

CL/190/SR.1
7 June 2012

SUMMARY RECORDS

OF THE

GOVERNING COUNCIL

(190th SESSION)

1 and 5 April 2012

KAMPALA (*Kampala Serena Conference Centre (KSCC)*)

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FIRST SITTING

Sunday, 1 April 2012

The meeting was called to order at 9.20 a.m. with the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), in the chair.

Item 1 of the agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (CL/190/A.1)

The revised provisional agenda contained in document CL/190/A.1 was adopted.

Item 2 of the agenda

APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE 189th SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (CL/189/SR.1)

The President said that the Japanese delegation had requested the addition of Ms. C. Nihimura and Mr. S. Ohsaka to the list of participants in the 189th session of the Governing Council in Bern. The PDF version of the summary records available on the IPU website had been amended accordingly.

The summary records of the 189th session of the Governing Council, as amended, were approved.

Item 3 of the agenda

PROPOSALS FOR THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE 126th ASSEMBLY

Mrs. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia) proposed that Ms. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, be nominated President of the 126th Assembly.

The Governing Council approved the nomination by acclamation.

Item 4 of the agenda

QUESTIONS RELATING TO IPU MEMBERSHIP AND OBSERVER STATUS

(a) Requests for IPU membership (CL/190/4(a)-R.1)

The President said that the IPU continued to encourage parliaments to join its membership and was hopeful that membership requests from the Parliaments of Myanmar and South Sudan would be finalized in time for the Council to approve them before the close of

the present session. Currently before the Council was a request for membership submitted in due form by the Parliament of Haiti, which had ceased to be a member in 1986 following the dissolution of the then Parliament. In the intervening years, the IPU had maintained contact with the Haitian authorities and extended capacity-building support to the Parliament during the 1990s. He took it that the Governing Council wished to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation in respect of the Haitian request, as contained in document CL/190/4(a)-R.1, and thereby readmit the Parliament of Haiti as a Member of the Union.

It was so decided.

Mr. A. Riché (Haiti) said that his delegation was elated by the tremendous show of support that had enabled the Haitian Parliament to resume its place within the IPU. Haiti's difficult struggle for democracy since its emergence from under dictatorship had been compounded by the aftermath of the earthquake that had struck the country in 2010. The hope nonetheless remained that Haiti would never again have to endure the political situations that had prevailed in years past. The country had recently celebrated its 208th anniversary of independence and its Parliament, which dated back to 1806, was the oldest in the world. It was therefore fully aware of the importance of close interaction between parliaments and the people. It looked forward to the renewal of its work with the IPU.

The President said that a request for associate membership had also been received from the Parliament of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC). He took it that the Council likewise wished to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation in that regard, as set out in document CL/190/4(a)-R.1, and thereby respond favourably to the request.

It was so decided.

(b) Situation of certain Members
(CL/190/4(b)-P.1)

The President said that the members of the Executive Committee were very perturbed by the situation in Mali and had been unanimous in their condemnation of the coup d'état that had taken place there on 22 March 2012. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was currently assisting negotiations aimed at restoring Mali's democratic institutions. For its part, the IPU would continue to monitor developments throughout the Assembly and submit a formal recommendation concerning the IPU membership of the Malian Parliament at the final sitting of the Council.

With respect to its current examination of developments in a number of countries, particularly in the Arab region, the Committee was pleased to note that free and fair elections had taken place in Egypt and Tunisia, with the result that both countries now had functioning parliaments. It was indeed delighted to welcome the delegation from the new Parliament of Egypt in Kampala. It also applauded the people of other countries in the region, notably Bahrain, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, for their courage and determination in calling for more democratic rule. In the case of Libya, it had noted that, despite the current absence of a parliament, a transitional process towards democracy was under way, with elections due to be held later in the year. Believing in the importance of support for the people of Libya as they engaged in that process, the IPU stood ready to provide assistance to the country in building a strong and democratic parliament. The Committee would carefully monitor the situation and deliver a progress report at the Council's next session in Quebec. In

the interim, it held that Libya's membership status should be maintained in the expectation that elections would take place as announced.

As to the case of the Parliament of Bolivia, which had defaulted in its payments to the IPU, the Committee was pleased to note that sufficient payment had been made in the past few days to offset the Parliament's arrears for 2008. Bolivia nonetheless remained liable for suspension under Article 5.3 of the IPU Statutes. The Secretary General would convey to the Parliament in writing that unless further payment was received by October 2012, the Executive Committee would be reluctantly obliged to recommend its suspension at the 127th Assembly in Quebec.

(c) Observer status
(CL/190/4(c)-P.1)

The President said that the Executive Committee had received a request for observer status from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. He took it that the Council wished to approve the Committee's recommendation on the matter, as contained in document CL/190/4(c)-P.1, and thereby grant that request.

It was so decided.

The President said that the Committee additionally recommended that World Vision International be invited to follow the work of the Assembly. The Organization worked closely with the IPU on matters relating to women and children but it was not a permanent observer at IPU Assemblies. He took it that the Council wished to approve the recommendation.

It was so decided.

Item 5 of the agenda

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

(a) On his activities since the 189th session of the Governing Council
(CL/190/5(a)-R.1)

The President read out his report on his activities since the 189th session of the Governing Council, contained in document CL/190/5(a)-R.1.

(b) On the activities of the Executive Committee

The President said that the Executive Committee had thus far held two sittings in Kampala and would reconvene on one further occasion in order to complete its agenda. Most of the subjects discussed were covered by other items on the Council's agenda and he would therefore report on those subjects under the relevant items. The Sub-committee on Finance, established by the Executive Committee to examine financial matters in depth, had held its first meeting in Kampala. It had met for a full day and examined a number of questions, including the financial results for 2011, the external auditor's report and the financial situation of the IPU. It had also discussed preparations for the budget for 2013 and was exploring alternative ways of financing the activities of the IPU. All of those important matters would be taken up by the Council at its next sitting.

Item 6 of the agenda

**ANNUAL REPORT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE IPU FOR 2011**

The Secretary General, reporting on the activities of the IPU for 2011, said that the new Women in Politics 2012 map produced jointly with UN Women had been launched one month earlier at the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. A statistical analysis of the map, which he illustrated with a slide presentation, showed that the global average percentage of women in parliament stood at 19.5 per cent in January 2012, corresponding to an increase of 75 per cent since 1995 but also to a dismal annual increase averaging barely 0.5 per cent; at that rate, it would take until 2073 to achieve gender parity. There were strong regional contrasts, with the Nordic countries at the top of the scale and the Arab and Pacific island countries at the bottom. Worldwide, female membership amounted to 30 per cent or more in 49 chambers but remained below 10 per cent in 61 chambers. The democratic transitions under way in the Arab region offered important opportunities for reaching that minimum target of 30 per cent, however, and positive developments in some Pacific Island countries included the adoption of affirmative measures. At the global level, the total number of women ministers was growing, albeit slowly. By and large, they held portfolios dealing with social affairs, family and youth, women's affairs or education. The number of women speakers of parliament had also steadily increased to the current all-time high of 41 and the number of women heads of State had almost doubled to 17 in the past 15 years. Factors affecting women's access to elected positions included the electoral and party systems in place, the use of special measures or quotas, and the failure of political parties to field enough women candidates for election. All parliamentarians were encouraged to make use of the statistics provided by the map, which would soon be available in a further three languages, and to provide information on initiatives for promoting women's political participation in their countries.

Turning to his report entitled *The IPU in 2011*, he said that, under the banner of democracy, democracy and more democracy, most IPU activities in the past year had maintained the focus on championing democracy and strengthening parliaments, the leitmotiv for the five-year strategy adopted at the 125th Assembly in Bern. In those areas of activity, the IPU could claim a unique expertise by virtue of the wealth of knowledge possessed by its membership. It had consequently been instrumental in providing comprehensive support to various parliaments in the Arab world, as well as in the Maldives, and it would follow suit in Myanmar and South Sudan. Work had also continued on the Gender Partnership and Human Rights Programmes, which constituted another two of the IPU's pillars. The self-explanatory report contained full details of the activities undertaken, some of which would be addressed under other agenda items.

In conclusion, he announced that 216 members of the Governing Council were participating in the current meeting and that a quorum of 109 was therefore established for the session.

The meeting rose at 10.05 a.m.

SECOND SITTING

Thursday, 5 April 2012

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m. with the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), in the chair.

