEMAGNE**

ROTH, Claudia (Ms.)

Deputy Speaker of the German Bundestag  
(Bündnis90/Die Grünen)

Leader of the Delegation

Subcommittee on Cultural and Education Policy Abroad

Vice-President of the Council of Elders

BEYER, Peter (Mr.)

Member of the German Bundestag (CDU/CSU)

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Subcommittee on the United Nations, International  
Organisations and Globalisation

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

FREITAG, Dagmar (Ms.)

Member of the German Bundestag (SPD)

Chairwoman of the Sports Committee

Committee on Foreign Affairs

NATO Parliamentary Assembly

HERDT, Waldemar (Mr.)

Member of the German Bundestag (AfD)

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid

Subcommittee on Civilian Crisis Prevention and

Networked Security

MANSMANN, Till (Mr.)

Member of the German Bundestag (FDP)

Committee on Labour and Social Affairs

Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development

LECHTE, Ulrich (Mr.)

Member of the German Bundestag (FDP)

Chairman of the Subcommittee on the United Nations,  
International Organisations and Globalisation

Committee on Foreign Affairs

MÜLLER, Lorenz (Mr.)

Deputy Secretary General for International Affairs and  
Director-General for Research and External Relations,

Member of the ASGP

German Bundestag

ZÁDOR, Katalin (Ms.)

International Parliamentary Assemblies Department,

Secretary to the Delegation

German Bundestag

TEPASSE, Nicole (Ms.)

Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies,

Secretary to the Delegation

German Bundestag

BRAMMER, Claudia (Ms.)

Assistant to the delegation, German Bundestag



MAHDJOUBI, Ali (Mr.)  
HEILAND, Anne-Lena (Ms.)  
GLOSSNER, Andreas (Mr.)  
Diplomat  
PIETSCH, Michael Christian (Mr.)  
Diplomat

Office of the Deputy Speaker, German Bundestag  
Office of the Deputy Speaker, German Bundestag

(Bündnis90/Die Grünen: Green Party / Les Verts)  
(CDU/CSU: Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union / Union chrétienne démocrate/Union chrétienne sociale)  
(SPD: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)  
(AfD: Alternative for Germany / Alternative pour l'Allemagne)  
(FDP: Free Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate)

**GHANA**

OQUAYE, Micheal Aaron (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of Parliament (NPP)  
Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee  
Chairman of the Committee on Selection

IBRAHIM, Ahmed (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (NDC)  
Local Government Committee  
Business Committee  
Communication Committee

BOATENG, Ama Pomaa (Ms.)  
Committee on Middle East Questions

Member of Parliament (NPP)  
Gender & Children Committee  
Communication Committee

IDDRISU, Haruna (Mr.)

Committee on Selection  
Member of Parliament (NDC)  
Vice Chairperson of the special Budget Committee  
Business Committee  
Appointment Committee

KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU, Osei (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (NPP)  
Chairman of the Special Budget Committee  
Chairman of the House Committee  
Chairman of the Business Committee

NYINDAM, Matthew (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (NPP)  
Finance Committee  
Food and Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs Committee  
Business Committee

MENSAH, Abena Durowaa (Ms.)

Member of Parliament (NPP)  
Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Gender and Children  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
AG. Clerk to Parliament

NSIAH, Cyril Kwabena Oteng (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

Deputy Clerk, Committee, Parliamentary Relations & Protocol & Public Affairs, Parliament  
Deputy Director, Speaker's Secretariat, Parliament

GOMBILLA, Ibrahim (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

PARRY, Grace Asaah (Mr.)

(NPP: New Patriotic Party / Nouveau parti patriotique)

(NDC: National Democratic Congress / Congrès démocratique national)

**GREECE – GRECE**

KEFALOGIANNI, Olga (Ms.)  
Head of the Delegation

Member of the Hellenic Parliament (ND)  
Standing Committee on National Defence and Foreign Affairs, the Standing Committee on Production and Trade  
Permanent Committee on Institutions and Transparency  
Committee on European Affairs

GKIKAS, Stefanos (Mr.)

Committee on Defence Programs and Contracts  
Member of the Hellenic Parliament (ND)  
Standing Committee on National Defence and Foreign Affairs  
Special Standing Committee on Armament Programs and Contracts  
Committee on Parliament's Finances

GIOGIAKAS, Vassileios (Mr.)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament (ND)

Standing Committee on Social Affairs

Standing Committee on Production and Trade

Special Permanent Committee of the Regions

MOUZALAS, Ioannis (Mr.)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament (SYRIZA)

Standing Committee on National Defence and Foreign Affairs

Special Permanent Committee on Equipment Programs and Contracts

MYLONAKIS, Georgios (Mr.)

Secretary General of the Hellenic Parliament, Hellenic Parliament

Member of the ASGP

KARTSAKLI, Aikaterini (Ms.)

Head of the International Organization Section, Hellenic Parliament

PAPADOPOULOU, Thaleia (Ms.)

Secretary, Hellenic Parliament

KOUTSOUKOU, Vasiliki (Mrs.)

Assistant to the Head of the delegation

DIACOFOTAKIS, Yorgos (Mr.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

(ND: New Democracy / Nouvelle démocratie)

(SYRIZA: Coalition of the Radical Left / Coalition de la gauche radicale )

**GUATEMALA**

GARCIA GUDIEL, Hugo Fernando (Mr.)

Member of the Congress of the Republic (Ind)

Public Finances Committee

Foreign Affairs Committee

HERNANDEZ FRANCO, Javier Alfonso (Mr.)

Member of the Congress of the Republic (FCN)

Public Finances Committee

Legislation Committee

ROJAS ESPINO, Anibal Estuardo (Mr.)

Member of the Congress of the Republic (VCV)

(Ind: Independent)

(FCN: Frente de Convergencia Nacional)

(VCV: Vision con Valores )

**GUINEA – GUINEE**

FOFANA, Luceny (M.)

Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (RPG)

Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Deuxième vice-président du Bureau

(RPG: Rally of the Guinean People - Rainbow / Rassemblement du Peuple de Guinée - Arc en ciel)

**GUYANA**

SCOTLAND, Barton (Mr.)

Speaker of Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

Chairman of the Parliamentary Management Committee, the Assembly Committee

ISAACS, Sherlock (Mr.)

Clerk of the National Assembly, Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

ADAMS, Dellon (Ms.)

Personal Assistant to the Speaker, Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

**HAITI**

FOURCAND, Richard Hervé (M.)

Membre du Sénat

GILOT, Jean Rony (M.)

Secrétaire général du Sénat

Membre de l'ASGP

**HUNGARY – HONGRIE**

BALLA, Mihály (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (FIDESz)

President of the Group, Leader of the delegation

Vice-Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee

BARTOS, Mónika (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly (FIDESz)

Committee on Legislation

Committee on Foreign Affairs

STEINMETZ, Ádám (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (Jobbik)
GURMAI, Zita (Ms.)	Committee on Legislation, Committee on Agriculture
VADAI, Ágnes (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (MSZP)
Chair of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law	Committee on Foreign Affairs
SCHMUCK, Erzsébet (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (DK)
	Vice Chair of the Committee on Defence and Law Enforcement
	Member of the National Assembly (LMP)
	Chairman of the Committee on Sustainable Development
KOCSIS-CAKE, Olivio (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (P)
SUCH, György (Mr.)	Vice Chairman of the Committee on Immunity
Advisor to the Group, Member of the ASGP	Director General, National Assembly
SOMFAINÉ ÁDÁM, Katalin (Ms.)	
Secretary of the Group	Head of IPU Office, Directorate for Foreign Relations, National Assembly
PINTÉR, Attila (Mr.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
(FIDESz: Hungarian Civic Union / Union civique hongroise)	
(Jobbik: Movement for a Better Hungary / Mouvement pour une meilleure Hongrie)	
(MSZP: Hungarian Socialist Party / Parti socialiste hongrois)	
(DK: Democratic Coalition / Coalition démocratique)	
(LMP: Politics can be different / Faire de la politique autrement)	
(P: Párbeszéd)	

**ICELAND – ISLANDE**

ANDERSEN, Sigrídur (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (IP)
Leader of the Delegation	Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
GUNNLAUGSSON, Sigmundur Davíð (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (CP)
	Economic Affairs and Trade Committee
ÁGÚSTSSON, Ágúst Ólafur (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (SDA)
	Second Deputy Chairman of the Budget Committee
MAGNUSSON, Thorsteinn (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary General, Parliament
Member of the ASGP	
BANG, Arna Gerður (Ms.)	Adviser, Parliament
Secretary of the Group	
(IP: Independence Party / Parti de l'indépendance)	
(CP: Centre Party / Parti du Centre)	
(SDA: The Social Democratic Alliance / Alliance sociale démocratique)	

**INDIA – INDE**

BIRLA, Om (Mr.)	Speaker of the House of the People
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	
THAROOR, Shashi (Mr.)	Member of the House of the People
KARUNANIDHI, Kanimozhi (Ms.)	Member of the House of the People
SYIEM, Wansuk (Ms.)	Member of the Council of States
SHYAL, Bharatiben Dhirubhai (Mr.)	Member of the House of the People
KARANLAJE, Shobha (Ms.)	Member of the Council of States
VERMA, Ram Kumar (Mr.)	Member of the Council of States
PATRA, Sasmit (Mr.)	Member of the Council of States
SHRIVASTAVA, Snehlata (Ms.)	Secretary General, House of the People
Member of the ASGP	
VERMA, Desh Deepak (Mr.)	Secretary General, Council of States
Member of the ASGP	
KOUL, Prabhat Chandra (Mr.)	Joint Secretary, House of the People
Secretary to the Delegation	
GUPTA, Naresh Chandra (Mr.)	OSD to the Speaker, House of the People
KANDPAL, Yatindra Mohan (Mr.)	Director, House of the People
KUMAR, Pawan (Mr.)	Director, Council of States
RAMANA, Lingala Venkata (Mr.)	Additional Director, House of the People
SINGH, Yogendra (Mr.)	Under Secretary, House of the People
SINGH, Bhupendra (Mr.)	Assistant Protocol Officer, Council of States

**INDONESIA – INDONESIE**

SYAMSUDDIN, Aziz (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation ZON, Fadli (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives  Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives (Gerindra) Chair of the GOPAC Member of the House of Representatives Member of the House of Representatives Member of the House of Representatives Member of the House of Representatives Member of the House of Representatives Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives  Head of Bureau, House of Representatives
BATUBARA, Juliari Peter (Mr.) ADITYA, Willy (Mr.) BADAWI, Fathan Subchi (Mr.) ERIZAL, Jon (Mr.) QOMARIEL ARIFIN, Nurul (Ms.) HARRIS, Damayanti (Mrs.) Member of the ASGP RETNOASTUTI, Endah (Ms.) Executive Director, Member of the ASGP HARYANTI (Ms.) Secretary to the Delegation PRASETYO, Hery (Mr.) Secretary to the Delegation ABDRIRROHMAN, Insan (Mr.) Secretary to the Head of the delegation ARIEF, Muhammad (Mr.) Adviser to the Head of the Delegation PURBA, Robert Juheng (Mr.) Member of the ASGP SARTOMO (Mr.) Member of the ASGP WIDIANI, Miranti (Ms.) Secretary of the ASGP delegation TANSIL, Yuliana (Ms.) Interpreter REFLUSMEN Jr., Reza (Mr.) Adviser WIDYA YUDHA, Mochamad Chandra (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative ORLIC, Suzana (Ms.) Staff	Parliamentary Staff, House of Representatives

(Gerindra: Great Indonesia Movement Party / Mouvement pour une grande Indonésie)

**IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) - IRAN (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D')**

ARDESHIR LARIJANI, Ali (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation JALALI, Kazem (Mr.) Vice-President of the Executive Committee HOSSEINI, Seyedeh Fatemeh (Ms.) President of the Group, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Member of Committee to Promote Respect for IHL GOODARZI, Masoud (Mr.)	Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Cultural Affairs Committee Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Economic Affairs Committee  Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Chair of the Education and Research Committee Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Social Affairs Committee Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Development Committee Secretary General of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
KAVAKEBIAN, Mostafa (Mr.)	
ZAHEDI, Mohammad Mehdi (Mr.)	
MOKHTAR, Jalil (Mr.)	
KOUSEH QARAVI, Shahram (Mr.)	
NOURI GHEZELJEH, Gholamreza (Mr.) Member of the ASGP AMIRI ZADEH, Bahram (Mr.)	Senior Adviser to the Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Advisor to the Speaker, Islamic Parliament of Iran,
DASTGHEIB, Seyed Ahmadreza (Mr.)	

AMIR ABDOLLAHIAN, Hossein (Mr.)

JABERI ANSARI, Sadegh Hossein (Mr.)

YASREBI, Seyed Mohammad (Mr.)

ESMAEILPOUR, Hamed (Mr.)

HOSSEINI, Amirhossein (Mr.)

BANIASADZADEH, Mojtaba (Mr.)

ABDOLLAHI, Mahmoud (Mr.)

AGHAMOHAMMADI, Zahra (Ms.)

RANJBAR MOHAMMADI, Pantea (Ms.)

MOLLA ABDOLLAHI, Hossein (Mr.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

Special Assistant to the Speaker of the Islamic  
Parliament of IranDeputy for Iranian Expatriates and Parliamentary Affairs,  
Ministry of Foreign AffairsGeneral Director of Protocol Department, Islamic  
Parliament of Iran

Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Head of Department of International Political  
Organizations AffairsDirector of International Conference Department, Islamic  
Parliament of IranSenior Expert of Department of International Political  
Organizations AffairsSenior Expert of Department of International Political  
Organizations AffairsSenior Expert of Department of Protocol, Islamic  
Parliament of Iran**IRAQ**

KADER MEER WAYES, Sherko (Mr.)

Leader of the Delegation

AL-KINANI, Ahmed (Mr.)

AL-SHALAN, Oday (Mr.)

ALKHIRBIT, Abdullah (Mr.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Trade and  
Sustainable Development

AL ITHAWI, Yahya (Mr.)

MOHAMMED ABED, Forat (Mr.)

TALABANI, Alaa (Ms.)

Permanent Committee for Democracy and Human  
Rights

ISMAIL, Serwan (Mr.)

AL-SAEDI, Mohammed (Mr.)

MOHAMED, Fawzi (Mr.)

AL-LAMY, Hussam (Mr.)

Diplomat

KAMIL, Mustafa (Mr.)

Staff

Member of the Council of Representatives  
Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee

Member of the Council of Representatives

Member of the Council of Representatives

Member of the Council of Representatives

Foreign Relations Committee

Member of the Council of Representatives

Member of the House of Representatives

Member of the Council of Representatives

Foreign Relations Committee

Secretary General, Council of Representatives

Manager of departments of International Relations,  
Council of RepresentativesManager of departments of International Relations,  
Council of Representatives**IRELAND – IRLANDE**

O'DONOVAN, Denis (Mr.)

Leader of the Delegation

O'MAHONY, John (Mr.)

RUANE, Lynn (Ms.)

HORKAN, Gerald (Mr.)

PRINGLE, Thomas (Mr.)

HART, Aisling (Ms.)

Staff

HAMILTON, John (Mr.)

Staff

GUNN, Elaine (Ms.)

Staff

(FF: Fianna Fáil )

(FG: Fine Gael )

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

Speaker of the Senate (FF)

Chair of the Committee on Procedures & Privileges  
(Seanad Éireann)

Member of the Senate (FG)

Committee on Transport Tourism and Sport

Member of the Senate (Ind)

Committee on Education and Skills

Member of the Senate (Seanad Éireann)

Member of the House of Representatives (Ind)

Committee on Climate Action

**ITALY – ITALIE**

CASINI, Pier Ferdinando (Mr.) President of the Group, IPU Honorary President, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate (Svp-Patt-UV) Foreign Affairs Committee
PAGANO, Alessandro (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (L-SP) Finance Committee
MIGLIORE, Gennaro (Mr.) Counter-Terrorism Group	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (IV) Foreign Affairs Committee
QUARTAPELLE PROCOPIO, Lia (Ms.) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PD) Foreign Affairs Committee
SORBELLO, Roberto (Mr.) Secretary General of the Group	Adviser, Chamber of Deputies
RADONI, Susanna (Ms.) Secretary of the Italian IPU Group	Official, Protocol, Chamber of Deputies
LASORSA, Antonella (Ms.) Interpreter	Chamber of Deputies
OLMEDA, Claudio (Mr.) Interpreter	Senate
LO CASCIO, Carlo (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
(Svp-Patt-UV: Autonomie (Svp-Patt, Uv) / Autonomies / Autonomies)	
(L-SP: Lega-Salvini Premier / League / Ligue)	
(IV: Italia Viva)	
(PD: Partito Democratico / Democratic Party / Parti Démocrate)	

**JAPAN – JAPON**

FUKUI, Teru (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Representatives (LDP) Standing Committee on Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
FUJISUE, Kenzo (Mr.)	Member of the House of Councillors (LDP) Committee on Financial Affairs Committee on Oversight of Administration Special Committee on Political Ethics and Election System Special Committee on Regional Revitalization and Consumer Affairs
KAMIKAWA, Yoko (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives (LDP) Standing Committee on Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Commission on the Constitution
AOYAGI, Yoichiro (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (CDP) Director of the Standing Committee on Audit and Oversight of Administration Director of the Special Committee on Promotion of Science and Technology, and Innovation
YAKURA, Katsuo (Mr.)	Member of the House of Councillors (K) Committee on Oversight of Administration Director of the Special Committee on Disasters Adviser, House of Representatives
TAIE, Yuichiro (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Adviser, House of Representatives
NISHIKOBE, Natsuko (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Adviser, House of Representatives
YOSHIZUMI, Ikuko (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Adviser, House of Representatives
NISHIHARA, Narumi (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Adviser, House of Representatives
TOGAWA, Hiroyuki (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Adviser, House of Councillors
ONO, Chihiro (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Adviser, House of Councillors
ITO, Akari (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Adviser, House of Councillors

MARUYAMA, Junichi (Mr.)  
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

(LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate )

(CDP: The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan)

(K: Komeito / Komei)

## JORDAN – JORDANIE

ALTARAWNEH, Atif (Mr.)	Speaker of the House of Representatives
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	
ALNAJJAR, Moh'd (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
BARHAM, Kamal (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
BAKKAR, Khaled (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
BANI MUSTAFA, Wafa (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives
ODAT, Abdelminem (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
SARAIHEH, Raja (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
ADWAN, Firas (Mr.)	Secretary General, House of Representatives
Member of the ASGP	
AKAILEH, Hamzeh (Mr.)	Advisor, House of Representatives
ALWAKED, Abdelrahim (Mr.)	Advisor, House of Representatives
MAJALI, Ayman (Mr.)	Advisor, House of Representatives
NAZZAL, Ala'a (Ms.)	Advisor, House of Representatives
MASHAKBEH, Adnan (Mr.)	Advisor, Senate
NEIMAT, Husam (Mr.)	Advisor, House of Representatives

## KAZAKHSTAN

NIGMATULIN, Nurlan (Mr.)	Speaker of the Mazhilis (Nur Otan)
Leader of the Delegation	
SHAKIROV, Askar (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the Senate (Nur Otan)
Participant to Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	
YERMAN, Mukhtar (Mr.)	Member of the Mazhilis (Nur Otan)
Participant to Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs, Defence and Security
KAZBEKOVA, Meruyert (Ms.)	Member of the Mazhilis (Ak Zhol)
OMARBEKOVA, Zhuldyz (Ms.)	Member of the Mazhilis (Nur Otan)
MAMRAYEV, Beibit (Mr.)	Member of the Mazhilis (Nur Otan)
OLEINIK, Vassily (Mr.)	Member of the Mazhilis (Nur Otan)
SULTANOV, Erik (Mr.)	Member of the Mazhilis (Nur Otan)
ALTAYEV, Nurzhan (Mr.)	Member of the Mazhilis (Nur Otan)
BEKBANOVA, Zhanar (Ms.)	Deputy Secretary General of the Mazhilis
BOTABAYEVA, Botagoz (Ms.)	Deputy Head of the International Affairs and Protocol Department, Mazhilis
KASSYMBEKOV, Talgat (Mr./M.)	Head of the International Affairs and Protocol Department, Mazhilis
MAKHAYEV, Dastan (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary General, Mazhilis
MEDEUBAY, Darkhan (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary General, Mazhilis
UZBEKOVA, Ainur (Ms.)	Advisor
SYZDYKBEKOV, Gabit (Mr.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative	

(Nur Otan: People's Democratic Party "Nur Otan" / Parti populaire et démocratique " Nur Otan ")

(Ak Zhol: Democratic Party of Kazakhstan «Ak Zhol» / Parti démocratique 'Ak Zhol')

## KENYA

LUSAKA, Kenneth (Mr.)	Speaker of the Senate
Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the Delegation	Chairperson of the Senate Business Committee
MARIRU, Patrick (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (JP)
Co-Rapporteur Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Sessional Committee on Procedure and House Rules
KIHIKA, Susan (Ms.)	Sessional Committee on Delegated Legislation
President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Senate (JP)
	Business Committee
	Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights
	Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations

LOKORIO, Petronila (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (ANC) Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare Standing Committee on Health
SAKAJA, Johnson (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (JP) Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations Member of the National Assembly (ODM) Departmental Committee on Defence and Foreign Relations Sessional Committee on Parliamentary Broadcasting and Library
GOGO, Lilian (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (JP) Chairperson of the Sessional Committee on Regional Integration Budget and Appropriations Committee Member of the National Assembly (ODM) National Cohesion and Equal Opportunities Committee Departmental Committee on Sports, Culture and Tourism
LESUUDA, Naisula (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (MDC) Departmental Committee on Health Member of Parliament, National Assembly
ODUOL, Jacqueline (Ms.)	
OCHIENG, David (Mr.)	
MWANGI, Benjamin (Mr.) Adviser	
SIALAI, Michael (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Clerk of the National Assembly
KIOKO, Serah (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Clerk, National Assembly
ALI, Mohamed (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Clerk, Senate, Senate
KINYUA, Caroline (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Senior Clerk Assistant, Senate
MGHANGA, Innocent (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Clerk Assistant I, Senate
IMBO, Victor (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Clerk Assistant I, National Assembly
NJOROGE NDUNGU, David (Mr.) KISAMA, Madeline (Ms.) Adviser	Assistant to Sen. Sakaja Speaker's Office, Senate
MOGERE, Zakayo (Mr.)	Deputy Director, Legislative and Procedural Services, Senate
BOSIRE, Eric (Mr.) MUTULU, Francis (Mr.) SWALEH MWACHIDAGAYA, Mohamed (Mr.) Diplomat	Principal ICT Officer, Senate Media Relations Officer, National Assembly
(JP: Jubilee Party / Parti Jubilee) (ODM: Orange Democratic Movement / Mouvement démocratique orange) (MDC: Movement for Democratic Change / Mouvement pour le changement démocratique) (ANC: Amani National Congress / Congrès national Amani)	

**KUWAIT – KOWEIT**

ALGHANIM, Marzouq (Mr.) President of the Group	Speaker of the National Assembly
ALDEQBASI, Ali (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Public Utilities
AL-DALAL, Mohammed (Mr.) ALHASHIM, Safaa (Ms.) Bureau of the Committee on UN Affairs	Member of the National Assembly Member of the National Assembly
ALNUSF, Rakan (Mr.) ALSUBAIE, Alhumaidi (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Member of the National Assembly Committee on Legislation and Legal Affairs
ALROWAIE, Oudah (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly



ALTABTABAE, Omar (Mr.)  
ALKANDARI, Allam (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP  
ALANEZI, Mishal (Mr.)

ALMOTAWWA, Amal (Ms.)  
FARDAN, Amer (Mr.)  
ALSAEID, Mohammad (Mr.)

ALAJMI, Mobarak (Mr.)  
ALDOWAIHI, Nasser (Mr.)  
ALHARBAN, Talal (Mr.)  
ALKANDARI, Othman (Mr.)  
ALAWADHI, Abdullah (Mr.)

ALZAMIL, Hissa (Ms.)

ALMONEEFI, Jamal (Mr.)  
ALBEHBEHANI, Ahmad (Mr.)

ALALI, Sahar (Mr.)  
ALMUTAWA, Bader (Mr.)  
ANWAR, Sabri (Mr.)  
ALYASEEN, Mohammed (Mr.)  
Adviser

ASHKANANI, Hussain (Mr.)  
BOHAMDI, Ahmad (Mr.)  
SHESHTARI, Bader (Mr.)  
ALSUBAIE, Sara (Ms.)

ALSOBAIE, Meslet (Mr.)  
ALNESEF, Jasem (Mr.)  
ALSANAD, Muhammed (Mr.)  
ALMUOUSHARJI, Saed (Mr.)  
ABDULSAMAD, Yousef (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

Member of the National Assembly  
Secretary General, National Assembly

Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Organization  
Department, National Assembly  
Director of the Media Department, National Assembly  
Director, National Assembly  
Director of the Secretary General's Office, National Assembly  
Head Section of Protocol, National Assembly  
Head of the Media Section, National Assembly  
Head of the IPU Affairs Section, National Assembly  
Head Section - VIP Protocol Section, National Assembly  
Head of the International Affairs Section, Speaker's Office, National Assembly  
Head Section of Arab and Islamic Parliamentary Unions, National Assembly  
Protocol, Speaker's Office, National Assembly  
Political Researcher, Inter-Parliamentary Organization  
Department, National Assembly  
Adviser, National Assembly  
Adviser, National Assembly  
Adviser, National Assembly  
Speaker's Office, National Assembly

Adviser, National Assembly  
Secretary, National Assembly  
Secretary, National Assembly  
Political Researcher - Inter-Parliamentary Organization  
Department, National Assembly  
Secretary, National Assembly  
Section Head - SG office, National Assembly  
Protocol, National Assembly  
Secretary or adviser, National Assembly

#### **LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE LAO**

BOUTTANAVONG, Bounpone (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
THEPHACHANH, Viengthavisone (Mr.)

YIAPAOHER, Manivanh (Ms.)

ANOTHAY, Khemphone (Mr.)

KEOLA, Anyphet (Ms.)

PHONGSA, Anousak (Mr.)

SIVANNA, Thansamay (Mr.)  
Diplomat  
KEORODOM, Nilandone (Mr.)  
Diplomat

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Member of the National Assembly  
Vice-chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs  
Member of the National Assembly  
Vice-chairperson of the Committee of Social and Cultural Affairs  
Director General of Inter-Parliamentary Relations  
Department, National Assembly  
Officer of Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department, National Assembly  
Secretary to the Vice-President of the National Assembly

#### **LATVIA – LETTONIE**

DAUDZE, Gundars (Mr.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation

TEIRUMNIEKS, Edmunds (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (ZZS)  
Legal Affairs Committee  
Secretary of the Parliamentary Inquiry Committee  
Member of Parliament (NA)  
Social and Employment Matters Committee  
Secretary of the Sustainable Development Committee

RAFELDE, Lelde (Ms.)  
Member of the ASGP  
PAURA, Sandra (Ms.)  
Secretary of the Group

Secretary General, Parliament  
  
Head of the Interparliamentary Relations Bureau,  
Parliament

(ZZS: Union of Farmers and Greens / Union des Verts et des paysans)  
(NA: National Alliance / Alliance nationale)

**LESOTHO**

THEKO, Khoabane Solomon (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
MOSENENE, Kemiso Pascalis (Mr.)

Member of the Senate  
Legislation Committee  
Member of the Senate (ABC)  
HIV & AIDS Committee  
Clerk to the Senate

MOLETE, Selete (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP  
MAKHAPHA, Mabokang Violet (Ms.)  
Secretary of the Group

Principal Legal Officer, Senate

(ABC: All Basotho Convention )

**LIBYA – LIBYE**

SALIM, Fouzi (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
HOMA, Ihmed (Mr.)

First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives

Second Deputy Speaker of the House of  
Representatives

AMER, Abdullah (Mr.)  
NASEB, Abdelbast (Mr.)

Assistant, House of Representatives  
Assistant, House of Representatives

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

WOHLWEND, Mario (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
HASLER, Johannes (Mr.)  
WACHTER, Gabriele (Ms.)  
Secretary of the Group

Member of the Diet (VU)

Member of the Diet (FBP)  
Secretary, Diet

(FBP: Progressive Peoples Party / Parti des citoyens progressistes)  
(VU: Patriotic Union / Union patriotique)

**LITHUANIA – LITUANIE**

BUROKIENE, Guoda (Ms.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
JARUTIS, Jonas (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (LVZS)  
Chair of the Committee on State Administration and  
Local Authorities  
Member of Parliament (LVZS)  
National Security Committee  
EU Affairs Committee  
Secretary General of Seimas

RAUDONIENE, Daiva (Ms.)  
Member of the ASGP  
BIELINIENE, Audrone (Ms.)  
Secretary of the delegation

Senior adviser, Parliament

(LVZS: Lithuanian Peasant and Green Union / Union populaire des paysans de Lituanie )

**MADAGASCAR**

RABENIRINA, Jean Jacques (M.)  
Chef de la délégation  
  
BERNANDO, Germain Berton Ndrianasy (M.)  
RAFENOMANANTSOA, Tsirimaharo Ny Aina (Mme)  
RAHARIMAMPIONONA, Raharimampionona (Mme)  
RASOLOMANANA, Beby Olivier (M.)  
RANDRIAMAHAFANJARY, Calvin (M.)  
Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (IRD)  
Membre Commission du développement durable, du  
financement et du commerce  
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MDM)  
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (IRD)  
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (GPR)  
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (IRD)  
Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale

(IRD: Isika Rehetra Miaraka amin'i Andry Rajoelina )  
(MDM: Mouvement pour la démocratie à Madagascar)  
(GPR: Groupe des parlementaires républicains)

**MALAWI**

GOTANI HARA, Catherine (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (MCP)
CHAMBO, Benedicto (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (DPP)
JOLOBALA, Esther (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (UDF)
KAPICHIRA MUSSA, Misolo (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (UDF)
MLOMBWA, Claude Clement (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (MCP)
KALEMBA, Fiona (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly
MWENYEHELI, Jeffrey (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	Assistant Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly
(MCP: Malawi Congress Party / Parti du Congrès du Malawi )	
(DPP: Democratic Progressive Party / Parti démocratique progressiste )	
(UDF: United Democratic Front / Front démocratique unifié)	

**MALAYSIA – MALAISIE**

SYED NOH, Syed Ibrahim (Mr.) Treasurer of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Representatives (AoH - PJP) Special Select Committee on Major Public Appointment
MD. NORDIN, Fahariyah (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (BN - UNMO)
HASHIM, Awang (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (PAS)
SULAIMAN, Ma'mun (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (WARISAN) Member Special Select Committee on Rights and Gender Equality
WONG, Vivian Shir Yee (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives (AoH - DAP)
IBHARIM, Nurul Fadhilah (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Assistant Secretary, International Relations and Protocol Division, House of Representatives
NIK MOHD KAMIL, Nik Ardy Arman (Mr.) Diplomat	
(AoH - PJP: The Alliance of Hope - People's Justice Party / L'alliance de l'espoir - Parti de la justice du peuple)	
(BN - UNMO: National Front - United Malays National Organization / Front national - Organisation malaisienne nationale unie)	
(PAS: Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party / Parti islamique pan-malaisien )	
(WARISAN: Sabah Heritage Party / Parti Warisan Sabah )	
(AoH - DAP: The Alliance of Hope - Democratic Action Party / L'alliance de l'espoir - Parti de l'action démocratique )	

**MALDIVES**

AZIM, Ali (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the People's Majlis (MDP) Deputy Chair of the Secondary Legislation Committee Security Services Committee
HUSSAIN, Hisaan (Ms.)	Member of the People's Majlis (MDP) Judiciary Committee Decentralization Committee
RIYAZ, Abdulla (Mr.)	Member of the People's Majlis Deputy Chair of the Public Accounts Committee (JP) Security Services Committee Budget Analysis Committee
SHAREEF, Adam (Mr.)	Member of the People's Majlis (PNC) Security Services Committee Ethics, Immunities and Privileges Committee Government Oversight Committee Secretary General, People's Majlis
NIUSHA, Fathimath (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	
BADHREE, Zuyyina (Ms.) Administrative Secretary of IPU Maldives Branch	Director, Foreign Relations, People's Majlis
(MDP: Maldivian Democratic Party / Parti démocratique des Maldives )	
(JP: Jumhooree Party / Parti Jumhooree )	
(PNC: People's National Congress / Congrès national populaire)	

**MALI**

CISSÉ, Amadou (M.) Leader of the Delegation	Membre de l'Assemblée Nationale (VRD) Commission des travaux publics
DRAME, Maimouna (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée Nationale (RPM) Commission travail et emploi

TIMBINE, Moussa (M.)  
Président délégué du Groupe  
SIDIBE, Modibo (M.)  
Secrétaire de Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

Membre de l'Assemblée Nationale (RPM)  
Commission des lois  
Secrétaire Général, Assemblée Nationale

(VRD: Republican and Democratic Vigilance / Vigilance Républicaine et Démocratique)  
(RPM: Rally for Mali / Rassemblement pour le Mali)

**MALTA – MALTE**

GALEA, Mario (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
VELLA, Andre (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group

Member of the House of Representatives (PN)  
Manager II (Research), House of Representatives

(PN: Partit Nazzjonalista )

**MEXICO – MEXIQUE**

ROJAS HERNÁNDEZ, Laura Angélica (Ms.)  
Leader of the delegation  
JARA CRUZ, Salomón (Mr.)  
MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA, Verónica (Mrs.)

Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies (PAN)  
Vice-President of the Senate  
Member of the Senate (PRI)  
Committee on Economics  
Committee on Public Security  
Youth and Sports Committee  
Member of the Senate (PAN)  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Committee on Economy  
Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PAN)  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Committee on Sports  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PRI)  
Committee on Education  
Committee on Social Development  
Committee on Gender Equality  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
Head of International Affairs and Parliamentary Relations Unit, Chamber of Deputies

REYNOSO SÁNCHEZ, Alejandra Noemí (Ms.)

NUÑEZ CERÓN, Saraí (Ms.)

LÓPEZ CASTRO, Cynthia Iliana (Ms.)

VILLEGAS ARREOLA, Alfredo (Mr.)  
HERNÁNDEZ VALLEJO, José María (Mr.)

GARCÍA BLANCO, Marco Antonio (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

(PAN: National Action Party / Parti de l'Action nationale)  
(PRI: Institutional Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire institutionnel)

**MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF) - MICRONESIE (ETATS FEDERES DE)**

SIMINA, Wesley W. (Mr.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of the Congress  
Committee on Education  
Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee  
Transportation and Communications Committee

NETH, Dion G. (Mr.)

Member of the Congress  
Committee on External Affairs  
Chairman of the Committee on Resources and Development

PALIK, Aren B. (Mr.)

Committee on Ways and Means  
Member of the Congress  
Vice Chairman of the Committee on Education  
Committee on Health and Social Affairs  
Vice Chairman of the Committee on Resources and Development

ROMOLOW, Robson U. (Mr.)

Member of the Congress  
Committee on External Affairs  
Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations  
Committee on Ways and Means

URUSEMAL, Joseph J. (Mr.)

Member of the Congress  
Chairman of the Committee on Education  
Health and Social Affairs Committee  
Ways and Means Committee  
Assistant PIO, Congress

CHORR, Andy P. (Mr.)

Secretary of the Group

DANG, Tung-lam (Mr.)

Adviser to the Group

Legislative Counsel, Congress

**MONACO**

NOTARI, Fabrice (M.)

Membre du Conseil national (PM)

Chef de la délégation, Chef de la délégation

FRESKO-ROLFO, Béatrice (Mme)

Membre du Conseil national (HM)

PELLEGRIN, Victoria (Mme)

Chargée des affaires internationales, Conseil national

Secrétaire de la délégation

(PM: Primo! Monaco as Priority / Primo ! Priorité Monaco)

(HM: Monaco Horizon / Horizon Monaco)

**MONGOLIA – MONGOLIE**

NAVAAN-YUNDEN, Oyundari (Ms.)

Member of the Ulsiin Ih Hural (State Great Hural) (MPP)

Bureau of the Committee on Peace and International

Security, Leader of the Delegation

BATSUKH, Saranchimeg (Ms.)

Member of the Ulsiin Ih Hural (State Great Hural) (MPP)

NYAM-OSOR, Uchral (Mr.)

Member of the Ulsiin Ih Hural (State Great Hural) (MPP)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs

BAASANKHUU, Oktyabri (Mr.)

Member of the Ulsiin Ih Hural (State Great Hural) (MPP)

BOLD, Luvsanvandan (Mr.)

Member of the Ulsiin Ih Hural (State Great Hural)  
(RCUC)

MARUUSH, Batbold (Mr.)

Advisor, Secretariat of Ulsiin Ih Hural (State Great Hural),

BATBAYAR, Zeneemyadar (Mr.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

(MPP: Mongolian People's Party / Parti populaire mongole)

(RCUC: Righteous Citizens United Coalition)

**MONTENEGRO**

BRAJOVIC, Ivan (Mr.)

Speaker of Parliament (SD)

Leader of the Delegation

LALICIC, Jovanka (Ms.)

Member of Parliament (DPS)

Legislative Committee

Committee on Political System, Judiciary and  
Administration

NIKOLIC, Milos (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (DPS)

Committee on International Relations and Emigrants

Legislative Committee

Committee on Political System, Judiciary and  
Administration

NUMANOVIC, Suad (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (DPS)

Chairman of the Committee on Health, Labour and  
Social Welfare

Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms

Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro

JOVICEVIC, Aleksandar (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

KOVACEVIC, Jovana (Ms.)

Head of the Secretary General Office, Parliament of  
Montenegro

Member of the ASGP

DAVIDOVIC, Jelena (Ms.)

Adviser to the Speaker of the Parliament

KRIVOKAPIC, Tatjana (Ms.)

Main Adviser to the Speaker of the Parliament

MARAS, Marija (Ms.)

Secretary to the delegation

(SD: Social Democrats of Montenegro / Parti social-démocrate du Monténégro)

(DPS: Democratic Party of Socialists / Parti démocratique socialiste)

**MOROCCO – MAROC**

TOUIZI, Ahmed (M.) Bureau de la Commission de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme, Chef de la délégation	Vice-Président de la Chambre des Conseillers (PAM)
BENMASSOUD, Mohamed Salem (M.)	Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PI)
EL IDRISSE, Driss El Azami (M.)	Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PJD)
EL HILAA, Rahhou (M.) Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce	Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PAM)
LAZREK, Nourddine (M.)	Membre de la Chambre des représentants (UC)
TOUMI, Ahmed (M.) Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies	Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PI)
CHEIKHI, Nabil (M.)	Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PJD)
EL KHADI, Najib (M.) Vice-Président de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général, Chambre des représentants
SATRAOUY, Said (M.) Secrétaire administratif du Groupe	Chef de la Division des relations internationales et de la coopération, Chambre des Représentants
ANTRA, Mustafa (M.)	Chef de la Division de la communication
BENNANI, Nahid (Mme) Conseillère	Conseillère, Chambre des Conseillers
BELHAJ, Amine (M.) Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent	
(PAM: Authenticity and Modernity Party / Parti Authenticité et Modernité)	
(PI: Istiqlal Party / Parti Istiqlal)	
(PJD: Justice and Development Party / Parti de la justice et du développement )	
(UC: Constitutional Union / Union constitutionnelle )	

**MYANMAR**

WIN, Than (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Nationalities (NLD) Chairperson of the International Relations, Parliamentary Friendships and Cooperation Committee Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Inter- Parliamentary Union
HTUN, Myat Thida (Ms.)	Member of the House of Nationalities (NLD) Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee Non-Governmental Organizations and International Non- governmental Organizations Committee
AUNG, Myo Zaw (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (NLD) International Relations Committee Joint Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Union
LYNN, Hla Thida (Ms.) Diplomat	
AUNG, Lin Htet (Mr.) Diplomat	
(NLD: National League for Democracy / League nationale pour la démocratie)	

**NAMIBIA – NAMIBIE**

KATJAVIVI, Peter (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (SWAPO) Chairperson of the IPU; Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders and Internal Arrangements; Standing Committee on Privileges
MENSAH-WILLIAMS, Margaret Natalie (Ms.) President of the Group	Speaker of the National Council (SWAPO) Chairperson of the Standing Rules and Orders Committee Chairperson of the Privileges and Immunities Committee
BOOIS, Dawid (Mr.)	Member of the National Council (SWAPO) Member Standing Rules and Orders Committee

DIENDA, Elma (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (PDM) Member Committee on Human Resources and Community Development Public Accounts Committee on Gender Equality, Social Development and Family Affairs
SIBUNGO, Heather (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Chairperson of the Human Resources and Community Development Standing Committee on Economics Secretariat, National Assembly
KANDETU, Lydia (Ms.) Secretary, Member of the ASGP	Secretariat, National Assembly
MUTONGA, Albius (Mr.) Advisor	Chief Researcher, National Assembly
SANZILA, George (Mr.) TJITENDERO, Ripuree (Ms.)	Personal Assistant to the Speaker of the National Assembly Director of General Services, National Council
INDOMBO, Lydia (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Personal Assistant to the Chairperson, National Council
NAKUTWIMA, Mirjam N (Ms.) NAMISEB, Tousy (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary to the National Council
SHALI, Auguste Tegelela (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Parliamentary Clerk, National Council
(SWAPO: South West Africa People's Organization / Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain) (PDM: Popular Democratic Movement / Mouvement démocratique populaire)	

**NEPAL**

TIMILSINA, Ganesh Prasad (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly
BHATTARAI, Khim Lal (Mr.) NAZE, Ruhi (Ms.) SHARMA, Indu Kumari (Ms.) TIMALSENA, Dev Prasad (Mr.) PANDEY, Badri Prasad (Mr.) BHATTARAI, Manohar Prasad (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Member of the National Assembly Member of the National Assembly Member of the National Assembly Member of the National Assembly Member of the National Assembly General Secretary, Federal Parliament
PHUYAL, Rajendra (Mr.)	Secretary, National Assembly,

**NETHERLANDS - PAYS-BAS**

ATSMA, Joop (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate (CDA)
GERKENS, Arda (Ms.) Vice-president of the Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	First Deputy Speaker of the Senate (PS)
GEERDINK, Paulien (Ms.) MULDER, Agnes (Ms.) Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the Senate (VVD) Member of the House of Representatives (CDA)
NEHMELMAN, Remco (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Senate
BERCK, René (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives
BAKKER-DE JONG, Femmy (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	House of Representatives
FONCK, Tim (Mr.)	Staff, Senate

(CDA: Christian Democratic Appeal / Appel chrétien-démocrate)

(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)

(VVD: People's Party for Freedom and Democracy / Parti populaire pour la liberté et la démocratie)

**NEW ZEALAND - NOUVELLE-ZELANDE**

TOLLEY, Anne (Ms.) Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women, Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives (NP) Member of the Business Committee Deputy chairperson of the Officers of Parliament
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CARTER, David (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (NP) Finance and Expenditure Committee Privileges Committee
MCANULTY, Kieran (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (L) Primary Production Committee
GOLDSMITH, Paul (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (NP) Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee
DELANEY, Ruth (Ms.) Secretary of Group, Member of the ASGP	Parliamentary Officer (Parliamentary Relations), House of Representatives
(NP: National Party / Parti national) (L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)	

**NICARAGUA**

ESPINALES, Maritza (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (FSLN) Member Committee on Education, Culture, Sports and Social Media
(FSLN: Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional / )	

**NIGER**

IRO, Sani (M.) Chef de la délégation	Premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS) Commission des Affaires générales et institutionnelles Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPR Jamhouria) Commission de la défense et de la sécurité Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS) Commission du développement rural et de l'Environnement
MAHAMADOU A., Alkassoum (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MNSD) Commission des affaires économiques et du plan Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Commission des affaires économiques et du plan (CDS) Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS) Commission des affaires sociales et culturelles Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AMEN-AMIN) Commission des finances et du budget Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FA-Lumana) Commission des affaires économiques et du plan Conseiller technique de commission, Assemblée nationale
HABIBOU, Aminatou (Mme)	Directeur de cabinet adjoint du Président, Assemblée nationale
MAIZOUMBOU, Laoual Amadou (M.) Vice-Président du Groupe MAMADOU, Boulou (M.)	
SALEY, Mahamane (M.)	
NOUHOU, Daoudou (M.)	
SOUMANA, Hassane (M.)	
HASSANE, Ganda (M.) Conseiller technique du Groupe MOSSI, Moussa (M.) Conseiller du Groupe	
(PNDS: Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism / Parti Nigérien pour la Démocratie et le Socialisme) (MPR Jamhouria: Patriotic Movement for the Republic / Mouvement patriotique pour la République) (MNSD: National Movement for the Development Society / Mouvement National pour la Société de Développement) (AMEN-AMIN: Alliance of Movements for the Emergence of Niger / Alliance des mouvements pour l'émergence du Niger) (FA-Lumana: MODEN/FA-Lumana – Mouvement démocratique nigérien pour une fédération africaine) (CDS: Convention Démocratique et Sociale)	

**NIGERIA**

AHMED, Idris (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Representatives (APC) Chairman of the ECOWAS Parliament and Constitutional Review
AHMAD IBRAHIM, Lawan (Mr.) FRANCIS EZENWA, Enyewuchi (Mr.)	Speaker of the Senate (APC) Member of the Senate Vice Chairman of the State and Local Government Member of the Senate Vice Chairman of the Media and Public Affairs
GODIYA, Akwashiki (Mr.)	
KABIRU BARKIA, Abdullahi (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Vice Chairman of the Labour & Productivity



OKOJI ROSE, Dr. Oko (Ms.)	Member of the Senate Chairman of the Trade and Investment
FULATA, Abubakar Hassan (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (APC) Chairman of the Rules and Businesses Committee
IBRAHIM BUKAR ABBA, Khadija (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives (APC) Chair of the North East Development Commission
ADEKUNLE ADEOLA, Alabi (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Ad hoc Committee on Young Parliamentarians, Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations
TUKUR IDRIS, Amiruddin (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (APC)
ZAKARIYAU MOHAMMAD, Galadima (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (APC) Chairman, member of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Adhoc Committee on Power Clerk of Senate
AYEWOH, Nelson Ibhaguezege (Mr.)	
Secretary of the ASGP Group	
ASHIEKAA, Christopher Vershima (Mr.)	Director, Department of Monitoring, Evaluation and Compliance
Secretary to the Clerk to the National Assembly	
ALFA SALISU, Abdulrahman-Na'ibi (Mr.)	Clerk, Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations, House of Representatives
Secretary to the Chairman House Committee on Inter- Parliamentary Relations	
JOSEPH ORU, Oru (Mr.)	Secretary, Directorate of Inter-Parl. Relations & Protocol
Secretary of the ASGP Group	
OLATUNJI BABATUNDE, Bello (Mr.)	Deputy Director, IPU Desk & Committee Clerk, Young Parliamentarians
Secretary to the Delegation	
SHEHU, Umar (Mr.)	
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation	
UMAR DANLADI, Zainab (Ms.)	ACLO IPU Desk

(APC: All Progressive Congress / Congrès progressiste)

(PDP: Peoples Democratic Party / Parti démocratique populaire)

**NORTH MACEDONIA - MACEDOINE DU NORD**

XHAFERI, Talat (Mr.)	Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic (DUI)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Issues
NIKOLOVA, Juliana (Ms.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (LDP) Committee on European Issues Committee on Education, Science and Sport Foreign Policy Committee
SHAQIRI, Agim (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (DUI) Deputy-Chair of the Committee on Economy Committee on Labour and Social Policy Committee on Rules of Procedure, Mandatory - Immunity Issues
VELKOVSKI, Dime (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (SDSM) Finances and Budget Committee Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources Management Committee on Transport, Communications and Environment
STEVANANDJIJA, Dimitar (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (VMRO-DPME) Deputy Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources Management Committee on Constitutional Issues Committee on Elections and Appointment Issues Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic
IVANOVA, Cvetanka (Ms.)	
Member of the ASGP	
BAJRAMI, Vjollca (Ms.)	Special Associate of the President, Assembly of the Republic Head of Division, Assembly of the Republic
OGNENOVSKA, Biljana (Ms.)	
Secretary to the Delegation	
SELMANI, Ilir (Mr.)	Chief of Cabinet of the Speaker, Assembly of the Republic
PANKOVSKA, Bojana (Mrs.)	Head of Unit – Special Associate on Protocol Activities and Organization.

POPOVSKI, Aleksandar (Mr.)  
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

(DUI: Democratic Union for Integration / Union démocratique pour l'intégration)

(SDSM: Social Democratic Union of Macedonia / Union social-démocrate de Macédoine)

(LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate)

(VMRO-DPME: VMRO-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity / VMRO-Parti démocratique pour l'unité nationale de Macédoine)

## NORWAY – NORVEGE

LEIRSTEIN, Ulf Isak (Mr.)

Leader of the Delegation

WOLD, Morten (Mr.)

AGDESTAIN, Elin Rodum (Ms.)

ARNSTAD, Marit (Ms.)

TRELLEVIK, Ove Bernt (Mr.)

AUKRUST, Åsmund (Mr.)

FRASER, Thomas (Mr.)

Secretary to the delegation

GABRIELSEN, Trond (Mr.)