Item 4 of the agenda

(continued)

QUESTIONS RELATING TO IPU MEMBERSHIP

(a) Requests for IPU membership

(CL/190/4(a)-R.2)

The President said that, since the first meeting of the present session of the Council, requests for IPU membership had been submitted by the Parliaments of Myanmar and South Sudan. Over the past year, there had been sweeping political reforms in Myanmar; a bicameral parliament had been established and by-elections to complete the composition of the Parliament had been held earlier in the week. In the 12 months since its establishment, the Parliament had already instituted major legislative reform in the country. He took it that the Governing Council wished to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation in respect of the request from the Parliament of Myanmar, as contained in document CL/190/4(a)-R.2, and thereby readmit it as a Member of the Union.

It was so decided.

Mr. M. Nyein (Myanmar) said that his delegation was sincerely grateful for the decision to readmit Myanmar to the IPU membership. During his visit to Myanmar in March 2012, the Secretary General of the IPU had witnessed for himself the functioning of the Parliament and had supported its reaffiliation process. Through its IPU membership, the Myanmar Parliament looked forward to establishing valuable contacts in the course of exchanging experiences with other parliaments and engaging in international cooperation at the parliamentary level. It was cognizant of the ideals held by such an important and prestigious body as the IPU and would abide by its Statutes.

The President, referring to the second request for membership, said that the Parliament of the South Sudan was another very young institution in a newly independent State. He took it that the Governing Council similarly wished to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation in respect of that request, as contained in document CL/190/4(a)-R.2, and thereby admit the Parliament of the South Sudan as a Member of the Union.

It was so decided.

Mr. O.A. Nyikwec (South Sudan) expressed gratitude to the IPU for accepting the Parliament of South Sudan into its membership. As the youngest parliament in the world, it would seek to attain the standard of long-established parliaments and appealed for capacity-building support to that end. It likewise undertook to comply with the principles and Statutes of the IPU and to fulfil its responsibilities as an IPU Member.

The President expressed a warm welcome to both Parliaments.

The Secretary General added that the IPU response to the requests from both Parliaments for technical and capacity-building support would begin with a needs assessment conducted by a group of experts seconded from a number of parliaments. On the basis of that assessment, the IPU would then seek to mobilize and coordinate support for the two Parliaments from among its membership with a view to putting in place an ambitious support programme by the time of the 127th Assembly in October. The mission to Myanmar would take place at the end of the current month and plans for the mission to South Sudan were currently being finalized.

(b) Situation of certain Members

The President, following up on his earlier report to the Council concerning the situation in Mali, said that intense negotiations had since continued under the aegis of the Economic Organization of West African States (ECOWAS) and that an agreement was shortly expected whereby the army officers would return power to the civilian authorities and democratic institutions would be re-established. In those circumstances, the Executive Committee recommended that no action be taken with respect to the membership of Mali's National Assembly. It would therefore remain an IPU Member and the Committee would continue to monitor the situation. A presidential statement on Mali would be drafted for circulation at the last sitting of the Assembly with a view to its issuance on behalf of the delegates present in Kampala.

Item 5 of the agenda
(continued)

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

(b) On the activities of the Executive Committee

The President said that the Executive Committee had met on the previous day in order to complete its agenda, most of which was covered by other items of the Council's agenda. The Council would therefore receive reports on those matters under the relevant items. With respect to the legacy pension fund established in 2005 for 11 former staff members who had been receiving pensions from the IPU at that time, the Committee had decided to reappoint Mr. Josef Winkler of Germany to take on the challenging task of presiding over the board responsible for management of the fund. Mr. Winkler would report to the Executive Committee at the Assembly in Quebec on the next meeting of the board.

Concerning the finances of the IPU and the preparation of the budget for 2013, the Executive Committee had narrowed down the options for maintaining contributions at the 2012 level to either a reduction of expenditure or an increase in voluntary contributions. The Sub-committee on Finance would meet in May in order to discuss the budgetary impact of the areas of the IPU's five-year strategy that had been identified as priorities by the geopolitical groups. The Executive Committee would also convene an extraordinary meeting to discuss the budget. He urged support for the IPU's efforts to increase the sum of voluntary contributions in order to attain the goals envisaged in the strategy.

Item 7 of the agenda

REPORTS ON RECENT IPU SPECIALIZED CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

- (a) **Regional conference on *National and regional defence and security challenges in Latin America - the role of parliaments***
(CL/190/7(a)-R.1)

Mr. J.M. Corzo Román (Colombia), reporting on the regional conference held in Bogotá, Colombia, from 21 to 22 November 2011, to discuss the role of parliaments in addressing national and regional defence and security challenges in Latin America, said that the high level of participation by parliamentarians from the region demonstrated their commitment to cooperation on matters relating to those challenges. Examples of the defence and security concerns raised in that context included the spread of organized crime across the continent, bilateral tensions and the role of national armed forces and law enforcement agencies, which should be answerable to parliament. Among the conclusions drawn was that parliamentarians must represent their citizens by raising such concerns in parliament, rather than considering them as taboo for reasons of national security. A full account of the meeting was contained in document CL/190/7(a)-R.1.

- (b) **Regional Parliamentary Workshop on *Parliamentary oversight of the security sector: disseminating best practices in ECOWAS Member States***
(CL/190/7(b)-R.1)

Mrs. A. Kaboré-Koala (Burkina Faso), presenting the report on the regional parliamentary workshop held in Bamako, Mali, from 28 to 29 November 2011, said that the workshop had been organized as part of the joint initiative between the IPU and the Geneva-based Democratic Centre for the Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), which was aimed at strengthening the role of parliaments and ensuring that parliamentary defence and security committees were equipped with the know-how and expertise needed to develop appropriate legislation and engage in oversight of the security sector. Questions explored by the 50 or so participants from the ECOWAS region had included mechanisms for such oversight and strategic directions for effective implementation. Recommendations had then been developed in three broad areas: building alliances; the budget decision-making powers of parliaments; and the systematic incorporation of the gender dimension into parliamentary oversight of the security sector. The establishment of national and regional mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of those recommendations had also been proposed.

- (c) **Joint IPU-UN Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations**
(CL/190/7(c)-R.1)

The Secretary General, presenting the report on the annual Parliamentary Hearing held in New York on 28 and 29 November 2011, said that the Hearing had provided the opportunity for a valuable exchange of information and experiences among senior diplomats, parliamentarians, civil society representatives and academics. Focused on the issue of strengthening political accountability, the spirited debate had been structured into four components: the role of the United Nations General Assembly in strengthening global accountability; youth participation in the democratic process; accountability in the management of public funds; and strengthening the links between national institutions and civil society, which had in fact served as a precursor to the current Assembly's theme of

bridging the gap between parliaments and people. The substance of the debate was described at length in the annex to document CL/190/7(c)-R.1.

**(d) Parliamentary Forum on the occasion of
the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness**
(CL/190/7(d)-R.1)

Mr. H.-M. Won (Republic of Korea), introducing the report on the Parliamentary Forum held in Busan, Republic of Korea, on 29 November 2011, said that the main purpose of the forum, organized by the IPU, the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA) and his country's National Assembly, had been to formulate a parliamentary message to the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. Among the salient points made was that parliaments should be recognized as key State institutions and also play a leading role in development, particularly given their mandate to scrutinize and oversee executive action. In the interest of ensuring that aid not only did no harm but also supported effective development, the Parliamentary Forum had identified seven crucial outstanding issues to be addressed, which were set out in the annex to document CL/190/7(d)-R.1. It had also taken the view that parliamentarians must be included in any post-Busan central coordination structures and that ways of stepping up their involvement in future aid effectiveness processes must be explored.

**(e) Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations
Climate Change Conference (COP17/CMP7)**
(CL/190/7(e)-R.1)

Mr. M.V. Sisulu (South Africa), reporting on the Parliamentary Meeting held on 5 December 2011 in Durban, South Africa, to coincide with the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), said that 275 participants had attended, including 170 parliamentarians, from over 40 countries and four international organizations. The success of the Meeting highlighted the importance of including parliamentarians, wherever possible, in national delegations to important meetings, not only as a cost-saving measure but also as a means of underscoring national efforts. In conveying to the COP17 President the text of the outcome document annexed to document CL/190/7(e)-R.1, the then IPU President had drawn particular attention to paragraph 7, in which all major economies were urged to honour their pledges under the Cancún Agreement, including countries' pledges under the Kyoto Protocol, pending the establishment of a comprehensive framework. The Meeting had also reaffirmed the IPU's commitment to working with other stakeholders in seeking long-term sustainable solutions to global threats to the environment.