Secretary to the delegation

STOCK, Lisbeth Merete (Ms.)

Secretary to the delegation

GJELSTAD, Jørn (Mr.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

(PP: Progress Party / Parti progressiste)

(C: Conservative Party / Parti Conservateur)

(CP: Centre Party / Parti du Centre)

(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)

Member of Parliament

Sub-Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs

Deputy Speaker of Parliament (PP)

Member Sub-Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs

Member of Parliament (C)

Sub-Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs

Member of Parliament (CP)

Sub-Committee on Education and Research

Member of Parliament (C)

Sub-Committee on Local Government and Public Administration

Member of Parliament (L)

Sub-Committee on Energy and the Environment

Parliament

Head of Section, Parliament

Adviser, Parliament

## OMAN

AL-GHASSANI, Mohammed (Mr.)

Leader of the Delegation

AL KHAROOSI, Naashiah (Ms.)

AL MANTHARI, Rayya (Ms.)

AL AMRI, Abdullah (Mr.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs

AL HASANI, Rashed (Mr.)

AL HADDABI, Ahmed (Mr.)

AL HAJRI, Marryam (Ms.)

AL MAHROUQI, Ali (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

AL UWAIISI, Aiman (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council

Member of the State Council

Member of the State Council

Member of the Shura Council

Member of the Shura Council

Member of the Shura Council

Social Studies Expert, State Council

Secretary General, Shura Council

Secretary, Shura Council

## PAKISTAN

KAISER, Asad (Mr.)

President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

RABBANI, Mian Raza (Mr.)

NAEK, Farooq Hamid (Mr.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs

DURRANI, Shahzaib (Mr.)

IMAM, Syed Fakhar (Mr.)

ARBAB, Sher Ali (Mr.)

Speaker of the National Assembly (PTI)

Président de l'Assemblée nationale

Member of the Senate (PPPP)

Delegated Legislation and Devolution

Rules of Procedure and Privileges

Member of the Senate (PPPP)

Finance, Revenues and Economic Affairs

Member of the Senate (PML-N)

Chairman of the Planning Development and Reforms

Member of the National Assembly (PTI)

Member of the National Assembly (PTI)

KHAN, Haider Ali (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (PTI)
MARRI, Shazia (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (PPPP)
MENGAL, Muhammad Akhtar (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (BNP)
TIWANA, Malik Ehsanullah (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (PTI)
CHEEMA Nisar Ahmad (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
AZIZ, Mohsin (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
Adviser	
REHMAN, Sherry (Ms.)	Member of the Senate
Adviser	
ANWAR, Muhammad (Mr.)	Secretary General, Senate
Member of the ASGP	
HUSSAIN, Tahir (Mr.)	Secretary General, National Assembly
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	
CHAUDHRY, Waseem Iqbal (Mr.)	Director General (International & Public Relations), National Assembly
Advisor to the delegation	Deputy Director
MAJEED, Muhammad Asad (Mr.)	Assistant Director, International Relations
ALI, Muhammad (Mr.)	Joint Secretary, Senate
JAVOID, Shaukat (Mr.)	Assistant Director
SHAKIR, Sabeeha (Ms.)	Joint Secretary (International & Public Relations), National Assembly
HASHMI, Syed Shamoon (Mr.)	Assistant Director (PR), National Assembly Secretariat
MEHMOOD, Arif (Mr.)	
KHAN, Shehryar Akbar (Mr.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
(PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf / Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf )	
(PPPP: Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians / Parlementaires du Parti du peuple pakistanais)	
(PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) / Ligue musulmane pakistanaise (Nawaz))	
(BNP: Balochistan National Party / Parti national Balochistan)	

**PALESTINE**

ALAHMAD, Azzam (Mr.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council (F)
Committee on Middle East Questions, Leader of the Delegation	Political Affairs Committee
ALWAZIR, Intisar (Ms.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council (F)
	Committee on Social Affairs
HAMAYEL, Omar (Mr.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council (F)
	Committee on Economic Affairs
KHADER, Qais (Mr.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council (DFLP)
	Political Committee
KHRAISHI, Ibrahim (Mr.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council (F)
	Political Affairs Committee
QASIM, Bilal (Mr.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council (PLF)
	Social Affairs Committee
KHRISHI, Ibrahim (Mr.)	Secretary General, Palestinian National Council
Member of the ASGP	
FOQAHAA, Hatem (Mr.)	Advisor, Palestinian National Council
SULAIMAN, Bashar (Mr.)	Director General of Inter-Parliamentary Relations,
Secretary of the Group	Palestinian National Council
NABHAN, Mohammed (Mr.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
(F: Fatah )	
(PLF: Palestine Liberation Front / Front de libération de la Palestine)	
(DFLP: Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine / Front démocratique pour la libération de la Palestine)	

**PANAMA**

VALLARINO, Marylin (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
Leader of the Delegation	
SELLHORN, Michelle (Ms.)	Adviser
VALLARINO, Massiel (Ms.)	Adviser

**PARAGUAY**

LLANO, Blas (Mr.)  
Vice-President of GRULAC  
(PLRA: Partido Liberal Radical Auténtico )

Speaker of the Senate (PLRA)

**PERU – PEROU**

BETETA RUBÍN, Karina Julisa (Ms.)  
Leader of the Delegation

ALCORTA SUERO, María Lourdes (Ms.)

BARTRA BARRIGA, Rosa (Mrs.)  
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy  
and Human Rights

(FP: Popular Force / Force populaire)

Member of the Congress of the Republic (FP)  
First Vice-President of the General Committee  
First Vice-President of the Standing Committee  
Member Justice and Human Rights Committee  
Member of the Congress of the Republic (FP)  
Committee on National Defence, Internal Order,  
Alternative Development and Fight against Drugs  
External Affairs Committee  
Member of the Congress of the Republic (FP)

**PHILIPPINES**

SOTTO III, Vicente (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
RECTO, Ralph (Mr.)  
ZUBIRI, Juan Miguel (Mr.)  
DRILON, Franklin (Mr.)  
LACSON, Panfilo (Mr.)  
BINAY, Maria Lourdes Nancy (Ms.)  
VILLANUEVA, Joel (Mr.)  
HERNANDEZ, Ferdinand L. (Mr.)  
ARENAS, Rose Marie J. (Ms.)  
ESCUDERO, Evelina G. (Ms.)  
ZARATE, Carlos Isagani (Mr.)  
ANGARA, Juan Edgardo (Mr./ M.)  
Adviser  
GATCHALIAN, Sherwin (Mr.)  
Adviser  
VILLARICA, Myra Marie (Ms.)  
Member of the ASGP  
AMORIN, David Robert (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP  
DE GUZMAN JR., Antonio (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group  
AYSON, Esperanza (Ms.)  
Deputy Secretary of the Group  
ALANO, Corazon (Ms.)  
Secretary to the delegation  
SANTOS, Rosemarie (Ms.)  
Secretary to the delegation  
DE CHAVEZ, Cesar (Mr.)  
SABARRE, Raymund (Mr.)  
Technical Assistant  
BUENDIA JR., Efren (Mr.)  
Technical Assistant  
JUMERAS, Riza (Ms.)  
Protocol Officer and Delegation Secretary  
SO, Maria Elena (Ms.)  
GALAROSA, Marielle Milagrosa (Ms.)  
LOCSIN, Joel (Mr.)  
MACAPAYAG, Neliza (Ms.)  
PANGANIBAN, Michelson (Mr.)  
JIMENEZ, Aren (Ms.)

Speaker of the Senate  
  
Deputy Speaker of the Senate  
Member of the Senate  
Member of the Senate  
Member of the Senate  
Member of the Senate  
Member of the Senate  
Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Member of the House of Representatives  
Member of the Senate  
  
Member of the Senate  
  
Secretary of the Senate, Senate  
  
Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives  
  
Director General, Office of International Relations and  
Protocol, Senate  
Deputy Director General, Office of International  
Relations and Protocol, Senate  
House of Representatives  
  
House of Representatives  
  
Director for Protocol Service, Senate  
Assistant Director for International Relations Service,  
Senate  
Supervising Legislative Staff Officer I, Office of  
International Relations and Protocol, Senate  
Legislative Staff Officer V, Office of International  
Relations and Protocol, Senate  
Technical Assistant to Deputy Speaker Arenas  
Technical Assistant to Deputy Speaker Escudero  
Director V, Office of Senator Lacson  
Chief-of-Staff of Senator Zubiri  
Legislative Staff Officer IV, Office of Senator Binay  
Legislative Staff Officer V, Office of the Senate  
Secretary

FONTANILLA-LUCINARIO, Marian (Ms.)

DALISAY, Marlo (Mr.)

PORCALLA, Samuel Ceazar (Mr.)

YAP, Carleen Angelica (Ms.)

DE DIOS, Cherry (Ms.)

VILLANO-MILLERA, Sheela (Ms.)

Technical Staff of Senate President Sotto

SOTTO, Beverly Anne (Ms.)

Technical Staff of Senate President Sotto

SALAZAR, Cesar (Mr.)

SERRANO-CALUAG, Czarina Grace (Ms.)

PANGILINAN, Maria Fe (Ms.)

Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

Supervising Legislative Staff Officer I, Office of Senate President Sotto

Chief Political Affairs Officer, Office of Senator Lacson

Supervising Legislative Staff Officer II, Office of Senator Binay

Legislative Staff Officer III, Office of Senator Binay

Legislative Staff Officer IV, Office of the Senate

Secretary

Legislative Staff Head, Office of Senate President Sotto

Legislative Staff Officer V, Office of Senate President Sotto

Legislative Staff Head, Office of Senator Lacson

Director for Policy and Legislation, Office of Senator

Drilon

**POLAND – POLOGNE**

SEWERYNSKI, Michal (Mr.)

Leader of the Delegation

DOWHAN, Robert (Mr.)

DLUGI, Grzegorz (Mr.)

GRUBA, Wojciech (Mr.)

Secretary of the Group

JASKIEWICZ, Natalia (Ms.)

Substitute Member of the ASGP

KARWOWSKA-SOKOŁOWSKA, Agata (Ms.)

Substitute Member of the ASGP

WOJCIK, Agata (Ms.)

ORZECZOWSKA, Ida (Ms.)

Diplomat

KINDZIUK, Andrzej (Mr.)

Diplomat

(PiS: Law and Justice / Droit et justice)

(PO: Civic Platform / Plate-forme civique)

(K15: Kukiz'15)

Deputy Speaker of the Senate (PiS)

Member of the Senate (PO)

Member of the Sejm(K15)

Sejm

Vice-Director Bureau of International Relations, Sejm

Director of the Analysis and Documentation Office,  
Senate

Adviser, Senate

**PORTUGAL**

PACHECO, Duarte (Mr.)

President of the Twelve Plus Geopolitical Group, Leader of the Delegation

ARAÚJO, José Manuel (Mr.)

Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP

SANTOS, Suzana (Ms.)

Secretary of the Group

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

Member of the Assembly of the Republic (SDP)

Member Committee on Budget, Finance and Public Administration

Deputy Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic

Adviser of the International Relations and Cooperation  
Division Department, Assembly of the Republic**QATAR**

AL MAHMOUD, Ahmed Bin Abdulla Bin Zaid (Mr.)

President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

AL-MANSOORI, Reem Bint Mohammed (Ms.)

ALKHATER, Yousef Bin Rashed (Mr.)

ALHAIDAR, Nasser Sulaiman (Mr.)

AL-AHBABI, Mohammed Bin Mahdi (Mr.)

AL-HENZAB, Mohammed Bin Ali (Mr.)

AL-KHAYARIN, Fahad Mubarak (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

AL-SHAHWANI, Mesfer Hemaïd (Mr.)

AL-MAJED, Abdulreda (Mr.)

BOUCHKOUJ, Nouredine (Mr.)

BUZWEIR, Fahad (Mr.)

Speaker of the Shura Council

Member of the Shura Council

Member of the Shura Council

Member of the Shura Council

Member of the Shura Council

Member of the Shura Council

Secretary General, Shura Council

Director, Shura Council

Secretary, Shura Council

Adviser, Shura Council

Secretary, Shura Council

AL-MANSOURI, Meteb Arazzak (Mr.)  
 AL-QADI, Abderrahmane (Mr.)  
 AL-NOUBI, Ahmed Awad (Mr.)  
 AL-HAMMADI, Hamad (Mr.)  
 AL-MASLAMANI, Rashid (Mr.)  
 AL-FADALA, Mohamed (Mr.)  
 ALSAYED, Yousef (Mr.)  
 AL EMADI, Abdulla (Mr.)  
 ASHKANANI, Ahmad (Mr.)  
 AL THANI, Sheikhmubarak Bin Fahad (Mr.)  
 Ambassador/Permanent Representative

Secretary, Shura Council  
 Secretary, Shura Council  
 Secretary, Shura Council  
 Secretary, Shura Council  
 Secretary, Shura Council  
 Secretary, Shura Council  
 Secretary, Shura Council  
 Secretary, Shura Council  
 Secretary, Shura Council

# REPUBLIC OF KOREA - REPUBLIQUE DE COREE

MOON, Hee-sang (Mr.)  
 Leader of the Delegation  
 CHUN, Jung Bae (Mr.)

Speaker of the National Assembly

WON, Hye Young (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly  
 Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee  
 Member of the National Assembly (DPK)  
 Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee

JOO, Ho Young (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (LKP)  
 National Policy Committee

LEE, Myoung Su (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (LKP)  
 Health and Welfare Committee

YOU, Seung Hee (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly (DPK)  
 Strategy and Finance Committee

CHOI, Woon Youl (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (DPK)  
 National Policy Committee

KIM, Jong Seok (Mr.)  
 Committee on the Human Rights of  
 Parliamentarians

Member of the National Assembly (LKP)  
 National Policy Committee

LEE, Dong Sup (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (BP)  
 House Steering Committee  
 Secretary General of the National Assembly

YOO, Ihn Tae (Mr.)  
 Head of the ASGP Delegation,  
 Member of the ASGP

Senior Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly  
 Executive Assistant to the Secretary General, National  
 Assembly

LEE, Kye Sung (Mr.)  
 CHOI, Nam Keun (Mr.)  
 Member of the ASGP  
 HAN, Choong Hee (Mr.)

Ambassadorial Advisor to the Speaker for Foreign  
 Affairs, National Assembly

JEONG, Joon Hee (Mr.)

Special Assistant to the Speaker for Unification, National  
 Assembly

PARK, Hee Seok (Mr.)

Director General of the International Affairs and Protocol  
 Bureau, National Assembly

JEONG, Joon Hee (Mr.)

Special Assistant to the Speaker for Unification, National  
 Assembly

JU, Seong Hoon (Mr.)  
 CHEONG, Chi Eun (Ms.)

Director of the Protocol Division, National Assembly  
 Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Division, National  
 Assembly

BAE, Man Ho (Mr.)  
 SHIN, Jung Seob (Mr.)

Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly  
 Deputy Director of the European and African Affairs  
 Division, National Assembly

SHIN, Seung Woo (Mr.)

Deputy Director of the Protocol Division, National  
 Assembly

HAN, Min Soo (Mr.)

Spokesman of the National Assembly, National  
 Assembly

LEE, Han Seong (Mr.)

Deputy Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Division,  
 National Assembly

RYU, Dae Hyun (Mr.)  
 JEONG, So Young (Ms.)

Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly  
 Protocol Officer

Interpreter  
 IM, So (Ms.)  
 Interpreter

Protocol Officer

CHO, Seo Yeon (Ms.)

Interpreter

CHOE, Chan Kyoung (Ms.)

CHUNG, Yeon Hwa (Ms.)

KIM, Hae Jin (Ms.)

JANG, Seung Hun (Mr.)

SHIN, Dae Yong (Mr.)

LIM, Kyu Eun(karen) (Ms.)

LEE, Ji Yoon (Ms.)

CHOE, Hyoung-Chan (Mr.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

(DPK: Democratic Party of Korea / Parti démocratique coréen)

(LKP: Liberty Korea Party / Parti de la liberté)

(BP: Bareunmirae Party / Parti Bareunmirae)

Protocol Officer

International Cooperation Officer, National Assembly

Program Coordinator, National Assembly

Coordinateur de programme, Assemblée nationale

Program Officer, National Assembly

Program Coordinator, National Assembly

Program Coordinator, National Assembly

Program Officer, National Assembly

Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly

**REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA - REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA**

BOLOGAN, Victor (Mr.)

Leader of the Delegation

Member of Parliament (PSRM)

Committee on Culture, Education, Research, Youth,  
Sports and Mass Media

MALCOCI, Cristina (Ms.)