**(f) Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the 56th session of
the Commission on the Status of Women**
(CL/190/7(f)-R.1)

Mrs. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia), introducing the report on the one-day Parliamentary Meeting organized by the IPU and the United Nations on the occasion of the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, said that the Meeting, held on 29 February 2012, had provided a forum for over 120 parliamentarians from 41 countries to join with others in taking stock of the situation with respect to the role of parliaments in empowering rural women, identifying challenges faced by those women, and showcasing parliamentary mechanisms and actions for overcoming the barriers. The Meeting had also

endeavoured to provide parliamentary input to the Commission's debates. The two main areas of discussion had been the political empowerment of rural women, including the role of parliaments in better reflecting their needs and interests, and the key rights-related priorities for rural women: addressing discrimination against women in law, and access to health. Two informal meetings held on 1 March had focused on the dimension of information and communication technology (ICT) with respect to women in politics and on the matter of gender-sensitive parliaments. The Women in Politics 2012 map - an important tool for enabling parliamentarians, among others, to gauge women's participation in decision-making - had also been launched on the occasion of the Commission's session. Lastly, participants had agreed that the time had come for those who accounted for one half of the world's population to hold one half of the world's power.

Item 8 of the agenda

COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

(CL/190/8-R.1)

The Secretary General, presenting the checklist of activities undertaken in cooperation with the United Nations system between October 2011 and March 2012, as set out in document CL/190/8-R.1, said that the range of activities described was indicative of the endeavour to develop a parliamentary dimension to the work of the United Nations, which was an area of great emphasis in the recently adopted IPU strategy. Under the strategic work area of global economic governance, the IPU would additionally start building greater parliamentary accountability of the Bretton Woods institutions with the objective of strengthening parliamentary action on economic and financial issues. In that context, the resolution drafted by the Second Standing Committee at the current Assembly included actions designed to strengthen the accountability of global financial institutions. Moreover, the parliamentary oversight of Government external loans and related processes had been the theme of the previous day's workshop, which had discussed the findings of a joint global survey conducted by the IPU, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to investigate the legal authority of parliaments to ratify such loans and effective practices to oversee loan approval and related processes. The overwhelming view among participants had been that parliaments exercised insufficient leverage with respect to the Bretton Woods institutions and that much remained to be done to strengthen parliamentary oversight of loan processes, such as the early involvement of parliaments in loan agreement negotiations. Members were therefore clearly keen for the IPU to continue strengthening its activity in that area.

With reference to the session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to be held in May 2012, he said that it would devote a specific agenda item to interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU, which was unprecedented; for many years, the General Assembly had debated that topic only within the broader context of United Nations cooperation with international and regional organizations. He therefore urged Members to use the avenues available to them to convey their views on the topic to the national delegations intending to join in the debate on 29 May, during which the IPU President would also deliver a statement. The text of a draft resolution for adoption following the debate had been circulated to the Council. The draft had been developed in consultation with the United Nations Secretariat and Member States on the basis of earlier General Assembly resolutions adopted on United Nations cooperation with the IPU. Input from the geopolitical groups had also been invited. Proposed amendments and additions to the previous language appeared in bold typeface in the text and related to such matters as the possibility of working

to facilitate a parliamentary component to major international processes, along the lines of the parliamentary track of the 2011 Istanbul Conference on Least Developed Countries. For no other reason than to reflect the progress and developments that had taken place over the years, the draft also recommended the conclusion of a new Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the IPU. The Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations would lead and coordinate work in New York by circulating the draft to Member States with a view to seeking comments and sponsorship. IPU Members were encouraged likewise to mobilize support for the draft. The members would be notified of any subsequent changes to the text.

The President informed the Council that it had been necessary at the present Assembly to fill a number of vacancies on the Advisory Group of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs, the members of which were appointed by the IPU President, in consultation with the geopolitical groups. Those consultations had taken place in Kampala and, on the recommendation of the geopolitical groups, he had appointed the following members: for the African Group, Mr. S. Derradji (Algeria) and Mr. A.A. Doguwa (Nigeria); for the Arab Group, Mr. E. El-Erian (Egypt); for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. J.C. Mahía (Uruguay); and for the Twelve Plus Group, Mr. D. Dawson (Canada), Mr. P. Martin-Lalande (France) and Mr. J. Moscoso del Prado (Spain).

The Executive Committee extended its congratulations to all the new appointees but noted with some consternation that they were all men, which did not bode well for the strategic objective of achieving gender parity within the structures of the IPU. The Committee therefore urged the geopolitical groups in future to put forward a number of female candidates. He would closely monitor the situation when the Council next met in October.

Item 9 of the agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPU STRATEGY 2012-2017

The President said that a decision had been made to place on the agenda of each session of the Executive Committee for the next five years an item for reviewing implementation of the IPU strategy adopted in October 2011. The Committee had begun that task by focusing on those areas of the strategy that required strengthening, with particular reference to the final three strategic objectives. A discussion had commenced concerning the format of the second Assembly of the year and the functioning of the Standing Committees and the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs. The discussion would be pursued at the Committee's extraordinary session later in the year and the Committee expected to be in a position to make recommendations to the Council at the coming Assembly in Quebec.

The Committee had also been briefed by the new Director of Communications on the plans under way for implementation of the communications strategy and looked forward to seeing them put into practice. Lastly, it had discussed a future policy for the IPU to mainstream gender throughout the organization. The engine for that policy would be the work of the Gender Partnership Group, on which the Council would shortly receive a report under the relevant agenda item.

Item 10 of the agenda

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2011

(CL/190/10-R.1 to R.3)

The Secretary General, presenting the financial report and audited financial statements (CL/190/10-R.1), drew attention to the figures on revenues and expenses contained in table 1 of the document and to the analyses of revenues by source, expenditures by division and expenditures by category. The operating surplus of almost CHF 423,000 had been largely generated by savings made during 2011, although the weakness of the United States dollar had also played a part. The external auditor appointed in October 2011, namely the Swiss Federal Audit Office, had expressed a positive opinion concerning the IPU's financial statements, which it had audited in accordance with the International Public Sector Standards on Auditing (IPSAS). Priding itself as it did on abiding by the highest standards of accountability, the IPU had embraced the external auditor's recommendation of moving away from the United Nations system accounting standards to IPSAS, which were the highest-quality accounting standards for the public sector. Numerous adjustments to the presentation of the financial statements had been made accordingly, although actions were still under way for guaranteeing compliance with IPSAS requirements by the close of the 2012 financial year in three remaining areas, specifically: the presentation of the IPU's internal taxation system; the valuation of the IPU premises; and the actuarial implications of the legacy staff pension fund and any other obligations to future retirees. He expressed the IPU's gratitude to the Swiss Federal Audit Office for the substantial time and resources it had devoted to its task; the audit had been the most extensive conducted for over two decades.

Mr. D. Pacheco (Portugal), Internal Auditor, drew attention to the Internal Auditors' report (CL/190/10-R.2) and said that he wished to emphasize three issues: the importance of an actuarial study to determining the impact of the legacy pension fund on the IPU's financial situation; the potential need for support to enable institution of the measures required for full implementation of the IPSAS system; and the imperative of the timely payment of contributions by all Members. It was time to review the current system whereby Members in arrears were not necessarily deprived of their voting rights and could ultimately avoid suspension by paying their overdue contributions at the eleventh hour.

Mr. H. Tajam (Uruguay), Internal Auditor, highlighting section B of the report, said that the improved net surplus of CHF 422,874 for 2011 had been the result of a reduced expenditure due in part to considerable payroll savings. The voluntary income budget had been overestimated, however, with the result that programme income had been lower than expected. The 2012 budget had therefore been adjusted to avoid a recurrence of that situation. He endorsed the need for an actuarial study relating to the legacy staff pension fund and reiterated the concern over the size of the arrears in contributions. Taking into account those factors, the Internal Auditors recommended approval of the three recommendations contained in the financial report and audited financial statements (CL/190/10-R.1).

The President said he took it that the Governing Council wished to approve those three recommendations.

It was so decided.

The Secretary General, presenting the report on the financial situation of the Union (CL/190/10-R.3), outlined the details it contained with respect to the impact of currency markets and investment yields, the IPU Staff Pension Fund and national fiscal restraint, as well as the outlook for 2012 in terms of the cash balance, revenues and expenditures, receipts of assessed contributions, and arrears of contributions for past years. As indicated in annex II to the report, the amount of unpaid contributions at 2 April 2012 had reduced substantially to just under CHF 455,000 on account of sizeable contributions received in the past few days. While that was a positive development, he noted the comments of the Internal Auditor concerning the need for stricter rules to ensure the timely payment of contributions.

Item 11 of the agenda

**ACTION BY THE IPU TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY
AND PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS**

Mr. M. Chungong, Director, Division of Programmes, reporting on the work of the Programme for the Promotion of Democracy, said that promoting democracy and strengthening parliaments formed the leitmotiv of the IPU strategy adopted in Bern, which had since served to guide the IPU's activities in that area. Details relating to those activities were contained in the Secretary General's annual report on the activities of the IPU in 2011 and in annex II to the financial report and audited financial statements (CL/190/10-R.1). Examples included capacity-building support to parliaments in 16 countries in Africa, the Arab region, Asia and Latin America; the organization of regional seminars and other events to assist parliamentarians in combating violence against women; and support for parliamentary efforts to address women and children's rights.

The publication of the first ever Global Parliamentary Report in early 2012 had already been the subject of intensive debate. Of particular interest were the numerous activities in which the IPU had been engaged in the wake of the Arab Spring, which had included the provision of support and guidance to the Egyptian and Tunisian authorities with respect to the establishment of robust new parliaments and their role in drafting constitutions. The IPU likewise stood ready to assist, as necessary, in Yemen and the Syrian Arab Republic, and needs-assessment missions were planned in response to requests from Libya, Myanmar and South Sudan. Work had also focused on countries experiencing or emerging from conflict; inter alia, the IPU had mediated among the parliamentary parties in the recent Maldives crisis and was working to resolve divergent interests in Burundi and to promote the parliamentary role and cross-party collaboration in the post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation process under way in Sierra Leone. Other areas of ongoing IPU activity included work to defend the human rights of parliamentarians and to increase the parliamentary input to the international development agenda, with a particular focus on least developed countries.

The findings of an evaluation of IPU technical assistance conducted in 2011, which had recommended a more result-based approach, had been taken into account in the planning of activities for 2012. Indeed, a common framework for IPU activities across the board had been established on the basis of those findings. At a time when ever more capacity-building assistance was being requested, however, the availability of resources remained a concern, notwithstanding the valuable donor support received from Canadian, Irish and Swedish sources, among others. The hope was that additional resources would be mobilized from donor agencies to enable the IPU to implement the activities on its global agenda.

Item 12 of the agenda

ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

(a) Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
(CL/190/12(a)-R.1 and R.2)

The President drew attention to the composition and officers of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians further to the elections of the regional representatives, held in Kampala on 4 April 2012, as detailed in the annex to document CL/190/12(a)-R.1.

Ms. B. Amongi (Uganda), President and Rapporteur of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, introducing the report on the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians (CL/190/12(a)-R.1), held on 31 March 2012, said that the Meeting had made a significant contribution from a gender perspective to the items under discussion at the present Assembly. After deliberating issues relating to the redistribution of power and access to health for women and children, participants had called for measures to facilitate women's access to all political and socio-economic decision-making structures and encourage gender-mainstreaming in international institutions. Preventive health measures for women and children had also been emphasized, in particular the need to address immunization gaps and enforce legislation to improve health standards. Other issues of debate had included violence against women and the specific needs of young women, rural women and women with disabilities. The amendments proposed to the draft resolutions of the Second and Third Standing Committees as a result of the Meeting's discussions had largely been taken on board. Women's participation in politics had also been high on the agenda; the Council was urged to take action to remedy the lack of women's representation at IPU meetings and in IPU bodies. Lastly, a dialogue session on mentorship in support of young women in politics had highlighted initiatives undertaken in that area by caucuses of women parliamentarians, including through the use of modern technologies.

Ms. N. Motsamai (Lesotho), presenting the report on a panel discussion on *Tackling malnutrition in young children: The role of parliamentarians* (CL/190/12(a)-R.2), said that the discussion, organized in conjunction with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and moderated by the First Lady of Uganda, had provided an opportunity to gauge the full extent of the problem of malnutrition in young children. The forecasts were alarming; it was unthinkable that the total number of malnourished children should equal the populations of Ethiopia, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda combined and intolerable that the scourge should be growing when the means of its eradication were within reach. Four eminent specialists in nutrition had given enlightening presentations that had helped to pinpoint the main areas for immediate intervention by parliamentarians, namely: the integration of nutrition into priority development actions; the promotion of maternal education and information through sensitization campaigns to encourage breastfeeding; and the fostering of cooperation among all players in order to carry out targeted joint action.

(b) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

(i) Election of two titular members and one substitute member

(CL/190/12(b)-P.1 to P.4)

The President said that two titular members were to be elected to the Committee in order to replace Mr. P. Mahoux (Belgium), whose term of office expired at the present session, and Mr. B. Barovic (Slovenia), who was no longer a member of parliament. The Twelve Plus Group had put forward two candidates for the two titular vacancies, namely Mrs. A. Clwyd (United Kingdom), who was currently a substitute member, and Mr. U. Nilsson (Sweden). He invited the Council to elect those two candidates as titular members of the Committee.

It was so decided.

The President said that, in view of Mrs. Clwyd's rise in status from that of substitute to titular member, there were now two substitute posts to fill. The candidatures put forward were those of Ms. C. Giaccone (Argentina) to replace Mr. J.P. Letelier (Chile), who had been elected titular member at the last Council session in Bern, and Mrs. M. Kiener Nellen (Switzerland) to replace Mrs. Clwyd. He invited the Council to elect those two candidates as substitute members of the Committee.

It was so decided.

(ii) Reports of the Committee

(CL/190/12(b)-R.1 to R.3)

Mr. P. Mahoux (Belgium), President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, introducing the reports of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, said that talks had been held with 11 delegations during the Committee's session in Kampala. Such meetings were vital to enhancing understanding of the cases before the Committee, as well as to expressing concerns and exchanging views. He therefore thanked those 11 delegations for their time and also the many parliaments that had transmitted information to the Committee in writing.

During the present session, the Committee had examined the individual situations of 201 parliamentarians in 39 countries. The draft resolutions submitted to the Council for adoption concerned the cases of parliamentarians in 26 countries, one of which was a new case. The cases would be presented in French alphabetical order. They did not, however, include those examined under the Committee's confidential procedure, which often allowed it to obtain very positive results. Recently, for example, a parliamentarian had been released thanks to its intervention, and another had received allowances he had not been paid for some time. Unfortunately, it was not possible to enter into greater detail.

There were no draft resolutions on the cases from Ecuador, Iceland and Madagascar. In the case of Ecuador and the 1999 assassinations of Mr. Hurtado and Mr. Tapia, a question remained outstanding with regard to the statute of limitations. The hope was that more information would be available to report in October.

Concerning Iceland, legal action to prevent the transmission to the United States authorities of information on Ms. Jónsdóttir's Twitter account had failed. The Committee would closely monitor how that information was used in the course of any judicial investigations in the United States. At the same time, it considered that the case raised questions about the consequences of using social networks in the exercise of a parliamentary

mandate; those questions should be subject to an in-depth debate by all IPU Member Parliaments at a future Assembly.

With regard to Madagascar, the Committee continued to examine the cases of several former members of the Parliament dissolved in the wake of the March 2009 coup d'état. It had requested the Secretary General to contact the transitional authorities in order to obtain information on the current political situation and any impact it might have on the cases before it. The Committee would return to the case in October, when it would be in a position to provide more detailed information.

BANGLADESH

The case in question concerned the grenade attack of January 2005 that had killed Mr. Shah A.M.S. Kibria, former Bangladeshi Minister of Finance, and that of August 2004 against Ms. Sheikh Hasina, who had been leader of the opposition at the time.

In the case of Ms. Hasina, the investigators had managed to identify the perpetrators and instigators of the attack. According to the information on file, members of the party in power at the time, acting at the behest of the highest representatives, had apparently been involved in the crime, in complicity with the authorities in charge of law and order. It was now crucial for the authorities to issue international arrest warrants so as to apprehend the two suspects, who had reportedly fled abroad.

With regard to the attack that had killed Mr. Kibria, the Committee was pleased to note that the judge had allowed the non-confidence motion lodged by Mr. Kibria's widow, who had contested the incomplete nature of the additional charge sheet submitted in June 2011, and had ordered an additional investigation. The Committee trusted that the authorities would be able to elucidate the case in full and identify the instigators of the crime. It was hopeful that the progress made in identifying the instigators of the attack on Ms. Hasina would also allow progress to be made in the investigation into Mr. Kibria's murder, given the many similarities between the two attacks.

The Governing Council unanimously adopted the draft resolutions relating to the case of Mr. Shah A.M.S. Kibria and to the case of Ms. Sheikh Hasina.