Secretary of the Group

Chief Consultant, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Unit,  
Directorate for Foreign Affairs, Parliament

(PSRM: Party of Socialists / Parti des socialistes)

**ROMANIA – ROUMANIE**

DINICĂ, Silvia-Monica (Ms.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable  
Development, Finance and Trade

Leader of the Delegation

ADNAGI, Slavoliub (Mr.)

Member of the Senate (USR)

Committee for Economic Affairs, Industries and Services  
Committee for Information Technologies and  
Communications

GHERMAN, Dumitru (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (NM)

Committee for Industries and Services

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (SDP)

Committee for Industries and Services

POPA, Florin (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (SDP)

Committee for Environment and Ecological Balance

GHEORGHE, Andrei Daniel (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (NLP)

Committee for Economic Policy, Reform and  
Privatisation

DUMITRESCU, Cristina (Ms.)

Secretary of the Group

Director, External Multilateral Relations Directorate,  
Senate

BÂGNEANU, Ioana (Ms.)

Secretary of the Group

Parliamentary Adviser, General Directorate for Foreign  
Affairs and Protocol, Chamber of Deputies

POPA, Oana-Cristina (Ms.)

Ambassador

(USR: Save Romania Union / Union Sauvez la Roumanie )

(NM: National Minorities / Minorités nationales)

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(NLP: National Liberal Party / Parti libéral national)

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION - FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**

MATVIENKO, Valentina (Ms.)

Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of the Council of the Federation

TOLSTOY, Petr (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker of the State Duma (UR)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and  
International Security, Leader of the Delegation

KARELOVA, Galina (Ms.)

Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Federation

GAVRILOV, Sergei (Mr.)  
Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs

KOSACHEV, Konstantin (Mr.)  
Member of the Executive Committee

PRIMAKOV, Evgeniy (Mr.)

SLUTSKIY, Leonid (Mr.)

VTORYGINA, Elena (Ms.)  
Bureau of Women Parliamentarian, Committee to Promote Respect for IHL

AFANASIEVA, Elena (Ms.)

GUMEROVA, Liliia (Ms.)  
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

KLIMOV, Andrei (Mr.)

RIAZANSKII, Valerii (Mr.)  
Adviser

GOLOV, Gennadii (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

GOROKHOVA, Valeria (Ms.)

MARIASHEVA, Iuliia (Ms.)

KOZLOV, Ivan (Mr.)

SHCHERBATKINA, Mariia (Ms.)

KARSEKA, Sergei (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group

BESSCHETNOV, Vladimir (Mr.)

KHAPALOVA, Ksenia (Ms.)

KOLODIN, Yakov (Mr.)

ALEKSEEV, Aleksandr (Mr.)

GAMBASHIDZE, Iliya (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group

FOLOMEEVA, Olga (Ms.)  
Secretary to the delegation, Member of the ASGP

STAVITSKY, Valery (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group

UDALOVA, Nataliia (Ms.)

ZHOLOBOVA, Maria (Ms.)  
Secretary of the Group

RYBNIKOV, Aleksei (Mr.)

PARUZIN, Nikolai (Mr.)

FOMENKO, Aleksandr (Mr.)

BABICH, Irina (Ms.)  
Secretary of the Group

ZHUKOVA, Inna (Ms.)

TARASOVA, Nadezhda (Ms.)

Member of the State Duma (CP)  
Chairman of the Committee on Development of Civil Society

Member of the Council of the Federation  
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee

Member of the State Duma (UR)  
Committee on International Affairs

Member of the State Duma (LDP)  
Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs

Member of the State Duma (UR)  
Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs

Member of the Council of the Federation  
Committee on Constitutional Legislation and State Building

Member of the Council of the Federation  
Chair of the Science, Education and Culture Committee

Member of the Council of the Federation  
Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee

Member of the Council of the Federation  
Chair of the Committee on Social Policy

Secretary General of the Federation Council

Director of International Relations, Council of the Federation

Chief of Protocol, Deputy Head of the International Relations Department of the Council of the Federation

Deputy Director of International Relations Department, Council of the Federation

Deputy Head of Office, Council of the Federation

Deputy Head of Department on Interparliamentary Cooperation, State Duma

Head of the Security service of the Council of the Federation

Deputy Head of the Financial and Economic Department of the Council of the Federation

Counsellor of the International Relations Department of the Council of the Federation

Assistant to the Chair of the Council of the Federation

Assistant to Mr. P. Tolstoy, State Duma

Deputy Head of the Division of International Organizations, International Relations Department, Council of the Federation

Senior Consultant of the Department on Interparliamentary Cooperation, State Duma

Head of the secretariat of the Chair of the Council of the Federation

Senior counsellor International Relations Department, Council of the Federation

Senior specialist-expert of the International Relations Department of the Council of the Federation

Head of the International Relations Department of the Council of the Federation

Advisor of International Relations Department, Council of the Federation

Advisor of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Council of the Federation

Consultant of the International Relations Department of the Council of the Federation

Assistant to the Chair of the Council of the Federation



ZOLOTAREVA, Irina (Ms.)  
Secretary of the Group  
DJAVADOV, Tural (Mr.)  
SAVICH-TERESCHENKO, Inessa (Ms.)  
  
PELIEVA, Zarina (Ms.)  
interpreter, Member of the ASGP  
BOTSAN-KHARCHENKO, Aleksandr (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative  
  
(UR: United Russia / Russie unifiée)  
(CP: Communist Party / Parti communiste)  
(LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate )

Senior counsellor International Relations Department,  
Council of the Federation  
Expert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Referent of the Department of Information and Media of  
the Council of the Federation  
Council of the Federation

**RWANDA**

MUKABALISA, Donatille (Ms.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
MURUMUNAWABO, Cecile (Ms.)  
MUHAKWA, Valence (Mr.)  
HABIMANA, Augustin (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP  
NZABONIMANA, Guillaume Serge (Mr.)  
GATETE, Oswald (Mr.)  
Secretary of Group  
MUNYANEZA, Jackson (Mr.)  
BAGWANEZA, Lydia (Ms.)

Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies  
  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
Director General in charge of Parliamentary Affairs,  
Chamber of Deputies  
Advisor to the Speaker, Chamber of Deputies  
Officer in Charge of Protocol, Chamber of Deputies  
  
Secretary to the Speaker, Chamber of Deputies  
Private Secretary to the Speaker, Chamber of Deputies

**SAN MARINO - SAINT-MARIN**

MONTEMAGGI, Marica (Ms.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
LONFERNINI, Teodoro (Mr.)  
VALENTINI, Mara (Ms.)

Member of the Great and General Council (C10)  
  
Member of the Great and General Council (PDCS)  
Member of the Great and General Council (RF)

(C10: Civico10 / )  
(RF: Future Republic / Future République)  
(PDCS: Christian Democratic Party of San Marino / Parti chrétien-démocrate saint-marinais)

**SAUDI ARABIA - ARABIE SAOUDITE**

ALSHEIKH, Abdullah (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
ABUNAYAN, Raeda (Ms.)  
ALBADI, Fahad (Mr.)  
AL-HELAISSI, Hoda (Ms.)  
ALKHATHLAN, Saleh (Mr.)  
Committee to Promote Respect for IHL  
ALHAIZAN, Mohammed (Mr.)  
ALMETAIRI, Mohammed (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP  
ALMANSOUR, Khalid (Mr.)  
Adviser  
ALMUBARAK, Khalid (Mr.)  
ALQUBLAN, Ibrahim (Mr.)  
ALSHAHRANI, Ahmed (Mr.)  
ALSAEED, Anas (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group  
ALMARSHAD, Saad (Mr.)  
HUBROM, Akram (Mr.)  
Adviser  
MOMENAH, Hani (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

Speaker of the Shura Council  
  
Member of the Shura Council  
Member of the Shura Council  
Member of the Shura Council  
Member of the Shura Council  
  
Member of the Shura Council  
Secretary General, Shura Council  
  
Shura Council  
  
Secretary, Shura Council  
Secretary, Shura Council  
Protocol, Shura Council  
Shura Council  
  
Protocol  
Adviser, Consultative Council

**SENEGAL**

GADIAGA, Hamady (M.)  
Président délégué du Groupe  
MERGANE KANOUTÉ, Adjii Diarra (Mme)  
Membre ex-officio du Bureau des femmes  
parlementaires  
NDIAYE, Mariama (Mme)  
SARR, Woraye (Mme)  
SOW, Yoro (M.)  
CISSE, Baye Niass (M.)  
Secrétaire du Groupe  
(BBY: Benno Bokk Yaakaar)  
(LD: Freedom and Democracy / Liberté et Démocratie)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BBY)  
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BBY)  
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BBY)  
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (LD)  
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BBY)  
Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale

**SERBIA – SERBIE**

ORLIC, Vladimir (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
  
COMIC, Gordana (Ms.)  
  
MARINKOVIC, Vladimir (Mr.)  
  
PETROVIC, Mira (Ms.)  
BOZIC, Sandra (Ms.)  
  
BOGOSAVLJEVIC BOSKOVIC, Snezana (Ms.)  
  
GRUJIC, Mladen (Mr.)  
Member of the Executive Committee  
  
JERKOV, Aleksandra (Ms.)  
President of the Committee on Human Right of  
Parliamentarians  
  
MIJATOVIC, Jelena (Ms.)  
  
MIJATOVIC, Milorad (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (SNS)  
Chairman of the Stabilisation and Association  
Parliamentary Committee  
Committee on Education, Science, Technological  
Development and the Information Society  
Committee on Spatial Planning, Transport, Infrastructure  
and Telecommunications  
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (PD)  
Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional  
and Legislative Issues  
European Integration Committee  
Committee on the Rights of the Child  
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (SDPS)  
Committee on the Rights of the Child  
Committee on the Economy, Regional Development,  
Trade, Tourism and Energy  
Committee on Finance, State Budget and Control of  
Public Spending  
Member of the National Assembly (PUPS)  
Member of the National Assembly (SNS)  
Committee on the Rights of the Child  
Committee on Labour, Social Issues, Social Inclusion  
and Poverty Reduction  
Health and Family Committee  
Member of the National Assembly (SPS)  
Culture and Information Committee  
Environmental Protection Committee  
Member of the National Assembly (Ind)  
European Integration Committee  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
Member of the National Assembly (PD)  
Committee on Education, Science, Technological  
Development and the Information Society  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
European Integration Committee  
Member of the National Assembly (SNS)  
Committee on the Economy, Regional Development,  
Trade, Tourism and Energy  
Committee on Kosovo-Metohija  
Committee on the Rights of the Child  
Member of the National Assembly (SDPS)  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
Security Services Control Committee  
Committee on Finance, State Budget and Control of  
Public Spending

RASKOVIC IVIC, Sanda (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly (PP)  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
Committee on the Diaspora and Serbs in the Region  
Committee on Kosovo-Metohija  
Member of the National Assembly (SPS)  
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department  
Committee on Education, Science, Technological  
Development and the Information Society  
Member of the National Assembly

OBRADOVIC, Zarko (Mr.)

Secretary General, National Assembly

ARSIC, Veroliub (Mr.)

Adviser

SMILJANIC, Srdjan (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

MARINKOVIC, Branko (Mr.)

KUKOLJ, Dario (Mr.)

VUJOVIC, Radoslav (Mr.)

BLAGOJEVIC, Stanko (Mr.)

Advisor to the Cabinet of the Speaker

DJURASINOVIC RADOJEVIC, Dragana (Ms.)

Secretary to the Delegation

JERICIC, Marjana (Ms.)

Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly  
Assistant Secretary General, National Assembly  
Assistant Secretary General, National Assembly  
Head of the Foreign Affairs Department, National  
Assembly  
Senior Advisor, Foreign Affairs Department, National  
Assembly  
Advisor to the Cabinet of the Speaker, National  
Assembly  
Advisor to the Cabinet of the Speaker, National  
Assembly

GEKIC, Olga (Ms.)

ZLATANOVIC, Dejan (Mr.)

Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

DJURDJEVIC, Milos (Mr.)

Diplomat

(SNS: Serbian Progressive Party / Parti progressiste serbe)

(PD: Democratic Party / Parti démocrate)

(SDPS: Social Democratic Party of Serbia / Parti social-démocrate serbe)

(SPS: Socialist Party of Serbia / Parti socialiste serbe)

(PUPS: Party of United Pensioners of Serbia / Parti des retraités unis de Serbie )

(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

**SEYCHELLES**

PREA, Nicholas (Mr.)

Speaker of the National Assembly (LDS)  
Chairperson of the Reform and Modernisation  
Committee

DELETOURDIE, Jany (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly (LDS)  
Committee on Women Parliamentarians  
Anti-Victimisation Committee

WILLIAM, Waven (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (PP)  
International Affairs Committee  
Deputy Clerk, National Assembly

ISAAC, Tania (Ms.)

Secretary to the delegation, Member of the ASGP

(LDS: Seychelles Democratic Alliance / Union démocratique seychelloise )

(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)

**SIERRA LEONE**

BUNDU, Abass Chernor (Mr.)

Speaker of Parliament (SLPP)

Leader of the Delegation

SONGA, Wuyatta (Ms.)

Member of Parliament (SLPP)

TARAWALLY, Paran Umar (Mr.)

Member of Parliament  
Committee on Appointments, Committee on Selection  
Parliamentary Service Commission

TUNIS, Sidie Mohamed (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (SLPP)  
Committee on Appointments  
Committee on Selection  
Parliamentary Service Commission  
Clerk of Committees, Parliament

KAMARA, Alie (Mr.)

Secretary of the Group

(SLPP: Sierra Leone Peoples Party / Parti populaire de la Sierra Leone )

**SINGAPORE – SINGAPOUR**

FOO, Foo Mee Har (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (PAP)
Leader of the Delegation	Chairman of the Estimates Committee
CHONG, Chong Kee Hiong (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (PAP)
DENNIS TAN, Dennis Tan Lip Fong (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (WPS)
	Public Petitions Committee
ARUMUGUM, Palaniappan (Mr.)	Head Specialist, Language Department, Parliament

(PAP: People's Action Party / Parti d'action populaire )

(WPS: Workers' Party / Parti des travailleurs)

**SLOVAKIA – SLOVAQUIE**

DANKO, Andrej (Mr.)	Speaker of the National Council (SNS)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Président du Conseil national
PAŠKA, Jaroslav (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
ANDRASSYOVÁ, Katarína (Ms.)	Advisor
PRIPUTEN, Juraj (Mr.)	Advisor to the Speaker of the National Council
ŠIMONČIKOVA, Dominika (Ms.)	Advisor
KOSTELNÍK, Tomáš (Mr.)	Advisor
GAŠPAR, Peder (Mr.)	Advisor
FODORA, Peder (Mr.)	Advisor
REPČEKOVÁ, Dagmar (Ms.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative	

(SNS: Slovenská národná strana )

**SLOVENIA – SLOVENIE**

ŽIDAN, Dejan (Mr.)	Speaker of the National Assembly (SD)
Leader of the Delegation	Chair of the Council of the President of the National Assembly
	Constitutional Commission
NEMEC, Matjaž (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (SD)
	Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
	Defence Committee
	Committee on Culture
RAJIČ, Branislav (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (PMC)
	Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Sport and Youth
	Committee on Foreign Policy
	Committee on Culture
DIMIC, Iva (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (NSi)
	Chair of the Commission for Relations with Slovenes in Neighbouring and Other Countries
	Committee on Health
	Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Food
	Secretary General, National Assembly
ZORE TAVČAR, Uršula (Ms.)	
Member of the ASGP	
GRAŠIČ, Neva (Ms.)	Asdviser of the President of the National Assembly,
PANDEV, Tanja (Ms.)	Head of Section for International Relations, Protocol and Translation, National Assembly
Secretary of the Group	
KOBI ŠMID, Staša (Ms.)	Adviser in the Section of the International Relations, Protocol and Translation of the National Assembly
	Protocol Adviser of the President of the National Assembly
CMEREKAR, Tadej (Mr.)	
	National Assembly
BIBER, Marta (Ms.)	National Assembly
PETEK, Milan (Mr.)	National Assembly
USENIK, Zlatko (Mr.)	National Assembly
TOMAŽIČ, Alen (Mr.)	National Assembly
RADEJ, Alenka (Ms.)	National Assembly
JARC, Iztok (Mr.)	
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent	

(SD: Social Democrats / Démocrates sociaux)

(PMC: Party of Modern Centre / Parti du centre moderne)

(NSi: New Slovenia-Christian Democrats / Nouvelle Slovénie - Parti chrétien-démocrate )

**SOMALIA – SOMALIE**

JAMA, Ali Ahmed, (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation ABDO MAH, Farah (Mr.)	Member of the House of the People Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee Member of the House of the People Telecommunication and Post committee
FADUMMO FARAH, Ibrahim (Ms.)	Member of the House of the People Immunity and Discipline Committee
MOHAMED AHMED, Mohamed (Mr.)	Member of the House of the People Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Committee
SAID MOHAMED, Mohamuud (Mr.)	Member of the House of the People Constitution Review Committee

**SOUTH AFRICA - AFRIQUE DU SUD**

MODISE, Thandi (Ms.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation LUCAS, Sylvia (Ms.) NTOMBELA, Madala Louis (Mr.) BOROTO, Mmatlala (Ms.)	Speaker of the National Council of Provinces (ANC)  Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (ANC) Member of the National Council of Provinces (ANC) Deputy Speaker of the National Council of Provinces (ANC)
MOHAI, Seiso (Mr.) BILANKULU, Nkhensani (Ms.) MKHALIPHI, Hlengiwe (Ms.) LOTRIET, Annelie (Ms.) TYAWA, Penelope (Ms.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP MVULANE, Sebolelo (Ms.) MUNDELL, Ian (Mr.) Protocol Liaison Officer NGOAKO, Rakgale (Mr.) CHWARO, Sindisa (Ms.) Makhabane, siMON (Mr.) LEIBRANDT-LOXTON, Natalie Esmeralda (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (ANC) Member of the National Assembly (ANC) Member of the National Assembly (EFF) Member of the National Council of Provinces (DA) Acting Secretary to Parliament, National Council of Provinces Office Manager International Relations and Protocol Division  Content Specialist, Office of the Speaker Personal Assistant, Office of the Speaker Executive Secretary, Office of the Speaker Researcher, International Relations and Protocol Division, National Council of Provinces Researcher, International Relations and Protocol Division, National Council of Provinces Media/Communication to the Speaker
MONNAKGOTLA, Roseline Mpho (Mr.)	
WOLELA, Manelsi (Mr.)	

(ANC: African National Congress / Congrès national africain)

(EFF: Economic Freedom Fighters)

(DA: Democratic Alliance / Gauche démocratique)

**SPAIN – ESPAGNE**

ECHANIZ, José Ignacio (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation HERNANDEZ, Susana (Ms.) SÁNCHEZ, Víctor (Mr.) GUTIÉRREZ, Carlos (Mr.) CAVERO, Manuel (Mr.) Member of the ASGP BOYRA, Helena (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Member of the Congress of Deputies (PP)  Member of the Senate (PSOE) Member of Parliament Member of Parliament Secretary General, Senate  Adviser, Congress of Deputies
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(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)

(PSOE: Spanish Socialist Workers' Party / Parti socialiste ouvrier espagnol)

**SRI LANKA**

SAMARASINGHE, Mahinda (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of Parliament (UPFA) Committee of Selection Committee on Parliamentary Business Ministerial Consultative Committee on Foreign Affairs
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DASANAYAKE, Dhammika (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP

Secretary General, Parliament

(UPFA: United People's Freedom Alliance / Alliance populaire unifiée pour la liberté )

### **SURINAME**

BOUVA, Melvin (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (NDP)

BEE, Marinus (Mr.)  
SAMIDIN, Shrie (Ms.)  
OEDIT, Dino (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

Member of the National Assembly (ABOP)  
Member of the National Assembly (NDP)  
Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly

(NDP: National Democratic Party / Parti national démocratique)

(ABOP: General Liberation and Development Party / Parti général de la libération et du développement )

### **SWEDEN – SUEDE**

WIDEGREN, Cecilia (Ms.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
HEINDORFF, Ulrika (Ms.)

Member of Parliament (M)  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Member of Parliament (M)  
Committee on Health and Welfare  
Member of Parliament (SD)

KARLSSON, Mattias (Mr.)

Committee on Labour  
Member of Parliament (SDP)  
Committee on Transport and Communications  
Member of Parliament (SDP)  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
International Adviser, Parliament

LINDBERG, Teres (Ms.)  
Deputy Head of the Delegation  
THORELL, Olle (Mr.)

SONDÉN, Björn (Mr.)  
Acting Secretary to the delegation  
NILSSON, Emelie (Ms.)  
Deputy Secretary to the Delegation  
LUNDIN, Jan (Mr.)  
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent  
WAERN, Joachim (Mr.)  
Diplomat  
BIBEROVIC, Hana (Ms.)  
Staff  
SCHÖTTLE, Felix (Mr.)  
Staff

International Adviser, Parliament

(M: Moderate Party / Parti modéré)

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(SD: The Sweden Democrats / Les démocrates suédois)

### **SWITZERLAND – SUISSE**

CARONI, Andrea (M.)  
Président du Groupe, Comité des droits de l'homme des  
parlementaires, Chef de la délégation

Membre du Conseil des Etats (FDP/PLR)

LOHR, Christian (M.)  
Président adjoint du Groupe

Membre du Conseil national (CVP/PDC)

KIENER NELLEN, Margret (Mme)  
Membre du Comité exécutif, Présidente du  
Sous-comité des finances, Vice-Présidente du  
Groupe consultatif de haut niveau sur la lutte  
contre le terrorisme et l'extrémisme violent, Bureau  
des Femmes parlementaires, Comité directeur des  
Douze Plus  
MÜRI, Felix (M.)

Membre du Conseil national (PS)  
Présidente de la Délégation auprès de l'Assemblée  
parlementaire de l'OSCE

WEHRLI, Laurent (M.)  
Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires  
des Nations Unies, Comité sur les questions relatives  
au Moyen-Orient, Comité directeur des Douze Plus

Membre du Conseil national (SVP/UDC)  
Vice-Président de la Commission de l'environnement,  
de l'aménagement du territoire et de l'énergie  
Membre du Conseil national (FDP/PLR)

SCHWAB, Philippe (M.)

Président de l'ASGP

EQUEY, Jérémie (M.)

Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation

GNÄGI, Anna Lea (Mme)

Secrétaire adjointe du Groupe et de la délégation

(FDP/PLR: The Liberals / Les Libéraux-Radicaux)

(CVP/PDC: Christian Democratic People's Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)

(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)

(SVP/UDC: Swiss People's Party / Union démocratique du centre)

Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée fédérale

Relations internationales

Relations internationales

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE**

ANZOUR, Najdat (Mr.)

Leader of the Delegation

ALABOUD, Khaled (Mr.)

MERJANEH, Boutros (Mr.)

ALKHATEEB, Sameer (Mr.)

ALMLOHI, Inas (Ms.)

MAAROUF, Saleh (Mr.)

ZARIE, Anas (Mr.)

DURRA, Nour (Ms.)

ALDAHER, Khaled (Mr.)

DIAB, Abdul Azim (Mr.)

Secretary of the Group

ZRAIK, Ghayd (Ms.)

Diplomat

SAAB, Othman (Mr.)

Diplomat

HABBASH, Habbash (Mr.)

Diplomat

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

(SUP: Socialist Unionist Party / Parti socialiste unioniste)

(BAP: Baath Arab Party / Parti Baath arabe)

(SSNP: Syrian Social Nationalist Party / Parti social nationaliste syrien)

Deputy Speaker of the People's Assembly (Ind)

Member of the People's Assembly (SUP)

Member of the People's Assembly (Ind)

Chair of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee

Member of the People's Assembly (BAP)

Education and Scientific Research Committee

Member of the People's Assembly (SSNP)

Constitutional and Legislative Committee

Member of the People's Assembly (BAP)

Constitutional and Legislative Committee

Member of the People's Assembly (Ind)

Education and Scientific Research Committee

Member of the People's Assembly (BAP)

Social Affairs Committee

Member of the People's Assembly (BAP)

National Security Committee

Director of P.R., People's Assembly

**THAILAND – THAILANDE**

LEEKPAI, Chuan (Mr.)

Leader of the Delegation

PHETPANOMPORN, Sarawut (Mr.)

KRAIRIKSH, Pikulkeaw (Ms.)

SIRIVEJCHAPUN, Suwannee (Ms.)

Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

SUWANMONGKOL, Anusart (Mr.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and  
International Security

SEREEWATTHANAWUT, Issara (Mr.)

Speaker of the House of Representatives (DP)

President of the National Assembly

Member of the House of Representatives (PTP)

Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign  
Affairs

Member of the Senate

Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign  
Affairs

Member of the Senate

First Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee on  
Legal, Justice and Police Affairs

Member of the Senate

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

Member of the House of Representatives (DP)

Third Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee on  
Monetary Affairs, Finance, Financial Institutions and  
Financial Market

KULSETTHASITH, Nateepat (Ms.)

Member of the House of Representatives (FFP)  
Forth Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee on  
Monetary Affairs, Finance, Financial Institutions and  
Financial Market

KIRANAND, Santi (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives (PP)  
Standing Committee on Monetary Affairs, Finance,  
Financial Institutions and Financial Market  
Secretary General of the House of Representatives

PIENVEJ, Sorasak (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

PHETCHAREON, Pornpith (Ms.)

Member of the ASGP

MUNGKANDI, Wiwat (Mr.)

Advisor to the Leader of the Delegation

INTAVICHEIN, Siripa (Ms.)

Assistant Secretary to the Leader of the Delegation

TAIPIBOONSUK, Steejit (Ms.)

Secretary of the Group

Deputy Secretary General of the House of  
Representatives, House of Representatives  
Advisor to the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
House of RepresentativesAssistant Secretary to the Speaker of the House of  
Representatives, House of Representatives

Director of the Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary

Organizations, Secretariat of the House of

Representatives, House of Representatives

Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Division,  
Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, House of  
RepresentativesForeign Affairs Officer (Senior Professional Level), Inter-  
Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of Inter-  
Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of  
RepresentativesLegal Officer (Senior Professional Level), Office of the  
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Secretariat of  
the House of RepresentativesForeign Affairs Officer (Professional Level), Inter-  
Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of Inter-  
Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of  
RepresentativesForeign Affairs Officer (Practitioner Level), English  
Division, Bureau of Foreign Languages, Secretariat of  
the House of RepresentativesForeign Affairs Officer (Practitioner Level), Inter-  
Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of Inter-  
Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of  
Representatives, House of Representatives

Foreign Relations Officer, House of Representatives

Foreign Relations Officer, House of Representatives

Foreign Relations Officer, House of Representatives

Legal Officer, House of Representatives

BAMRUNGPON, Tanukom (Mr.)

Assistant Secretary to the Delegation

THONGSAMRIT, Pilanthana (Ms.)

Assistant Secretary to the Delegation

Secrétaire assistante de la délégation

CHANSUWAN, Ataporn (Mr.)

Assistant Secretary to the Delegation

MONJAMLANG, Prajak (Mr.)

Assistant Secretary to the Delegation

ISSARIYAPRUET, Pattrapong (Mr.)

Interpreter

UDOMSIN, Koson (Mr.)

Assistant Secretary to the Delegation

SIKKHABANDIT, Phinissorn (Ms.)

KHANTANIT, Russdy (Mr.)

RAKSAPOLMUANG, Pathomporn (Ms.)

YAEMWONG, Winai (Mr.)

LIMSOMBOON, Chailert (Mr.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

(DP: Democrat Party / Parti démocrate)

(PTP: Pheu Thai Party / Parti Pheu Thai)

(FFP: Future Forward Party )

(PP: Palangpracharath Party / Parti Palangpracharath)

**TIMOR-LESTE**

MARQUES LEMOS MARTINS, Veneranda Eurico (Ms.)

Leader of the Delegation

Member of the National Parliament (CNRT)

Health and Education Commission Social Security and  
Gender Equality

DA SILVA, Abel Pires (Mr.)

Member of the National Parliament (PLP)

President Infrastructure Commission

DIAS XIMENES, David (Mr.)

Member of the National Parliament (FRETILIN)

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security

RANGEL DA CRUZ, Maria Angelica (Ms.)

Member of the National Parliament (FRETILIN)

Public Finance Committee

DA COSTA, Helder (Mr.)

Secretary General

Member of the ASGP



ALVES DA COSTA, Luis Nascimento De Jesus (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	National Parliament
DASILVA, Izilda (Ms.)	Protocol, National Parliament
GONZAGA VIDIGAL, Maria Isabel (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Chief Cabinet of International Relations, National Parliament
MANUEL SOARES, Pinto Cardoso (Mr.) Advisor to the ASGP	Advisor to the President National Parliament

(CNRT: National Congress for the Reconstruction of Timor-Leste / Congrès national pour la reconstruction du Timor)

(PLP: People's Liberation Party / Parti de libération populaire)

(FRETILIN: Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor / Front révolutionnaire pour l'indépendance du Timor-Leste)

**TONGA**

FAKAFANUA, Lord (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Chairperson/member of the Ex-officio Member of all Parliamentary Committees
GUTTENBEIL, Gloria (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Chief Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Tonga, Legislative Assembly

**TUNISIA – TUNISIE**

BENSOUF, Mohamed (M.) Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies, Chef de la délégation (NT: Nidaa Tounes)	Membre de l'Assemblée des Représentants du Peuple (NT)
---	--

**TURKEY – TURQUIE**

ŞENTOP, Mustafa (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
KAVAKCI KAN, Ravza (Ms.) President of the Group	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (PJD)
EMIR, Murat (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (CHP)
ARSLAN, Ednan (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (CHP)
ANDICAN, A. Ahat (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (İP)
KARAKAYA, Mevlut (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (MHP)
SATIROGLU, Nevzat (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (PJD)
YILDIZ, Zeynep (Ms.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (PJD)
OZSOY, Hisyar (Mr.)	Member of Parliament, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
POLAT DUZGUN, Arife (Ms.) Adviser	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (PJD)
KUMBUZOGLU, Mehmet Ali (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
KOCAK, Konur Alp (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Director, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
KURT, Necip Fazil (Mr.)	First Counsellor of the Speaker & Director of Foreign Relations and Protocol Department
DANIK, Ecem (Ms.)	Legislative Expert, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
YILMAZ, İbrahim (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Legislative Expert, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
GÜNER, Mümtaz (Mr.)	Grand National Assembly of Turkey
AKTAŞ, Bekir (Mr.)	Private Secretariat
TORUN UZUN, Isra (Ms.)	Secretariat
BILGIC, Tanju (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
TURKOVIC, Nina (Ms.) Staff	

KOCAK, Melike (Ms.)

Staff

KOCAK, Murat (Mr./M.Staff

(PJD: Justice and Development Party / Parti de la justice et du développement )

(CHP: Republican People's Party / Parti populaire républicain)

(IP: İyi Parti)

(MHP: Nationalist Movement Party / Parti d'action nationaliste )

**TURKMENISTAN**

MAMMEDOV, Resulberdi (Mr.)

Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Assembly

Chairman of the Committee on Legislation and its  
Standards

GELDIYEV, Kerimguly (Mr.)

Member of the Assembly

Committee on International and Inter-Parliamentary  
Relations

(DPT: Democratic Party of Turkmenistan / Parti démocratique du Turkménistan)

**UGANDA – OUGANDA**

KADAGA, Rebecca Alitwala (Ms.)

President of the Group

Speaker of Parliament (NRM)

ANYAKUN, Esther (Ms.)

Member of Parliament (NRM)

Foreign Affairs Committee

AKAMBA, Paul (Mr.)

Member of Parliament

Vice-President of Standing Committee on United  
Nations Affairs

Legal Committee (Ind)

KABAGYENI, Rose (Ms.)

Member of Parliament (NRM)

Agriculture Committee

SSEBAGGALA, Abdulatif (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (Ind)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and  
International Security

Foreign Affairs Committee

MUGUME, Roland (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (FDC)

Natural Resources Committee

OSORU, Mourine (Ms.)

Member of Parliament (NRM)

Gender Committee

KIBIRIGE, Jane (Ms.)

Clerk to Parliament, Parliament

Member of the ASGP

WABWIRE, Paul (Mr.)

Deputy Clerk, Parliamentary Affairs, Parliament

Member of the ASGP

NASSALI, Mariam (Ms.)

Principal Clerk Assistant, Parliament

KAGANZI, Martha (Ms.)

Principal Clerk Assistant, Parliament

Secretary of the Group

BUSIKU, Peter (Mr.)

Principal Private Secretary to the Speaker, Parliament

KARAMAGI, Edison (Mr.)

Senior Economist, Parliament

Advisor

KANGO, Jonathan (Mr.)

IT Officer, Parliament

MUHINDO, Yusuf (Mr.)

Assistant Editor of the Hansard, Parliament

Advisor

WATERA, Josephine (Ms.)