BELARUS

Mr. Victor Gonchar and his friend, Mr. Anatoly Krasovsky, had disappeared over 12 years previously. The National Assembly of Belarus regularly communicated with the Committee in writing, but its letters had never addressed the Committee's oft-expressed concerns and gave no indication that the authorities were making a serious effort to ascertain what had happened to Mr. Gonchar and his friend. The Committee therefore called on the National Assembly to do everything possible to help ensure that an effective investigation was carried out, in particular by insisting on obtaining specific information on how the various leads and concerns that had thus far emerged were being addressed.

The Governing Council unanimously adopted the draft resolution relating to the case of Mr. Victor Gonchar.

BURUNDI

With regard to Burundi, a mission had been conducted to Bujumbura from 25 to 28 September 2011, the report on which was before the Council (CL/190/12(b)-R.1). The Committee thanked the Burundian authorities for their welcome and cooperation and took note with great interest of the observations made by the Speaker of the National Assembly and

the Burundian delegation, for which the Committee had organized a hearing during its session. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the authorities' commitment to bringing about a satisfactory settlement of all the cases before it. It was pleased to learn about the extensive action taken by the parliamentary working group with a view to making rapid progress towards such settlements.

The Committee was examining three series of cases in Burundi. The first concerned the murders of six members of parliament and two assassination attempts against one member over 10 years earlier, which were to be examined by a truth and reconciliation commission. The Committee understood that the commission's establishment was a complex process and trusted that, as indicated by the Burundian delegation, the draft legislation on the subject would be discussed and adopted in the coming weeks.

The second series of Burundian cases before the Committee concerned the grenade attacks against eight other parliamentarians in August 2007 and March 2008. The assailants previously identified had been acquitted at first instance for want of sufficient evidence. The Committee noted with interest the intention of the parliamentary working group to help re-open the investigation, given that it should be possible to make some progress, at least with regard to the attack for which suspects had been arrested and evidence was available.

Lastly, in respect of the third series of cases in Burundi, the Committee shared the concerns of the mission with regard to the detention on remand of four former parliamentarians and the slowness of the proceedings against them. It expected a verdict shortly in the case of Mr. Mpawenayo and was hopeful that the authorities would examine the possibility of granting provisional freedom to Mr. Nkurunziza and Mr. Nshirimana while doing all in their power to accelerate the proceedings against them. It had decided to close the case of Mr. Minyurano in the hope that it would be promptly resolved.

The Governing Council unanimously adopted the draft resolutions relating to the cases of 21 parliamentarians.

CAMBODIA

The two cases in Cambodia under examination by the Committee continued to raise concerns relating to parliamentary immunity, parliamentarians' freedom of expression and the independence of the Cambodian judicial system. Unfortunately, there were no positive developments to report in either of the cases, about which the Committee remained seriously preoccupied. Mu Sochua would recover her immunity only once the Appeal Court had rehabilitated her, which the Committee continued to believe was a reflection of a faulty conception of the application of parliamentary immunity. It trusted that the Appeal Court would take a decision without delay in order to enable Mu Sochua to run in the 2013 elections, as was her right.

Sam Rainsy, the leader of the opposition, had been sentenced to nine years in prison, which barred him from standing in the 2013 elections. Moreover, his parliamentary mandate had already been revoked. He had been penalized above all for having, in October 2009, pulled up temporary border markers along the Cambodia-Thai border. A second accusation, for having divulged false information, had been brought against him when he had endeavoured to demonstrate that the border markers did in fact encroach on Cambodian territory. The Committee considered that the case was purely political in nature and should therefore be resolved at the political level. It strongly hoped that the authorities would find a solution of that kind, so that Sam Rainsy could resume his parliamentary activities as soon as possible and stand in the forthcoming elections.

The Committee would continue to follow both cases and once again urged the National Assembly to review the legislation on parliamentary immunity.

Mr. S. Yang (Cambodia) said that Mr. Rainsy had taken the law into his own hands when he had gone to the border. The fact was that the commission of a crime by a member of parliament did not set a good example. Politics were not concerned.

The Governing Council adopted the draft resolutions relating to the case of Mr. Sam Rainsy and to the case of Ms. Mu Sochua.

CAMEROON

The only new case submitted to the Council concerned a Cameroonian parliamentarian, Mr. Dieudonné Ambassa Zang. It had been the subject of a mission to Cameroon in May 2011. After Mr. Ambassa Zang had left his country, his parliamentary immunity had been lifted in August 2009 at the request of the Minister of Justice. The request had been based on an accusation of misappropriation of public funds dating from the time when Mr. Ambassa Zang had been Minister of Public Works. The Committee had serious doubts about the way in which Mr. Ambassa Zang's parliamentary immunity had been lifted and the procedure concerning him had been conducted in Cameroon. It shared the concerns expressed in the mission report about whether the case would be handled fairly and objectively should Mr. Ambassa Zang return to Cameroon.

The authorities had opted for a criminal procedure, which meant that Mr. Ambassa Zang must be present in person. The Committee feared that the procedure had been chosen specifically to justify the argument that the case was blocked for as long as Mr. Ambassa Zang did not appear in person before the Cameroonian judicial authorities. The Committee stressed that Mr. Ambassa Zang had answered the accusations in detail and was ready to provide additional information if required. It urged the competent authorities to do all in their power to facilitate a satisfactory settlement of the case, which could be submitted to the Budgetary and Financial Discipline Committee. Doing so would allow Mr. Ambassa Zang's lawyer to defend him in absentia. In the Committee's view, the only other option would be for the charges against him to be dropped.

The Governing Council unanimously adopted the draft resolution relating to the case of Mr. Dieudonné Ambassa Zang.

COLOMBIA

The Committee was examining numerous cases in Colombia. A first series concerned assassinations of and threats against members of Congress.

In the case of Senator Carlos Galán Sarmiento, assassinated 22 years earlier, the efforts of the Colombian justice system had led to the identification and arrest of one of the presumed instigators of the murder. Unfortunately, that person had been released pursuant to a Supreme Court decision annulling the proceedings in his case. The Committee, which was deeply disturbed by that development, sincerely hoped that absolute priority would be given to the opening of the fresh proceedings that would now have to be launched in that respect. It also recalled its trust that a decision would rapidly be taken to open proceedings against the other suspects identified.

With regard to the members of the Alternative Democratic Pole, the Committee was particularly concerned by the growing number of threats faced by Mr. Cepeda in the conduct of his parliamentary work. It therefore urged the authorities to do everything they could to ensure that the culprits, including the instigators, were identified and punished.

Another series of cases in Colombia concerned shortcomings in the legal protection of parliamentarians. The Committee considered it essential for members of Congress to benefit

from better protection so that they could discharge their parliamentary duties unrestricted. The President of Congress had spearheaded efforts to reform the legislative framework applying to members of Congress, in particular in the criminal and administrative domains. The IPU was assisting in those efforts and advocating the establishment of an appeal procedure in criminal proceedings against parliamentarians and the abolition of the loss of the parliamentary mandate as a disciplinary measure.

The Governing Council unanimously adopted the six draft resolutions relating to the cases of seven parliamentarians, as well as the case of Mr. Luis Carlos Galan Saramiento, to the case of Mrs. Piedad Córdoba, to the case of Mr. Wilson Borja, to the case of Mr. Alvaro Araujo Castro, and to the case of a further five parliamentarians.

ERITREA

The nightmare had started almost 11 years earlier for 11 former Eritrean parliamentarians, when they had been arrested on the orders of the head of State and Speaker of the Eritrean National Assembly. Like him, the 11 persons concerned had joined the Eritrean People's Liberation Front and had become members of the National Assembly. Since then, the Eritrean authorities had trampled their fundamental rights, holding them incommunicado because they had exercised their right to freedom of expression by demanding democratic reform.

The Committee deeply regretted that, for the past eight years, the authorities had not only ignored its persistent calls for an end to the former parliamentarians' prolonged detention incommunicado, but had also not seen fit to provide the least information on their state of health, in particular since, according to unconfirmed reports, only two of them were still alive. In that situation, the Committee again urged the Eritrean authorities to provide information on the prisoners' fate and to release them forthwith.

The Committee considered that the international community, in particular the global parliamentary community, could not remain silent in that situation. It therefore launched a fresh appeal to parliaments, in particular those in the region with close ties to Eritrea, to intervene with a view to obtaining the release of the persons concerned.

The Governing Council unanimously adopted the draft resolution relating to the case of 11 parliamentarians.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Committee had had the pleasure to meet with members of the Russian delegation in Kampala. In the case of the murder of Ms. Starovoitova, the Committee was pleased to note that the investigation, which had stalled after the conviction of two of the perpetrators, had been re-opened and that the confessions of one of the convicted men had reportedly resulted in the identification of one of the presumed instigators. The Committee was pleased at the active interest demonstrated by the newly elected State Duma in the case, which should be of great assistance in ensuring that justice was finally fully rendered.

The Governing Council unanimously adopted the draft resolution relating to the case of Ms. Galina Starovoitova.

IRAQ

The case of Mr. Al-Dainy was undoubtedly memorable; his wife had spoken to the Governing Council about her husband's plight at the previous session of the Assembly. In the exercise of his parliamentary duties, Mr. Al-Dainy had documented and publicly denounced on many occasions the use of torture by the security forces in secret places of detention. Extremely serious accusations had been levelled against him, and Mr. Al-Dainy had been sentenced to death in January 2010. The Committee's conviction that the charges were false and the case against him fabricated had been confirmed at the end of 2011 by an inquiry by an ad hoc parliamentary committee, which had reached the same conclusion, and by a decision of the Court of Cassation quashing the judgement on two of Mr. Al-Dainy's security agents who had testified against him.

The Committee considered that, in the interests of justice, there was an urgent need to invalidate the entire proceedings against Mr. Al-Dainy and to quash the iniquitous decision sentencing him to death.

Mr. R.A. Noshi (Iraq) said that the Iraqi system of government was based on the separation of powers and that the judiciary was consequently detached from the executive and the legislature. Under Iraqi law, a person sentenced in absentia was entitled to return to Iraq and present himself for retrial. As already stated by his delegation on previous occasions, Mr. Al-Dainy would be guaranteed a fair trial were he to return to Iraq. He would also be held in a safe location. The IPU nonetheless persisted in its condemnation with respect to his case, despite the positive efforts of the Iraqi delegation to cooperate with the Committee. The maxim that a person was innocent until proved guilty naturally applied to Mr. Al-Dainy.

Mr. P. Mahoux (Belgium), *President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians*, said that the Committee stood by its view.

The Governing Council adopted the draft resolution relating to the case of Mr. Mohammed Al-Dainy.

LEBANON

In March 2009, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon had started its work to see that justice was done in the case of the murder of former Prime Minister Hariri. It might at some point hear one or several of the four cases of assassinations of parliamentarians before the Committee. At present, however, the Lebanese authorities were the only ones in charge of the investigations to identify the perpetrators and instigators of those crimes. The Committee remained concerned that there was no indication that they had made any progress in finding the culprits, nearly seven years after the first murder. It therefore once again called on the authorities to do everything possible to elucidate those crimes and hold the culprits to account, and eagerly awaited further information. The Committee regretted that the National Assembly, which had a special duty of oversight in a case involving the murder of four of its members, continued to provide no information on the measures taken to ensure that justice was done. It called on the National Assembly to be guided by the initiatives taken by other parliaments in that regard.

The Governing Council unanimously adopted the draft resolution relating to the case of Mr. Gibran Tuani, the case of Mr. Walid Eido, the case of Mr. Antoine Ghanem and the case of Mr. Pierre Gemayal.

MALAYSIA

Mr. Anwar Ibrahim, the current leader of the People's Alliance, an opposition party, was being prosecuted for the second time on accusations of sodomy. He had been tried – and acquitted - on the same grounds in 1998. The proceedings had, at the time, raised serious doubts about the rights of the defence. With the launch of those fresh proceedings, the Committee thus had reason to believe that there were political issues at stake and had sent an observer to the trial, whose reports had been submitted to the Council, along with the observations of the Malaysian delegation. Against that backdrop, the Committee noted with great interest Mr. Ibrahim's acquittal at first instance. Through its observer, Mr. Ibrahim had warmly thanked the IPU for its support. The prosecution had lodged an appeal, and the Committee would therefore continue to monitor the case closely, including by sending an observer to the appeal trial, as required.

The Governing Council unanimously adopted the draft resolution relating to the case of Mr. Anwar Ibrahim.

MONGOLIA

It was no easy thing to clear up a murder that had been perpetrated 13 years earlier, all the more so if serious mistakes had been made in securing the scene of the crime, as had happened in the case of Mr. Zorig. The Committee nevertheless remained convinced that such cases could be resolved and considered that the decision by the senior State authorities represented on the National Security Council to work to elucidate Mr. Zorig's murder could indeed help give fresh impetus to the investigation. The Committee reiterated that it stood ready to help the Great State Hural in any way it could and encouraged it to debate the non-confidential aspects of the case, in the belief that doing so would help revitalize the investigation.

The Governing Council unanimously adopted the draft resolution relating to the case of Mr. Zorig Sanjasuuren.

MYANMAR

The Committee took note of the many steps taken in the past six months by the civilian authorities to promote political dialogue and reform. In that context, it noted with satisfaction that the last former parliamentarians remaining in detention had finally been released. However, it stressed that those people were all political prisoners held on the basis of unjust laws and unfair procedures.

The Committee considered that parliament had a key role to play in examining and, if necessary, abrogating those laws, in order to ensure compliance with human rights standards. It called on the People's Assembly to consider the matter a priority in the planned overhaul of the country's general legislative framework.

The Committee remained concerned by the fact that seven former parliamentarians had died in prison or shortly after their release owing to their conditions of detention, and that two had been assassinated without their murders having ever been elucidated. It sincerely hoped that the authorities of Myanmar would endeavour to address its concerns.

Mr. N. Tin (Myanmar) said that prison legislation was currently non-existent in Myanmar. Prisons were instead run in accordance with the Myanmar Jail Manual. Efforts were ongoing, however, to improve prison conditions by ensuring compliance with the Standard

Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. The Committee would receive a progress report on those efforts in due course.

Mr. P. Mahoux (Belgium), President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, reiterated the Committee's view that the Myanmar Parliament certainly had a key role to play in monitoring conditions of detention and must also seek to amend the current legislation in order to prohibit imprisonment for political reasons.

The Governing Council adopted the draft resolution relating to the case of 14 parliamentarians.

PALESTINE

On 19 January 2012, the Israeli authorities had arrested Mr. Abdel Aziz Dweik, Speaker of the Palestine National Council, at a military checkpoint near Ramallah, in the West Bank. Mr. Dweik was in poor health and was reportedly being held at Ofer prison under a six-month administrative detention order that ran until July 2012. Two other parliamentarians had been arrested in the following days, bringing the total of Palestinian parliamentarians being held in administrative detention to 23.

The Committee considered that situation to be unacceptable because, not only did it prevent the parliamentarians concerned – close to one fifth of the Council's total membership – from carrying out the mandate for which they had been elected, it also greatly impaired the right of the Palestinian people to be represented by persons of their choice. The Committee also considered that the continued use of administrative detention impeded the proper functioning of the Palestinian Legislative Council, as its members could be arrested at any time and placed in administrative detention for as long as the Israeli military authorities wished. The Committee acknowledged that the rules and relevant Israeli Supreme Court case-law provided guarantees preventing abusive recourse to administrative detention, but regretted that the facts on the ground were different: those in administrative detention did not, in fact, have the means to defend themselves and were thus subject to arbitrary treatment. It therefore called on the Israeli authorities to abandon the practice and release the members of the Palestinian Legislative Council forthwith, or, if they were involved in criminal acts, to prosecute them in accordance with normal criminal procedure.

The situations of Mr. Marwan Barghouti and Mr. Ahmed Sa`adat remained unchanged. They were serving their sentences, i.e., five life sentences and two 20-year sentences in the case of Mr. Barghouti, and a 30-year sentence in the case of Mr. Sa`adat. The Committee continued to ask for their release.

The Governing Council unanimously adopted the draft resolutions relating to the case of Mr. Marwan Barghouti, the case of Mr. Ahmad Sa`adat and the case of 25 parliamentarians.

PHILIPPINES

Unfortunately, there was no new information to report on the cases concerned. The judicial proceedings against the parliamentarians and former parliamentarians concerned remained at a standstill. The Committee recalled that the right to be tried without undue delay was an element of the right to a fair trial, and that the principle was designed to ensure people were not kept in a state of uncertainty as to their fate for too long. It reaffirmed the particular importance of that principle in the case of members of parliament, for whom a prolonged state of uncertainty inevitably impaired the ability freely to exercise their mandate.

The Governing Council unanimously adopted the draft resolution relating to the case of Mr. Saturnino Ocampo, the case of Mr. Teodoro Casiño, the case of Ms. Liza Maza and the case of Mr. Rafael Mariano.

RWANDA

The Committee regretted that the inquiry into Mr. Hitimana's disappearance had made no progress in the nine months since its mission had taken place. It recalled that information collected by the mission clearly showed that the theory that Mr. Hitimana had fled the country could not stand. The Committee therefore once again called on the authorities to carry out an effective investigation examining all lines of enquiry, as the Minister of Justice had pledged to the mission. It also remained eager to know whether the planned witness protection law had been adopted. Lastly, the Committee deplored that, contrary to what it had been told during the mission, the release for humanitarian reasons of Mr. Hitimana's father had not yet taken place.

The Governing Council unanimously adopted the draft resolution relating to the case of Mr. Leonard Hitimana.

SRI LANKA

The Committee continued to examine the cases of four assassinated members of the Parliament of Sri Lanka. In the case of Mr. Dassanayake, the Committee noted with interest that three suspects in detention had now been indicted, that one of them had been convicted and that judicial proceedings were ongoing for the other two. Unfortunately, the Committee remained concerned with regard to the three other cases, in which the investigations had made no progress. In the case of Mr. Pararajasingham in particular, who had been assassinated on 24 December 2005 during Christmas Mass in the presence of some 300 people in a cathedral located in a high-security area, the Committee failed to understand how, six years after the events, the investigation had yet to identify the culprits, especially since there was serious reason to believe, given the place where the murder was committed, that it had been perpetrated with the complicity of elements of the security forces and the army.

Mr. M. Samarasinghe (Sri Lanka) expressed his delegation's gratitude to the Committee for its continuing examination of the four cases. In three of those cases, however, the assassinations had taken place against the backdrop of 30 years of fight against terrorism and the concerted efforts to achieve progress in the investigation into those serious incidents had been thwarted on account of that environment. He assured the Committee that those efforts would continue nonetheless, as would cooperation with the Committee in sharing information.

Mr. P. Mahoux (Belgium), *President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians*, said that the Committee had been made aware of those difficulties through its regular contacts with the Sri Lankan delegation. In at least three of the four cases, however, there was nothing to prevent a diligent investigation and deployment of the resources needed to identify the culprits. He added that in none of its work did the Committee wish to convey the impression that some human rights situations were more special than others. The human rights of all citizens must be respected, but the Committee was specifically tasked with examining violations of the human rights of parliamentarians on the basis of their political roles and hence their status as parliamentarians.

The Governing Council adopted the draft resolutions relating to the case of Mr. Joseph Pararajasingham, the case of Mr. Nadarajah Raviraj, the case of Mr. Thiyagarajah Maheswaran, and the case of Mr. D.M. Dassanayake.

TURKEY

Mr. Sinçar had been killed in September 1993 in circumstances pointing to an extrajudicial execution. For a long time, the Committee had been unable to ascertain whether or not an investigation had been opened into the murder, until it had been informed by the parliament of Turkey that the suspects were being tried. Mr. Sinçar's family had learned of the trial's existence through the IPU, and had been admitted as a joint plaintiff in the proceedings. On 1 October 2010, two suspects had been found guilty of the murder and of those of other people killed during the same period in the same region. They had been sentenced to life imprisonment. Mr. Sinçar's family had appealed the verdict, on the grounds that it did not establish the identity of the masterminds. The Court had accepted the family's request to be admitted as a joint plaintiff in the case. The Committee hoped that the current proceedings would offer a genuine opportunity to clear up Mr. Sinçar's murder.

The Governing Council unanimously adopted the draft resolution relating to the case of Mr. Mehmet Sinçar.

ZIMBABWE

In the face of the ongoing impunity in the cases of Mr. Sikhala and Mr. Madzore, who were both victims of torture, and Mr. Chamisa, who had been beaten up by individuals in full view of police officers, who had not reacted, the Committee had requested the Secretary General to invite the authorities once again to address the long-standing grave concerns expressed in its resolution of April 2011 by taking decisive action to identify and punish the culprits and to follow up on the complaints filed by the parliamentarians. The Committee was particularly anxious to ascertain that the Parliament of Zimbabwe was indeed exercising its duty to oversee respect for its members' rights by ensuring that the necessary measures were taken.

The Governing Council unanimously adopted the draft resolution relating to the case of Mr. Job Sikhala, the case of Mr. Paul Madzore and the case of the Mr. Nelson Chamisa.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

THIRD SITTING

Thursday, 5 April 2012
(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m., with Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), President of the IPU, in the chair.

Item 12 of the agenda
(continued)

ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

(c) Committee on Middle East Questions

(i) Election of one substitute member
(CL/190/12(c)-P.1)

The President said that the Council was called upon to elect one substitute member to the Committee to replace Mr. H. Alir of Turkey, whose term of office expired at the current session. He proposed that the Council elect the sole candidate for the post, namely Mr. T. Wickholm of Norway.

It was so decided.

(ii) Report of the Committee
(CL/190/12(c)-R.1)

Mr. F.-X. de Donnea (Belgium), Rapporteur of the Committee on Middle East Questions, read out the Committee's report contained in document CL/190/12(c)-R.1.

(d) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus
(CL/190/12(d)-R.1)

The President referred the Council to the Group's report contained in document CL/190/12(d)-R.1.

(e) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

(i) Election of three titular members and four substitute members
(CL/190/12(e)-P.1 and P.2)

The President said that three titular members were to be elected to replace Mr. S. Gavrilov (Russian Federation) and Mr. J.C. Romero (Argentina), whose terms of office expired at the current session, and Ms. B. Gadiant (Switzerland), who was no longer a member of parliament. Only one candidature, that of Mr. F.-X. de Donnea (Belgium), had been submitted. He took it that the Governing Council wished to elect Mr. de Donnea as a titular member of the Committee.

It was so decided.

The President said that four substitute members were also to be elected to replace Mr. J.J. Mwiimbu (Zambia), Ms. M. Osman Gaknoun (Sudan), Ms. B. Gohar (Pakistan), and Ms. E. Arguedas (Costa Rica), whose terms of office similarly expired at the current session.

The Secretary General announced that Ms. Betty Amongi (Uganda) had withdrawn her candidature for the position following her election to the Bureau of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians. Her candidature had therefore been substituted by that of Mr. E. Dombo (Uganda). He also announced the candidature of Ms. A. Gómez Franceschi (Costa Rica) for the position.

The President said he took it that the Council wished to elect the two candidates as substitute members of the Committee.

It was so decided.

(ii) **Report of the Committee**
(CL/190/12(e)-R.1)

Ms. U. Karlsson (Sweden), *Rapporteur of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law*, said that her report on the Committee's activities would focus on the open briefing session, held two days earlier, at which experts from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had discussed with parliamentarians the problem of access to health care in situations of conflict and violence. The posters being screened as she spoke were part of an ICRC campaign to raise awareness of that problem. Violence against health care workers, facilities and beneficiaries, for instance, was a serious humanitarian challenge that all too frequently went unrecognized. A possible solution suggested by participants in the briefing was for the global parliamentary community to adopt resolutions, through the IPU, urging all parties to conflicts to allow safe access for health workers and for parliaments to ensure that national legislation facilitated the provision of health care personnel, supplies and equipment. The Committee was committed to closely following the ICRC campaign and would keep the Council informed of developments. By way of their oversight and legislative functions, parliamentarians could do much to bring attention to what was an overlooked but urgent need and should act promptly to do so.

The President invited the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons to address the Council on the subject of internally displaced persons (IDPs), including with reference to the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, known as the Kampala Convention.

Mr. C. Beyani, *Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons*, expressed appreciation for the IPU's close relationship with international humanitarian organizations that worked for IDP protection. Parliamentarians could play a key role in bridging the gap whereby millions of the IDPs whom they represented often had limited access to protection, assistance and opportunities to participate in decision- or policymaking. In outlining the mandate on the human rights of IDPs, now in its twentieth year, he said that he was particularly keen to enlist women parliamentarians to work with him on a project concerning the challenges facing displaced women, on which he would report to the Human Rights Council in 2013.

Following on from the adoption of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement in 1998, the Kampala Convention was a legal milestone demonstrating Africa's leadership in addressing the crucial humanitarian issue of IDP protection and assistance. African parliamentarians had played a commendable role in supporting the development of that first binding international human rights instrument on IDPs and they must be encouraged to participate in similar regional and subregional initiatives in the interest of strengthening the normative framework relating to internal displacement. Advocacy for the ratification and implementation of the Kampala Convention was a priority under his mandate. Five more ratifications were needed to attain the 15 needed for the Convention to enter into force and he therefore called on parliamentarians to ensure the deposit of their country's instrument of ratification with the African Union.

He encouraged the IPU to continue its active engagement in initiatives pertaining to displacement caused by climate change and natural disaster. In that regard, parliamentarians could indeed play an important role by developing laws and policies to ensure that displacement-related strategies formed an integral part of national mitigation plans. Practical advice and recommended guidelines and principles for incorporation into such domestic legislation could be found in various tools, including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters and a publication entitled "Protecting Internally Displaced Persons: A Manual for Law and Policymakers". Parliamentarians could additionally ensure that IDPs were fully and meaningfully engaged in the legislative and policymaking processes and that the executive took concrete steps to deal with the problem of internal displacement. The IPU played an increasing role in addressing complex emergencies often involving difficult conflict situations and human rights abuses generating internal displacement. Parliamentary fact-finding missions should be used in those contexts to highlight the protection challenges faced by IDPs. His mandate was ready to cooperate with such processes and he looked forward to strengthening its relationship with the IPU with a view to improving and finding durable solutions to the IDP situation.

(f) Gender Partnership Group

(CL/190/12(f)-R.1)

Mr. D. Oliver (Canada), *Rapporteur of the Gender Partnership Group*, presenting the Group's report, said that women participants at the current Assembly amounted to 29.6 per cent of the total number of delegates. That proportion was too low and could be bettered. Among the 14 delegations that had no women members at all, those of Malta, Papua New Guinea, Qatar and Saudi Arabia were subject to sanctions for being represented exclusively by members of the same sex three times in a row. The Group considered that advocacy and awareness-raising targeted at political party whips in particular were the principal means for giving impetus to women's participation at IPU assemblies. As to the Standing Committees, only two women had served as presidents in the past 12 years and the proportion of women vice-presidents had never exceeded 30 per cent. Women also tended to participate more frequently in debates on social and gender-related issues.

The Group intended to address all such matters and discrepancies, in particular with respect to elections to IPU bodies, and to coordinate the establishment of an IPU gender-mainstreaming strategy, in consultation with the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, with a view to its adoption at the 127th Assembly. It had also decided to hold hearings with delegations from appointed chambers from which women were absent in order to investigate the reasons for that inexcusable situation and provide support for redressing it. The Group had likewise decided to take the findings of the IPU's innovative global report on the gender-sensitivity of parliaments a step further by developing a plan of action for creating gender-sensitive parliaments, again in consultation with the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians and parliamentarians in general. Members would be invited to discuss the plan of action at a special session on gender-sensitive parliaments at the 127th Assembly with a view to its adoption.

The President invited Ms. M.T. Kubayi of South Africa to report on an informal meeting of young parliamentarians that had taken place earlier in the day to follow up on the resolution on youth participation in the democratic process, adopted at the 122nd Assembly in Bangkok in 2010.

Ms. M.T. Kubayi (South Africa) said that, with some 20 delegations in attendance at the informal meeting, participation had been even higher than at the previous meeting of its kind at the 124th Assembly in Panama; the systematic inclusion of young parliamentarians in delegations to IPU assemblies was certainly to be encouraged. With a view to promoting implementation of the IPU resolution on youth participation in the democratic process, the meeting had established a task force of young parliamentarians representing each of the geopolitical groups in a bid to formalize the youth contribution to the work of the IPU. The intention was to come out in full force for the youth-related event at the 127th Assembly and to mobilize for a future IPU conference of young parliamentarians, who looked forward to IPU support for their efforts.

(g) Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS
(CL/190/12(g)-R.1)

Ms. M. Temmerman (Belgium), *President and Rapporteur of the Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS*, read out the report on the panel discussion organized by the IPU and the Joint United Nations Programme in HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) on *Making the law work for the response to AIDS: Zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths* (CL/190/12(g)-R.1), which had taken place on 3 April 2012. She added that, while in Kampala, the Advisory Group had made preparations for a study visit to Tanzania and discussed other matters relating to its work. She encouraged parliamentarians to avail themselves of the extremely useful IPU handbook entitled *Taking action against HIV and AIDS*.

Item 13 of the agenda

127th IPU ASSEMBLY (QUEBEC CITY, 21-26 OCTOBER 2012)
(CL/190/13-P.1 and P.2)

The President drew attention to the arrangements proposed for the 127th IPU Assembly in Quebec City, which were set out in document CL/190/13-P.1. He took it that the Council wished to approve those proposals, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

It was so decided.

Mr. R.M. Al Shuraiqi (United Arab Emirates), supported by **Mr. A.F. El Bab (Egypt)**, said that the dates of the 127th Assembly in Quebec City coincided with the dates of the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca and the feast of Eid al-Adha. The dates of religious festivals should henceforth be taken into consideration in the scheduling of IPU assemblies.

The President said that note had been taken of that remark and that efforts would be made to avoid any clash of dates in future. Turning to the list of international organizations to be invited to follow the work of the Quebec Assembly, as set out in document CL/190/13-P.2, he said he took it that the Council wished to approve the list.

It was so decided.

The President invited Mr. D. Oliver, President of the Canadian Inter-Parliamentary Group, to address the Council.

Mr. D. Oliver (Canada), *President of the Canadian Inter-Parliamentary Group*, said that, on behalf of the members of his Group, he wished to extend an invitation to the 127th IPU Assembly in Quebec City. Honoured to host that event, the Canadian Parliament was also particularly proud in that 2012 marked the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Inter-Parliamentary Group's membership of the IPU. The Group had been working closely with the IPU to prepare for the Assembly and was building a memorable programme that would excel not only in its content but also in its innovative form and delivery. The Assembly would be an exceptional one that addressed the contemporary challenges and opportunities facing parliamentary democracies. High-profile speakers had been invited to participate with a view to ensuring engaging and informative discourse. The five-day Assembly would include sessions blending IPU values with the Canadian perspective of parliamentary democracy. Its main theme would focus on the challenges of citizenship, identity, and linguistic and cultural diversity. The dynamic programme would be enhanced by the cutting-edge technology at the Quebec City Convention Centre, a state-of-the-art facility renowned for its world-class reputation and expertise in hosting green events. Beyond the Convention Centre lay the cobblestone streets that welcomed visitors to the cradle of French-speaking North America. Quebec City was central to Canadian history, filled with Francophone character and home to exceptional international and Canadian cuisine. He looked forward to welcoming all delegates there in October.

A video invitation from Mr. Noël Kinsella, Speaker of the Senate of Canada, and Mr. Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada, to the 127th IPU Assembly in Quebec City was screened.

Item 14 of the agenda

FUTURE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY MEETINGS

(CL/190/14-P.1)

The Secretary General said that Council approval was required for five of the specialized meetings listed in document CL/190/14-P.1. As indicated in the list, those meetings either had no financial implication or were funded from the regular budget and/or external sources. The World e-Parliament Conference included in the list had been postponed to a later year and therefore no longer required approval.

The President said he took it that the Council wished to approve those five specialized meetings.

It was so decided.

(a) Statutory meetings

(CL/190/14(a)-P.1)

The Secretary General said that, following the invitation issued by the National Assembly of Ecuador to host the 128th Assembly, an IPU mission had visited the country and been fully satisfied that all the elements for a successful meeting were in place. Details of the mission were set out in document CL/190/14(a)-P.1, together with information concerning the preliminary preparations under way for the Assembly.

The President said he took it that the Council wished to approve the recommendation, contained in document CL/190/14(a)-P.1, to hold the 128th IPU Assembly in Quito, Ecuador, from 22 to 27 March 2013.

It was so decided.

Mr. J.C. Cassinelli (Ecuador) said that he wished to extend an invitation to his fellow parliamentarians from around the world to attend the 128th Assembly in Quito, a World Heritage site, where they were assured of the characteristically warm welcome extended to visitors.

A video invitation from Mr. Rafael Correa, President of the Republic of Ecuador, to the 128th IPU Assembly in Quito was screened.

(b) Specialized meetings and other events
(CL/190/14(b)-P.1)

The Secretary General, recalling the annual event organized since 2010 with a view to developing contacts with Pacific Island parliaments and encouraging their membership of IPU, drew attention to the proposal, set out in document CL/190/14(b)-P.1, to hold a third such meeting in Samoa, in August 2012, on the subject of community outreach.

The President said he took it that the Council wished to approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee to endorse that proposal.

It was so decided.

Item 15 of the agenda

ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(CL/190/15-P.1)

The President said that one member was to be elected to replace Mrs. D. Stump of Switzerland, who was no longer a member of parliament. The Twelve Plus Group had proposed the candidature of Mr. P.-F. Veillon of Switzerland for election in order to complete Mrs. Stump's term, which was due to end in October 2013. He took it that the Council wished to approve that proposal.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.