Assistant Director, Parliament

Advisor

(NRM: National Resistance Movement / Mouvement de la résistance nationale )

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

(FDC: Forum for Democratic Change / Forum pour un changement démocratique )

**UKRAINE**

RUDENKO, Olga (Ms.)

Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Verkhovna Rada

Committee on Foreign Policy and Inter-Parliamentary  
Cooperation

SHKRUM, Alona (Mrs.)

Member of the Verkhovna Rada (BP)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and  
International SecurityChairwoman of the Committee on State Building,  
Regional Policy and Local Self-Government

SHPENOV, Dmytro (Mr.)

Member of the Verkhovna Rada

Legal Policy Committee

VASYLENKO, Lesia (Ms.)

FURMAN, Oleksandr (Mr.)

Secretary

MOSOLOV, Yuri (Mr.)

Deputy Secretary

Member of the Verkhovna Rada

Budget Committee

First Deputy Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations  
Office, Verkhovna RadaDeputy Director, Secretariat of the Committee on  
Foreign Policy and Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation,  
Verkhovna Rada

(BP: Batkivshyna Party / Parti Batkivshyna)

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - EMIRATS ARABES UNIS**

ALQUBAISI, Amal (Ms.)

President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

ALHAI, Jamal (Mr.)

ALBASTI, Afra (Ms.)

First Vice-President of the Bureau of Women  
Parliamentarians

ALJASIM, Alya (Ms.)

Bureau of the Committee on Peace and International  
Security

ALMUTAWA, Mr. Saeed (Mr.)

ALDHABAHI, Faisal (Mr.)

JASIM, Ali (Mr.)

Standing Committee on Peace and  
International Security

AL MEHRZI, Dr. Mohammed (Mr.)

Committee on Middle East Questions

ALDHAHRI, Ahmed (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

AL-NAJAR, Abdurahman (Mr.)

AL-SHEHHI, Salama (Ms.)

ALABDOOLI, Mohammed (Mr.)

ALAQILI, Ahmed (Mr.)

ABBOUD, Sami (Mr.)

ADAM, Khulood (Ms.)

AL-MANSOORI, Mohammed (Mr.)

ALHADABI, Amal (Ms.)

Member of the ASGP

ELNAEIMY, Yasser (Mr.)

GHAOUI, Patricia (Ms.)

HMOUD, Mamduh (Mr.)

ALSHAMSI, Hind (Ms.)

ALLMAZROOEI, Masood (Mr.)

ALMARZOOQI, Tareq (Mr.)

ALSHEHHI, Abdulrahman (Mr.)

ALZAABI, Maryam (Ms.)

ALDHAHERI, Mubarak (Mr./M.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

ALDARMAKI, Ibrahim (Mr.)

Diplomat

Speaker of the Federal National Council

Member of the Federal National Council

Member of the Federal National Council

Member of the Federal National Council

Member of the Federal National Council

Member of the Federal National Council

Member of the Federal National Council

Member of the Federal National Council

Secretary General of Federal National Council,

Head of Media Department, Federal National Council

Protocol, Federal National Council

Media, Federal National Council

Chief Specialist International Relations, Federal National  
Council

Media, Federal National Council

International Relations Specialist, Federal National  
Council

Members Affairs Manager, Federal National Council

Assistant Secretary General for Parliamentary

Communication, Federal National Council

Media Adviser, Federal National Council

Senior Coordinator, Federal National Council

Senior Media Specialist, Federal National Council

Parliamentary Communication Executive, Federal  
National Council

Head of Protocol, Federal National Council

Manager - Office of the Speaker, Federal National  
CouncilDirector of the Parliamentary Division Department,  
Federal National CouncilInternational Relations Specialist, Federal National  
Council**UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI**

WHITTINGDALE, John (Mr.)

President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

DHOLAKIA, Navnit (Lord)

HOOPER, Gloria (Baroness)

SCOTT, Rosalind (Baroness)

CAMERON, Lisa (Ms.)

Member of the House of Commons (C)

Member of the House of Lords (Lib Dems)

Member of the House of Lords (C)

Member of the House of Lords (Lib Dems)

Member of the House of Commons (SNP)

EVANS, Nigel (Mr.)  
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable  
Development, Finance and Trade  
JONES, Graham (Mr.)  
LIDDELL-GRAINER, Ian (Mr.)  
EDWARDS, Rhiannon (Ms.)  
HAMLYN, Matthew (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP  
NIMMO, Rick (Mr.)  
REES, Dominique (Ms.)  
VAUGHAN, Jake (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP  
NASH, Lucy (Ms.)

(C: Conservative / Parti conservateur)  
(L: Labour / Parti travailliste)  
(SNP: Scottish National Party / Parti national écossais)  
(Lib Dems: Liberal Democrats / Démocrates libéraux)

Member of the House of Commons (C)  
  
Member of the House of Commons (L)  
Member of the House of Commons (C)  
International Project Manager BGIPU  
Strategic Director Chamber Business Team, House  
of Commons  
Director of BGIPU, House of Commons  
Deputy Director BGIPU  
Reading Clerk, Director of Corporate Services, and  
Clerk of the Overseas Office, House of Lords  
International Project Manager

**URUGUAY**

EGUILUZ, Cecilia (Ms.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
NOVALES, Gonzalo (Mr.)

GALVALISI, Carina (Ms.)  
Secretary of the Group and Secretariat of GRULAC  
(NP: National Party / Parti national)

First Vice-President of the House of Representatives  
President of the Permanent Committee on Human Rights  
Member of the House of Representatives (NP)  
President of the National Defence Committee  
Head of International Relations, House of  
Representatives

**UZBEKISTAN – OUZBEKISTAN**

SAIDOV, Akmal (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
ATANIYAZOVA, Oral (Ms.)

KHODJIEV, Ibrokhim (Mr.)

LAPASOV, Ulugbek (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative  
TOSHMATOV, Eldiyor Toshmatov (Mr.)  
Diplomat

(MT: Democratic Party "Milliy Ticlanish")  
(ULDP: "Uzbekistan Liberal Democratic Party")

Member of the Legislative Chamber (MT)  
Chairman of the Committee on Democratic Institutions  
and NGOs  
Member of the Senate  
Member of the Committee on International Relations,  
Foreign Economic Relations, Foreign Investment and  
Tourism  
Member of the Legislative Chamber (ULDP)  
Member of the Committee on Democratic Institutions and  
NGOs

**VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)**

SOLÓRZANO, Delsa (Ms.)  
Vice-President of the Committee on the Human  
Rights of Parliamentarians, Leader of the Delegation  
RONDEROS, Oscar (Mr.)  
RODRÍGUEZ, Nosliow (Mr.)  
Adviser  
VIVAS, Dario (Mr.)  
Advisor

Member of the National Assembly  
President of the Committee of Internal Affairs (NT)  
  
Member of the National Assembly (PAD)

**VIET NAM**

TONG, Thi Phong (Ms.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

NGUYEN, Van Giau (Mr.)  
Vice President of IPU

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (CPV)  
  
Member of the National Assembly (CPV)  
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee

DUONG, Quoc Anh (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly( CPV)
LE, Thu Ha (Ms.)	Vice Chairman of the Committee on Economy
	Member of the National Assembly (CPV)
DON, Tuan Phong (Mr.)	Committee on Foreign Affairs
	Member of the National Assembly (CPV)
QUANG, Van Huong (Mr.)	Committee on Foreign Affairs
	Member of the National Assembly (CPV)
CAO, Manh Linh (Mr.)	Council on Minorities' Affairs
Secretary to the Leader	Deputy Director of the General Affairs Department,
NGUYEN, Thi Hoai Thu (Ms.)	National Assembly
	Deputy Director of the Protocol Department, National
DUC TRUNG, Ly (Mr.)	Assembly
	Deputy Director, Interpretation and Translation Center,
TRAN, Kim Chi (Ms.)	MOFA
	Head of Division, Department of Foreign Affairs,
NGUYEN, Thi Quynh (Ms.)	National Assembly
	Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs, National
	Assembly

(CPV: Communist Party of Vietnam / Parti communiste vietnamien)

**YEMEN**

ALBARKANI, Sultan (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (GPC)
Leader of the Delegation	
AL-SHADADI, Mohamed (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives (GPC)
AL-MAQTARI, Abdullah (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (DNP)
AL-DOBAI, Najeeb (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (IP)
AL-NAOMANI, Abdullah (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (NSP)
AL-QOBATY, Mohammed (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (YSP)
AL-ZEKRI, Zakarya (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (GPC)
BIN-MADI, Mabkhout (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (GPC)
AL-SHARABI, Ahmed (Mr.)	Secretary, House of Representatives
ZUHRA, Ameen (Mr.)	Secretary, House of Representatives

(GPC: General People's Congress / Congrès général du peuple)

(DNP: Democratic Nasserist Party / Parti démocratique Nassérien)

(IP: Islah Party)

(NSP: National Solidarity Party / Parti national de la solidarité)

(YSP: Yemeni Socialist Party / Parti socialiste yéménite)

**ZAMBIA – ZAMBIE**

MATIBINI, Patrick (Mr.)	Speaker of the National Assembly
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	
KATUTA, Given (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (FDD)
	Transport, Works and Supply Committee
	Cabinet Affairs Committee
CHANDA, Jonas (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (PF)
	Health, Community Development and Social Services
	and Standing Orders Committee
MULUNDA, Darius (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (UPND)
	Government Assurances and Local Government
MWEWA, Roger (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (PF)
Committee to Promote Respect for IHL	Cabinet Affairs Committee
	Chairman of the Committee on Media, Information,
	Communication, Technologies
SUBULWA, Mbololwa (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (Ind)
	Budget and Standing Orders
	Clerk of the National Assembly, National Assembly
MBEWE, Cecilian Nsenduluka (Ms.)	
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	
CHELU, John (Mr.)	Official, National Assembly
BWALYA, Barnabas (Mr.)	Adviser, National Assembly
KAWIMBE, Stephen (Mr.)	Adviser, National Assembly
MUKUKA, Michael (Mr.)	Principal Clerk (Information Communication Technology),
Member of the ASGP	National Assembly

MONGA, Pauline (Ms.)  
MUSONDA, Chongo (Mr.)

Adviser, National Assembly  
Official, National Assembly

(FDD: Forum for Democracy and Development / Forum pour la démocratie et le développement )

(PF: Patriotic Front / Front patriotique)

(UPND: United Party for National Development / Parti uni pour le développement national)

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

## ZIMBABWE

MUDENDA, Jacob Francis (Mr.)

Speaker of the National Assembly (ZANU/PF)

Leader of the Delegation

CHINOMONA, Mabel Memory (Ms.)

Speaker of the Senate

KHUMALO, Lucas Mtshane (Mr.)

Member of the Senate

MUZENDA TSITSI, Veronica (Ms.)

Member of the Senate (ZANU/PF)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable  
Development, Finance and Trade

CHIBAYA, Amos (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (MDC-A)

MAVENYENGWA, Robson (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (ZANU/PF)

MUTOMBA, William (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (ZANU/PF)

CHOKUDA, Kennedy Mugove (Mr.)

Clerk to Parliament, National Assembly

Member of the ASGP

MARIMO, Ndamuka (Mr.)

Director in the Clerk's Office, National Assembly

Member of the ASGP

NYAMAHOWA, Frank Mike (Mr.)

Director in the Speaker's Office

GUVI, Califinos (Mr.)

Director, Senate President's Office, Senate

CHISANGO, Rumbidzai Pamela (Ms.)

Principal External Relations Officer, National Assembly

MUSHANDINGA, Martha (Ms.)

Principal Executive Assistant, National Assembly

SIBANDA, Robert (Mr.)

National Assembly

CHIFAMBA, Simeon (Mr.)

Senate

Security Aide to the President

(ZANU/PF: Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front / Union nationale africaine - Front patriotique du Zimbabwe)

(MDC-TA: Movement for Democratic Change (A) / Mouvement pour un changement démocratique)

**II. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - MEMBRES ASSOCIES****ARAB PARLIAMENT  
PARLEMENT ARABE**

ALSULAMI, Mishal (Mr.)	Speaker
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	
ALSULAIMI, Khamis (Mr.)	Member
MISBAH, Hasan (Mr.)	Member
TALAAT, Hossam (Mr.)	Director of protocol, Cabinet of the President of the Arab Parliament

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF LA FRANCOPHONIE  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE**

KRABAL, Jacques (M.)	Membre, Secrétaire général parlementaire
Chef de la délégation	
FRASSA, Christophe-André (M.)	Député, Président de la commission politique de l'APF
EZA, Mireille (Mme)	Directrice du programme numérique Noria APF
GABOURY, Laurence (Mme)	Conseillère, chargée de la commission politique de l'APF
LECI, Fatmir (M.)	Conseiller, Chargé du réseau des femmes parlementaires
DOOSTERLINCK, Krystel (Mme)	Assistante parlementaire

**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)  
ASSEMBLEE LEGISLATIVE EST-AFRICAINE**

NGOGA, Karoli Martin (Mr.)	Speaker
Leader of the Delegation	Chairperson of the the EALA Commission
MWASA MUSAMALI, Paul (Mr.)	Member
	Legal, Rules and Privileges Committee
	Communication, Trade and Investments Committee
ADEN, Abdikadir Omar (Mr.)	Member
	Chairperson of the General Purpose Committee
	Accounts Committee
NSAVYIMANA, Sophie (Ms.)	Member
	Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Committee
	Communication, Trade and Investments Committee
RUOT DUOP, Kim Gai (Mr.)	Member
	Legal, Rules and Privileges Committee
	General Purpose Committee
MADETE, Kenneth Namboga (Mr.)	Secretary General
Member of the ASGP	
OBATRE LUMUMBA, Alex (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary General
Member of the ASGP	
BOBI ODIKO, Terah (Mr.)	Senior Public Relations Officer
AMODING, Priscilla (Ms.)	Senior Administrative Assistant to the Speaker
CHANGWA TUHOYE, Emiliana (Ms.)	Senior Personal Secretary to the Secretary General
Member of the ASGP	
NGELEJA KADONYA, Charles (Mr.)	Principal Clerk Assistant
Member of the ASGP	
MANZI, Victor (Mr.)	Clerk Assistant and Secretary of the Delegation

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF MEMBER NATIONS OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)  
ASSEMBLEE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE LA  
COMMUNAUTE DES ETATS INDEPENDANTS**

BAYRAMOV, Kamran (Mr.)	Member of the Committee of the Milli Mejlis of the Azerbaijan Republic on Regional Affairs
KOBITSKII, Dmitriy (Mr.)	Secretary General
JAFAROV, Aydin (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary General

**LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN PARLIAMENT (PARLATINO)  
PARLEMENT DE L'AMÉRIQUE LATINE ET DES CARAÏBES**

SERRANO SALGADO, José R. (Mr.) Alternate President, Leader of the Delegation	Member (AP)
FERRER GÓMEZ, Maria Yolanda (Ms.)	Member of the Cuban Parliament
CASTILLO G., Elias A. (Mr.) Executive Secretary	Commission of Public Infrastructure and Channel Affairs

**PARLIAMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)  
PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (CEDEAO)**

PEREIRA DIAS, Orlando (M.) Chef de la délégation	Quatrième Vice-Président du Parlement
TUNIS, Sidie Mohamed (M.)	Membre, Vice-Président de la Commission de la santé et des services sociaux
BENAO-SAKAND'E, Kaboublé Reine Bertille (Mme) (Mr.)	Membre Présidente de la Commission du genre, de la promotion de la femme et de la protection sociale
NJAI, Fatoumata (Mme)	Membre, Première Rapporteuse de la Commission de la communication et technologie de l'information
TRAORE, Moussa M'pe Alfred (Mr.)	Chargé principal des affaires parlementaires
ODUCHE, Maryrose Ebele (Mme)	Assistante protocole

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION/PABSEC  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE POUR LA COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER NOIRE**

BECIC, Igor (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member Chairman of the Security Services Control Committee
HAJIYEV, Asaf (Mr.)	Secretary General

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (PACE)  
ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

MAURY PASQUIER, Liliane (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker
RUOTANEN, Marja (Ms.)	Director of Human Dignity and Equality
KOPAÇI-DI MICHELE, Liri (Mr.)	Head of the Secretariat, Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination
KARPENKO, Artemy (Mr.)	Deputy Head of the President's Private Office
ZUFFEREY, Guillaume (Mr.)	Collaborateur personnel de la Présidente de l'APCE

**WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION (WAEMU)  
UNION ECONOMIQUE ET MONÉTAIRE OUEST AFRICAINE (UEMOA)**

AKA AMANAN, Véronique (Mme) Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Présidente
KOHOUE, Adrien Hognon (M.) Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général permanent



**III. OBSERVERS – OBSERVATEURS****FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)**

CASTAÑEDA SEPULVEDA, Rodrigo Antonio (Mr.), Head of FAO Delegation

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)****BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DU TRAVAIL (BIT)**

DASGUPTA, Sukti (Ms.), Chief, Employment and Labour Market Policies Branch, Employment Policy Department

SCHAPIRA-FELDERHOFF, Kirsten-Maria (Ms.), Senior Specialist for Standards and Human Rights, Relations with Intergovernmental Organizations

**PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH)****PARTENARIAT POUR LA SANTE DE LA MERE, DU NOUVEAU-NE ET DE L'ENFANT**

BUSTREO, Flavia (Ms.), Chair of Governance and Nomination Committee

IMBAGO JÁCOME, David (Mr.), Adolescents and Youth Constituency Board Member

ROCCO, Cecilia (Ms.), Assistant Governance and Nomination Committee

TOURE, Kadidiatou (Ms.), Technical Officer

**JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)****PROGRAMME COMMUN DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LE VIH/SIDA**

N'DAW, Béchir (Mr.), Senior Adviser, Political Partnerships Director, External and Donor Relations Department

**UN OFFICE SERBIA**

MICULESCU, Simona-Mirela (Ms.), Representative of the UN Secretary General, Head of UN Office Belgrade

BESEDIC, Dennis (Mr.), Deputy Head

MARKOVIC, Milan (Mr.), Head of the Human Rights Team

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)****PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (PNUD)**

CHAUVEL, Charles (Mr.), Global Lead, Inclusive Processes and Institutions

SEESAC, Dragan Bozanic (Mr.)

LEDENICAN, Biljana (Ms.), Portfolio Manager for Parliamentary Development, Belgrade Office

**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (UNDRR)****BUREAU DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA RÉDUCTION DES RISQUES DE CATASTROPHE**

HOUGHTON, Sarah (Ms.), Programme Officer

MADI, Kirsí (Ms.), Director

**UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)****FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA POPULATION**

ANNAMUHAMEDOVA, Aynabat (Ms.), UNFPA Representative a.i. Bosnia and Herzegovina Country Director a.i. for Serbia and North Macedonia, Director a.i. Kosovo

ARMITAGE, Alanna (Ms.), Regional Director, EECA Region

SOVIC, Nevena (Ms.), SRH and Youth Programme Analyst, Head of Office a.i., UNFPA Serbia Country Office

FERRO, Monica (Ms.), Director, UNFPA Geneva Office

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)****HAUT COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS**

PAVEY, Safak (Mr.)

**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)****FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENFANCE**

DE DOMINICIS, Regina (Ms.), Belgrade Office

LEONARDI, Severine (Ms.), Belgrade Office

KHAN, Afshan (Ms.), Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia

MILANVOVIC, Jadranka (Ms.), Communication Officer

**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM (UNOCT)****NATIONS UNIES - BUREAU DE LUTTE CONTRE LE TERRORISME**

LANCHENKO, Olga (Ms.), Programme Manager

MIEDICO, Mauro (Mr.), UN Counter-Terrorism Office

**UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (UN WOMEN)  
ENTITE DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EGALITE DES SEXES ET L'AUTONOMISATION DES FEMMES  
(ONU FEMMES)**

EL-YASSIR, Alia (Ms.), UN Women ECA Regional Director  
BALLINGTON, Julie (Ms.)

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE (OMS)**

GHEBREYESUS, Tedros Adhanom (Mr.), Director-General  
SILBERSCHMIDT, Gaudenz (Mr.), Director for Partnerships and Non State Actors  
ASKEW, Ian (Mr.), Director Reproductive Health and Research  
SCOLARO, Elisa (Ms.), Partnerships Officer, Parliamentary Engagement

**ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)  
ORGANISATION POUR L'INTERDICTION DES ARMES CHIMIQUES (OIAC)**

SUKASAM, Kesrat (Mr.), Head, Implementation Support Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division  
RIVERA, Sharon (Ms.), Implementation Officer – Legal, Implementation Support Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division

**INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)  
FONDS MONÉTAIRE INTERNATIONAL (FMI)**

SOSA RAVELLO, Sebastian (Mr.), Resident Representative in Serbia

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)  
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES MIGRATIONS (OIM)**

CALDERON, Jaime (Mr.), Regional Migration Health Adviser

**COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION (CTBTO)  
ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ D'INTERDICTION COMPLÈTE DES ESSAIS NUCLÉAIRES**

TUDOR, Elizabeth Gillian (Ms.), Chief, Public Information Section  
YANG, Xiaodong (Mr.), Chief, Legal Services Section

**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)  
UNION PARLEMENTAIRE AFRICAINE**

IDI GADO, Boubacar (Mr.), Secretary General  
CHEROUATI, Samir (Mr.), Director

**ARAB INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (AIPU)  
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ARABE**

AL SHAWABKEH, Fayez (Mr.), Secretary General  
NIHAWI, Samir (Mr.), Director of Parliamentary Relations

**ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE ASIATIQUE**

MAJIDI, Mohammad Reza (Mr.), Secretary General  
GHASHGHAHI, Mehdi (Mr.), Executive Deputy of APA General Secretariat  
HASHEMI, Seyed Javad (Mr.), Director of International Affairs

**COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA)**

DAVIES, Emily (Ms.), Head of the Secretary General's Office

**CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DU MAGHREB  
MAGHREB CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL**

SAID, Mokadem (Mr.), Secrétaire Général

**FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION (FP- ICGLR)**

**FORUM DES PARLEMENTS DE LA CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS (FP-CIRGL)**

KAKOBA, Onyango (Mr.), Secretary General

KAMAU, Winnie (Ms.), Program Manager

**GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION (GOPAC)**

**ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES PARLEMENTAIRES CONTRE LA CORRUPTION (GOPAC)**

ZON, Fadli (Mr.), Chair

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY ON ORTHODOXY (IAO)**

**ASSEMBLEE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DE L'ORTHODOXIE (AIO)**

SARAKIOTIS, Ioannis (Mr.), Member

MYGDALIS, Konstantinos (Mr.), Advisor

TRPCHEVSKI, Goran (Mr.), Assistant/Interpreter

**PANAFRICAN PARLIAMENT**

**PARLEMENT PANAFRICAIN**

BOURAS, Djamel (Mr.), Troisième Vice-Président

KONE, Aboubacar Sidiki (Mr.), Député Membre, Président de la Commission des relations internationales

MPOUEL BALA, Dominique Sandrine (Ms.), Chargée de la mobilisation des ressources

**PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT (PNND)**

**PARLEMENTAIRES POUR LA NON PROLIFERATION NUCLEAIRE ET LE DESARMEMENT (PNDN)**

WARE, Alyn (Mr.) Global Coordinator

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)**

**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE**

QASEM, Belal (Mr.), Vice-President

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)**

**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'ORGANISATION POUR LA SECURITE ET LA COOPERATION EN EUROPE**

TSERETELI, George (Mr.), President

MONTELLA, Roberto (Mr.), Secretary General

PAGANI, Francesco (Mr.), Chief Political Advisor

KOLTCHANOV, Stéphanie (Ms.), Election Officer

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC SPEAKING COUNTRIES (TURKPA)**

**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DES PAYS DE LANGUE TURCIQUE**

ASKAROVA, Aynura (Ms.), Member of Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic

HASANOV, Emin (Mr.), Secretary of the Commission

KAZIMOVA, Suzanna (Ms.), Specialist

MAMAIUSUPOV, Altynbek (Mr.), Secretary General

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF BELARUS AND RUSSIA**

**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION DU BELARUS ET DE LA FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**

BOZHENOV, Sergey (Mr.), Member of the Committee

LEIKAUSKAS, Audrius (Mr.), Head of the Department

RAKHMANOV, Sergey (Mr.), Chairman of the Committee

SHUMYANTSEV, Alexander (Mr.), Head of the Department

STRELCHENKO, Sergey (Mr.), Secretary General of the Assembly

**PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES (PUIC)**

**UNION PARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'OCI (UPCI)**

MOHAMMADI SIJANI, Ali Asghar (Mr.), Deputy Secretary General

NIASS, Mouhamed Khouraiichi (Mr.), Secretary General

SABRI, Soheila (Ms.), Director of Protocol

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (SADC PF)  
FORUM PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA COMMUNAUTE (SADC)**

SEKOMA, Boemo (Mrs.), Secretary General  
MUNGANDI, Yapoka (Ms.), Director  
KARUUOMBE, Barney (Mr.), Manager, Parliamentary Capacity Development  
LILUNGWE, Agnes (Ms.), Personal Assistant to the Secretary General  
WINDWAAI, Ronald (Mr.), Webmaster

**GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA  
FONDS MONDIAL DE LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA, LA TUBERCULOSE ET LE PALUDISME**

BOULE, Scott (Mr.), Senior Specialist, Parliamentary Affairs

**LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL**

MACKAY, Gordon (Mr.), Secretary General  
TIOULONG, Saumura (Ms.), Party Representative  
CHARBEL, Kevin (Mr.), Climate Justice Programme Officer  
BOTTA, Long (Mr.)

**SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL**

AYALA, Luis (Mr.), Secretary General  
PERRY, Latifa (Ms.), Coordinator

**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)  
COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR)**

CARBONNIER, Gilles (Mr.), Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross  
CHARLIER, Benjamin (Mr.), Legal adviser  
STIJACIC, Jelena (Ms.), Head of the Regional Delegation - ICRC

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES (IFRC)  
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIÉTÉS DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT-ROUGE**

MILADINOVIC, Lubomir (Mr.), Secretary General of the Red Cross of Serbia  
MUKHAMADIEV, Davron (Mr.), Regional Health and Care Coordinator

**INTERNATIONAL IDEA**

MURPHY, Jonathan (Mr.), Head of Programme, Inter Pares-Parliaments in Partnership  
BEECKMANS, Ruth (Ms.)

**SPECIAL GUESTS TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION OF THE 141<sup>st</sup>  
ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
INVITES SPECIAUX PRENANT PART A DES ACTIVITES PREVUES A L'OCCASION DE LA 141<sup>e</sup>  
ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

**Assembly**

BRAHIMI, Lakhdar (Mr.), Founding Member, The Elders  
VALOVAYA, Tatiana (Ms.), Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva  
CLARKEN, Jim (Mr.), CEO of Oxfam Ireland and Executive Director of Oxfam International  
LAJČÁK, Miroslav (Mr.), Chairperson-in-Office, OSCE  
POSPELOV, Sergey (Mr.), Executive Secretary of PA CSTO  
UMAKHANOV, Umakhan (Mr.), PA CSTO

**Standing Committee on Peace and International Security**

WHYTE GOMEZ, Elayne (Ms.), Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica  
MESSNER, Dirk (Mr.), Director, United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security  
GEBREYES, Sophie (Ms.), Country Representative, The Lutheran World Federation  
JOLIC, Jelena (Ms.), Head of Unit in the Council of Europe Action against Crime Department

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

JENSEN, Peder (Mr.), Head of Secretariat for the International Resource Panel  
KURBALIJA, Jovan (Mr.), Founding Director of DiploFoundation

**Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs**

BIERSTEKER, Thomas (Mr.), Graduate Institute Geneva  
FALCONI, Jean Louis (Mr.), Ambassador of France to Serbia

**Committee to promote respect for International Humanitarian Law**

LUSENGE, Julianne (Ms.), SOFEPAD  
RUIZ VERDUZCO, Deborah (Ms.), Head of the Civil Society Initiatives Department, International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP)

**Advisory Group on Health**

KARLSSON, Ulrika (Ms.), Special Advisor on Health to the IPU

**Forum of Women Parliamentarians**

ELLIS, Amanda (Ms.), Executive Director Hawaii & Asia-Pacific ASU Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability  
TERRELL, Cynthia (Ms.), Founder and Executive Director, RepresentWomen  
DUTKIEWICZ, Marianne (Ms.), Women's Rights Lawyer and Policy Analyst

**Committee on Middle East Questions**

BONA, Maurizio (Mr.), Expert, CERN

**Workshop on SDG 8**

BYHOVSKAYA, Anna (Ms.), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

**Workshop on the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

LUMINA, Cephass (M.), UNCRRC  
HURTADO MIRA, Francisco Javier (Mr.), President of the Democrat Youth Community of Europe (DEMYC)  
DARMANIN, Martina (Ms.), Human Rights and Solidarity Coordinator in the Executive Committee of the European Students Union

**Workshop on gender and youth quotas**

HUNT Jacqueline Andr  a (Ms.), Director of Europe/Eurasia, Equality Now  
GBEDEMAH, Hilary (Ms.), Chair of the CEDAW Committee;  
SAMARDŽIĆ-MARKOVIĆ, Snežana (Ms.), Council of Europe

**GLOSSARY / GLOSSAIRE****English****Titles/Functions:**

Speaker of Parliament  
President of the Group

Adviser  
Chair/Chairman/Chairperson  
Clerk  
Deputy Speaker  
Head  
Leader of the Delegation  
Officer  
Researcher  
Secretary of the Group/delegation  
Spokesman

**Parliaments:**

House of Commons  
House of Representatives  
National Assembly  
People's Representatives

**Parliamentary Committees:**

Abroad  
Agreements  
Broadcasting  
Building  
Citizenship  
Complaint Reception  
Computer Science  
Cross-cutting Issues  
Directive Board  
Elderly  
Fishery  
Food  
Foreign Affairs  
Freedoms  
Funding  
Gender Equality  
Growth  
Health/Healthcare  
Heritage  
Home Affairs  
Housing  
Human Rights  
Intelligence  
Investigation/Inquiry  
Joint Committee  
Labour/Work  
Law  
Legal  
Local Self-government  
Missing, Adversely Affected Persons  
Oversight  
People with Disabilities  
Physical Planning, Land Use Planning, Country  
Planning  
Public Expenditure  
Public Works  
Rehabilitation  
Social Welfare

**Français****Titres/Fonctions:**

*Président du Parlement*  
*Président(e) du Groupe*

*Conseiller*  
*Président(e)*  
*Secrétaire général/Greffier*  
*Vice-Président(e)*  
*Chef*  
*Chef de la délégation*  
*Fonctionnaire*  
*Chercheur*  
*Secrétaire du Groupe/ de la délégation*  
*Porte-parole*

**Parlements :**

*Chambre des Communes*  
*Chambre des représentants*  
*Assemblée nationale*  
*Représentants du peuple*

**Commissions parlementaires :**

*A l'étranger*  
*Approbations*  
*Radiodiffusion*  
*Bâtiment*  
*Citoyenneté*  
*Instruction des plaintes*  
*Informatique*  
*Matières transversales*  
*Comité directeur*  
*Aînés*  
*Pêche*  
*Alimentation*  
*Affaires étrangères*  
*Libertés*  
*Financement*  
*Egalité entre les sexes*  
*Croissance*  
*Santé*  
*Patrimoine*  
*Affaires internes*  
*Logement*  
*Droits de l'homme*  
*Renseignement*  
*Enquête*  
*Comité mixte*  
*Travail*  
*Lois*  
*Juridique*  
*Autonomie locale*  
*Personnes disparues ou lésées*  
*Surveillance*  
*Personnes handicapées*  
*Aménagement du territoire*  
  
*Dépenses publiques*  
*Travaux publics*  
*Réinsertion*  
*Protection sociale*

Standing Committee  
Standing Orders/Rules  
State Device  
Sustainable Development  
Trade  
Training  
Truth  
Underprivileged  
Ways and Means  
Wildlife  
Women, Children and Youth

*Comité permanent*  
*Règlement*  
*Dispositif étatique*  
*Développement durable*  
*Commerce*  
*Formation*  
*Vérité*  
*Défavorisés*  
*Voies et moyens*  
*Faune*  
*Les femmes, les enfants et les jeunes*

**IPU Committees:**

Advisory Group on Health  
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians  
Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians  
Committee on Middle East Questions  
Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL)  
Executive Committee  
Forum of Young Parliamentarians  
Gender Partnership Group  
Group of Facilitators for Cyprus  
Standing Committee on Peace and International Security  
Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade  
Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights  
Standing Committee on UN Affairs

**Commissions et Comités de l'UIP :**

*Groupe consultatif sur la santé*  
*Bureau des femmes parlementaires*  
*Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires*  
*Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient*  
*Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire (DIH)*  
*Comité exécutif*  
*Forum des jeunes parlementaires*  
*Groupe du partenariat entre hommes et femmes*  
*Groupe de facilitateurs concernant Chypre*  
*Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale*  
*Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce*  
*Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme*  
*Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies*