



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Summary Records of the Proceedings of the 131st IPU Assembly

Geneva 12-16 October 2014

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Introduction

The 131st IPU Assembly from 12 to 16 October 2014 took place in Geneva at the *Centre International de Conférences Genève (CICG)*.

Attendance at the Assembly was as follows:

Members: (Delegations from the Parliaments of 147 countries): Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Associate Members: the Andean Parliament, the Arab Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

Observers: (i) the United Nations system: the United Nations, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the International Labour Office (ILO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Women and the World Health Organization (WHO); (ii) the World Trade Organization (WTO); (iii) the Council of Europe, the International Organization for Migration (IOM); (iv) the African Parliamentary Union (APU), the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), the Maghreb Consultative Council, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries (TURKPA), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia and the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC); (v) Socialist International; (vi) the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Future Council (WFC) and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND).

Of the 1,410 delegates who attended the Assembly, 707 were members of parliament. Those parliamentarians included 47 presiding officers, 48 deputy presiding officers and 227 women (32.1%).

Opening of the 131st Assembly

SITTING OF MONDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2014

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m., with Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT welcomed the delegates to the 131st Assembly, which fell within the IPU's 125th anniversary year and also signalled the end of his term of office as IPU President. In its continuing endeavour to keep alive the vision realized by its founding fathers in 1889, the IPU had added many proud achievements to its name: it had increased its initial small European membership to the current number of 166 national parliaments from every continent, growing ever closer to its goal of universal membership; promoted home-grown and locally cultivated democracy worldwide; strengthened parliaments and promoted democratic changes through support and capacity-building programmes; developed tools for enhancing parliamentary effectiveness; crafted its first-ever Strategy for the period 2012 to 2017; published the first Global Parliamentary Report in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme; and adopted an innovative Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments and the Quito Communiqué, which emphasized the well-being produced by strong democratic governance. It was also developing a robust strategic partnership with the United Nations and was working on a new cooperation agreement to reinforce their institutional relationship.

Despite all efforts to foster dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution, it was clear from the wars, conflicts and terror raging in many parts of the globe that democracy was ailing and must never be taken for granted. On the contrary, it was a work in progress that called for steadfast and uncompromising adherence to core values, ideals and principles, including the unstinting pursuit of negotiation as a viable option even under the bleakest of circumstances.

He hoped that the General debate on a topic that had always been close to his heart, namely *Achieving gender equality and ending violence against women*, would promote the adoption of parliamentary measures for tackling a scourge from which no country was spared. Gender equality was a global priority to be addressed in the interests of peace and security, poverty eradication and sustainable development. The year 2015, which would mark the ending of the MDGs and the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, presented an opportunity to assess progress and reaffirm commitment to the goal of gender equality, which, as borne out by the figures and the situation on the ground, remained universally elusive. He called on both sexes to prioritize that goal and on his male colleagues to join the United Nations HeForShe campaign.

The uneven power relations between men and women that underlay gender inequality provided a fertile breeding ground for violence against women. Indeed, the alarming global figures representing women and girls whose lives would never be the same had reached intolerable proportions. Sexual violence against women was a violation of their most basic human rights and must be countered by zero tolerance, starting with efforts to change mentalities in order to transform society. Parliamentarians must play their part by raising public awareness of the problem and establishing a robust legal framework for prevention and protection, prosecution of assailants and provision of appropriate services to victims. Legislation for ending violence against women must, *inter alia*, expand the definition of rape, criminalize so-called "honour killings" and child marriage, impose heavy penalties on rapists and ensure justice and compensation for victims. Sufficient funding must also be allocated to ensuring the implementation of such laws.

In that light, he looked forward to learning about national strategies for combating violence against women during the debate and he invited all the participants to attend the World Future Policy Award ceremony, to be held during the Assembly, which recognized the policies most effective in combating violence against women and girls. For its part, the IPU had long ago shattered the glass ceiling of gender equality, which it had achieved within its own structures to the point that women now outnumbered men throughout the Secretariat; moreover, two of the contenders to succeed him were also women.

Another point of pride for the IPU had been the establishment of its Forum of Young Parliamentarians as a statutory body in the context of efforts to promote inclusive parliaments representing all sectors of society, including minority groups such as indigenous peoples, disabled

persons and youth. The successful First Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians had taken place only a few days earlier in Geneva.

A year of change for the IPU, 2014 had marked the end of an era for the previous Secretary General and the start of a new one for his successor, whose election had made history on several counts. He himself would be passing the baton to another IPU President at the end of the Assembly and felt confident that, with Member support, his own successor would guide the IPU to even greater heights.

Conveying his best wishes for fruitful deliberations to the participants, he declared open the 131st IPU Assembly and invited Mr. Michael Møller, Acting Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) and for many years a strong supporter of the IPU, to address the participants.

Mr. M. MØLLER (Acting Director-General, UNOG) said that he welcomed the opportunity to participate in another IPU Assembly and commended the leadership of President Radi, with whom he had worked closely in strengthening the ties between their respective organizations. He greatly appreciated President Radi's firm commitment to partnership and collaboration in the advancement of parliamentary democracy; that commitment had been demonstrated by the special event held on 30 June 2014 to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the IPU, which UNOG had been privileged to join in hosting. UNOG looked forward to further enhancing its ties with the IPU by building on the solid foundation created by the previous IPU Secretary General and his then Deputy Secretary General and successor, with whom a strong partnership had already been established.

At the 130th Assembly, he had noted a collective sentiment, since echoed by world leaders at the recent opening of the United Nations General Assembly, that the global situation was worsening and tending towards greater instability, polarization and mistrust. Numerous conflicts continued around the world and the violent extremism of the Islamic State represented a dramatic evolution in the nature of the terrorist threat. Particularly conspicuous was the sense that frameworks established through negotiation and consensus-building could be broken with impunity as part of a deeply disconcerting trend towards a world where "might" equalled "right", in stark contrast to the core principles and values of multilateralism and parliamentary democracy. The spread of Ebola added another layer of complexity to the existing political, economic and humanitarian challenges reflected in the comprehensive agenda of the 131st IPU Assembly.

Against that background, strong and active parliamentary engagement was vital in confronting such common problems as lack of good governance, human rights abuses, disenfranchisement, injustice and failed leadership, which promoted a lack of social cohesion that, in turn, fuelled instability and undermined development potential. Given their recognized institutional and individual roles, parliamentarians could be more instrumental than ever in helping to cultivate respect for the law and the ideal of working for the collective good.

At the 130th Assembly, he had called for greater efforts to inject the United Nations perspective into parliamentary discussions and work, and that call was no less relevant at the present. Global backing for collective multilateral solutions to current challenges was vital and, to that end, closer global and local connections must be forged. The record attendance at the present Assembly was a welcome indication of the increasing global commitment of parliamentarians.

In 2015, the 70th anniversary of the United Nations and the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, would provide a useful opportunity to take stock of the relationship between the United Nations and parliaments and to further combine their respective strengths. The main challenge ahead was to establish a universal and transformative post-2015 development agenda, with human rights at its core, that combined socio-economic ambition with respect for the planet. Parliamentary support for that agenda and accountability for the commitments made would be essential, particularly during the national implementation phase. The United Nations family in Geneva, which had its own key role to play in that regard, looked forward to working with the IPU in that endeavour.

The empowerment of the current youth generation – the largest ever – was another critical factor. While online communication and travel offered greater possibilities than ever before for connecting with the world, there were record numbers of unemployed young people and meaningful political participation was out of reach for far too many of them; disappointed expectations were feeding an overarching feeling of lack of dignity and justice. In light of the important role of younger parliamentarians in engaging youth in support of parliamentary democracy, the recently concluded First Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians was a promising and timely initiative that could perhaps be synergized with youth engagement activities at the United Nations.

The present Assembly's focus on gender equality and ending violence against women echoed the United Nations resolve to end such violence, which was often symptomatic of underlying discrimination and the failure to include women in shaping the future of society; their full engagement was, quite simply, a prerequisite for effectively confronting the challenges of the day and achieving peace.

Healthy democracies that involved all members of society in determining their future were crucial to the agenda shared by the IPU and the United Nations. Parliaments were instrumental in that process, as was the United Nations at the global level. Efforts to strengthen their strategic partnership for a better world must therefore continue.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Møller for his contribution to the Assembly and said that the IPU looked forward to continuing its close relationship with UNOG.

Item 3 of the agenda

General debate on *Achieving gender equality, ending violence against women* (A/131/3-Inf.1)

Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, addressing the Assembly by video message, congratulated President Radi on his excellent service and expressed support for the work of the IPU on a topic of central importance to development, achieving gender equality and ending violence against women.

Throughout the General debate, delegations joined in paying tribute to outgoing President Radi with some presenting gifts as an additional token of appreciation.

Ms. R. KADAGA (Uganda), opening the debate, said that, according to a survey conducted in 28 European Union States, notwithstanding the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the overwhelming majority of cases of such violence were not reported to the police. Almost half of all murders of women in 2012 had been committed by intimate partners or family members and over 70 per cent of women in some countries had experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime. Women and girls could also fall victim to random violence outside the family setting, as they went about their daily business, and to trafficking, where they were often lured into involuntary servitude and slavery by false promises of employment. Parliaments must therefore continue to call for the conclusion and implementation of appropriate labour export agreements.

Strategies for ending violence against women should include equal rights education and the establishment of gender equity clubs in schools and communities, which must also be sensitized to speak out against such violence. It was equally vital to involve men in advocacy, including by enlisting the support and cooperation of traditional leaders. Legislation against domestic violence must be enacted, effectively implemented with adequate resources and brought to the public's attention and law enforcement officers must be taught how to deal with women victims and secure criminal evidence in order to instil confidence in the justice process, which should be easily accessible, speedy and conducive to a fair trial. Community-based dispute resolution mechanisms might also be considered. For their part, States must provide leadership by reducing the social acceptability of domestic violence and promoting women's financial independence through economic empowerment and education, thereby ensuring their protection and enhancing their safety. Lastly, there must be zero tolerance of the deeply traumatizing practice of female genital mutilation.

Mr. D. CARTER (New Zealand) commented on his country's international reputation on gender equality, having been the first to extend suffrage to women over 120 years earlier. With the adoption of a new voting system in 1996, women's representation had improved to the point where the New Zealand Parliament ranked among the top 30 worldwide in terms of gender equality. Nonetheless, it failed to reflect the country's true gender balance. Increasing the number of women parliamentarians was therefore an ongoing process.

In the absence of special measures to ensure the equal participation of women, his country's political parties had adopted their own mechanisms, ranging from targets to mandatory quotas on party lists. Steps had also been taken to improve the parliamentary working environment for women, whose parliamentary representation was being championed by an active cross-party group

of women parliamentarians. Parliament was also involved in initiatives for increasing the currently low level of Pacific women's parliamentary representation so that they could participate equally in the democratic development of their countries.

New Zealand had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1985 and had taken on board the United Nations recommendations concerning the pursuit of women's economic empowerment as a means of ensuring their protection against violence. The number of women with post-secondary-school qualifications and in the labour force, including in senior leadership positions, had risen substantially and the country's gender pay gap was the lowest in the Asia-Pacific region. However, family violence was responsible for some 50 per cent of homicides with devastating and enduring effects on individuals, families and the country. Four laws relating to violence against women and the protection of their rights were in place and a Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families had been established.

Mr. P. HERMINIE (Seychelles) said that, in facing the challenges inherent in its status as a small island State, his country sought to maintain socio-economic progress and uphold the fundamentals of democracy with a view to the prosperity and sustainable development of its people. In pursuit of that goal, it was essential to analyse long-term obstacles and emerging risks through a gender lens and to sustain gains achieved over the years in order to counter the rising number of social ills, the majority of which had profound gender dimensions.

The Seychelles was a country where women played a pivotal role. Despite the absence of affirmative action measures, they were conspicuously well-represented in the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government and predominated as local community leaders. The country's long-standing people-centred policy of free health care, free education up to the tertiary level and salary parity had all contributed to women's empowerment, which was essential to gender equality and indispensable to development and poverty reduction. Access to opportunity must never be gender-based.

Although blatant discrimination against women in the Seychelles had been eliminated, there was no room for complacency. Present challenges included gender-based violence, high teenage pregnancy rates, the increasing incidence of sex work and the gender dimensions of illicit drug abuse and HIV/AIDS. National strategies for combating such ills were vital for any country, as was accession to the CEDAW Convention and its subsequent incorporation into domestic law. He hoped that his country's efforts and achievements in the area of gender equality would be a source of inspiration to others. Countries with greater gender equality had better economic growth; equality for women meant progress for all.

Mr. S. AL-GBURI (Iraq) recalled the fundamental objectives of the IPU, in particular the quest for a common political will to work for global peace and international cooperation through parliamentary action. In his region, the exacerbation of threats to the population was deeply worrying, especially given their wider repercussions. Joint international action in the interests of all humankind was the means to salvation from the evils and strife that sowed hatred and tore apart communities.

The Council of Representatives was working to improve the political situation in Iraq by building a positive relationship between the legislative and executive powers and genuine reconciliation among all sides in order to reunite the people, eradicate sectarianism and equip the country as an effective regional and international player. Challenges would be overcome through determined efforts to establish the rule of law, criminalize the use of weapons and prohibit all armed demonstrations. Casting off the yoke of terrorism would make way for the cohesion, unity and prosperity needed to address structural imbalances, ensure full respect for human rights and bring criminals to justice. The Council was also working to promote women's rights, which were enshrined in the Constitution and in domestic law, so as to guarantee women's vital participation in and contribution to the development of society. A far-reaching strategy for the advancement of Iraqi women was also planned.

Having long endured immense suffering and sacrifice, including from the disastrous proxy war waged on its territory, his people looked forward to receiving assistance so that they could heal. Iraq was not in a position to combat single-handedly the Islamic State and the other terrorist and extremist groups responsible for precipitating a grave humanitarian crisis involving many internally displaced persons. It therefore greatly appreciated international efforts to counter those groups, which constituted a threat to the entire world.

Mr. A.R. IBRAHIMI (Afghanistan), noting that inequality and gender-based violence existed to varying degrees in all countries, said that positive results were expected from the efforts to combat violence against women in his country. Despite the many sacrifices of its long-suffering people, Afghanistan had been overlooked and had become a safe haven for international terrorism in which democracy and human rights were trampled by a dictatorship and the Afghan women, a vital half of the population, were socially excluded, confined to the home and forgotten. Fortunately, that situation had changed; women's parliamentary participation was now unparalleled in the region and their involvement in provincial councils and other institutions was outstanding.

Violence against women was nonetheless a persistent problem in a country peopled by victims of continuing war, intervention, terrorist activities, poverty and unemployment. Despite strategic partnership agreements with numerous countries, no effective measures had been taken to end the war and bring lasting peace and security; instead, an environment conducive to human rights violations and violence against women had been created. He therefore called on all parliamentarians to assist his country in its effort to eliminate all forms of violence, especially against women, through measures designed to establish peace and security.

A major achievement had been the introduction of a law under which all perpetrators of violence against women were prosecuted and punished. In addition to enhancing women's security, the law had ended the culture of impunity surrounding that violence, which had since declined, as had various other harmful traditional practices relating to women and marriage. Women's rights awareness programmes were also being implemented by various stakeholders and the Afghan parliament would work for further achievements in the areas of gender equality, women's rights and the elimination of violence against women.

Mr. A. BENSALAH (Algeria) said that gender equality and the elimination of violence against women made for the most harmonious and developed societies. Those two universal goals were perhaps a corollary of historical circumstance, but neither was effectively impeded by culture or belief. In Algeria's crucial periods of history, its women had emerged as symbolic figures without need for a male seal of approval; indeed, it was largely thanks to their example of resistance that Algeria had conquered terrorism. He condemned the criminal acts perpetrated against women by groups claiming to act in the name of a religion about which they were fundamentally ignorant.

Following the restoration of peace and security in Algeria, a wide-ranging gender equality programme had been introduced in order to address the pressing issue of women's rights. In that context, various recommendations from the committee responsible for implementation of a national strategy for the promotion and integration of women had been translated into law. Under a quota system, the number of women parliamentarians had risen over fourfold to almost one third of the total, the twenty-eighth highest proportion globally and the highest in the Arab world. A National Strategy for Combating Violence against Women had also achieved substantial progress through the application of legal, preventive and awareness measures.

In Algeria, the advancement of women was deemed integral to a harmonious and stable society. Mechanisms for ensuring gender equality and the elimination of all violence against women had therefore been a constant focus. Parliamentarians must adopt the necessary legislation and promote women parliamentarians to positions of responsibility with a view to parity. In closing, he paid tribute to the women in Gaza and elsewhere, notably in Africa, whose social burdens were exacerbated by foreign occupation.

Mr. I. META (Albania) reported that Albania had addressed the issue of gender equality by improving policy and legislation in line with international conventions; strengthening central and local implementation capacities; improving data collection and monitoring methods; and widening the reach of social action and services. It was a proud signatory of the CEDAW Convention and had promptly ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention), for which it had developed an implementation roadmap. In addition to enacting laws on gender equality and combating domestic violence, it had amended the Criminal Code with a view to better addressing the challenges relating to gender-based and domestic violence, which had led to an encouraging increase in the number of reported cases, criminal prosecutions and civil protection orders.

His Parliament was determined to promote gender mainstreaming into all policy areas and new bills. Recent administrative reforms promised to ensure that violence against women was tackled more effectively and a new online database on domestic violence had enabled closer monitoring of the implementation of relevant legislation, provoking swift improvement in the response to survivors' needs. Financial assistance and free health coverage were also offered to domestic violence survivors.

Public awareness campaigns now enlisted men as partners in the fight against gender stereotyping and gender-based and domestic violence with a resulting rise in the reporting rates. Gender equality and gender-based violence were human rights issues and major factors affecting socio-economic development. Discriminatory legal provisions were addressed through continual oversight by Parliament, which remained committed to empowering women parliamentarians and further increasing the number of women candidates. However, still greater efforts were needed in order to ensure that the goals of gender equality and the elimination of violence against women remained at the top of the international and national parliamentary agendas.

Mr. M. AL-GHANIM (Kuwait) said that the struggle to protect women and ensure the enjoyment of their rights was a complex matter that was nonetheless destined eventually to bring progress in the face of sometimes-unpromising circumstances and temporary setbacks. The progress achieved over the past 100 years had been revolutionary compared with that accomplished in past ages. After a decades-long peaceful struggle rooted in patience, faith in the cause and growing awareness, women in Kuwait had ultimately won their right to vote and stand for office on 16 May 2005, a historic day.

There was no room for complacency, however; women's rights were being eroded, particularly in the developing world, including the Arab countries. Although unalienable, human rights were not a single package; some were fundamental and absolute, irrespective of religion, culture or continent, while others were relative and associated with specific cultures and lifestyles and thus, understandably, took longer to attain. Women's rights, however, were non-negotiable, particularly those relating to their dignity and humanity. All forms of violence against women, whether verbal, physical or emotional, must therefore end. The situation across the world was saddening, particularly in Gaza, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, where the daily torrent of violence unleashed against women and even children was a universal shame and a threat even to their right to life. Violence against women must remain high on all agendas, political or otherwise, and Kuwait stood ready to participate actively in further exploration of the issue and to host any related activities.

Mrs. B. BISHOP (Australia), highlighting the fact that half of the world's talent was female, said that any country that failed to take that talent into account in its policymaking was the poorer for it. Gender equality would be achieved when quotas and affirmative action were no longer necessary because jobs were given to the best qualified candidates. Women's election to parliament was only a beginning; it must be followed by aspiration to higher office in order to avoid simple box-ticking and tokenism. More important than numbers was the contribution of and the difference made by individuals; in short, the aspiration to equality must culminate in delivery and women who achieved had a responsibility to help other women to do the same.

The first step towards eliminating the violence against women that pervaded every country and all social strata was to treat it as an intolerable criminal act. Its elimination must be a goal to which the whole of society aspired in the interests of greater cohesion, efficiency and prosperity, particularly now that the world had become a more dangerous place and faced an ever-growing number of threats that must be countered by harnessing the best minds and abilities, including those of women. Only a foolish country failed to acknowledge and draw on the strengths of its entire talent. Gender equality was the way to ensure that women made a meaningful contribution to the development of their societies and the fear of violence was an additional burden that prevented both women and children from making that contribution.

Mr. A.-R. RAWABDEH (Jordan) said that his country aspired to a peace founded on justice and international law. Frustratingly, however, that peace, together with human rights, democracy and development, had been undermined by the recurring conflicts in the region, where radical groups posed a threat to society and to the world at large. It was essential to instil good governance, end marginalization, protect vulnerable groups, prevent religious and ethnic conflicts and promote justice and equality. The oppressed Palestinian people continued to suffer unparalleled tragedy and denial of their right to self-determination, compounded by events such as those in Gaza and their inevitably bloody consequences, of which women and children were the worst victims.

Aware of the need for ongoing reform and development, Jordan had pre-empted the upheavals seen elsewhere in the Arab world by, inter alia, adopting appropriate constitutional amendments, establishing constitutional institutions, conducting impartial parliamentary and municipal elections and developing laws to promote public involvement in decision-making and advance the status of women so as to ensure their role as voters and as candidates, including by way of a quota system.

Jordan was a haven of security and stability for the 1.5 million fleeing Syrians whom it was now hosting. Given its meagre resources, however, it looked forward to receiving greater international assistance with the cost of providing for those refugees until their return home. His Government's approach was one of pursuing moderation and compromise, disseminating the pure message of Islam and rejecting terrorism and radical Islamic thought, against which a concerted battle must be waged for the sake of justice and equality. As public representatives, parliamentarians must be at the forefront of international efforts to establish a fair international society in which all peoples enjoyed the right to live in freedom and dignity.

The meeting rose at 13.15 p.m.

Sitting of monday, 13 october

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m., with Mr. A. Radi, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in the Chair.

A video of the statement made by Ms. Emma Watson, actress and UN Women Goodwill Ambassador, at the launch of the HeForShe Movement of UN Women was shown.

The PRESIDENT highlighted the importance of the HeForShe campaign and invited all the participants to join it and to work for gender equality. A document would be made available for signature to enable participants to demonstrate their support.

The President and the Secretary General signed the document of support for the HeForShe Movement.

Item 3 of the agenda

General debate on Achieving gender equality, ending violence against women

Resumption of the debate

Mr. W. MARK (Trinidad and Tobago) said that, in his country, gender equality was a key element of all government initiatives and legislation on sexual offences, domestic violence and children's rights had been enacted. Outreach programmes targeting young people, particularly girls, encouraged them to seek election to Parliament. In working to achieve true gender equality, society also needed to pay attention to at-risk young men; the IPU should consider organizing a specific conference on that issue.

Mr. K. TEKLEBRHAN (Ethiopia), drawing attention to his country's numerous policies and measures designed to ensure gender equality and end violence against women, said that progress had been made in repealing discriminatory laws and introducing legislation that promoted women's interests. Health care was being expanded to include rural areas, including by increasing the number of women health workers. In the political sphere, the number of women in parliament had been increasing with each election and more women were being appointed to high-level positions. The number of women members of regional councils was also increasing, albeit with regional variations. The growing participation of women had had a positive impact on the work of the country's legislative bodies, including by strengthening accountability mechanisms for gender-related activities.

Ms. M.N. ZZIWA (East African Legislative Assembly) paid tribute to the brave work of Nobel Peace Prize winner and girls' education activist Malala Yousafzai. After highlighting the significant achievements of a number of East African countries in the area of gender equality, she said that she welcomed the continued international commitment to that issue and to the empowerment of women; it was crucial that gender equality be included in the post-2015 development agenda. However, women seeking the full enjoyment of their rights, such as equal access to health care, education, safe water, sanitation, land and reproductive rights, were often subjected to violence by their husbands or partners; clear policies and legislation were needed to protect them from such abuse. Gender discrimination was a significant problem, particularly in the workplace. Gender-inclusive policies and collaboration with cultural leaders were necessary and affirmative action policies, such as quotas, should be supported.

Ms. S.S. CHAUDHURY (Bangladesh) said that gender equality and violence against women were highly relevant issues in the current global climate. Gender was a social construct based on the roles and responsibilities of men and women and in some societies, those roles were perceived in a way that was discriminatory to women. States were obliged to protect women from gender-based violence, which impeded social and economic development and had a high social cost, by taking comprehensive measures in that regard. Parliamentarians could play a role by ensuring that

a strong legal framework was in place and adopting policies and strategies. In particular, legislation criminalizing violence against women must be enacted and, as there were different types of violence, the issue should be covered by a number of different laws. Efforts should also be made to improve the capacity of parliaments to implement any such legislation effectively. It was time to translate commitments into action and bring a new perspective to the ongoing discussion of the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. B. MOSSO RAMOS (Cabo Verde) said that the topic under discussion was extremely important, particularly in light of its economic and social impact. A world where citizens could live in peace and well-being was only possible if men and women enjoyed the same rights. There was evidence that countries with greater gender equality had higher economic growth rates, that companies with a higher proportion of female executives were more productive and that parliaments with more women members adopted more legislation on key social issues, such as education, health, discrimination and children. Although progress had been made, significant challenges remained, making the present debate timely and relevant. Parliamentarians had a duty to lead the fight against gender-related discrimination and violence; no excuse could justify discriminatory treatment of women, particularly early marriage, female genital mutilation and preventing girls from attending school. His country was committed to promoting and protecting women's rights and had implemented policies to help modernize gender relations in society, improve access to education and health care and halt gender-based violence. Although the equal participation of women in politics was guaranteed by law, there were few women in elected office; his country's election legislation was being reviewed and revised to address that issue using, among other things, the principle of positive discrimination. In addition, despite legislation on the issue, violence against women, often in the form of abuse by spouses or partners, was an ongoing problem.

Mr. M.C. BIADILLAH (Morocco) said that parliamentarians owed it to society to help achieve progress and gender equality was vital in that regard. Unfortunately, old-fashioned notions of women's rights persisted in some countries and cultures. Parliamentarians could play a key role in eradicating violence against women, for example by incorporating a gender perspective into all their debates and discussions. His country's experience had shown that eliminating violence against women and achieving gender equality required a multi-faceted approach with legal, cultural, educational and social dimensions.

Mr. M.J. ALLAHAM (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, for some time, his Government had been warning the international community of the threat posed by the terrorist groups active in its territory, some of which had received military and financial support from a number of countries. The truth had now been universally recognized, including by the UN Security Council, yet the alliance of countries that was launching air strikes against those groups in Syrian territory had ignored UN Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) on the issue by acting outside the framework of the Council and excluding certain regional and international powers. It was important to consider whether that approach would be successful in eradicating terrorism since it had been used with limited success in other countries. In addition, the arming or training of so-called "moderate" opposition groups in the Syrian conflict was a violation of international law and would, in the long run, facilitate the creation of more groups like the Islamic State. He called on all countries to support the Syrian Arab Republic in its fight against terrorism in a constructive and cooperative manner.

Ms. B. MBETE (South Africa) said that a quota system, coupled with sustained activism by women, had increased the number of women parliamentarians in her country, which in turn had had a significant impact on social well-being. The involvement of women in community development, including in leadership positions, had been instrumental in increasing communities' trust in women and women's confidence in themselves. However, despite the various measures on gender equality taken in her country, including the adoption of progressive legislation on labour and domestic violence and the establishment of gender-related institutional mechanisms, South Africa continued to experience alarming levels of gender-based violence. Significant resources had been allocated to researching the causes of such violence with a view to the development of strategies to address them, and the resulting studies had shown that the high prevalence of rape was related to stereotypes about manhood. In response, a number of initiatives had been taken in order to change the paradigm of masculinity in the country by engaging with men of all ages and backgrounds in a dialogue on the dynamics and consequences of violence. Steps had also been

taken to reform the justice system and introduce one-stop centres to provide victims of gender-based violence with access to a range of services. Parliamentarians could play an active role in achieving gender equality, including by promoting an understanding of the different circumstances of women and men in society and facilitating and monitoring capacity-building and skills development for women to enable them to participate meaningfully in all areas of the economy.

Ms. M. GOJKOVIĆ (Serbia) said that a number of complex challenges, such as prejudices, stereotypes, economic inequality and lack of trust, prevented the achievement of gender equality. In Serbia, a number of strategies and laws on gender equality and gender-based violence had been adopted and implemented; particular progress had been made with regard to women's participation in politics. Serbia was fully committed to promoting gender equality and ending violence against women, including by raising awareness of the importance of those issues, protecting fundamental rights and strengthening institutional capacities. Because insufficient levels of social and economic development and political and economic crises contributed to gender-based violence and hindered progress towards gender equality, policies focusing on reform, development and the improvement of living conditions were vital.

Mr. S.N.H. BOKHARI (Pakistan) highlighted the importance of the IPU Assembly as a platform for exchanging ideas and learning from the experience of other countries. Despite major developments in the areas of politics, diplomacy, defence and technology, achieving gender equality and ending violence against women were areas in which much remained to be done. The continuing victimization of women through violence, conflict and marginalization had a long-term impact on their lives, fostering social exclusion and the entrenchment of poverty. In recent years, his country had introduced a series of legislative measures to safeguard the rights of marginalized sectors of society, particularly women. It had also seen an increase in the number of women in key decision-making roles in the political sphere.

Pakistan followed a policy of constructive engagement with neighbouring countries. As President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, he was keen to increase linkages between regional and global inter-parliamentary forums, especially the IPU, so as to foster collective efforts to achieve the shared ideals of democracy, peace, development and human rights.

Mr. P. BURKE (Ireland) noted that gender equality and the empowerment of women were key components of the MDGs and that efforts were being made to ensure that the new sustainable development goals focused on the needs of the poor, including women, whose participation in policy discussions was crucial to the achievement of sustainable development. While gender-based violence was not specifically addressed in the MDGs, it had been recognized as both a cause and a consequence of inequality and should therefore be included in the post-2015 development agenda. UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) recognized that men and women could be affected differently by armed conflict, while many humanitarian agencies refuted the idea that gender-based violence was unavoidable during such periods.

In order to increase women's participation in politics, Ireland had introduced a quota system; political parties that did meet those quotas faced a 50 per cent cut in funding. That approach gave the public an opportunity to support and vote for female candidates. His Government was also committed to holding a referendum on the provisions of the Constitution related to the role of women in the home. Gender-based violence was a challenge for his country; however the rate of such crimes was lower than the European Union average. Lastly, steps were being taken to criminalize the purchase of sexual services, rather than prostitution, and his Government's "direct provision" asylum policy was under review with a view to the protection of female asylum-seekers.

Mrs. S. MAHAJAN (India) said that, despite women's important role in society, they continued to face social, economic and physical discrimination. India attached great importance to gender equality as the cornerstone of inclusive growth, sustainable development and long-term prosperity and had made gender mainstreaming a key component of its development planning and budgeting. Although significant progress had been achieved by enacting legislation and developing policies to empower women, gender-based violence remained a concern; introducing legislation on the issue was an important step, but effective application and enforcement were also needed. In an attempt to change mind-sets and end the cycle of violence against women, India had recently launched an awareness-raising campaign. Steps had also been taken to address the problem of human trafficking and centres had been set up to provide women in distress with legal aid, counselling and shelter. Member States should join forces in an effort to eliminate all forms of gender-based inequality and violence.

Mr. A. LARIJANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, according to the cultural traditions of many countries, women were second-class citizens; such stereotypes were disappearing gradually, but progress was slow. In his country, women and girls had become an integral part of society. However, a new, modern form of violence against women was occurring under the guise of gender equality, ignoring the fact that their unique physical and psychological characteristics precluded the performance of certain types of work. Equal rights advocates should not ignore the differences between men and women.

The increased frequency of armed conflicts and wars around the world disproportionately affected women and children and terrorist acts, such as those of the Islamic State, were on the rise; the majority of victims of such acts were women and children. It should be noted that some of those terrorists groups had, until recently, been supported by certain countries.

Mr. J.F. MUDENDA (Zimbabwe) pointed out that gender inequality and gender-based violence affected both women and girls; girls who married before the age of 18 were more likely to experience domestic violence as they were often isolated and had limited opportunities to engage in the social and economic development of their communities and families. His country was in the process of acceding to several relevant international treaties and was developing institutional mechanisms to promote gender equality and end gender-based violence. All government ministries had gender focal points and a Ministry of Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development had been established. However, despite legislative advances, women's legal, political, social and economic status was still low; many of them did not know their rights and, of those who did, many feared damaging their family relationships by exercising them. Women's economic dependence on their husbands was also a significant challenge. Members of parliament had an important role to play as opinion-shapers and legislators and the IPU should provide support for their efforts in that regard.

Mr. M. CARRINGTON (Barbados) said that violence against women should not be tolerated for any reason by any person, country or government. His country had made great strides in human development; however, gender equality and eliminating violence against women were areas which required improvement. A survey had shown that gender-based violence in Barbados was largely domestic and linked to gender inequality; it had also highlighted the inadequacies of domestic law in that area. A national response had been prepared on the basis of a clear understanding of the need to change traditional views of gender relations at all levels. His country's Bureau of Gender Affairs sought to incorporate a gender perspective into all national policies and strategies and collaborated with other ministries on activities such as public information campaigns. Human trafficking had also emerged as a major threat to women and young girls in the country and had the potential to destroy all the gains achieved. Current legislation was not up to the task of combating trafficking and steps were being taken to improve it.

Mr. M.C. NAGO (Benin) pointed out that many countries, including in Africa, were led by women. Yet, although gender equality was enshrined in the laws of most countries, the equal rights of men and women were often not respected in practice. Ending violence against women was fundamental for achieving true gender equality. Benin had legislation in place to protect and promote the rights of women and children and had acceded to international and regional instruments on discrimination against women and gender equality. Gender-based violence was a key priority and a number of international instruments on the issue had been adopted. Parliamentarians around the world should contribute to their implementation and should help to raise public awareness of the issue.

Mrs. C. ROTH (Germany) noted that, although progress towards gender equality had been achieved in some areas, much remained to be done in others. In some parts of the world, women continued to be deprived of their most fundamental rights, often from childhood onwards. Equal treatment of girls from an early age was vital. Girls were often worse off than boys, particularly in conflict regions where they might be victims of rape, forced or early marriage and abduction. Even in non-conflict areas, they were often denied the exercise of their right to health and education, for example through female genital mutilation, early pregnancy and being prevented from attending school. In some countries, they were even deprived of the right to live through selective abortion practices. More must be done to include girls and their issues in the ongoing discussion of the post-2015 development agenda.

Mrs. M. ANDRÉ (France) said that gender equality must be a core component of the post-2015 development agenda since it was a precondition for democratic governance and a pillar of development. Women were often targets of violence, including kidnapping, rape and forced marriage during armed conflicts, simply because they were women. The relevant provisions of the 1959 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War were no longer being respected by all parties to armed conflicts and the increasing brutality of the violence during such conflicts made it impossible to ignore the issue. Public recognition was an important first step; States, political leaders and parliamentarians had a duty to recognize the problem and take steps to address it. Assistance should be provided to the victims and measures introduced to eliminate the impunity of the perpetrators. Although gender equality was enshrined in the Constitution of her country, true parity had not been achieved, particularly in the political sphere. Gender-based violence also remained a problem and, to that end, legislation that sought to change mentalities and challenge stereotypes was before Parliament. Education was the most important means of achieving gender equality; respect for the principles of equality and mutual respect was essential in that regard.

Mr. S. REYES (El Salvador) said that there was growing recognition that conflicts resulted in the violation of women's rights; however, other actions, such as economic blockades of one country by another, also had that effect. It was important for parliamentarians to share their experiences in adopting legislation on the promotion of women's rights. He highlighted the steps taken in his country with a view to gender equality, including the enactment of legislation, accession to international conventions and the establishment of a Caucus of Women Parliamentarians. Progress in gender equality had been achieved, but challenges remained. In particular, the justice system was not always fair; for example, women, most of them poor and from rural areas, had been sentenced to up to 40 years' imprisonment for having an abortion even where a serious medical problem had made it necessary.

Item 2 of the agenda

Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda

The SECRETARY GENERAL announced that the Secretariat had received nine proposals for the subject of the emergency item (A/131/2-Inf.1.rev.2):

- Commitment by the parliaments of the world to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people (Ecuador);
- The role of parliamentarians in fighting terrorism and building an international partnership through the United Nations and other international organizations to eradicate extremism and promote cooperation and tolerance among the world's civilizations and peoples as a basis for international peace and security (United Arab Emirates);
- The role of the IPU in addressing the terrorism and extremism of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al Nusra Front (ANF) and other terrorist groups (Syrian Arab Republic);
- The role of the IPU and national parliaments in formulating and implementing national action plans to combat all forms of exploitation linked to human trafficking, in particular the trafficking of women and children (Morocco);
- The role of the IPU in encouraging and supporting an initiative aimed at ensuring international protection for the Palestinian people under occupation until a two-State solution is achieved, in the light of the latest Israeli military aggression on Gaza (Palestine);
- Commitment by the world's parliamentarians to promote a multilateral legal framework for restructuring countries' sovereign debt with a view to achieving a more stable and predictable international financial system (Argentina);
- The role of parliaments in supporting implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2178 and international support to address the humanitarian disaster caused by the terrorist attacks in Iraq and Syria (Chile);
- The role of the IPU in promoting the Charter of the United Nations to resolve conflicts in a just manner and counter the growing threat of terrorism (Islamic Republic of Iran);

- The role of parliaments in supporting an immediate and robust international response to the Ebola epidemic and in enacting laws ensuring an effective response to and preparedness for Ebola and other infectious disease outbreaks (Belgium and Zambia).

He understood that the delegation of Morocco had decided to withdraw its proposal in favour of the proposal submitted by the United Arab Emirates and that Ecuador and the United Arab Emirates had decided to merge their proposals, bringing the total number to seven. The new proposal read: "*The role of parliamentarians in countering terrorism, terrorist groups, such as so-called Daesh and massive violations against civilians, and in building an international partnership through the United Nations and other international organizations*". He invited the sponsoring delegations to make brief presentations on their proposals.

Ms. A. ALQUBAISI (United Arab Emirates) said that the joint proposal by her country and Ecuador was motivated by the need to respond to terrorism, which posed a severe threat to global peace, and the arming of the terrorist groups that were committing heinous crimes and spreading to other countries in the region. A coordinated and cooperative international response, based on international law and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States, was therefore needed in order to counter those groups. Parliamentarians could play an important role in that response by criminalizing terrorist activities and developing education policies to promote tolerance.

The representative of the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC said that his delegation had been sounding the alarm about the terrorist groups active in the country and the threat of their expansion for some time, having submitted similar proposals at the past three Assemblies. Those groups viewed anyone who did not agree with their ideas as the enemy and were willing to kill civilians, even children, to achieve their aims. He was open to combining his delegation's proposal with those of other countries, but it was important to be clear about the identity of the terrorist groups and the need to address the issue at the international level within the framework of international law.

Mr. T. QUBA'A (Palestine) said that the Palestinians were the only people in the world who were living under occupation; over 7 million of them had been chased from their territory and, as refugees, deprived of their freedom. Every few years, they were subjected to conflicts that killed and wounded civilians and destroyed the country's infrastructure, and they were often imprisoned without just cause. He had discussed the possibility of merging his country's proposal with that of Ecuador and the United Arab Emirates; however, when that proposal had been read out, there had been no specific mention of the situation of the Palestinian people. He therefore wished to maintain his delegation's separate proposal.

Mr. R. URTUBEY (Argentina) said that the recent financial crisis had highlighted the need for a stable financial system as a basis for the restructuring of sovereign debt. A number of groups continued to jeopardize the countries' efforts to honour their financial commitments. Therefore, the Member Parliaments of the IPU should discuss the issue with a view to developing a clear legal framework that balanced the rights of both creditors and debtors in order to address restructuring issues and ensure a stable and predictable financial system.

Mrs. D. PASCAL-ALLENDE (Chile) said that, despite the increase in terrorist activity, the international community had yet to develop an adequate solution to the problem and to halt the flow of terrorism across borders. The United Nations had taken a unanimous decision in respect of terrorism and it was crucial for all States to take steps to respect and implement that decision, for example through legislation. As lawmakers, parliamentarians had an important role to play in that regard. There could be no ambiguity in dealing with terrorism and increased information-sharing was needed.

The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, highlighting the importance of the IPU in ensuring respect for the Charter of the United Nations in conflict resolution and counter-terrorism efforts, said that the representatives of Ecuador and the United Arab Emirates had prepared a comprehensive proposal on terrorism and the situation in Palestine; he was prepared to combine his country's proposal with theirs.

Mr. M. LUNGU (Zambia) noted that Ebola had now spread beyond Africa; the most recent joint report by the WHO and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had demonstrated the significant threat posed by the disease. Ebola was not only a public health issue; it also had a social and economic impact. Action at the national, regional and international levels was needed in order to halt its spread. It was therefore urgent for parliamentarians to discuss the matter within the framework of the IPU in order to contribute to the search for a solution.

The SECRETARY GENERAL outlined the procedure for voting on an emergency item for inclusion in the Assembly agenda as set out in Assembly Rule 11.2. He had learned that the Islamic Republic of Iran wished to withdraw its proposal, leaving six proposals for the Members' consideration.

Following a roll-call vote, the proposal submitted jointly by the delegations of Belgium and Zambia was adopted and added to the agenda as Item 7.

The meeting rose at 7:05 p.m.

Final Assembly Agenda

- Item 1 Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 131st Assembly
 - Item 2 Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
 - Item 3 General debate on *Achieving gender equality, ending violence against women*
 - Item 4 International law as it relates to national sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and human rights
(*Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*)
 - Item 5 Reports of the Standing Committees on Peace and International Security; Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade; and United Nations Affairs
 - Item 6 Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 133rd IPU Assembly
 - Item 7 The role of parliaments in supporting an immediate and robust international response to the Ebola epidemic and in enacting laws ensuring an effective response to and preparedness for Ebola and other infectious disease outbreaks
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Sitting of Tuesday 14 October (Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.30 a.m., with Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), President of the IPU, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General debate on *Achieving gender equality, ending violence against women*

Resumption of the debate

Mrs. T.P. TONG (Viet Nam) said that gender equality was a basic human right, a worthy goal and a measure of social development and progress. Thanks to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, various human rights instruments and the MDGs, the lives of women and children had changed for the better in the areas of literacy, school attendance, participation in the global work force and socio-political engagement. Conversely, violence against women remained a global challenge that affected a third of the world's women and girls, violating their human rights and dignity and sometimes threatening their lives. Its elimination was the only route to true gender equality.

Her country's National Assembly had endeavoured to introduce policies and establish a legal framework for promoting human rights and gender equality and ending violence against women. Women's rights were addressed in the recently revised Constitution and laws fostering women's equality and advancement had been enacted. As a new member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Viet Nam was also actively fulfilling its international commitments concerning the defence and promotion of all human rights, including those of women and girls.

The current IPU Assembly provided an excellent opportunity to review the Organization's commitments and achievements with an eye to appropriate measures for promoting gender equality and ending violence against women. Such measures might include efforts to integrate those issues into the post-2015 sustainable development goals; enhancement of the role of parliaments with an emphasis on law enforcement and the prevention and punishment of violence; education and awareness-raising in schools; inter-parliamentary and intergovernmental cooperation against prostitution and trafficking in women and children; and cooperation with relevant UN agencies in order to better safeguard women's rights and combat gender-based discrimination and violence. She looked forward to welcoming all Members to the 132nd Assembly in Hanoi.

Mrs. F. DAĞCI CIĞLIK (Turkey) observed that gender equality was a pre-condition for social justice and essential for development and peace. In countries that viewed human rights as indispensable, women enjoyed equal political, socio-economic and cultural participation. Turkey was working to advance women's rights in accordance with various conventions and agreed international norms and had adopted or amended legislation to promote gender equality and equality of opportunity for all.

Jobs gave women economic independence, which in turn empowered them, enhanced their status in their families and strengthened their decision-making powers, self-confidence, social respectability and representation. Her country had made significant progress in providing full access to education and health services for women and girls, as evidenced by the steady increase in women's employment and in their representation in parliament. With 2.5 million registered women members, her own party was the world's largest women's political organization. Through its unique institutional structure, urban and rural women alike worked together to develop policies that would make Turkey a better place for their children.

Combating violence against women remained high on the country's political agenda. Turkey had recently ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention) and a Parliamentary Committee on Equal Opportunities had been in existence since 2009 and, in 2012, had conducted a needs analysis in conjunction with the IPU. She called on all parliaments to collaborate on projects in support of women and to set common goals and broaden perspectives in that pursuit.

Ms. K. KOMI (Finland) noted the wide-ranging issues implied by the topic and the deeply-rooted nature of the values of justice, fairness and equality of opportunity for all. The sacred value of human life and gender equality should be enshrined in the laws of all countries. Such widely ratified international instruments as the (CEDAW were important in demonstrating the universal nature of equality and establishing a normative reference point, but the responsibility for setting and implementing egalitarian policies lay essentially with States.

Regrettably, gender equality was still far from being achieved and appalling cases of violence and discrimination against women occurred almost daily. The courageous example of Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai was proof that extremist groups viewed educated girls as the greatest threat to their existence. Countless women and girls were killed or maimed as a result of gender-based violence, and the perpetrators frequently went unpunished. The social equality for which the Nordic countries were globally renowned, a cornerstone of their economic success, had been the outcome of a determined effort to create equal opportunities for all. However, domestic violence remained a serious problem that required an appropriate legal framework, conviction and sentencing of offenders, additional judicial resources and wide media coverage.

Even more importantly, the norms and ethical standards relating to non-violence and equality must be mainstreamed into society. As exemplified by the prominent male figures who had joined the HeForShe campaign, men must be fully engaged in conveying the message that violence against women was not the norm. For their part, parliamentarians had an important role to play in guaranteeing equal treatment, keeping the issue in the public eye and shaping public opinion, bearing in mind that there were no opposing teams, but rather a single team with the goal of equal opportunity for all.

Mr. D. MARK (Nigeria) reported that, thanks to the continuing development of a policy framework for the promotion of gender equality, the minimum benchmark of 35 per cent representation of women in political appointments had been surpassed in his country; its Cabinet comprised the highest number of women in its history and women were encouraged to seek elected office. Nigeria's return to democratic rule had prompted the advancement of legislative procedures for finally incorporating into domestic law the CEDAW Convention and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Efforts to address the economic discrimination against Nigeria's women had included the establishment of a fund for their economic empowerment that offered a revolving soft-loan facility for rural women. Although incompatible with the Constitution, gender-based discrimination persisted, largely because women were uninformed about their rights. Through wide implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, incremental progress had been achieved in some spheres, although monumental challenges remained in others owing to the diversity of the country's socio-political economy. For that reason, local and State authorities were considered better equipped than the central Government to deal with cultural specificities in each setting.

Laws criminalizing female genital mutilation were now in place, State legislatures were being encouraged to legislate against domestic violence and draft legislation relating to violence in society, gender equality and women's empowerment was in the pipeline. The Government was committed to ending gender-based violence and had acted to end the mayhem caused by Boko Haram with welcome support from its international partners, whose efforts to end sexual violence were highly commendable. Institutional and policy actions to combat gender inequality must be sustained and expanded into all sectors through re-orientation and education designed to eradicate cultural views that were unacceptable to civilized society.

Mr. L. GALLO (Uruguay) said that, while he concurred with the need for quotas in order to promote women's political participation, complementary measures that took cultural factors into account were also necessary. Such affirmative action was sometimes opposed, however. In Uruguay, although a 30 per cent quota for women candidates on party lists was in place, women accounted for only 14 per cent of parliamentarians, an under-representation in comparison with their numbers in other areas, such as education and civil society organizations. Essentially functioning as a strategic alliance of women from different social movements, a bicameral women's caucus worked with women's organizations and civil society to develop a shared parliamentary agenda on gender issues with a view to guiding affirmative action and key administrative and legislative changes. New legislation had been adopted on sexual, reproductive, social and family rights, migration and citizenship.

In Uruguay, violence against women was an extensive problem that was frequently reported in the media. Its prevention was therefore an overall priority for parliamentarians, civil society and the executive branch alike. However, the problem was unlikely to be solved unless the prevailing gender inequality in private life was treated as a State responsibility and tackled accordingly, taking into account the fact that women's ability to engage fully in public and political life was often systematically hampered by their domestic role as carers. Concerted efforts must therefore be channelled into the elimination of gender stereotyping in the interests of achieving gender equality and ending violence against women.

Ms. D. PADIERNA LUNA (Mexico) said that parliamentarians were duty-bound to legislate for gender equality as a means to the eradication of all gender-based violence. The pursuit of policies to combat that scourge in every setting and social sphere necessarily entailed considerable effort given the scale of the problem and its tragic repercussions for the daily lives and well-being of victims. Indeed, its prevalence was so high that it constituted the most frequent violation of any human right. The unfortunate truth was that the existence of international instruments and domestic laws was no guarantee of compliance with their provisions, particularly in light of social attitudes whereby gender-based violence was not only condoned, but sometimes even approved. Moreover, the impact of many of the measures adopted to counter that violence was limited because they sought to address its symptoms rather than its root causes. Fragmented policies would not achieve the desired aim.

In Mexico and indeed elsewhere, the war on drugs had led to a spiralling increase in violent crimes against women, many of them committed with impunity. On the other hand, Congress was leading the way in gender equality; under a new rule to be introduced in 2015, half of its members must be women. Gender equality and non-discrimination were key to the elimination of violence against women and girls. Parliamentarians must therefore act promptly to eliminate all vestiges of gender discrimination, including by providing for the enjoyment of their reproductive rights and ensuring their access to justice, in order to consign the culture of misogyny to history. To that end, they must develop appropriate legal frameworks, set targets and carry out assessments with a view to reporting on progress achieved at the next IPU Assembly.

Mrs. M. NISTOR (Romania) said that the theme of the discussion was highly relevant to the post-2015 development agenda and should be a national priority for all countries. Romania had developed a modern legislative framework for ensuring equality of opportunity but, like parliamentary measures for fostering dialogue among national institutions and substantial cooperation with civil society, it remained a work in progress.

Parliament also monitored the authorities responsible for promoting equal opportunity and had gained a wealth of expertise from exchanges with specialized parliamentary bodies in other European countries. Its Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men sought to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to improve women's social status, including through the integration of gender equality into standard-setting laws, policies and programmes; harmonization of domestic law with international instruments ratified by Romania; promotion of equal participation in political and public life and of equal employment opportunities; and elimination of gender stereotyping. A dedicated ministerial department had been established to advance equality of opportunity and deal more effectively with gender issues.

Romania was committed to combating the unfortunately persistent problem of violence against women. It was making the necessary arrangements for ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention, which it had recently signed, and legislative and other measures for protecting women, children and older persons against domestic violence were in place as part of a national strategy. The Civil and Criminal Codes also contained provisions on domestic violence. The most difficult challenge, however, lay in effecting a change in social attitudes and customs, an effort that must be spearheaded by parliamentarians and politicians at every level. All sectors of society must be made to understand the devastating socio-economic impact of gender inequality.

Mr. M. GAROYIAN (Cyprus), listing examples of the numerous forms of gender-based violence, declared that action to end such fundamental violations of human rights must be treated as a top priority. Significant initiatives had been introduced with a view to developing means of prevention, bringing offenders to justice and providing remedies for victims. A key step towards elimination of the problem was the ratification of relevant international and regional instruments. His Government intended to strengthen its legal and policy frameworks with a view to acceding to the Istanbul Convention, the most comprehensive and legally binding of all such instruments, in the near future and subsequently honouring its obligations thereunder.

The implementation of such instruments remained inconsistent and inadequate, however, primarily due to lack of political will to create an environment in which acts of violence against women were deemed intolerable. Concerted efforts must be made to identify means of ensuring the successful implementation of commitments to end violence against women; strengthen the political engagement and joint endeavours of all stakeholders in that quest; and combat all forms of gender inequality, the root cause of violence against women. Parliamentary bodies must be established to monitor the implementation of preventive measures and law enforcement, particularly the prosecution of offenders. Public agents involved in prevention and prosecutions must have easy access to gender-based data and programmes for combating violence against women must be suitably financed.

In short, notwithstanding the many instruments and measures for promoting gender equality and ending violence against women, much remained to be done, most notably by mobilizing the political will required for implementation.

Mr. X. WANG (China) said that, despite the overall advancement of their social status, women across the globe continued to suffer violence. As a vulnerable group, they were invariably the first to bear the brunt of armed conflict. Peace, stability and development were essential to building the foundations for the promotion of women's rights and gender equality. The international community must work to counter all forms of violence against women, which could be eliminated only through the pursuit of development. It was therefore necessary to intensify national efforts to improve their education, employment, health and life expectancy and ensure their involvement in policy-making and socio-economic development.

The opportunities offered in 2015 by the 20-year anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing +20) and the setting of post-2015 development goals should be used to strengthen the international will to utilize United Nations mechanisms to the full in addressing issues relating to women. Differences between countries of the North and the South were another factor to be considered, as were the technical, financial and structural problems facing developing countries. International cooperation and support for women in those countries must therefore be enhanced.

In China, laws were in place to support the policy of ensuring that its vast numbers of women played an equal role in society. Based on the Constitution, those laws guaranteed the protection of women's rights while the Civil and Criminal Codes included provisions designed to eliminate domestic violence, which was also the subject of a new parliamentary bill. A cross-cutting mechanism for combating violence against women and offering victim support was also in place. China was fulfilling its obligations under CEDAW and looked forward to continuing international cooperation aimed at improving women's destiny.

Ms. S. ATAULLAHJAN (Canada) commented that women's issues were now viewed as relevant across all policy areas and as a priority for all. Development initiatives were more likely to be sustainable if they included components targeting women's access to economic opportunities, education, health care, justice and governance, just as efforts to manage and recover from armed conflict were more likely to succeed with the meaningful involvement of women. Empowered and educated women enjoying full and equal protection of their rights were assets, and nations that harnessed the full potential of all their human capital were able to maximize their competitive advantage.

Twenty years after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, there was still work still to be done, as seen from recent data on physical and sexual violence, suffered by over a third of women worldwide, and on the harmful practice of child, early and forced marriage, inflicted on over 700 million girls. In addition to perpetuating discrimination and inequality, such marriages had a negative impact on broader development goals and prevented girls from enjoying their right to education and to the highest attainable standard of health, often trapping them in a cycle of poverty, inequality and violence. Ending that practice was therefore a Canadian foreign policy and development priority.

In the pivotal year of 2015, efforts to advance gender equality on all fronts and to end all forms of gender-based violence must be reinvigorated, including through the implementation of related laws and standards. The future sustainable development agenda should include gender equality and women's empowerment as core components. Lastly, the outcome document from the present debate should convey the participants' resolve to guarantee to all women and girls the full enjoyment of their rights, which were human rights.

Mr. S. KRAIRIKISH (Thailand) said that parliamentarians had a shared responsibility to commit to the development of sound, practical and enforceable legislation promoting sustainable development. That goal was attainable only by including women who constituted half of the global population, achieving gender equality and ending violence against women. Parliamentarians must also work with the executive branch to address gaps in the implementation of gender-sensitive legislation and find innovative ways to deal with the complexities of modern-day challenges. They must legislate for equal access to education for girls, ensure that appropriate budget allocations were made and create incentives for the private sector to champion gender equality and women's empowerment. The pursuit of gender equality demanded a whole-of-society approach that fully engaged men in the process.

In November 2014, as part of the preparations for Beijing +20, Thailand would host the Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, which would review regional progress in those areas and in ending violence against women. Together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), it would also host an open-ended intergovernmental expert group on gender-related killing of women and girls, to be held in Bangkok from 11 to 13 November 2014, with a view to making best practice recommendations.

Thailand remained fully committed to the promotion of gender equality. A social affairs committee on vulnerable groups, including women and children, had recently been established by its parliament, which was also preparing to consider draft legislation on gender equality that had been pending for some time on account of the political situation. Men and women alike must play their part in the ongoing effort to achieve such equality and end gender-based violence.

Mr. K. SVENDSEN (Norway) said that the widespread use of rape and other forms of sexual violence in conflict situations, while not an inevitable consequence of war, was a grave and highly neglected problem. A weapon systematically aimed at destroying individuals, families and communities, such violence inflicted immense human suffering and reinforced conflict and instability, often for generations. The increased international attention directed at the topic in recent years, including by the United Nations Security Council, was therefore a step in the right direction.

Another important step on the long road ahead was the engagement of men in the discussion. Although they were most often the aggressors in such cases of violence and a major part of the problem, they must also be part of the solution if any headway was to be made. More research was also needed in order to formulate efficient measures for combating gender-based violence. Fortunately, academic interest in the topic was growing. Disappointingly, however, the overwhelming majority of researchers in the field were women. The involvement of the male half of the world's population in such activities was essential to enhancing men's understanding of the problem, enabling them to contribute concrete proposals and ultimately ridding the world of the plague of sexual violence against women.

Interactive debate with the Executive Director of UN Women

The PRESIDENT, recalling the important partnership between the IPU and UN Women in promoting gender equality and combating violence against women, welcomed Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, and recalled that, together with other male parliamentarians and the IPU Secretary General, he had proudly joined the HeForShe solidarity movement.

Ms. P. MLAMBO-NGCUKA (Executive Director, UN Women) said that she looked forward to a lively and robust exchange of ideas with the present gathering of parliamentarians, whose job it was to serve the citizens of the world, including those with rights in need of protection and those with muffled voices. Parliaments acted as a buffer between order and chaos; their absence would result in lawlessness, which was always harshest on women and children.

She therefore called on parliamentarians to seize the moment; ending centuries of gender inequality would be the finest possible tribute to the founders of democracy. Half of those represented by the IPU and the UN were women and girls, whose hopes and dreams lay in the hands of their leaders and representatives in international bodies. Beijing +20 and preparation of the post-2015 development agenda offered a unique opportunity for those bodies to make history by playing a decisive role in influencing the new world to come. The effort to achieve the MDGs had shown the measures needed in order to end poverty and inequality; in particular, the sustainable development goals would be unattainable without a clear roadmap for gender equality. By sending a clarion call to their countries' representatives at the negotiations on the new goals,

parliaments could make a historic difference to the post-2015 era. Parliamentarians must also bridge the gap between positions taken in their countries' capitals and the electorate, half of whom were female; the current disconnect could be costly to the agendas of nations.

The available body of collective knowledge could lead to life-changing experiences for all of humanity. It was time to take bold and far-reaching decisions that would make 2030 a year of triumph for all. The UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals had thus far decided to include a stand-alone transformative goal on gender equality and women's empowerment and had undertaken to ensure the comprehensive integration of gender equality concerns into all the goals. Parliamentarians had a decisive role to play in ensuring that the sustainable development goals and targets continued to evolve in the right direction once the negotiations began, bearing in mind the binding commitment made in the introduction to the widely ratified CEDAW Convention to guarantee women's enjoyment of their rights.

Parliamentarians must also construct and reinforce domestic legal frameworks in order to embed gender equality in development, making it the rule rather than the exception. Gender must be mainstreamed into national policy at every level and the implementation of commitments must be fully monitored. The countdown from 2015 to 2030 should be marked by annual milestones for overcoming the barriers to gender equality on the basis of ambitious and measurable targets agreed during the negotiations, which must include women's representation in all decision-making bodies with an ultimate view to gender parity.

A gender imbalance among lawmakers was inevitably reflected in the treatment afforded to women in the laws adopted, impeding their economic empowerment and hence their vital contribution to the global economy. Discriminatory laws must be repealed in order to create enabling environments that allowed women to flourish. There should be an agreed time frame for zero legalized gender discrimination, bearing in mind the lesson learned from the MDGs: that gender equality, women's empowerment and enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls were prerequisites for overall progress.

As perhaps the most prevalent and glaring, yet tolerated, human rights abuse, violence against women was a pandemic of global proportions and required urgent action. Where it existed with impunity, it was futile for them to seek equality and empowerment. Although most violence occurred in the home, domestic violence was criminalized in only two thirds of countries and in the remaining third, the relevant laws were poorly implemented. Parliamentarians could change that situation by enacting appropriate legislation and monitoring its implementation. Devastating for those concerned, violent acts also had lasting socio-economic implications. Moreover, in many countries, protection against early marriage was grossly inadequate with dire consequences for girls and their offspring. Parliamentarians could ensure that violence against women did not go unpunished by raising awareness among law enforcement officers, members of the judiciary, health care providers, social workers and religious and community leaders.

For their part, men and boys must stand up to perpetrators and the authorities by declaring that such violence was unacceptable and criminal. She therefore called on parliamentarians to join the HeForShe campaign, which sought to mobilize a solidarity movement of 1 billion men and boys to act on such issues.

Progress in gender equality was reflected in the introduction of new legal and policy instruments at the international and regional levels and in the growing numbers of female members of government, but the private sector was grappling with issues at a very slow pace. She urged parliamentarians to re-read and use the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; as the most comprehensive implementation strategy to date, it remained a powerful source of direction and inspiration. On the twentieth anniversary of their adoption, in March 2015, a compilation of country reports on the current status of women would be presented at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and in September 2015, the world's heads of State would be asked to commit to a better future for women and to indicate how that commitment would be resourced. For reasons of effectiveness, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action would be aligned with the post-2015 development agenda.

The gender funding gap was a major problem; less than 10 per cent of development funding targeted women, even though they constituted over half of the world's population and faced the greatest challenges. Without an allocated implementation budget, laws failed women. UN Women therefore supported countries' efforts to develop gender-responsive budgeting in cooperation with the World Bank.

Together with the IPU, UN Women would be holding events throughout 2015 and channelling parliamentary energies into demolishing the structural barriers that perpetuated gender inequality. She urged parliaments to host Beijing +20 events using the specially designed logo, to

call for a bold post-2015 development agenda and to help ensure that the final draft of the new goals was sufficiently rights-based. UN Women looked forward to strong and determined collaboration with the IPU, which had long been one of its major partners. Together, they could make 2030 the end date for the fight against gender inequality.

The PRESIDENT thanked Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka for her address and invited reactions from the floor.

Mrs. M.N. MENSAH-WILLIAMS (Namibia) said that UN Women's cooperation with the IPU was extremely gratifying, as was its support for the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians. Substantial numbers of male delegates of all ages had already joined the HeForShe campaign, which IPU Members would also take to their home countries with a view to action in advance of the Beijing +20 review. The effort to achieve gender equality in the IPU Secretariat had paid off and the Organization was working hard to promote that goal in its Member Parliaments.

Mrs. D. PASCAL-ALLENDE (Chile), welcoming the Executive Director of UN Women as the successor to her own compatriot, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, reported that Chile was in the process of setting up a Ministry of Women and Gender Equality. A new parliamentary election law was also being prepared with the aim of bringing the number of women parliamentarians to 40 per cent of the total. Chile's young male parliamentarians would surely be joining the HeForShe campaign.

Ms. R. KADAGA (Uganda) said that the annual parliamentary event on the occasion of the fifth-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women provided a welcome opportunity for women parliamentarians to make their voices heard; given their essential role in women's emancipation, she appealed for a widening of that opportunity. Activities were being planned to celebrate Beijing +20 and discussions concerning the post-2015 development agenda were under way with all stakeholders. The HeForShe campaign would also be pursued in Uganda.

Mrs. G.D.V. REQUENA (Venezuela), thanking UN Women for its promotion of gender equality, said that patriarchal paradigms remained deeply rooted in many societies and must be deconstructed as part of a cultural "sea change". Gender equality was not attainable through laws alone, nor would equal opportunities materialize unless domestic chores were democratically shared. In her country, many gains had been achieved for women in the post-revolution era, but the traditional mind-set and customs continued to pose obstacles. Consideration must be given to changing the models perpetuated by the education system.

Ms. A. ALQUBAISI (United Arab Emirates) pointed out that gender inequality varied in degree among countries, each of which had its own specific concerns and targeted its areas of focus accordingly, including on the basis of local culture. Given the Arab recognition of the United Arab Emirates for bridging the gender gap and achieving a high degree of gender equality, her country was well placed to offer support in the matter to other countries in the region.

Mr. W. MARK (Trinidad and Tobago) suggested that the provision of mediation and rehabilitation facilities might be a better way forward than criminalization in cases of domestic violence. Mediation was more conducive to preservation of the family than the court system, which could have negative repercussions for families.

Ms. W. NOWICKA (Poland) said she agreed that it was necessary to continue working beyond 2015 with a view to full implementation of the commitments made 20 years earlier in Beijing; the goal of gender equality had not yet been attained. She therefore looked forward to IPU efforts to continue that work in conjunction with governments.

Ms. B. MBETE (South Africa) said that it was dangerous not to criminalize domestic violence for fear of an adverse impact on families, not least because such a decision could be used to excuse acts of violence. Violence was violence and there should be no leniency for its perpetrators, whose acts must be treated as crimes. South Africa would continue to do the work expected of it in that domain.

Ms. P. MLAMBO-NGCUKA (Executive Director, UN Women) thanked the IPU for its collaborative efforts with UN Women and the participants for their encouragement. In responding to those remarks, she expressed the hope that a UN Women office would soon be opened in

Namibia, which she applauded for its championing of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security and for its hosting of a high-level side event on enhancing women's contribution to peace and security at the recent sixty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly. In 2015, her predecessor, Ms. Bachelet, who remained very much engaged with UN Women, would be hosting a high-level Beijing +20 event in Chile.

Concerning the important issue of girls' education, the post-2015 development agenda would focus beyond the primary to the tertiary level, with an emphasis on access to education and a rights-based approach. It was indeed essential to tackle gender stereotyping through education, to which end UN Women was working in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to integrate into the future agenda an education programme aimed at instilling mutual respect in boys and girls from an early age. She concurred with the need to focus on the local challenges specific to each country.

While she agreed that mediation should, in principle, be encouraged in cases of violence against women, the reality was that the vast majority of the women concerned were assaulted in the homes, with their perpetrators all too frequently avoiding justice. Many of those women suffered long-term depression and endured life-threatening situations, together with their children, whose witnessing of violence carried into the next generation. In those circumstances, which also had repercussions for the whole of society, mediation might send a message that violence against women was tolerated and that prosecution was a last resort. On the contrary, law enforcement was critical in ensuring that women received the necessary protection and support.

In conclusion, she invited Members to attend the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women to review progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action over the 20 years since its adoption.

The PRESIDENT thanked Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka for her excellent address and her response to the rich debate that it had prompted.

General debate on *Achieving gender equality, ending violence against women*

Resumption of the debate

Mr. A. ELA NTUGU NSA (Equatorial Guinea) reported that positive results had ensued from his country's efforts to achieve gender equality and foster a spirit of mutual respect between men and women. A ministerial department had been established to promote women's rights and enhance their social integration. As part of its efforts to combat all forms of discrimination against women, Equatorial Guinea had ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; acceded to the main international conventions on women's rights; and set up programmes relating to women's and children's rights and to gender equality. The building blocks for an equal society were therefore in place. A campaign to raise awareness of the issue of violence against women was also helping to prevent and reduce the incidence of such abuse.

As a result of recent constitutional reforms for the furtherance of women's emancipation, the President of his country's Senate was now a woman and women small-business-owners had access to soft loans. It was the job of parliaments to enact laws promoting women's empowerment and enabling them to develop their full potential.

He echoed the deep concern expressed in the Declaration adopted at the Ninth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament, held in Geneva on 4 and 5 September 2014, with regard to the abduction of 273 Nigerian schoolgirls by Boko Haram and the vicious crimes being perpetrated against women and girls in countries facing conflict situations. Lastly, he underscored his country's substantial effort to develop and industrialize its economy in the interests of a more secure future.

Mrs. Y. FERRER GÓMEZ (Cuba) said that greater political will and more effective and adequately funded strategies and programmes were key to building on the progress achieved in preventing and eliminating gender-based discrimination and violence. Ending those plagues and ensuring the enjoyment of women's fundamental rights would require integrated international action in continuing pursuit of the interdependent pillars of the United Nations Decade for Women, namely equality, development and peace.

Gender-based violence was exacerbated by the rise in all forms of violence generally. The war mentality and looting of resources must be brought to an end, as must the increasing number of interventions in disregard of national sovereignty, violations of international law, bombing of

territory and destabilization by certain Western powers in various parts of the globe, where women and children were invariably the greatest sufferers. Parliaments must prioritize efforts to remove obstacles to the full exercise of all rights; that goal had long been a guiding principle in Cuba, with its emphasis on the role of women in society. Women now accounted for almost half of the National Assembly of People's Power, which had a woman Deputy Speaker, and over 40 per cent of members of the Council of State, which had two women deputy chairpersons.

Women also played a leading role in Cuba's economic, social and cultural life and the legislation relating to their rights was updated continually. Challenges nonetheless remained with respect to the complete eradication of all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence. The worst violence suffered by Cuban women, however, emanated from the prolonged blockade imposed on the country by the United States of America. She expressed her delegation's gratitude for the immense show of parliamentary solidarity with Cuba in support of ending that blockade and achieving the release of the three Cuban Five members who were still unjustly imprisoned in the United States.

Mr. N. ESSED (Arab Parliament) affirmed that the importance attached to the topic was shared by all members of the Arab Parliament, which had devoted various seminars and workshops to women's issues and was drafting an Arab charter on women's rights. The magnitude of the physical destruction caused by the most recent Israeli attack on the Palestinian people in Gaza, including crimes against women, children and older persons, ranked it among the most egregious affronts to humanity in general and to women's rights in particular. All right-thinking persons must support the call for the perpetrators of those crimes against humanity to be brought to international justice. Sweden's wise decision to recognize the State of Palestine was greatly appreciated, as was the United Kingdom Parliament's vote in favour of such recognition.

Arab women were highly esteemed for their sacrifice, struggle and determination to shoulder the burden of suffering imposed on them as a result of recent developments in various parts of the Arab region. Greater efforts to lift them out of the cycle of despair and empower them to build a future were needed. In renewing its commitment to serve peace, democracy, equality and development, the Arab Parliament was inherently engaged with the IPU in pursuit of those shared goals. It likewise renewed its commitment to the eradication of terrorism, which posed a greater threat than ever to international peace and security, and stood ready to cooperate in joint efforts to fulfil peoples' aspiration to freedom, justice and a life of dignity.

Item 7 of the agenda

Plenary debate on the emergency item:

The role of parliaments in supporting an immediate and robust international response to the Ebola epidemic and in enacting laws ensuring an effective response to and preparedness for Ebola and other infectious disease outbreaks

The representative of INDIA, opening the debate, said that the unprecedented outbreak of the Ebola virus in West African countries was deeply worrying. The epidemic had provoked a looming humanitarian disaster with devastating economic, political and security consequences for the region and beyond. He expressed support for international efforts, notably by WHO, to address the situation by declaring a public health emergency of international concern and establishing the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER). The delivery of trained medical assistance entailed immense logistical challenges, and similarly huge was the need for lasting funding to cover essential supplies. India, which had historic ties of solidarity with the African people, including through extensive trade and cultural links, had announced a contribution of US\$10 million to the UN Secretary-General's Ebola Response Fund, together with an additional US\$ 2 million for the purchase of protective equipment and clothing. His delegation supported collective action to scale up international efforts to manage the Ebola crisis in all its dimensions. It was the virus, not the countries affected by it, which must be isolated.

Mr. J. VERSTREKEN (Belgium), concurring with the need for international assistance and support, applauded the commitment and contribution of the national and international relief workers engaged in fighting the epidemic on the ground. The slow international response and time lost in formulating an effective and coordinated strategy were deeply regrettable, however. The relevant United Nations bodies, in particular WHO, must take the lead in implementing all emergency measures required to control the outbreak. States and international donors must mobilize without delay the financial, medical and military resources for deployment on the ground and ensure

protection for medical personnel in contact with Ebola patients. Regional and other stakeholders must increase their efforts to raise public awareness of the virus, apply the required security and health protocols and implement measures to prevent and correct misinformation. For its part, the pharmaceutical industry should work to develop effective medicines and vaccines, which implied the inclusion of public health and health crisis prevention as core components of development cooperation.

Ms. M.C. DIKGALE (South Africa) declared that it was time to act; the Ebola virus had already claimed 4,000 lives. The outbreak had turned into a pandemic, threatening the economies of the affected West African countries and the security of the world and exposing the continent's capacity challenges, lack of infrastructure and limited resources. The Government of South Africa had pledged to continue to provide assistance to the affected countries and the international community was urged to do the same in order to contain the virus, which constituted a global health problem of concern to all.

Lord CHIDGEY (United Kingdom) reported that, only 24 hours earlier, his Parliament had been briefed on his Government's response to the Ebola epidemic by the Secretary of State for Health, who had been questioned in detail and held to account for his actions by members. With the United States of America leading in Liberia and France focusing on Guinea, the United Kingdom had taken responsibility for the Ebola campaign in Sierra Leone, where it was providing a 92-bed Ebola facility, supporting over 700 beds country-wide, working with WHO to provide Ebola care training for over 120 health workers weekly, deploying a royal navy ship and a total of 750 military personnel and contributing GBP 125 million. He was also extremely proud of the service volunteered by some 800 health workers from his country.

Entire villages in the affected countries, where life was already difficult enough, were being wiped out by the epidemic. Parliaments could play a vital role at the local level by working with civil society, WHO and supporting organizations. Above all, however, they must hold their governments to account in matching the best international efforts and informing and protecting their citizens.

Mr. H.N.W. MUHAMMAD (Indonesia) emphasized the danger posed to the international community by the Ebola outbreak, as evidenced by the WHO announcement that it qualified as a public health emergency of international concern. Attention must be directed to the human and social dimensions of the challenge, which encompassed issues ranging from community education, health service delivery and the quality of democracy to mobility, public security and organizational, logistical and management obstacles. Affected countries must act on all fronts to address the public health situation and strengthen community awareness with a view to preventing transmission of the virus. Concrete measures for providing adequate assistance to those countries must be explored through a holistic approach in such multilateral forums as the IPU, and the contribution of business must be sought in order to strengthen health systems. The role of legislation in ensuring properly functioning health systems was also crucial.

Mr. C. ZERPA (Venezuela) said that the media reports on the Ebola crisis were a reminder of its worldwide import and of the need for a timely and effective coordinated global response. His parliament was in solidarity with the people in the affected countries, where many had been widowed and orphaned; the virus had also exposed the precariousness of health systems. Developed countries in particular should pay special attention to dealing with the emergency and international organizations must fulfil their critical responsibility by removing obstacles to the provision of medical assistance to the poorest and most vulnerable countries. WHO must also oversee any research into an Ebola vaccine.

Venezuela had offered US\$ 5 million for Ebola research and its President would participate in the impending Summit of Heads of State of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of our Americas (ALBA) on Ebola, to be held in Cuba, a country which, to its credit, had dispatched several hundred medical personnel to assist on the ground. Ebola was not a localized problem and a global response was imperative.

Mr. M. LUNGU (Zambia) said that the WHO designation of Ebola as a public health emergency of international concern placed the 194 signatories to the International Health Regulations under an obligation to take prevention, surveillance, control and response measures. The UN Security Council had declared the Ebola outbreak a threat to global peace and security and UNMEER had been established in Accra, Ghana, with a mandate to halt the outbreak, treat infected persons and deliver essential services with a view to preserving stability and preventing

further outbreaks. In high-risk areas, already poverty-stricken communities continued to experience disruption of those services, in addition to lack of food and security and loss of livelihoods, and health care systems had been forced to turn away non-Ebola patients. In short, Ebola had a far-reaching impact, adversely affecting social and economic well-being, driving up prices and weakening the fiscal position of the countries concerned. Urgent international intervention was vital in halting the rapid spread of Ebola and other infectious diseases.

Mr. M.A.H. AL AMIN (Sudan) said that failure to act swiftly in tackling the dangerous Ebola virus would bring disastrous consequences for large swathes of humanity, notably in Africa, where transmission of the virus was facilitated by a traditional way of life in which close contact with sufferers was a given. It was therefore essential to give affected countries the resources needed to cope with the situation and, above all, to supply them with the serums and drugs needed to contain the virus and eradicate the disease as soon as possible. The countries concerned and the international health-related organizations must coordinate to that end.

Ms. E.M. CHILENJE NKHOMA (Malawi) expressed her country's full support for the international effort to contain the spread of the Ebola virus, which presented a global challenge, particularly in light of its economic ramifications. International assistance with preventive measures was therefore welcome. Her Government was working tirelessly to ensure the availability of screening kits at all border points and agreed that no restrictions should be placed on travel or trade activities unless they involved individuals who were confirmed or suspected Ebola sufferers or had been in close contact with Ebola patients.

Mr. E.H.D. SYLLA (Guinea), emphasizing the global nature of the threat, said that the virus was no respecter of national boundaries. While continuing to exert its human toll, the disease also tainted everyday life, which, in affected countries, was increasingly difficult and precarious with schools, hospitals and health centres no longer functioning and the economic situation growing ever weaker. He acknowledged with gratitude all the international, multilateral and bilateral assistance extended to those countries, including Guinea, and thanked the health professionals on the ground who were risking their lives to save others. Institutions and NGOs in Guinea were responding to the disease to the best of their limited logistical, technical and financial capacities, including through substantial awareness-raising activities and the establishment of two Ebola treatment centres at the borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone. The international response, however, should be rapidly strengthened in the interest of saving as many lives as possible.

Ms. C. MANDI MANDITAWPEI (Zimbabwe) said she agreed that international solidarity was the key to combating the sudden Ebola pandemic, which was of grave concern to all. The highly infectious nature of the disease set it apart from all others, including even HIV/AIDS, in the sense that any interaction with Ebola patients was to be avoided. Research must be urgently conducted in order to improve diagnosis and treatment, as well as prognosis, bearing in mind that sufferers often died without medical attention owing to the stigma and fear associated with the disease. Funding earmarked for conventional wars should instead be channelled into combating the Ebola pandemic before it claimed many more victims.

Mr. D. BAKER (Trinidad and Tobago) drew attention to the catastrophe that could be visited on small island States such as his by any event that challenged the capacity of the global transport system to bring to their shores the millions of tourists on whom they depended for sustainable development. His country had engaged its local health networks in educating the public about the risks posed by Ebola and other viruses and was training its medical teams and immigration officers in the management of viral outbreaks. It had acquired screening kits and additional personal protective equipment and had restricted non-essential travel to affected and high-risk areas.

Parliamentarians had a responsibility to agitate collectively for a more energetic response to the global challenge of the Ebola crisis and to support WHO and United Nations efforts by committing financial, human and medical resources for assistance to affected countries. An international fund must be established for the rapid development of an early vaccine and for the supply of such items as intravenous fluids, beds and personal protective equipment to high-risk countries. Trinidad and Tobago would continue to play its part in the global emergency precipitated by the Ebola outbreak.

Ms. R. KADAGA (Uganda) thanked those who had responded to the Ebola crisis but said that, despite their help, the situation remained grave. In light of the threatened strike by medical workers in Liberia, she called on the international community to fund a pay rise to improve the financial security of such workers, taking into account the many who had died from Ebola in the course of duty and whose families were ineligible for other forms of compensation. The trial drugs used to treat Ebola patients outside the affected countries should be made available for use in those countries and world leaders should assemble to discuss ways of addressing the Ebola threat.

Hospital services had broken down and non-Ebola patients, including children and pregnant women, were being denied essential treatment. Medical personnel, field hospitals and increased funding were crucial to tackling those issues. In particular, fast and effective research for a cure must be conducted. In the interim, however, the disease must be managed and public access to medical services must not be curtailed.

Mrs. Y. FERRER GÓMEZ (Cuba) echoing the calls for swift action to deal with the Ebola epidemic, said that Cuba had dispatched several hundred health professionals to provide assistance in the affected countries. That response was in line with its ideal of benefit-sharing, pursuant to which it had provided medical and other support to Africa for over half a century. The battle against Ebola must be waged collectively by national parliaments and Member States of the United Nations, particularly those with substantial resources at their disposal, in order to repay the debt owed to the people of Africa.

Mr. M.H. RAMLI (Malaysia), drawing attention to the fatality rate of 50 per cent in the current outbreak, warned that such a serious public health calamity could swiftly turn from a regional epidemic into a pandemic; in fact, Ebola cases had already occurred outside Africa. Strong epidemiological and clinical approaches and up-to-date screening procedures at border points were essential in light of the constant movement of persons for such reasons as trade and tourism. Barrier nursing was similarly essential to preventing the death of health workers, who must be appropriately clothed and equipped for the performance of their professional duties. WHO must take the lead in providing support, including through the prompt initiation of research with a view to the development of a vaccine.

Mr. G.B.K. MEHR (Pakistan), likewise noting the unprecedented loss of life from the recent Ebola outbreak, said that the emergence of cases in Spain and the United States of America highlighted the stark reality that, despite preventive measures, no country was safe. Given the disease's non-specific symptoms and long incubation period, however, such measures provided the only hope in the absence of a vaccine and effective treatment. The outbreak had exposed the vulnerability and worldwide implications of fragile health systems. A global commitment to act urgently to contain the epidemic was the key to preventing severe economic and other repercussions across Africa.

WHO had taken the lead in the provision of assistance to affected countries through a multi-stakeholder approach involving cooperation with relief agencies and civil society. Health infrastructures and economic stability in the affected countries must be strengthened and countries with the necessary expertise must be assured of the resources needed to find a cure. Affected countries also needed funding for treatment centres, affordable medicines and trained health personnel. In today's globalized world, to help others by averting such dangers was to help oneself as well.

The PRESIDENT announced that a draft resolution on the item would be finalized by a drafting committee comprising members of the delegations of Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan and Zambia for the African Group; Cambodia and the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Asia-Pacific Group; Ecuador and Mexico for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean; and Belgium and Sweden for the Twelve Plus Group.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

Sitting of Tuesday 14 October (Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.05 p.m., with Mr. A. Radi, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT introduced the updated IPU-UNHCR publication, *Nationality and Statelessness: A Handbook for Parliamentarians*. Statelessness was a significant phenomenon, which affected nearly 11 million people around the world, the majority of whom were children. Addressing the issue was often linked to questions of State sovereignty. Stateless persons were deprived of their fundamental rights as citizens, including the right to attend school, rent or own property, work, get married and travel. Having the right to a nationality therefore was synonymous with the right to enjoy basic rights. There were a number of causes of statelessness, all of which were solvable, and the issue was also linked to discrimination against women, given that in many countries a woman was not able to confer her nationality on her husband or children. Therefore, to address statelessness was a step towards gender equality. He welcomed the excellent and fruitful partnership between the UNHCR and the IPU.

A video on the issue of statelessness was shown.

Mr. M. MANLY (UNHCR) explained that statelessness was a global phenomenon; the majority of stateless persons lived in the country in which they and their parents were born, but they were denied their basic rights because they did not have a nationality. UNHCR was working with States to address the issue and, as part of that work, had developed a handbook for parliamentarians on the topic in conjunction with the IPU. The handbook included examples of actions undertaken by parliaments around the world; since the States themselves set the rules regarding nationality, statelessness was subsequently a matter of law and parliaments had a key role to play in that regard. The handbook was an invaluable tool and its publication had coincided with the launch of the UNHCR campaign to end statelessness within a decade, which called on States to take steps to help stateless persons in their territory and to prevent future cases. Parliamentary activity would be vital in that regard to amend legislation to facilitate the acquisition of nationality and to ensure the granting of nationality to children at birth. He encouraged countries to consider acceding to the two UN Conventions on statelessness and to discuss with local UNHCR offices the possibility of translating the handbook into national languages to facilitate its use in parliaments.

Item 3 of the agenda

General debate on *Achieving gender equality, ending violence against women*

Resumption of the debate

Mr. M. PAYMAR, Representative in the Minnesota House of Representatives (USA), introduced the Duluth Model, a community-based approach to ending domestic violence, which had been adopted throughout the world. The core principle of the Model was to place the safety of victims at the heart of every measure. Other principles included ensuring adequate financial resources for the provision of support, introducing pro-arrest and pro-prosecution policies as a deterrent, handing down meaningful sentences that provided offenders with the chance for rehabilitation, and ensuring a monitoring role for NGOs. Accountability was a key element of the Model and proper implementation of strong legislation was crucial. In addition, many countries had limited or no services for victims of domestic and sexual violence; victims were often blamed and ostracized and calling the police was futile. Social norms could be changed when they were challenged by the community; community institutions such as churches, schools and athletics programmes, and even families themselves, were often disturbingly silent on violence against women. From an early age, boys were inundated with messages that shaped their expectations in terms of intimate relationships. Community leaders should break their silence on the issue and engage with boys and men about gender equality, non-violent resolution of disputes and healthy sexual relationships. Sexual violence had high economic, physical, psychological and social costs, but limited funding was allocated to prevention. The elimination and prevention of gender-based violence should be a priority issue in parliamentary work.

Ms. B. JÓNSDÓTTIR (Iceland), highlighting that her country had topped the Global Gender Gap Index for the fifth consecutive year, said that despite that accolade, challenges remained, particularly in terms of the number of women in high-level positions and how to help women to balance their familial and work responsibilities. The world was becoming more complex and there was growing distrust of representatives and democratic systems. She drew attention to an article published in *The Economist* entitled *What's gone wrong with democracy?* which had analysed why democracy as a form of running States was on the decline. The IPU should address that growing trend in order to find solutions that were acceptable to all and facilitate their implementation. There was no "one size fits all" approach to democracy and different country situations should be taken into account. The article had concluded that there should be more transparency, more accountability, more efficiency, more distribution of power, no more promises that could not be kept and no more large corporate donors in the shadows. Democracy was at a crossroads as the systems in place had become too complex and inflexible. She encouraged Member Parliaments to do their utmost to ensure the relevance of the IPU, through the implementation of its resolutions. Lastly, she suggested that the IPU should accept as observers the so-called stateless states in order to facilitate the sharing of information on the situation of those states.

Ms. D. PASCAL-ALLENDE (Chile) observed that the root causes of violence against women were based on cultural practices that legislation had been unable to eliminate entirely. The various international agreements on the topic had helped to develop common language to help address gender inequality and had led to recognition of the important role played by parliamentarians on the issue through the drafting of legislation and public policies. The work of parliaments in conjunction with the IPU was also of utmost importance, particularly with regard to awareness-raising about inequality in legislative bodies. Chile had focused on the creation of policies to facilitate the integration of women into the labour market; measures had included the increase of parental leave to six months and enabling it to be shared between both parents. On gender-based violence, legislation had been adopted on, inter alia, interfamilial violence and sexual abuse; femicide had also been established as a crime. Violence against women was a social issue and a radical change in cultural patterns was needed through education about the true meaning of equality. In spite of numerous international instruments on violence against women, such violence persisted in all societies; therefore the executive and legislative branches of government needed to work together to change behaviours and to introduce the necessary legal reforms to achieve gender equality. Parliaments must become gender-sensitive bodies in order to ensure the institutionalization of mechanisms to review and create laws and build societies in which chauvinism, discrimination and violence against women no longer existed.

Mrs. I. ALWAZIR (Palestine) observed that Palestinian women often had significant responsibilities since many Palestinian men had been kidnapped, imprisoned or were unemployed or disabled. Poverty and unemployment were rife and houses and land had often been destroyed, which created a harmful environment for women. Domestic violence existed in the country, however a different type of violence was also inflicted on Palestinian women as a result of the Israeli occupation of her country, which precluded them from travelling or pursuing education and careers. A recent report had stated that the situation in the country was damaging to Palestinian women as they were often harassed and mistreated, particularly at security checkpoints. In addition, prisoners in Israeli jails were often sexually harassed and threatened with rape. The recent actions by Israel had been condemned by the UN Security Council and she urged all countries to implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions to help protect her people. She expressed appreciation for the vote taken in the British Parliament the previous day to recognize the Palestinian State within a two-State solution and urged other countries to follow their lead.

Ms. U. KARLSSON (Sweden), highlighting the alarming global figures on women's rights, said that it was time for change. Currently, the world was seeing the largest generation of young people in history; it was the responsibility of parliaments to ensure that all of those young people were able to exercise their rights to education, a decent job and a dignified existence. Sexual and reproductive rights had to be fulfilled and protected; young people deserved to have the chance to choose who they fell in love with and whether they wished to have children. Access to sexual and reproductive health services was vital for sustainable development. Gender equality was a human rights issue and required the participation of all, both men and women, if it were to be achieved. She drew attention to the Stockholm Statement of Commitment on the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Beyond 2014, which was an important milestone document that contained an agreement to, *inter alia*, set a minimum age of 18 for marriage, to decriminalize abortion, to respect the right to all children to comprehensive sexual education and to put an end to female genital mutilation. It represented a clear message that sexual and reproductive rights should be included in the post-2015 development agenda. She encouraged all countries to join that movement and make use of the Statement in their work.

Mr. W. MARK (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Ms. W. NOWICKA (Poland), drawing attention to the high hopes that had arisen from the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, observed that although a lot had been achieved in terms of women's rights and empowerment, full equality of men and women was still a distant goal. With regard to the participation of women, Poland had adopted electoral legislation establishing a quota for women candidates, however it had had limited success. Subsequently, a new law was under consideration which would introduce so-called "zippered lists" on which men and women are placed alternately. The draft law had met with considerable opposition in Parliament but it was hoped that it would be passed in future. She highlighted the importance of the ground-breaking Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence, the so-called Istanbul Convention, which Poland was in the process of ratifying. Ratification of that instrument was of utmost importance for her country as existing mechanisms were not sufficient. She encouraged all parliaments to do their utmost to continue the implementation and ensure the success of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Ms. P. SCHULZ (UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women), welcoming the close collaboration between the IPU and her Committee, said that implementation of the CEDAW Convention was key to fighting inequality and poverty and ensuring the social and economic development of countries and the well-being of their populations. In light of ongoing challenges and conflicts, implementation of the Convention was becoming increasingly important. The Committee had recognized the important role of parliaments in that regard, through their legislative and budgetary activities and the appointment of judges, high-level civil servants and members of Boards of agencies and public enterprises, through which it was possible to ensure that a policy of equal opportunities was implemented by governments. Moreover, continued participation by parliaments in conversations with civil society on gender equality, social justice and non-discrimination was also crucial.

Mr. M. UESUGI (Japan) stated that discrimination against women needed to be a focus of the international community in a united approach; mutual support and cooperation between men and women were vital for a diverse and balanced society. Achieving gender equality would enable States to realize the basic principles of the IPU: freedom, democracy, respect for human rights and happiness. Violence against women should never be tolerated and, as such, education, support for victims and a strong legal framework were needed. Draft legislation on the rights of women to promote and encourage the participation of women in all sectors of society was currently under consideration in his country. He explained that in 2015, Japan would host the Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, which would facilitate discussion of important issues, such as peace and democracy, and he hoped that many delegates would attend that meeting.

Ms. L.F. SALGADO RUBIANES (Peru) said that women were key players in poverty reduction, non-discrimination and the defence of human rights; as such, properly addressing women's issues would contribute to solving many of the world's problems. Noting the important and crucial commitments arising from international conferences on women's rights, she explained that, in light of those commitments, Peru had introduced a quota system to foster women's participation in politics and other public spheres. However, the legislation on quotas alone was not enough to achieve that goal; more needed to be done to teach women how to run campaigns and how to obtain resources to run them. Peru had had three female presidents, which had increased awareness of women's issues and enabled the adoption of legislation establishing femicide as a crime. That legislation also contained provisions on adequate funding for education and health services, in order to reduce maternal and child mortality, reduce the number of adolescent pregnancies, eliminate illiteracy, reduce school dropout rates and enable women to become self-sufficient. However, new threats were emerging, namely terrorism and drug trafficking. The latter was particularly significant for her country had knock-on effects on society such as human trafficking, kidnap and unwanted pregnancies. Moreover, drug trafficking was mainly the result of demand in other countries; international commitment and support was therefore vital.

Mrs. I. MONTENEGRO BLANDON (Nicaragua), noting that the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Declaration were crucial documents that mandated heads of State and governments to take action on gender equality and violence against women, said that although many countries had been active in that area, much remained to be done. Nicaragua had made progress, particularly in terms of the number of women in politics and the development of a strong legal framework to protect the rights of women and adapt national and local institutions. The Constitution of the country had recently been amended to include a requirement for gender parity in elected bodies. She encouraged the IPU to establish Spanish as its third official language and expressed solidarity with those countries experiencing conflict. Women in conflict areas often suffered significant violations of their human rights, which was unacceptable. It was time to move from words to action.

Mr. H.C. SCHMIDT (Denmark), welcoming the fact that gender equality seemed to be a value shared by other countries, said that it was vital that statements of commitment on achieving equality gave rise to results. There were no considerations or reasons that could justify arguments not to implement gender equality. All people had the right to live how they decided to, however if society as a whole tried to restrict women's participation in that society and turned a blind eye to domestic violence, action was needed. Women should be able to aspire to be and do whatever they wanted, but that was not possible if they did not enjoy the same rights as men. He hoped that all societies would have the courage to give women their freedom and full rights. Member Parliaments should send a strong message to the world, stating that all men and women were equal, acknowledging the importance of women to society and emphasizing their intention to respect women's rights.

Mr. G. SILVA (Portugal) said that his country was committed to the fight against violence against women and to achieving gender equality; it had been the first country to ratify the Istanbul Convention and was discussing draft legislation criminalizing, among other things, female genital mutilation and forced marriage. Nevertheless, achieving gender equality and eliminating violence against women required the participation of all: men and women, States and international organizations. It was vital to establish peace, democracy, defence of human rights, respect of minorities and the right to education, health care and social protection. In order to achieve gender equality and put an end to violence against women, a change in mentality was needed, together with measures to create a more fair and equitable society, which would require the participation of all actors, including civil society, community leaders and organizations, and the entire international community. Particular support and attention was needed with regard to victims of violence. Portugal had been given global recognition for its good practices in terms of policies and national action plans on gender equality and prevention of domestic violence. However, a recent study by the European Union had shown that the majority of victims of gender-based violence did not report their attacks to the police; that issue should be addressed as soon as possible.

Ms. B. DIOP (African Union), welcoming the close relationship between the African Union and the IPU, said that women suffered greatly in armed conflicts, particularly as women's bodies were often targeted during those conflicts. The victims of such violence should be key players in the negotiation process to end conflicts. The African Union was in the process of developing legal instruments on the protection of women and 2015 had been designated the Year of Women's Empowerment. She had joined field missions to Central African Republic and Sudan where she had met with women who had been raped and children that had been forced to bear arms during conflict. Women were subjected to increasing violence and abuse of power during times of conflict and more needed to be done to prevent that violence. The African Union, in collaboration with the Pan-African Parliament, had recently organized workshops to train soldiers being sent to the field to address the situation. Adequate legislation, sufficient budgets and effective monitoring of programmes was vital if gender equality was to become a reality.

Mr. M.Y. ABDALLAH (Sudan) observed that it was vital to recognize the important role played in society by women, who often suffered from harassment, lack of respect and ignorance as a result of wars and cultural traditions. Achieving gender equality required the support of national parliaments. Women were a key part of society and had a complementary role to that of men. In Sudan, women played an important role in public life and participated in all sectors of the economy. A special commission had been established to fight violence against women and to protect children's rights and a quota system had been introduced to increase the number of women in parliament. That, together with positive dialogue on women's issues, for example with political

parties, had contributed to improving women's participation in politics and their situation in general. Turning to the issue of armed conflict, arbitrary and unjust political pressure had contributed to the rise of rebel groups in many countries, leading to armed conflict in a number of cases. Such conflict often had a negative impact on the rights and dignity of women and support was needed to address that problem.

Ms. J. MURGEL (Slovenia), highlighting the important role of parliaments and the IPU in achieving gender equality, explained that violence against women continued to be a common phenomenon in her country; Slovenia was taking steps to address the problem, by improving legislation and introducing measures to protect both victims and perpetrators, such as restraining orders. National awareness-raising projects had also been launched, focusing on educational activities for different target groups on gender stereotypes and the non-violent settlement of disputes. Projects were also underway to promote balanced representation of women and men in decision-making, particularly in the political and economic spheres.

Mrs. A. TORME PARDO (Spain) said that gender equality and eliminating violence against women should be a priority goal of the post-2015 development agenda and a key priority for all. Although progress had been achieved in many countries, a large number of challenges remained and those differed from country to country. There was no single solution to achieving gender equality, but a strong, effective and non-discriminatory legal framework was crucial. Spain had adopted a number of laws in order to strengthen its legal system in terms of gender equality, for which a high degree of political and social will and consensus had been crucial; Spain's legislation on gender-based violence had been held up as an example by the international community. In addition, a quota system for electoral lists had been introduced, with positive results. Nevertheless, legislation alone was not sufficient; ambitious action plans, strategies and measures that had adequate funding and monitoring were also vital.

Ms. E. SHAMAL (Belarus) noted that increasing the participation of women in the political and economic spheres continued to be a significant challenge, despite the progress made. Belarus was strongly committed to improving the status quo and to implementing international instruments on the matter. To that end, it had conducted an analysis of the existing legislation in terms of inclusion of gender issues, which had not revealed any laws to be discriminatory against women. However, Belarus continued to take measures to strengthen its legislation to reflect international agreements and best practices. Gender equality was an important tool for sustainable development. Her country had achieved significant progress with regard to gender equality, with an increased number of women in decision-making and leadership roles. Although Belarus did not use a quota system, almost a third of its parliamentarians were women, which was higher than neighbouring countries. Moreover, human trafficking was a key issue and legislation had been adopted in that regard. Concrete measures to eliminate violence against women were also being developed. It was important to note that active collaboration between national governments, UN agencies and civil society was crucial to the successful implementation and application of gender policies.

Mrs. I. PORTELLA (Brazil) stated that her country had made progress in achieving gender equality and eliminating violence against women, through affirmative action policies. Although women continued to be underrepresented in the political sphere, in recent elections the number of women parliamentarians had increased. On violence against women, a programme had been launched the previous year to provide integrated services for women, including security, legal, health and psychological support and shelter. A nationwide telephone hotline had also been set up, which immediately triggered health and law enforcement units and was also available to Brazilian citizens living in Italy, Portugal and Spain. Legislation had also been enacted to ensure the equal labour rights of domestic workers. In addition, a landmark law had been adopted to address domestic violence; however, although that law should be seen as an example for other countries, its effectiveness had not yet been fully consolidated. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to promote policies that raised the awareness of society of the importance of mutual respect and the need to eliminate violence against women.

Ms. B. BOUNGNONG (Lao People's Democratic Republic) observed that although a growing number of countries had passed laws and devised national action plans to tackle violence against women, loopholes continued to exist and progress in actually eliminating that scourge was slow. At the regional level, Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) had

acceded to a number of relevant international agreements and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly had recognized the importance of changing the mind-set of both men and women with regard to family and household responsibilities in order to promote the active participation of women in all sectors of society. In her country, many measures had been adopted with regard to gender equality, including a gender mainstreaming strategy for the political sphere, resulting in a more gender-sensitive parliament, and a national coordination mechanism on gender equality and empowerment of women. Legislation would also soon be considered on the prevention and elimination of violence against women; full and effective implementation of the CEDAW Convention would be crucial in that regard.

Mr. B. SAIDYKHAN (Gambia), noting that meaningful development was not possible without the full participation of all citizens in the national development process, said that for too long a blind eye had been turned to the discrimination and violence faced by women in many parts of the world. He highlighted the importance of the Banjul Declaration, a regional declaration on accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, with particular focus on the economic empowerment of women; peace, security and development; violence against women; participation of women in decision-making processes; sexual and reproductive health; and climate change. His country had acceded to relevant international agreements on gender equality and violence against women and had introduced legislation on the issues. In addition, the number of women in high-level positions and in elected office continued to increase. In terms of the post-2015 development agenda, the full participation of women in economic and social spheres and access to education should be key priorities. The National Assembly of Gambia was fully committed to its oversight and legislative role and would continue to ensure that a gender dimension was included in all development policies and projects. There had been extensive global discussion of how to ensure gender equality and eliminate violence against women; now was the time for action.

Ms. B CORREIA (Timor-Leste) said that in her country, women had played a significant role in the fight for independence and during that period, many women's organizations had been established. In the 12 years since independence, Timor-Leste had taken many steps to promote gender equality and eliminate violence against women, including the ratification of relevant international conventions. Through the use of a quota system, the number of women members of parliament had increased significantly and there were a number of women in high-level governmental positions and in important diplomatic positions. However, despite those positive elements, there were still a number of troubling issues to address, particularly with regard to violence against women; any activity should include politicians, civil society and the Church. Highlighting the measures taken by her Government to address violence against women, including legislation and the establishment of a dedicated police unit for vulnerable people, she stressed that the Government was committed to ensuring the full participation of women in society and eliminating all forms of violence against women.

Mr. M. LUNGU (Zambia) said that despite the adoption of national, regional and international instruments, the world was seeing increasing levels of violence against women and gender inequality. Continued violence against women eroded the progress made in terms of development and required a comprehensive and all-inclusive approach, which took into account cultural, economic and social manifestations of such violence. Zambia had identified a number of drivers of gender inequality, including the fact that many societies placed higher value on men than on women, the lack of economic empowerment of women, drug and alcohol abuse, and misconceptions and cultural practices. In response, the Government had formulated a number of policies and undertaken measures aimed at promoting gender equality and eliminating violence against women, such as ensuring gender-sensitive programmes, providing support for victims and ensuring adequate monitoring of programmes. Legislation had also been enacted in a number of relevant areas. A multisectoral approach, with strong coordination mechanisms, such as parliamentary committees to monitor progress, together with capacity-building in all relevant sectors was vital.

Mr. A. Radi, President of the IPU, resumed the Chair.

Mr. A. PERERA (Sri Lanka) observed that violence took many forms and particularly extreme forms were seen during armed conflicts. There were many international instruments dealing with violence against women, including the UN General Assembly Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against women, which had set international standards on the issue.

Combatting violence against women was a challenge for all societies and cooperation was needed between all relevant stakeholders, such as parliaments and local governments, in order to solve the issue. It was important to assess attitudes and social practices and disseminate information on the issue. Establishment of safe emergency shelters and ensuring access to the courts for victims was also crucial. A lack of trust in the justice system, together with perceived gender bias among law enforcement officers, often prevented women from reporting acts of violence. Sri Lanka had made significant progress in eliminating gender violence and achieving gender equality through the implementation of multiple pieces of legislation, ratification of the CEDAW Convention, development of a national action plan to combat gender violence and the creation of a women's parliamentary caucus to foster women's empowerment.

Mrs. S. MOULENGUI MOUELE (Gabon) remarked that significant progress had been made in improving the situation of women with regard to education, health, including maternal and child health, employment, political participation and the situation of widows and orphans. Particular attention had been given to ensuring equal access to education for girls and boys, as enshrined in the Constitution, and to improving health care, including reproductive health care. Gabon had also ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and introduced laws on female genital mutilation and sexual harassment in the workplace.

Mr. M. BEN OMAR (Niger) observed that violence against women was a global phenomenon, although the intensity varied from country to country; ending that scourge was crucial to create the necessary conditions to enable women to fully enjoy their rights and fully reach their potential, thereby contributing to the economic development of a country. Violence against women could not be fully eliminated without gender equality and an adequate legal framework. The Penal Code of Niger contained provisions on different forms of violence against women, such as rape, genital mutilation, sexual harassment, forced marriage and trafficking; Niger had also ratified a number of international human rights instruments. However, women continued to experience discrimination and violence. A key part of the problem were cultural traditions of the subordination of women to men. To increase the participation of women in politics, a quota system had been established; although positive, such a system had limits and should only be used as a temporary mechanism.

Mrs. D. S. BRODI (Malaysia) said that an appropriate response from the health sector could play an important role in addressing violence against women. Awareness-raising activities for, and education of, health and other service providers were therefore important elements of any strategy. Moreover, a multisectoral approach was needed to address the root causes of violence and to respond to the needs of victims. Malaysia was committed to overcoming violence against women and had undertaken reforms of several pieces of legislation, including the Penal Code, to strengthen penalties and expand definitions of violence. Anti-trafficking legislation had also been adopted. Although legislative and policy measures were vital, women and the community as a whole had a fundamental role to play in fighting gender-based violence. Mechanisms to help victims, such as support centres, had been put in place in Malaysia, together with strong awareness-raising campaigns. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to ensure the equal treatment of all citizens but it should be understood that no single intervention was sufficient; a combination of legislative, educational, cultural, social and health-related actions were needed. A key challenge for parliamentarians was ensuring that policies, legislation and programmes remained relevant to the ever-changing situation.

Mrs. M. BONELL (Andorra) reflected that equality before the law did not necessarily mean equality in reality. Stereotypes accentuating the differences between the sexes persisted, thereby boosting gender inequalities. In addition, children tended to unconsciously imitate the behaviour they saw, which perpetuated the stereotypes and sexist clichés. Andorra had recently achieved gender parity in its Parliament, naturally, without the use of quotas. Given that women had only obtained the right to vote in Andorra in the 1970s, the achievement of gender parity was a significant victory in terms of the fight for gender equality. However, the presence of women in Parliament was not sufficient in itself to guarantee gender equality; therefore steps were being taken to ensure a gender-sensitive Parliament. A draft law on gender equality, non-discrimination and the prevention and eradication of violence against women was currently under consideration and an informal parliamentary group had been established which, among other things, had organized awareness-raising activities for members of parliament on gender stereotypes and pushed for the inclusion of a female parliamentarian in the country's delegation that had appeared

before the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Parliaments were a reflection of the societies they represented; it was vital that, in addition to being members of those bodies, women played a significant role in their activities. In addition, men should be encouraged to be more active in changing social attitudes and challenging gender stereotypes.

Mr. R. CROWE (International Labour Office – ILO) said that gender equality was a cross-cutting issue that was at the heart of all ILO's work and was enshrined in numerous Labour Conventions. Highlighting the conventions in which gender equality and violence and discrimination against women in the workplace were addressed, he said that all forms of violence against women, including harassment, undermined the dignity of both men and women and efforts to achieve gender equality, and damaged global efforts to increase the participation of women in the workforce. Sexual harassment had received a great deal of attention, but many countries still needed to do more in terms of legislation and policies to ensure that all forms of sexual harassment were not accepted or tolerated. In addition, other forms of violence, such as physical violence required further attention. Domestic violence was also becoming a particular focus of governments, policymakers, employers and workers. Research had shown that such violence had significant costs for employers in lost time, absenteeism and the medical and associated costs. Given the widespread impact of violence at work, the ILO was currently discussing the possibility of the creation of a new International Labour Standard on violence against men and women in the workplace.

Mr. I. AL-KAWARI (Qatar), reiterating his country's commitment to promoting peace, respect for human rights and the rule of law and to fighting poverty and corruption, said that Qatar had hosted numerous international conferences on those issues. Women participated in all aspects of public life, and social services and institutions were in place to help, inter alia, women with disabilities and orphans. Terrorism was a significant threat, both to States and the international community as a whole; international solidarity was therefore crucial in that regard. The policies of Qatar sought to ensure prosperity and stability and it placed great emphasis on the need to solve conflicts in a peaceful manner. As a result, Qatar had made significant progress in many areas. The world was experiencing increasing levels of violence, and he drew particular attention to the situation of the Palestinian people in that regard; the international community should exert pressure on Israel to abide by international law.

Mr. M. ALJEFRI (Saudi Arabia) explained that Sharia law ensured equality between men and women as it defined their complementary obligations and roles. In his country, 20 per cent of high-level positions were filled by women, and women were free to apply for posts at the municipal level. Several laws had been promulgated to protect women from violence and discrimination and awareness-raising campaigns had been started. In accordance with international decisions, Saudi Arabia strongly promoted tolerance and the importance of combatting extremism; extremist groups had no respect for international borders or the rule of law and the international community had to join forces to fight them. In addition, more should be done to help oppressed peoples, through the enforcement of peace treaties and provision of support to victims.

Mr. P.-F. VEILLON (Switzerland) said that in spite of progress in some areas with regard to gender equality, challenges remained in his country in terms of equal salaries for men and women, underrepresentation of women in high-level positions, ensuring a balance between work and family life, and domestic violence. A large proportion of women in Switzerland held part-time positions with relatively low salaries; part-time work was often synonymous with job insecurity and limited training opportunities and career advancement. Concerning domestic violence, there were a number of different actors working to prevent such violence; facilitating the economic independence of victims was crucial in that regard. Domestic violence was not the sole form of violence that occurred in Switzerland; female genital mutilation, forced marriage and trafficking also occurred. In order to eliminate violence against women, his country was in the process of implementing a three-pronged strategy, focusing on the prevention of violence, the protection of victims and criminal prosecution of the perpetrators. Violence against women affected all countries and therefore a united effort was needed to address the issue. International instruments, such as the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, were only of use if they were effectively applied.

Ms. L. ALGAUD (Bahrain) said that violence against women was an attack on human dignity and a violation of all religious beliefs and international human rights instruments. The rate of violence was increasing, particularly in countries experiencing armed conflict. It was therefore vital that parliamentarians stepped up their efforts at the executive, legislative and judicial level to end that scourge. The present meeting was an important step in that regard as it enabled the sharing of national, regional and international approaches. Bahrain endeavoured to protect the rights of women and ensure gender equality through the adoption of legislation and ratification of international instruments. Steps had also been taken to increase women's participation in politics and measures were in place to ensure equal opportunities for men and women in public institution, particularly in terms of access to education and training. Women occupied many high-level positions in the country, for example as heads of universities and private companies and in the diplomatic sphere. It was important to step up efforts to protect women's rights.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

Sitting of Wednesday, 15 October (Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m., with Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), President of the IPU, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General debate on *Achieving gender equality, ending violence against women*

Resumption of the debate

Address by Ms. Chantal Compaoré, First Lady of Burkina Faso

The PRESIDENT announced that the Assembly was honoured to have as a special guest Ms. Chantal Compaoré, First Lady of Burkina Faso, who had the previous day received the World Policy Award conferred on her country for its ground-breaking efforts to advance women's rights and, in particular, to combat female genital mutilation. He invited Ms. Compaoré to address the Assembly.

Ms. C. COMPAORE (First Lady of Burkina Faso) said that most national constitutions, including that of Burkina Faso, established the principle of the equal rights and duties of men and women, which was also enshrined in such instruments as the Charter of the United Nations, the CEDAW Convention and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The theme of the present debate exemplified the will of parliamentarians to play their part in defending that principle. Yet, notwithstanding the body of laws in place at the international and national levels, socio-economic development was impeded by the various forms of discrimination and injustice suffered by women in every social group; their genuine equality with men in all spheres was therefore essential.

Recent data on violence against women and girls posed a challenge to the international community. Girls were subjected to early or forced marriage and to such harmful and degrading practices as female genital mutilation, which constituted gender-based violence and a violation of the right to life and to physical, psychological and mental integrity. Also affecting sexual and reproductive health, it was now being performed on a wider global scale as a consequence of migration. More concerted and coordinated efforts to eliminate such practices were needed, and she had been working for that cause for over 30 years.

The World Policy Award, gratefully received by her country, had been awarded in recognition of the significant progress that it had achieved since banning female genital mutilation in 1996. The goal of zero tolerance nonetheless remained elusive owing to pockets of resistance and cross-border and medicalized female genital mutilation. In June 2014, she had participated in a panel discussion of the Human Rights Council on the identification of good practices in combating female genital mutilation and in September 2014, Burkina Faso had introduced a draft resolution on intensifying global efforts and sharing good practices to effectively eliminate female genital mutilation, which the Council had adopted at its 27th session in September 2014 as resolution 27/22. Unless that resolution was implemented in full, the goal of halving the practice would be unattainable before 2074.

The development and implementation of integrated, multisectoral socio-economic programmes were instrumental in effecting a radical change in attitudes, and parliamentarians were key to ensuring that public policies were governed by the principle of gender equality. Education must be infused with universal human rights values, free of gender stereotypes and equally accessible to both sexes and must instil the concepts of peace and responsibility from an early age in order to prepare children for their role as citizens in a non-violent environment. Social policies must be holistic, increase opportunities for the most disadvantaged and go hand in hand with equality measures. Also indispensable were measures for engaging women in mediation and conflict management and in decision-making at all levels and for ensuring their access to economic and financial resources, land ownership and inheritance.

Violence against women stemmed from the social exclusion and deprivation of power that hindered their individual and collective advancement. Parliamentarians must legislate to ensure that they had equal access to justice, eliminate all discrimination against them and end trafficking, sexual and economic exploitation and other practices harmful to the health and well-being of

women and children, including domestic violence. No form of violence was acceptable or warranted and its elimination was a responsibility shared by all, without exception. She called on the IPU to initiate a global campaign to review national legislation and to devise action plans to that end in collaboration with the relevant United Nations agencies and other partners. Gender equality must become a daily fact of life and the cycle of violence against women and children must be ended before it generated yet more violence.

The PRESIDENT thanked Ms. Compaoré for her inspiring address, which had surely created a lasting impression.

A gift was presented to Ms. Compaoré as a memento of her role in the IPU Assembly.

Ms. E.M. CHILENJE NKHOMA (Malawi) said that gender equality was a potential catalyst for sustainable and equitable socio-economic growth and development, women's empowerment and the promotion and protection of their rights, all of which hinged on the involvement of women and girls in the development process. Women were poorly represented in politics and decision-making positions, had limited access to and control over resources and benefits, constituted the majority of the world's poor and illiterate and were susceptible to violence, including that associated with HIV transmission.

The women and girls who constituted over half of Malawi's population faced those difficulties and more, which precluded their equal and qualitative participation in development. Her country was working to achieve gender equality, as demonstrated by its commitment to, among other things, the CEDAW Convention, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Goal 3 of the MDGs on gender equality and women's empowerment, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development; the African Union Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) and the African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.

In light of that commitment to improving the lives of women and girls by ensuring that they could participate in and benefit from national development processes, the programmes in place focused on such areas as women's education and economic empowerment, gender institutionalization, savings and investment for rural women, women's parliamentary participation and the eradication of gender-based violence and child marriage. The global community stood to lose from any failure to empower women and girls to participate as equal partners with men and boys.

Mrs. M.N. MENSAH-WILLIAMS (Namibia) stated that women were traditionally respected in her country, where the link between the struggles for liberation and for women's emancipation had long been recognized. Its Constitution had been one of the first such instruments to be gender-neutral and its legislation on affirmative action to combat discrimination and inequality of opportunity had first been adopted in 1998. The widespread problem of gender-based violence was a major challenge to women's advancement, however, and underscored the pressing need for full and effective implementation of the country's robust legal provisions guaranteeing women and children protection and access to legal services. Namibia's efforts to achieve gender equality were underpinned by its commitment to the CEDAW Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, pursuant to which the ruling party had introduced a quota for ensuring that half of its decision-making positions were held by women.

The continuing violence against society's most vulnerable members was incalculable insofar as it was hidden and habitually treated not as a crime, but as a private family matter. It curtailed women's enjoyment of their rights and fundamental freedoms and impeded their advancement, health and productivity. Concerted efforts were required in order to create peace at home and thus pave the way to a better world in the manner exemplified by Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai's brave fight for girls' education. Parliaments and governments still had much to do in order to eliminate violence against women and achieve gender equality, a human right and core development goal that was impaired by gender-based discrimination, lack of empowerment for women and denial of their equal access to education, work, health care and decision-making.

Mr. M. TOE (Myanmar) remarked on the leading role that was already played by parliamentarians in the effort to achieve gender equality, especially at the decision-making level, and to promote fundamental human rights, including those of women. Women's political and socio-

economic participation was increasing in many countries, a fact that boded well for the pivotal involvement of prominent women figures in future development activities.

The IPU Strategy 2012-2017 prioritized the advancement of gender equality as a core democratic value with a focus on providing support for women's participation in politics and assisting parliaments in their gender-related tasks. The achievement of gender equality required mainstreaming gender into all sectors, establishing appropriate mechanisms and reviewing government policies, legislation and budgets from a gender perspective. The IPU Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments was also key to providing women with access to resources and encouraging grass-roots participation in national and regional activities. Mind-sets must be changed in order to promote women's participation in political and other walks of life outside the home and to improve their social conditions.

In his country, women's advancement was a priority in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the CEDAW Convention. Myanmar had been the first country of its region to adopt and implement legislation on combating trafficking in persons. It had established a national women's committee with a view to the promotion and protection of women's rights and, in cooperation with all stakeholders, was implementing a 10-year strategic plan for the advancement of women. Following the country's recent transition to democracy, women now held parliamentary seats and ministerial posts for the first time in decades, and more would surely follow them. His parliament would welcome further IPU assistance in its quest for gender sensitivity.

Mr. T. KÕIV (Estonia), recalling his proposal at the 125th IPU Assembly to launch a global civic-led movement to clean up illegally dumped solid waste, reported on the success of the resulting Let's do it! World Cleanup campaign three years on. The campaign had developed into an exemplary worldwide grass-roots movement that was working towards a waste-free, healthy and sustainable future.

Running counter to such positive movements, however, was the growing threat to global peace, security and human rights that threatened lives, including those of the most vulnerable social group, women and children. Of all the instances of violence occurring around the world, his country was most concerned by the catalogue of events in Ukraine, including Crimea, and the cynical geopolitical actions of the Russian Federation and its armed forces in violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In addition to the victims claimed by military activities, over half a million persons, including women and children, had been displaced and were in need of assistance, the more so as winter approached. An end to interference in Ukrainian internal affairs was the surest avenue to peace and well-being for the population.

The crisis in Ukraine served as an example of the violence perpetrated against women and children. Parliamentarians must raise awareness of such events and mobilize their countries to address the challenges involved; common efforts were the way forward to a better future of democratic decision-making. He looked forward to the day when his country would be able to declare success in attaining the MDGs and addressing social inequalities and violence against women and children.

Mr. H.-J. AHN (Republic of Korea) observed that violence against women was a grave crime against humanity that infringed on women's human rights and dignity, impeded fulfilment of their potential and prompted social collapse. Particularly worrisome was its use as a military tactic with women treated as sacrificial victims, and even war booty. The international community had a shared responsibility to prevent and halt such violence by harnessing all available legislative and institutional tools.

His country had enacted legislation to prevent violence against women, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators, including through the deployment of relevant mechanisms and professional services for those purposes. An inter-ministerial cooperation system established in order to provide integrated victim-centred services had had positive results, and a private-sector network ran public awareness campaigns on victim protection, gender issues and the elimination of gender-based stereotypes and male-centred mind-sets and practices.

At the instigation of the National Assembly, a national action plan for the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security had been developed. Development assistance budgets had been increased, particularly for projects relating to maternal and child health, education for girls and women, elimination of violence against women and prohibition of prostitution in conflict zones. Assistance was provided to non-governmental and civil society organizations involved in promoting gender equality. Efforts to consolidate the legislative and institutional framework for ending gender inequality had been increased, as had opportunities for women's participation in political decision-making, notably through the introduction of a

parliamentary quota system. A legal foundation for gender-sensitive budgeting was in place at the national and local levels. With their power to legislate and hold governments accountable, parliaments had an important role to play in the eradication of violence against women and the achievement of gender equality.

Mrs. A.D. DAGBAN-ZONVIDE (Togo) said that all forms of discrimination were prohibited in her country. Discriminatory legal provisions had been expunged and new legislation enacted on such matters as children's rights, labour and social security. Togo had ratified the CEDAW Convention and the Maputo Protocol. A national strategy to combat gender-based violence was in place, a bill on the same subject was before parliament and the draft criminal code set out penalties for the perpetrators of violence against women. Awareness, education and training activities were organized on a regular basis in order to reverse stereotyping and prejudices, with the result that female genital mutilation had fallen to minimal levels. A legal and institutional framework was in place to combat trafficking in women and their exploitation in prostitution, provide victim support and prosecute offenders. As part of its sustained efforts in that sphere, Togo had ratified the relevant instruments and a national anti-trafficking commission was being established.

Women's participation in her country's political and public life had improved. Gender parity in parliamentary candidate lists was soon to become a requirement and women now had a presence, albeit still small, in the country's institutions, civil and military administration and diplomatic service. In order to ensure the quality of women's participation, the women's parliamentary caucus endeavoured to build its members' decision-making and parliamentary diplomacy capacities through training seminars and study trips. Women's sizeable presence in the bureau of the National Assembly counted as a major asset for women generally. The real obstacles to gender equality, however, lay in the realm of practice and custom; continuing action to ensure compliance with national legislation was needed. Togo was committed to working in partnership with the international community to achieve gender equality.

Ms. A. ALQUBAISI (United Arab Emirates) stressed that the fundamental Islamic values of peace and compassion were ever more vital in view of the all-pervasive extremism, terrorism and discord that threatened global development and the ultimate goal of universal happiness and prosperity. International peace and security were imperilled by hatred masquerading as religion and fuelled by the brutal actions of terrorist groups. Parliamentarians must channel all legal means at their disposal into preventing the seeds of hatred from mutating into the justification of such violations, bearing in mind the vital role of comprehensive development in promoting justice and human dignity and the fact that terrorism and extremism were symptoms; the underlying causes must be addressed before they could be eradicated.

The issues underpinning the present debate lay at the heart of the terrorist mayhem proliferating in the Middle East, with women the principal victims of the accompanying spiral of sexual and other violence. A United-Nations-led strategy compatible with international humanitarian law must be developed with a view to the criminalization of violence against women during armed conflicts. She paid tribute to the Palestinian women in their enduring fight against Israeli occupation and hailed the shining example set by Nobel Peace Laureate Malala Yousafzai.

In keeping with its cultural and religious values, her country took a whole-of-society approach to women's advancement. Its women enjoyed constitutional, legal and social equality. The United Arab Emirates ranked highest in the Arab world for gender equality and consistently earned a rating of "very high human development" in the UNDP Gender Inequality Index. It respected the principles of good-neighbourliness, State sovereignty and the peaceful resolution of disputes and had constantly advocated the use of peaceful means or international arbitration for settling the dispute over its Iranian neighbour's occupation of three of its islands.

Ms. P. CAYETANO (Philippines) noted the alarming picture painted by recent global statistics on violence against women and girls, which continued to occur in her country despite progress towards gender equality and the adoption of policies to curb such violence. Indeed, the number of crimes against its women had increased markedly and much remained to be done in terms of enforcement, education and value formation. Her country had enacted legislation aimed at protecting women against all forms of violence and had established a national policy on responsible parenthood and reproductive health, which it recognized as a human right, with improved access to health care a given. All laws discriminatory to women were being systematically reviewed, but it was also important to encourage discussion and raise awareness of such issues in schools and communities.

She drew attention to the plight of millions of Philippine domestic workers worldwide, most of them women or children, who must urgently be provided with the basic protection afforded under

international laws and conventions in order to safeguard their lives, welfare and rights, such as leave, rest and maternity entitlements. More disturbing still was the rising prevalence of reported physical abuse and violence against them, particularly as many more cases surely went unreported. She therefore urged Members to sign and ratify the ILO Convention No. 189 concerning decent work for domestic workers. Through joint efforts, the world could be changed into a better place for women and their families.

The Philippines was proud to be part of the continuing IPU crusade for gender balance and equality and supported the Organization's efforts to exert international pressure to that end. Particularly noteworthy was the advocacy work of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, which encouraged the participation of male parliamentarians in those efforts.

Ms. A. ALQUBAISI (United Arab Emirates), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mrs. A. MUKARUGEMA (Rwanda) said that a firm legal framework providing for special temporary measures and full gender integration was essential to achieving gender equality and ensuring the enjoyment of women's fundamental rights. Rwanda was not the only patriarchal society where the management of public affairs was essentially a male preserve, with women largely relegated to domestic and child-rearing roles. In line with the country's commitments under the Beijing Platform for Action, national action plans and mechanisms to promote gender equality had been instituted and women's participation in political and public life, including decision-making, had been increased. That, in turn, had helped to fuel the country's rapid post-genocide revival, embodied in its remarkable socio-economic progress and progress towards the MDGs in the face of considerable challenges.

The rights of women as full partners in building the nation were enshrined in the Constitution. At 64 per cent, the proportion of women parliamentarians was the highest in the world, exemplifying the benefits of opportunities created through institutional measures and mechanisms introduced as part of a political commitment to gender equality. The functions of such mechanisms included follow-up on the implementation of laws and policies that had been reviewed, amended or enacted from a gender-sensitive perspective; coordination of women's involvement in development; and monitoring of compliance with gender equality principles.

Along with the Constitution, various laws had been amended in order to increase women's representation in decision-making bodies, afford them equal inheritance rights, eliminate discrimination in political parties, prohibit gender-based violence, protect children from violence and guarantee equal work and equal pay. Women had the right to own property, including land; credit funds had been created for women entrepreneurs; and one-stop centres for victims of violence had been established. In order to effect further women-driven change, their representation in positions of responsibility must be pursued and the effort to combat gender-based violence must remain an urgent priority objective.

Ms. M. TEMMERMAN (World Health Organization – WHO) highlighted the joint activities of the IPU and the WHO in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights and violence against women, which had included the provision of technical support for policy research and studies relating to legislation on health in Africa and child marriage in the Asia-Pacific region.

WHO recognized such violence as a public and a women's health priority, a human rights violation and a consequence of gender inequality, which it served to perpetuate. WHO global and regional estimates suggested that a third of all women had experienced violence in their lifetime, mostly at the hands of their male partners, who were also responsible for over a third of all murders of women. Health consequences included unintended pregnancy, induced abortion, sexually transmitted infection, miscarriage, pre-term birth, low birth-weight babies, injuries and mental health problems. Such harmful practices as female genital mutilation, forced and early marriage and so-called "honour killings" were additional forms of violence against women, the elimination of which must clearly be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda.

The health sector was uniquely placed to draw attention to the human and economic consequences of violence against women, including during humanitarian crises and armed conflicts, and to advocate for accelerated prevention efforts. Encouragingly, the issue was now receiving deserved attention thanks to the tireless efforts of parliamentarians, among others. Indeed, parliamentary support was vital to preserving the topic's high profile, not least in the sustainable development agenda, and to the development of a WHO global plan of action for strengthening the role of national health systems with a multi-sectoral response to interpersonal violence. Through their advocacy, legislation, accountability, oversight and investment functions, parliamentarians served as voices for women who were experiencing or at risk of violence.

Mrs. G.D.V. REQUENA (Venezuela) stressed that the struggle to achieve gender equality and eliminate violence against women must continue; she commended the IPU for its pursuit of that goal. Since 1999, successive Venezuelan governments had focused on the challenge of working for the social, economic and political development of the country, including its women, by implementing wide-ranging programmes and countering continuing destabilization attempts that jeopardized development by deflecting energy away from cross-cutting policymaking and implementation of gender equality initiatives. Efforts to improve the quality of Venezuelan life were being made under a socialist model, based on a harmonious relationship with nature, which promoted the equal participation of and equal opportunities for women that made for a just and fair society; capitalism precluded women's emancipation in that it was based on exploitation and domination rooted in stereotyping.

Gender equality would remain a distant goal as long as women continued to die in conflicts and be subjected to gender-based violence and harmful practices. They must be afforded protection from such violence by law, which must also ensure non-discrimination and enable their participation in all walks of political and public life. Under her country's Constitution and laws, women had the right to a life free of all forms of violence and offenders were prosecuted. Global solidarity was essential in overcoming challenges to the creation of a just and peace-loving world.

Mr. D. EKWEE ETHURO (Kenya) said that Kenya promoted the human rights of all citizens and had progressed substantially in addressing the unique challenges facing women and girls. It had focused on improving gender parity in the schools and increasing the proportion of women's seats in the national and local legislatures and in public service, where no more than two thirds of members of elected or appointed bodies could be of the same gender. Critical issues remained, however, including violence against women, limitations on their access to assets, violations of their sexual and reproductive rights and unequal participation in private and public decision-making.

The Constitution expressly prohibited all forms of discrimination, as did the country's laws, customs and practices relating to land, property, labour and income. Instruments ratified by Kenya were automatically incorporated into national legislation, and laws aimed at achieving gender equality and ending violence against women had been enacted. Various funding initiatives, public awareness campaigns and recovery centres for victims of gender-based violence had been established under programmes aimed at addressing gender disparities and curbing violence against women.

The ongoing global policy reformulation provided another opportunity to promote and defend gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls with a view to ending all forms of discrimination against them. Parliament had set up various committees for that purpose and had recently drafted a domestic violence bill aimed at tackling, among other things, sexual violence within marriage, forced wife inheritance, virginity testing, damage to property, economic abuse, stalking and emotional abuse. If adopted, it would raise public awareness of non-physical forms of domestic violence and ensure oversight of the legal and social protection mechanisms for victims.

Mrs. D.-T. AVGERINOPOULOU (Greece) emphasized that gender-based violence was an unacceptable violation of human rights and should be prohibited outright. In recent decades, international legal instruments on combating such violence had emerged and various regional and international organizations, such as UN Women, had been mandated to achieve gender equality and end violence against women. However, not all countries had adopted laws, policies and practices conducive to the full protection of women and girls, nor had all societies learned to respect women's rights; that was an intolerable situation and was unjustifiable on any grounds. Having heard so many examples of good practice at the current Assembly, parliamentarians should be equipped to return home with suitable proposals for overcoming any social, partisan, religious or other obstacles that were hindering the adoption of appropriate legislation and policies. Indeed, they were morally and, under conventional and customary international law, legally obliged to take the lead for the benefit of their people.

The recent Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union had set crucial gender equality priorities, such as European-level coordination on gender mainstreaming, promotion of women's economic rights and independence, exchange of good practices in female entrepreneurship, continuation of the awareness-raising campaign on violence against women and advancement of legislative initiatives for promoting *de facto* gender equality. At the latest session of the Commission on the Status of Women, her country's delegation had emphasized the need to take a rights-based approach in preparing the post-2015 development goals and to enhance the role of women in sustainable development and poverty eradication, which would be unattainable without gender equality. Parliamentarians must pursue those goals in memory of the generations of

women who had successfully championed basic social and political rights and in the name of the women living and suffering in countries that failed to respect human rights.

Ms. M. DE BOER (Netherlands) said that, with parliamentary support, her country actively promoted women's rights, and particularly their sexual and reproductive rights, as part of its international cooperation and development assistance activities. It contributed significantly to the UN Women Fund for Gender Equality, funded the gender-related activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) elsewhere and had initiated several UN General Assembly resolutions on women's rights.

The LGBT and Gender Equality Policy Plan of the Netherlands 2011 – 2015, which advocated the emancipation of girls and women and of lesbian women, gay men, bisexual women and men and transgender people (LGBTs), had resulted primarily in the adoption of "soft measures" and laws promoting equal employment and other rights. A comprehensive domestic violence policy, wide-ranging programmes and victim support centres were in place; the police were empowered to issue banning orders and, like public prosecutors, received training in methods for dealing with domestic violence; and local government was required to institute domestic violence policies. The Government's regular progress reports on violence in dependency relationships were discussed in parliament along with other violence-related topics, such as the situation of women victims of trafficking and forced marriage.

The country's gender-neutral approach to domestic violence was regarded as less effective by some; in particular, the national women's organizations and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had raised questions regarding the role of gender in combating the problem. In that context, parliamentarians should make better use of the input, expertise and influence of international treaty bodies and NGOs when crafting policies and laws and should be aware of the impact on women of general laws and policies and of their vulnerability to violence. Gender mainstreaming should not be about neutralizing gender, but about gendering more general issues. Political will was instrumental in banishing inequality and gender-based violence, which also called for a critique of governments and societies and the application of lessons learned from the sharing of good practices.

Ms. M.-X. LONDOÑO (International Committee of the Red Cross - ICRC) said that the potentially devastating effects of armed conflicts on women were recognized by international humanitarian law, which afforded additional protection to women in those situations in light of their particular needs and vulnerability to such risks as sexual violence. In an exception to the principle of the equality of protection on which the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto were based, women prisoners of war, civilian internees and detainees in non-international armed conflicts were entitled to special treatment, including separate dormitories and sanitation facilities; supervision and searches by women; and unimpeded priority access to health care facilities for expectant women, maternity cases, nursing mothers, mothers responsible for dependent infants and victims of sexual violence. The "all-victims" approach implemented by ICRC ensured that the needs, situations and perspectives of women and girls were fully integrated into its activities and programmes, which were developed as necessary to respond adequately to their specific social, medical, psychological, economic and protection needs.

Strictly prohibited by international humanitarian law, sexual violence during armed conflicts was preventable and often used as a deliberate tactic of war, with grave and dehumanizing consequences for the victims and their families and communities. ICRC took a multidisciplinary approach to the issue through preventive action, awareness-raising activities and protection strategies to address the causes and consequences of sexual violence while providing victims with timely medical and psychological support.

States bore the primary responsibility to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law and must bring their domestic legislation into line with that law by integrating special protection and respect for women and strictly prohibiting all forms of sexual violence. Such norms must, however, be translated into comprehensive measures for preventing and deterring such violence. ICRC stood ready to assist States' efforts to ensure that the norms for the special protection of women and girls during armed conflicts were given effect.

Mr. N. ESSED (Arab Parliament) said he concurred that aspirations to justice, democracy, development, peace and dignity were unattainable in the absence of gender equality, which was a right. Women must no longer be marginalized and patronized with disregard for their historic struggles and sacrifices. Equality would be achieved by, among other things, eliminating discrepancies in access to education and knowledge and ending early school-leaving; enabling women to find employment and receive equal pay and promotion; allowing them to exercise their

right to choose a partner; affording them access to health services, especially those relating to reproductive health; providing support for widows, orphans and divorced women; empowering women's political participation; and equipping them to take on responsibilities in all walks of life.

Ranging from harassment and rape to forced and child marriage, the many forms of violence against women impeded the full enjoyment of their rights and had multiple causes, including ignorance, poverty, marginalization, social disparity, unequal opportunity, conflict and family breakdown. The Arab Parliament would spare no effort to achieve gender equality and eliminate violence against women. It stood ready to cooperate with the IPU and with national parliaments and other entities that shared those concerns and wished to address and diminish the challenges faced in order to accomplish the desired objectives.

Mrs. C. CERQUEIRA (Angola) observed that parliaments the world over recognized women's important role in human destiny. The choice of theme for the General Debate offered an opportunity to identify obstacles to the achievement of true equality for women. A legal framework for promoting the sharing of power and responsibility in all areas was essential, as were awareness-raising measures designed to foster a culture of gender equality in which violence against women had no place. Girls' education was fundamental in breaking down age-old stereotypes that impeded women's empowerment and equal participation in society by instilling the concepts of equality and social responsibility that would, in turn, give them an interest in politics and promote commitment to a culture of peace, non-violence, tolerance and solidarity.

In Angola, women's rights and gender equality were enshrined as fundamental constitutional values that were promoted and protected by the National Assembly, which was incorporating a gender perspective into its work and raising gender awareness among all national stakeholders. Angola ranked among the top 10 countries globally in women's representation in decision-making bodies; over a third of its parliamentarians were women, a quota of 30 per cent was in place for political parties and various parliamentary committees, including one on women's issues, were chaired by women.

The country's development policies, strategies and action plans sought to achieve gender equality, women's empowerment and the advancement of rural women through a focus on poverty eradication, maternal and child health, girls' education and sustainable family development. The same gender-sensitive approach was applied to budgeting. Other efforts to overcome obstacles to gender equality included the outlawing of domestic violence, support for women victims of violence and the use of mediation and arbitration to resolve family disputes.

Ms. S. BEAVERS (United Nations Development Programme - UNDP) said that, given the global prevalence of all forms of gender-based violence and the discrimination that increased the vulnerability of specific groups of women and girls to such violence, it was essential to address the realities of the situation. Greater attention must be paid to pre-empting violence and providing victim support. The pledges made by UN Member States and the impressive array of national, regional and international efforts to combat violence against women, which was invariably identified as an impediment to achievement of the MDGs, gave cause for hope that the reported changes in laws and policies presaged similar changes in the discriminatory social norms underlying violence against women. However, a more rapid response, including greater cooperation and collaboration, was needed.

The UNDP approach to gender equality as a catalyst for development was confirmed by evidence from implementation of the MDGs to date: investment in women and girls multiplied progress across development goals and issues, with a corresponding lag where such investment was not prioritized. In over 100 locations worldwide, UNDP offered global perspectives and local insights for empowering lives and building resilient nations. It was also a leading provider of parliamentary support, promoting inclusive parliaments and political parties through legal and other capacity-building measures aimed at ensuring the engagement of all citizens, particularly women, in all processes; the bulk of those projects focused specifically on women's empowerment. UNDP was still working with many parliaments on law reform in the interests of tackling all forms of gender-based violence, which was also a component of its own Strategic Plan: 2014-17. It was committed to stepping up its efforts and support, notably in the context of the post-2015 development framework, with a view to building on gains in gender equality and ending violence against women.

Mrs. C. QUESADA SANTAMARÍA (Costa Rica) said that gender equality offered the promise of better relations between men and women, access to resources for all, respect for women's human rights and tolerance of diversity. Despite the efforts and gains made, however, women's historical inequality with men persisted in a male-dominated world where women still faced hurdles

in the workplace and elsewhere, such as in obtaining equal pay for equal work, accessing economic resources and participating in political life.

Costa Rica's efforts to eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination had focused on the development of appropriate legislation, including through the incorporation into domestic law of the relevant international instruments to which it was a party. In line with its commitment under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a commission for women's affairs had been established and the Legislative Assembly had been the first parliament to join a campaign for ending violence against women in Latin America. Legislation was in place to increase women's representation in elected bodies, labour organizations and other institutions, as well as to prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women. The ILO Convention No. 189 concerning decent work for domestic workers to which Costa Rica was a party, would soon enter into force in the country.

The socio-economic status of the country's women was steadily improving as a result of labour and other legislation, affirmative action and the development banking system; particular attention was being directed to increasing their parliamentary representation. Costa Rica was proud of its pioneering work for gender equality and would continue to address the challenges still to be overcome in guaranteeing to its women the status and protection they deserved.

Ms. A. OCLES PADILLA (Ecuador) said that parliamentarians must strive daily to guarantee the rights of all citizens by adopting laws to promote equality and the participation of all those who had historically experienced discrimination, including women. In the interest of national well-being, they must undertake to implement ratified human rights instruments, which were otherwise no more than dead letters. As evidenced by statistical data, feminist movements had worked successfully with parliamentarians to bring about changes in women's lives. To exclude women and deny them rights and opportunities flew in the face of the democratic and cross-cutting nature of the principle of gender equality.

The statistical data pointing to the prevalence of violence against women was borne out by repellent tales of crimes that were frequently committed with impunity, among them rape, forced marriage, use of women as war trophies, trafficking of migrant women and femicide. With such practices continuing, despite the many legal and other countermeasures in place, women were far from assured of a violence-free existence. Because the problem resided in underlying cultural patterns and gender stereotyping, parliaments must take steps to institute human-rights-based education, promote multiculturalism and dismantle patriarchy in furtherance of the elimination of violence against women.

In Ecuador, the Constitution established the principles of parity, equality and non-discrimination. Women were close to achieving parity of representation in parliament and in executive and judicial bodies, femicide and human trafficking were criminalized, new measures were in place to promote gender equality and eliminate violence against women and a cross-party parliamentary group on women's rights had been established. Poverty eradication was another key factor in preventing violence against women, as was the political will to scale up efforts to change women's lives for the better through gender equality and an end to such violence.

Ms. M. DRAME (Mali) said that the physical and, indeed, virtual violence against women that was seen in all societies was often motivated by a deep-seated belief that they were unequal. Particular attention must be directed to addressing the violence inflicted on women in conflict situations, as in northern Mali, where they had endured forced marriage, rape, physical abuse, torture and death at the hands of jihadist groups. Although that conflict had since been settled, her country's women remained at risk of violence from such groups and from drug traffickers, especially in light of the armed attacks that persisted along its borders despite international efforts. Parliamentarians could assist by calling on their governments to work for an end to such lawlessness and terrorist threats in the interests of the restoration of peace and the resumption of sustainable development activities.

The National Assembly would soon adopt legislation on a quota system aimed at guaranteeing to women at least 30 per cent of elected posts, a significant step forward in a country where only 10 per cent of parliamentarians were women. Outcomes from its current session must be incorporated into a strategic plan for the promotion of peace, democracy, human rights, gender equality and a stronger female presence in elected bodies. As the then Executive Director of UN Women, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, had stated on the occasion of International Women's Day in March 2013, if the world acted with courage, conviction and commitment, it could change violence against women from the most pervasive violation of human rights to a rare occurrence considered unacceptable and no longer tolerated.

Mr. L. FOFANA (Guinea) stressed that women's emancipation and the protection of girls were the guarantee of stability, progress and a more humane and progressive society. Therefore, measures to combat violence against them at all levels of society must be strengthened. Women should be given access to credit in order to promote their independence; his country had established microcredit institutions for that purpose. Women's empowerment and promotion had been incorporated into the policies pursued since the country's independence in 1958 and girls' education was a priority. Women held key administrative posts; indeed, the first woman President of the UN Security Council had been from Guinea. A ministry devoted to women's and children's affairs was tasked with working for gender equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. The input to the present debate would surely prove useful to national efforts to advance the status of women.

Mrs. I.N.T. ADDO (Ghana), affirming her country's commitment to the CEDAW Convention and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, said that its Constitution, by guaranteeing the exercise of fundamental human rights and freedoms, provided for gender equality, women's rights, non-discrimination and protection against slavery. Legislation was in place to prohibit such practices as child marriage and trafficking in persons, including for purposes of child labour, child prostitution and child pornography. Domestic violence was criminalized under a dedicated law that offered a holistic and effective framework for tackling all forms of physical, psychological, sexual and economic abuse and providing redress, protection and rehabilitation for victims and punishment for perpetrators. Also criminalized were traditional practices harmful to women and girls, including female servitude, female genital mutilation and widowhood rites.

Unless properly implemented, however, all such laws were meaningless. It was time to stop theorizing and start acting in earnest to address gender-based violence, particularly in Africa, where it was imperative for all men and boys to join the HeForShe campaign.

Ms. S. LYIMO (United Republic of Tanzania) said that violence against women and girls was a grave human rights violation with immediate and long-term consequences for the victims; it had a negative impact on their well-being and full participation in society, with added repercussions for families and the wider community. Its costs, which ranged from increased health-related and legal expenses to lost productivity, had budgetary implications and a knock-on impact on development.

In her country, the increase of almost 35 per cent in the number of women parliamentarians attested to the post-independence progress towards gender equality and women's socio-economic and political empowerment. Those goals were recognized as instrumental to attainment of the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 and were therefore defined as key development policy issues requiring a multisectoral approach through gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive budgeting for all development processes. Equal representation in all decision-making organs was being pursued in accordance with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development.

Policy guidelines were in place for tackling gender-based violence, many forms of which were addressed in a law on sexual offences that provided for preventive measures, prosecution and compensation, as well as anonymity for victims. The country had invested heavily in education, including by implementing legal literacy schemes for women and public awareness campaigns on women's rights. Discriminatory provisions were being removed from existing laws and high priority was attached to gender equality in the draft new constitution, which, if adopted, would establish women's rights on such matters as land ownership, inheritance, education and reproductive health. The aim was to restructure national mechanisms to facilitate the advancement of women and girls. Parliamentarians must take ownership of gender equality by using their power and responsibility to enact appropriate and effective legislation.

Mr. C. CASSAMÁ (Guinea-Bissau) stressed that gender equality was a matter of human rights and social justice and was thus fundamental to the sustainable peace that his country sought to build with a view to sustainable development. Women's representation must be increased from its current levels in all sectors across the globe by ensuring that their access to education, employment and decision-making, together with their rights and obligations, equalled those of men.

In Guinea-Bissau, women had been actively involved in the struggle for national freedom, and women's organizations played a vital part in promoting respect for women's human rights. Laws were in place to combat female genital mutilation and violence against women, whether physical, sexual or psychological. Although the proportion of women holding parliamentary seats and government office had increased slightly in the most recent elections, it remained low, signalling the need for greater efforts to end discrimination against women and promote their empowerment. Conditions conducive to women's independence must be created, including by

promoting their education, which was a strong determinant of their future in social and family settings. It was imperative to turn words into action through effective use of new and existing mechanisms to protect women from the sexual harassment, abuse and violence to which they continued to fall prey.

Mr. D.W. PANUELO (Federated States of Micronesia) reported that women played a significant role in the families and communities of his small and peace-loving island nation and were highly respected. Domestic violence nonetheless blighted the country. Manifested in many physical, emotional, sexual and economic forms, it had all-too-well-known negative consequences for victims, including post-traumatic stress disorder and even suicide. In many countries, however, the task of eliminating such violence was exacerbated by social obstacles that were sometimes so deep-rooted as to require considerable time for change.

Despite its limited capacities, Micronesia was doing its utmost to achieve gender equality. Preparations were under way for a national conference aimed at promoting women's empowerment through a wide-ranging agenda covering such issues as women in business, trade and tourism; education; food security; political participation; and parliamentary quotas. Women's empowerment was supported by the Congress, including through funding allocations, not least because no country could achieve its full development potential if women were excluded.

Thanks to efforts to advance their status, Micronesian women served in diplomatic, parliamentary, ministerial and judicial posts. Measures to ensure their protection and equal treatment were enshrined in the Constitution and they were entitled to maternity leave. A national women's day was celebrated annually and Micronesia had ratified the CEDAW Convention and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Draft legislation on a parliamentary quota for women and on human trafficking had been introduced. But while the country's legislation on women's rights was adequate in principle, it fell short in practice. He urged parliamentarians not to turn their backs on gender equality but to apply the lessons from the current debate in order to move forward in making women true partners with men.

Mr. E. MOKOLO WA MPOMBO (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that his country was a party to all of the international and regional instruments aimed at the elimination of gender-based discrimination. Over the past decade, tremendous effort had gone into creating a body of law with a view to enhancing gender equality and combating sexual violence against women. Under the Constitution, public authorities must work to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women; promote and protect their rights; ensure their advancement and participation in development; and combat all forms of violence against them. Women had a constitutional right to equal representation in the country's institutions and the State was required to ensure gender parity. Laws had been amended or introduced accordingly and women had been appointed to senior positions in the armed forces and police; a woman also served as Presidential Adviser on Sexual Violence and Child Recruitment.

Grave human rights violations had occurred in the east of his post-conflict country, including the rape of women and girls as a weapon of war. The State's criminal laws had been amended to crack down on acts of violence against women, including sexual assault; rape; forced prostitution, pregnancy and sterilization; and sexual slavery. A national strategy to combat gender-based violence and ensure women's participation in democratic governance had been established and the Senate had created a special commission on sexual violence during periods of conflict.

He called for a robust IPU declaration for use by Members in improving their countries' legal framework and their women's working environment with a focus on the legal status and property ownership rights of women entrepreneurs and married women; economic self-sufficiency, including access to finance; positive discrimination; knowledge management and capacity-building; and development of women-friendly workplaces.

Mrs. F. DIENDÉRÉ-DIALLO (Burkina Faso) remarked that the theme of the General Debate reflected the public policies implemented in her country over the past 30 years with a view to the advancement of women and the elimination of violence against them. As her country's society and the economy owed much to its women, gender issues were a cross-cutting policy matter and a national cause. Substantial progress had been made in such areas as female genital mutilation, which had diminished substantially since being outlawed in 1996, and access to education and literacy for girls, who were also eligible for secondary school grants. A gender quota of 30 per cent applied to candidate lists for legislative and municipal elections and the National Assembly had established a gender caucus.

Inter-agency dialogue was essential to gender equality. At the international level, it required fruitful communication between the IPU and the United Nations, particularly UN Women. In Burkina

Faso, the National Assembly worked in full harmony with the executive branch and civil society organizations. In her address to the Assembly, its First Lady had spoken of the country's efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation, for which it had received the Future Policy Award. The country and its parliament were still pursuing that goal, which, like the elimination of all forms of violence against women, was an overriding priority.

Ms. M. STOLBIZER (Argentina) cited a recent report stating that a woman in Argentina died every 30 hours as a result of gender-based violence, which continued to occur because warning signals were ignored; prompt action was essential. Quotas for women were key to ensuring their representation in parliamentary, political, judicial and administrative institutions. Although Argentina had introduced quota legislation 20 years previously, the required minimum number of women candidates on electoral lists was only 30 per cent. The inclusion of women among its members had, however, driven Congress to pursue such issues as women's rights, violence against women and trafficking in persons. Women must be truly empowered in order to effect genuine change through balanced policymaking intended to equalize their situation with that of men. The means to overcome those challenges, and thus to create fair societies, were in the hands of parliamentarians.

Mr. A. MICHELOTTI (San Marino) reaffirmed his country's commitment to defending women's rights and guaranteeing their active participation in political, social and cultural life. In order to avoid the moral and social degeneration bred by indifference, all human beings must work together harmoniously for their mutual benefit.

Violence against women counted among the most odious and ubiquitous human rights violations. Stemming largely from inequality and discrimination, it included psychological abuse, which was more subtle and difficult to detect than brutal physical violence. Respect for human dignity was a value transmitted through the family, the schools and civil society. Paradoxically, it was in the home that abuses, threats and harassment most frequently occurred. In times of economic crisis, women were more vulnerable to abuse, which was often an outlet for the frustration of those suffering economic woes.

In addition to a parliamentary standing committee on equal opportunities, an equal opportunities body composed of legal and communications experts, NGO representatives and psychologists was responsible for collecting data on gender-based violence and reporting annually on its findings. Equal access to education was key to instilling the principle of the equality of all citizens, without distinction as to sex. His country had introduced important regulatory instruments, promoted awareness-raising in support of women and was in the process of ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Much remained to be done, however, to strengthen women's currently low presence in all sectors, particularly at the highest management and decision-making levels. The fact was that women were often reluctant to seek such positions owing to the pressure of domestic responsibilities imposed on them by a male-dominated society.

Ms. I. LEAL (Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean) recalled that her 280-member Assembly, established in 2008, provided a framework for multilateral cooperation among elected representatives of the European Union and its Southern Mediterranean partner countries. One of the few parliamentary bodies in which Israelis, Palestinians and other Arab elected representatives joined together in discussion, its work was coordinated by a Bureau composed of four members, each of whom held the annual Presidency in rotation. It had five standing committees and adopted non-binding resolutions or recommendations on various aspects of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. Its Barcelona-based secretariat identified and promoted projects, raised funds, coordinated partners, enhanced the visibility of the Assembly and established institutional links. Having chosen the theme of migration for its one-year mandate, the current Portuguese Presidency was drawing up a list of specific measures aimed at European institutions.

Mr. A. BURT (United Kingdom) said that for the past three years, through its Foreign Secretary, his country had championed the cause of preventing violence against women in conflict situations by challenging the assumption that sexual violence was an inevitable by-product of war. Those efforts had culminated in the United Nations Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, which had been endorsed by 122 States. It was vital to challenge casual assumptions concerning inequality and violence and other taboos associated with harmful cultural practices inspired by men as a means of control, such as forced and child marriage and female genital mutilation. More must also be done to convict the perpetrators of trafficking in women.

The greatest exponent of women's education as a right and a means to wider equality was the courageous and inspiring Nobel Laureate, Malala Yousafzai, whom the United Kingdom had been proud to host during her recovery from the Taliban shooting. Means of prevention must be willed into reality by sharing best practices and intelligence regarding international criminal gangs, building accountability structures, assisting evidence-gatherers, protecting human rights defenders, championing women and keeping domestic violence on the agenda. With no society immune from attitudes condoning disrespect for girls and women, men had a particular responsibility to ensure that their sons grew up respecting them and to declare, by joining the HeForShe campaign, that gender equality was no longer a woman's issue.

Ms. M. MUNN (United Kingdom), following on from her colleague's remarks, said that her country's male parliamentarians had joined their female colleagues in speaking out about domestic violence. She was proud to stand united on the issue with Mr. Burt, a man and a member of an opposing party; proud to have publicly congratulated her country's then Foreign Secretary, also a man and a member of an opposing party, for his work on the issue; and proud that her party had appointed the country's first ever parliamentary spokesperson on preventing violence against women and girls.

Laws and work programmes were not enough. While their numbers were decreasing, deaths of women from domestic violence still occurred and families experiencing violence suffered untold misery. Even greater will and effort were needed in order to tackle the issue and challenge the attitudes that led to such violence. Every human had a right to be respected and to enjoy the basic human right of freedom from violence.

Mrs. N.A. ASSEGAF (Indonesia) called for greater efforts to overcome the ongoing challenge of gender disparities and gender-based discrimination and violence; success in those areas would also promote human development. Indonesia was steadfastly committed to the protection and empowerment of women and girls. It had adopted gender-sensitive policies and programmes with a focus on priority areas that were fundamental to closing gender gaps and stimulating sector-wide development. In addition to its legal protection measures, it had adopted a zero-tolerance policy for gender-based discrimination and violence; it continued to support the expansion of women's participation in executive, legislative and judicial decision-making; and it had widened access to financial resources and services for women entrepreneurs in recognition of their role as drivers of the economy.

Indonesia was also strongly committed to combating violence against women, continuing to implement laws against domestic violence, enacting legal protection measures, ensuring standardized services and access to justice for women victims, building law-enforcement capacities and raising awareness. However, further efforts were needed in order to address inadequacies related to certain gender-sensitive policies; implement legal and policy frameworks; compile data; conduct research; and provide the necessary financial and human resources. The country must also strive for greater consistency and transparency with proper monitoring and evaluation. International attention should be directed to protecting the growing numbers of women in the global workforce, and particularly vulnerable female migrant workers, from workplace violence, abuse and exploitation.

The upcoming Beijing +20 review would provide a new opportunity to reconnect, regenerate commitment and political will and mobilize the public on gender-related issues. As representatives of the people, parliamentarians bore a great responsibility to empower women. Achieving gender equality and ending violence against women would require the efforts of both men and women, working in strategic partnership and following the IPU example. Collective international support was also important in helping to address remaining gaps.

Mr. V. CHHEANG (Cambodia) observed that existing mechanisms and political structures could raise barriers to women's political participation, while denial of their right to education undermined their confidence in their ability to participate in such decision-making processes. Violence against women also remained a serious challenge in many countries, regardless of culture and context, constituting a human rights violation and hampering socio-economic development. Cambodia was implementing a strategic plan with a focus on the legal protection of women; their access to decision-making positions and economic empowerment; women's and girls' education; women's health; and gender mainstreaming into national policies and programmes.

Cambodia had ratified the CEDAW Convention and had significantly strengthened its legal framework by adopting various laws and measures to combat domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Women's participation at all levels of decision-making, including in the bicameral Parliament, had increased substantially and excellent progress had been achieved in

increasing the number of women at higher levels of education, empowering women, mainstreaming gender equality into key national policies and development goals and incorporating gender issues and strategies into reform programmes.

In short, gender equality and violence against women were important issues that required urgent action at all levels in order to increase women's representation and participation in decision-making and in the formulation of national and development plans and governance. Strong political will, international cooperation and the allocation of sufficient resources would be essential in addressing those issues.

Ms. L. ROSSANO, speaking on behalf of Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, said that the high annual economic losses from disasters made it urgent to re-imagine development and investment patterns. Disaster risk could not be ignored in the quest to achieve sustainable development goals and protection from adverse climate change; all governments, especially those of developing countries, faced increasing levels of hidden potential costs and challenges.

Political leaders and legislators bore the primary responsibility for protecting citizens from disasters. In most countries, parliaments could be instrumental in increasing political and economic investment in making socio-economic development disaster-resilient and climate-proof. Better-informed legislators could also play a strategic role in bridging persistent disaster risk reduction gaps between national and local authorities and in strengthening the development and implementation of policies and legislation. Their support and advocacy of disaster risk management, including through the related IPU resolution adopted at the previous Assembly, was to be encouraged.

Disaster risk prevention and reduction called for all-of-society engagement and empowerment encompassing equality, inclusion and non-discriminatory participation. Building resilience demanded an acceleration of socio-economic and environmental investment. The rights and role of women as agents of social change were often overlooked in the context of disasters, where they were categorized as vulnerable. Promoting and mobilizing women's leadership and gender equality in building resilience was critical to the sustainability of risk reduction priorities and the achievement of sustainable development goals.

A stronger focus on the implementation of gender equality commitments was therefore needed, coupled with political attention and prioritization, adequate capacities and monitoring and accountability mechanisms. She urged parliamentarians to contribute to the discussion of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction at the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Geneva 17 and 18 November 2014, and to organize with the IPU a parliamentary meeting on the occasion of that Conference, to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015.

Mr. N.B. BASSIERE (Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union) said that gender equality had long existed as a cross-cutting issue but had not yet been satisfactorily addressed. Notwithstanding the widely varying and sometimes contradictory views on the subject, the progress achieved thus far was encouraging. As early as 2001, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) had organized a conference of women parliamentarians and a similar conference, to be held in 2015, would consider the problem in greater depth with a focus on vulnerable populations. The Union's eight Member States were working to ensure women's representation and participation in WAEMU bodies and in discussions with a view to achieving gender equality within the Organization.

Mrs. G. ELDEGARD (Norway) congratulated Malala Yousafzai and Kailash Satyarthi on their joint award of the Nobel Peace Prize for outstanding human rights work, specifically their struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to an education. The award strongly signalled the need for more robust action to ensure enjoyment of the rights of women and girls, a tremendous challenge in a world where too many girls were denied their basic right to education. Crippling poverty, long distances to schools and social norms promoting gender inequality prevented girls from learning. Parliamentarians must take stock of the situation in their respective countries and take specific measures to overcome all legislative, religious, traditional and other barriers to women's enjoyment of their rights and equality of opportunity with men. She called for collective efforts to make Malala Yousafzai's dream come true for every girl.

Mr. B. FABRITIUS (Germany) said that, by singling out the distressing violence suffered by women in conflict situations, in countries without functioning police and justice systems and at the

hands of criminal organizations, the democracies of the developed world wrongly implied that such violence was not a problem in their own backyard.

A recent Europe-wide survey had revealed that women victims frequently failed to report incidents of violence, underscoring the need for anonymous reporting facilities such as the dedicated hotline available in Germany. His country had also criminalized female genital mutilation and forced marriage and was expected to adopt new legislation on forced prostitution and human trafficking. Half of the women surveyed had stated that domestic violence legislation was non-existent in their countries or that they were unaware of it. Awareness-raising the targeting of victims, offenders and witnesses was therefore vital in order to end impunity. He called for the institution of an international day to highlight male violence, or perhaps failure to render assistance to a person in danger, which would suitably complement the International Day of the Girl Child and the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation.

The PRESIDENT resumed the Chair.

Mr. D. MAHABIR (Trinidad and Tobago) said that violence against women was a recognized consequence of their powerlessness. While the IPU had made strides in empowering women politically, their economic empowerment was equally essential. Every IPU Member had enacted laws to ensure such empowerment through equality of opportunity, education and pay. But such empowerment must, in turn, be accompanied by social empowerment, a function of the way in which women were viewed by society. To that end, a performance index measuring the number of rapes and murders per 1,000 women in each country should be established and zero tolerance of violence against women should be instilled in boys from the age of five, ensuring an end to the problem by 2025.

Mr. M.A. EZEDYAR (Afghanistan) stated that, since the fall of the oppressive Taliban, efforts to restore Afghan women's rights in all spheres had been ongoing. Half of the millions now attending schools and universities were girls, and women played an important role in the country's parliament. Multiple obstacles stood in the way of the full enjoyment of women's rights, including the improper implementation of laws, continuing war and instability, poverty, ignorance and unfavourable conditions for women's full participation in society. New legislation calling, among other things, for the careful monitoring of law enforcement personnel was under consideration.

Mr. H. TAKINAMI (Japan) said that his country had introduced laws and policies for promoting a gender-equal society, which had been identified as a vital goal of the century and was naturally premised on an end to violence against women. The country's declining young female population in the country's regions was a growing problem. Securing jobs for the younger generation, including women, would help to revitalize Japan's regional economies and prevent further population decline at the local level. Together with women's empowerment, those issues were being addressed by the present Government. Thanks to an extended family culture and a thriving textile industry, women's employment and participation in public life, including politics, was not unusual in his own part of Japan, Fukui Prefecture. The rest of the country, and other nations as well, would do well to emulate its people's progressive attitude towards women and their empowerment.

Mr. O. HAV (Denmark) described an impressive woman whom he had encountered during a parliamentary visit to South Africa. Surrounded by poverty and unemployment but proud and dignified, she had an inspiring mental energy and produced vegetables from her sandy urban garden. Her example of the benefits to be gained from harnessing the tools and knowledge at her disposal demonstrated the merits of a focus on the advancement of women, who translated into action the responsibility that they felt for their families and their children's future. She exemplified the ability to change the world for the better through simple, non-technological means. Societies were strengthened by hope and their dreams must be acknowledged.

Mr. M. WATERS (South Africa) reported that intimate partner violence was the leading cause of death in just over half of female homicides in South Africa, a statistic all the more alarming in the knowledge that such violence, and femicide the world over, were significantly under-reported. The same was true of corrective rape, the extent of which could not be accurately gauged for that reason. That heinous hate crime was unfortunately gaining momentum in South Africa, along with a shocking increase in brutality and sometimes even murder. The crime of femicide was an example of the links between cultural norms, gender-based violence and the subordination of women. Attitudes that perpetuated violence against individuals on account of their gender or sexual orientation must be addressed and changed.

Mrs. R.F. APPOH (Ghana) pointed out that violence against women and, indeed, children was minimal where resources were adequate and equity prevailed. Poverty reduction was therefore key to reducing domestic violence and Ghana, for its part, had established institutions relating to gender and social protection with a view to ending gender-based violence. Its Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice had a broad mandate to protect and promote investor rights and freedoms recognized under the Constitution. Gender equality was not a fight between men and women, but rather a quest for their harmonious existence.

The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, objected to the unjustifiable and baseless allegation made by the delegate from the United Arab Emirates concerning his country in violation of the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and good-neighbourly relations.

The Iranian Government had always complied fully with its international obligations, including those arising out of the 1971 Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries and the annexes thereto. In line with its policy of ensuring security, stability and lasting peace in the Persian Gulf, it had worked hard to build confidence with the original State and was convinced that the pursuit of existing negotiations in a spirit of goodwill and tolerance would yield favourable results.

The PRESIDENT commended the participants on their contributions to an enriching debate, which would be synthesized into an outcome document for adoption by the Assembly at its next session.

Item 7 of the agenda

Plenary debate on the emergency item: *The role of parliaments in supporting an immediate and robust international response to the Ebola epidemic and in enacting laws ensuring an effective response to and preparedness for Ebola and other infectious disease outbreaks*

(continued)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution on the emergency item, which had been submitted by the drafting committee and was contained in document A/131/7-DR.

Mrs. L.A. YACE DE MEL (Côte d'Ivoire), Rapporteur of the drafting committee, said that the exchange of views in the discussions on the draft resolution attested to parliamentarians' concern at the threat posed by the serious and often fatal Ebola virus. Noting the clarity and conciseness of the resulting draft resolution, she highlighted paragraph 9, calling for measures to enhance coordination and ensure effective control of the current outbreak; paragraph 10, calling for urgent mobilization of essential financial resources and capacities; paragraph 11, condemning the stigmatization of the countries concerned and their citizens; and paragraph 15, urging investment in research on viable treatment options and vaccines. The drafting committee recommended the adoption of the draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Assembly wished to adopt the draft resolution.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

International law as it relates to national sovereignty, non-intervention in the affairs of States and human rights

SITTING OF MONDAY 13 OCTOBER

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.15 a.m., with Ms. F. Naderi (Afghanistan), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the Agenda

(C-III/130/A.1)

The PRESIDENT introduced the draft agenda that had been distributed to the Committee members (C-III/131/A.1) and said she took it that the Committee wished to adopt it.

It was so decided.

Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 130th IPU Assembly in Geneva (March 2014)

The PRESIDENT said that the summary records of the Committee's session held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 17 and 19 March 2014 had been circulated by the IPU Secretariat to all Members as part of the overall summary records of the proceedings of the 130th IPU Assembly. In the absence of any remarks or questions regarding the text, she would declare the summary records approved.

It was so decided.

Elections to the Standing Committee Bureau

The PRESIDENT said that it was necessary for the Committee to elect a member of the Bureau from the Eurasia Group. In order to respect the principle of gender balance, the candidate should be male. She encouraged members of that Group whose countries were not represented on the Bureau to consider submitting their candidatures.

Presentation of the preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs

(C-III/131/M, C-III/131/DR, C-III/131/DR-am and C-III/131/DR-am.1)

The PRESIDENT recalled that, at the 130th IPU Assembly, the Committee had appointed two co-Rapporteurs, Mr. P. Mahoux (Belgium) and Mr. A.J. Ahmad (United Arab Emirates), for the issue to be considered at the present session: *International law as it relates to national sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and human rights*. She stressed that the content of the explanatory memorandum was the responsibility of the co-Rapporteurs alone and, as on past occasions, was intended to stimulate debate and provide a background for the Committee's work. Although amendments to the draft resolution were no longer admissible, sub-amendments could be submitted to the Secretariat in writing. The proposed amendments would be discussed in plenary session that afternoon. She drew attention to letters that she had received from the Parliaments of El Salvador, Lebanon and a civil society organization during the inter-Assembly period, which emphasized the importance of the topic at hand.

Mr. A.J. AHMAD, *co-Rapporteur*, said that the co-Rapporteurs considered that the draft resolution should call for the establishment of an IPU committee to draft an international parliamentary declaration on the need to strengthen international peace while respecting national sovereignty and the principle of non-intervention. It was important to ensure that there was no contradiction between the principles of national sovereignty and human rights. The draft resolution,

which reflected the opinions of parliamentarians from around the world on the issues of international peace and security, was intended to seek international support for the views expressed therein. The co-Rapporteurs had worked with the United Nations to keep abreast of new developments in the areas of human rights and international law with a particular focus on parity between countries. The resolution had been drafted using an analytical and factual method that took into account the basic concepts of national sovereignty, non-intervention and human rights and their potential impact on the international situation, without prejudice to national realities.

Given the increasing number of armed conflicts and the inability of the United Nations to find solutions, efforts had also been made to establish a framework for international stability. The approach to international relations taken in the wake of World Wars I and II had not been entirely successful in achieving international security, and political analysts were attempting to develop new concepts that would harmonize national and international policies. However, some of the barriers to progress had worsened and concerns regarding sovereignty had sometimes led to the infringement of established rules and enabled developed countries to interfere with the affairs of developing countries. While there was growing interest in the concept of non-interference, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, it was rarely translated into action. In the interests of international security, it was vital to call for restraint in order to prevent interventionism and ensure that all countries were treated equally.

Mr. P. MAHOUX, *co-Rapporteur*, said that the aim of the draft resolution was to balance respect for national sovereignty with the protection of human rights, which were universal and were enshrined in laws, conventions and declarations at the national, regional and international levels, particularly within the framework of the United Nations. The IPU should work within its mandate to determine the role of parliaments as standard-setting and monitoring bodies. It was vital to have mechanisms in place to monitor respect for human rights and implementation of the relevant legislation, even though the structure of those mechanisms would differ from one country to another. It was also important for the draft resolution to state that the topic was a dynamic one and would continue to be addressed and refined over time. Another critical topic to consider was the idea of shifting focus from the principle of non-intervention to the right to protect.

Debate

Mr. E. WASHIO (Japan) said that, owing to increasing globalization, trends and events in one country or region frequently affected the entire world and that challenges such as terrorism, armed conflicts, the international expansion of financial markets and environmental and energy issues were directly linked to the lives and safety of people from every country. For this reason, international cooperation was crucial. In principle, each sovereign nation bore the responsibility to protect the lives and safety of its people and to find solutions to any problems that arose. The key question was how to act when a State failed to fulfil that responsibility and some form of humanitarian intervention was required.

Mr. A. MITU (Romania) said that the current threats to international security were making the principles of territorial integrity, national sovereignty and cooperation based on mutual trust and respect increasingly relevant. He stressed his country's commitment to international law and the peaceful resolution of conflicts and its important role in the creation and work of the UN Human Rights Council. He drew attention to the amendments to the draft resolution proposed by his delegation, which were related to the role of parliaments in ensuring their countries' fulfilment of international human rights obligations and the need to develop independent and effective human rights institutions. When discussing the rule of law and human rights, the issue of justice, including transnational justice, could not be overlooked. He therefore encouraged countries to strengthen the International Criminal Court (ICC) and become parties to its Rome Statute; universal accession would be a powerful preventive measure that would reduce impunity and ensure compliance with the most important principles of international law.

Mr. F. ALSHAYEE (Kuwait) said that his country had always respected the principles of human rights and the Amir of Kuwait had recently been honoured by the United Nations for his humanitarian leadership. Parliaments and civil society were active contributors to political and development activities and helped to uphold and strengthen international law. The draft resolution highlighted the important role of parliamentarians on the issues covered by the resolution and would play a significant role in maintaining international peace and security. The aim of international law was to safeguard international relations, and national sovereignty and non-intervention were significant issues that required increased attention in that regard. The only way to

ensure peace was to achieve a balance in international relations and enshrine the principle of respect for national sovereignty in international law. Occupying countries must be held to account and must shoulder their responsibilities. A comprehensive approach was needed and the draft resolution was an important starting point; it should, however, include a reference to the role of women parliamentarians.

Ms. J.-Y. YOU (Republic of Korea) observed that human rights were threatened by war and terrorism in all parts of the world; the brutal reality of regional conflicts and tribal feuds served as a reminder that governments and parliaments that did not protect their people prevented the achievement of true peace. A balance between respecting the principles of national sovereignty and non-intervention and protecting human rights must be struck. States should ratify and implement international standard-setting instruments with a view to building a strong legal and institutional framework. Women in armed conflict were easy targets and wartime sexual violence was a serious human rights violation that should be addressed by all countries. Acts committed in the past could not be ignored; they required thorough self-reflection and the perpetrators' acceptance of responsibility. Active implementation of human rights standards was vital for international peace and security and parliamentarians had an important role to play in that regard. She therefore proposed that a body should be established under IPU auspices to collect data on human rights violations in order to facilitate more effective relations between the IPU and the United Nations.

Ms. J. MURGEL (Slovenia) said that progress in the international protection of human rights was contingent on the proper implementation of measures to ensure respect for those rights at the national level. As the legislative bodies of States, parliaments had an important role to play in that regard through the design and adoption of legislative solutions to current problems. The draft resolution was an important milestone; however, it should be amended to reject unilateral interpretations of international human rights, support the provision of humanitarian and economic aid by the international community and appeal for cooperation between parliaments.

Ms. S. DEV (India) stressed that respect for human rights was a fundamental principle that must be upheld. It was important to strengthen the capacity of States to protect those rights, including by bolstering national institutions. Her delegation had concerns regarding the concept of the right to protect and, in particular, the manner in which the decision as to whether to intervene was taken. In recent history, decisions to intervene had been just as controversial as decisions not to do so. Objective criteria were crucial and care should be taken to ensure that, in discussing that concept, the national interests of those advocating intervention did not clash with the interests of the country in question.

Mr. W. JING (China) said that national sovereignty and non-intervention were critical principles of international law and key elements of democracy in his country. All nations were equal members of the international community and had an equal right to participate in international affairs. Countries must be free to determine their own paths and it was important to respect different political and social regimes; illegal opposition to any regime on the basis of selfish interests should not be permitted. International law must apply equally to all countries and peaceful solutions to disputes must be sought through negotiations based on such equality. In recent years, the concept of national sovereignty had been weakened and the number of interventions had increased; his Government was strongly opposed to such practices, even on the pretext of human rights. Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-intervention were critical for peaceful co-existence and China would never interfere in the internal affairs of other countries or allow such intervention in its own affairs. Human rights should never be politicized and while they were universal, a country's circumstances had an impact on the manner in which they were protected.

Mr. S. WOODWORTH (Canada) said that the draft resolution addressed complex issues that were at the heart of international relations. Many of its provisions were related to the maintenance of international order, a topic that had been debated by academics and politicians for decades; solutions were vital to the achievement of a world without armed conflict. The present situation in Ukraine was a key example of the need to address that issue. Respect for human rights was another key element of the draft resolution; in that connection, it should be noted that the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations highlighted the inseparable nature of international peace, justice, rights and social progress. His delegation had proposed a number of amendments to the draft resolution with the aim of strengthening its references to the obligation of each state to

respect and protect the human rights of all persons found in its territory and highlighting the importance to society of representative, accountable and inclusive institutions.

Ms. L. MEIER-SCHATZ (Switzerland) noted that recent decades had seen the emergence of numerous mechanisms to promote and protect human rights at the national, regional and international levels. However, the lack of coordination between those mechanisms sometimes posed difficulties in implementation. Ensuring respect for human rights was an ongoing challenge for States, even those in a stable situation and with a solid legal framework. It was therefore important for the draft resolution to include a reference to the 1993 Vienna Declaration. She expressed concern that the universal nature of human rights and the principles of interdependence and indivisibility were often called into question in multilateral bodies. Human rights must be respected by all, even during crises or conflicts. Issues such as security, extremist movements and shifts in power were being used to call into question the legitimacy and universality of certain aspects of universal rights, which, when used as a pretext for political or economic interference, threatened the promotion and protection of human rights.

Mr. M. RABBANI (Pakistan), expressing support for the draft resolution, said that it was important to consider whether a double standard was being applied to the principles of national sovereignty and non-intervention. The sovereignty of some states had been violated, with the consent of the United Nations, on the pretext of protecting human rights. Was such a step justifiable? Who should determine whether such acts should take place? Pakistan was on the front line in the fight against terrorism; their territorial and air sovereignty should not be violated. Lastly, he stressed that the principle of human rights was still being ignored in the case of Palestine and other oppressed populations.

Ms. U. KARLSSON (Sweden) stressed the importance of halting the actions of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic (ISIS), which was committing heinous crimes. In such a situation, the international community had an obligation to intervene in order to protect human lives; when diplomatic solutions failed other means needed to be found. Strengthening states' capacity to protect their citizens should be a priority but if a country failed in that regard, intervention was vital to protect the victims' rights. The draft resolution underscored the importance of respecting national efforts to implement international human rights law, but the protection of human rights was also the responsibility of the international community. There could be no long-lasting peace at the international level without respect for universal human rights and the rule of law. States should not be able to hide behind the concept of national sovereignty in order to commit acts of genocide and crimes against humanity.

Mr. O. MAHMOUD HAMDO (Syrian Arab Republic) said that human rights and democracy based on pluralism and the involvement of the people were key principles which the United Nations endeavoured to enshrine in all of its work; democracy should not be limited to states but should apply to the international community as a whole. The principle of non-intervention was enshrined in many international treaties and agreements, yet it was not applied equally by some states, despite their claim to be democratic. For the past four years, his country had been a victim of terrorists who had received support from a number of countries.

Lord MORRIS OF ABERAVON (United Kingdom) suggested that, given the evolving international situation, it might be time to update and strengthen the Charter of the United Nations to meet current needs. In recent years, the veto had been used far too often to paralyse the Security Council. As senior legal adviser to his Government, he had sought to promote the development of customary international law as a basis for armed intervention in the absence of a Security Council resolution on the situation; however, the International Court of Justice had yet to issue a ruling on that issue. He drew attention to the amendments to the draft resolution proposed by his delegation, which sought to ensure that there was machinery to address humanitarian catastrophes, subject to strict constraints, including that the catastrophe was on a large scale and required immediate and urgent relief, that there was no practical alternative for saving lives and that the action taken was the minimum necessary to achieve that goal.

Mrs. Z. BENAROUS (Algeria) said that non-intervention provided the true foundation for international relations and was meant to guarantee international peace and security. In recent years, interventions had had a negative impact on the states in which they had taken place, including Iraq and Lebanon. It was time to establish the concept of a modern, contemporary state that respected the principle of non-intervention. Members of parliament had an important role to play in that regard and a statement to that effect should be included in the draft resolution.

Mrs. S. KOUKOUMA KOUTRA (Cyprus) drew attention to the ongoing infringement of her country's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity by another state. It had been recognized that all international actions aimed at preserving peace and security should be consistent with international law and with the Charter of the United Nations and that pleas for self-determination should not be granted at the expense of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms. In practice, the situation was more complex as states tended to conduct their foreign affairs on the basis of national and economic interests, even if those interests ran contrary to higher ideals or international obligations. In addition, double standards, interventionism and violations of international law by the major powers persisted. The numerous threats faced by the world had enabled some states to relax their efforts to meet their human-rights-related obligations, a state of affairs that had been tolerated in some cases. It was critical to remain committed to upholding the values and principles governing international relations, without exception.

Ms. J. NASSIF (Bahrain), stressing her country's commitment to protecting human rights and the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of states, noted that human rights were both a national and an international issue and it was vital for countries to develop and implement comprehensive mechanisms to protect them. Political interests, rather than human rights, had been the basis of recent interventions. Any interference in a state's internal affairs had an international impact and was a violation of international law; peaceful cohabitation would resolve that problem.

Mr. D. PKOSING LOSIAKU (Kenya) expressed concern that the draft resolution focused exclusively on human rights, largely ignoring the issues of national sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of states. Discussion of those principles inevitably included a reference to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and it was surprising that the draft resolution made no mention of that body, which his country considered one of the most significant threats to international cooperation. National sovereignty provided a formal basis for relations between states; however, certain international instruments, including the Rome Statute, had created mechanisms that hindered the adoption of resolutions on non-intervention in their internal affairs. If unchecked, the Court might become involved in choosing Heads of State. His own country's President had recently been summoned before the Court, even though the latter acknowledged that it had insufficient evidence on which to prosecute him. He encouraged the IPU to adopt a resolution calling for the suspension of all legal proceedings involving country leaders and urging States Parties to the Rome Statute to amend Articles 27 and 63 in order to grant immunity to the leaders of sovereign States.

Ms. L. ALANSARI (Saudi Arabia) said that her country had acceded to many of the international conventions related to the issue at hand and had established national committees to oversee their implementation. Saudi Arabia did not interfere in the peace, security and stability of any country and its recent decision to turn down a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council sent a strong message in that regard. The Shura Council was committed to complying with international law; its members were often included in deliberations regarding accession to international conventions and participated in the drafting of the periodic reports submitted to the relevant monitoring committees. She welcomed the draft resolution but noted that tools to ensure its implementation would be needed.

Mr. H. SUPRATIKNO (Indonesia) said that, as the promotion and protection of human rights was primarily the responsibility of individual states, it was important to enhance their capacity to fulfil their duties in that regard without undermining their sovereignty. International efforts in that regard should therefore be conducted in a constructive and cooperative manner and should focus on capacity-building and technical cooperation. Moreover, the enjoyment of human rights should not be considered a requirement for development, which was in itself an inalienable right. Lastly, he drew attention to a book by French economist Thomas Piketty, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, which highlighted the increasingly unequal nature of the global distribution of wealth. Without a more balanced distribution of prosperity among nations, democracy and human rights would never go hand in hand.

Mr. M. BADAL (Bangladesh) said that a double standard was being applied to democracy and human rights. Innumerable crimes had been committed in the name of those rights; they were being violated not only by terrorists operating on the ground, but by other countries through air interventions with both sides flouting the principle of respect for humanity. Parliamentarians had an important role to play in that regard; they had a direct obligation to the citizens of their countries and should further evaluate and discuss the issue in order to help deliver peace to the world.

Ms. N. CONDORI JAHUIRA (Peru) said that the draft resolution should address the issue of trafficking in persons, which had a significant effect on democracy and on the dignity and rights of citizens. Such acts should be considered crimes against humanity; people should not be seen as goods.

Mr. L. MEGERSA WAKO (Ethiopia) said that full respect for international law was vital for peaceful coexistence and international peace and security and that national sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States was the cornerstone of Ethiopia's foreign policy. The promotion of international peace and security should be based on cooperation and trust; intervention in the internal affairs of States was unacceptable and should only occur when a State had admitted that it was unable to maintain internal security without support.

Mr. A. EL ZABAYAR (Venezuela) expressed concern that certain countries continued to interfere in the internal affairs of other States without the approval of the latter's governments. Despite his country's focus on health, education and housing, recognized by various international organizations such as UNESCO, there had been a focused media campaign aimed at generating negative global opinion and encouraging destabilization. In addition, he was outraged at the actions of Israel in Palestine, which were an embarrassment for humanity and for the United Nations and were influenced by powerful economic groups in an effort to protect their interests. In light of the current global challenges, his delegation had submitted a number of amendments to the draft resolution in order to uphold respect for the United Nations and the principles enshrined in its Charter, which were crucial for peace, human rights and the protection of States from external interference and influence such as that experienced by his country and others in its region.

Ms. T. MPAMBO-SIBHUKWANA (South Africa), expressing support for the draft resolution, said that her country had ratified the majority of the international human rights treaties and continued to fulfil its commitments and obligations in that regard. She expressed support for the proposal to establish a committee under IPU auspices to prepare a declaration on the topic under discussion. With regard to the International Criminal Court, she highlighted the importance of the resolution adopted by the 128th IPU Assembly, entitled *Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of parliament in safeguarding civilians' lives*.

Mr. T. IWINSKI (Poland) said that the world was facing new challenges that existing laws were unable to address. Religion was increasingly being used as an excuse for the violation of human rights. There should be an increased focus on the role of humanitarian organizations and the actions of international courts. Because the draft resolution was too general, some of the proposed amendments should be included. However, he welcomed the proposal to establish a committee to draft a declaration on the topic.

Mr. M. ZAHEDI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that some States used double standards and selective attitudes towards human rights to suit their national interests. The Charter of the United Nations prohibited coercive and unilateral intervention by a Member State in another country on the pretext of human rights violations. Moreover, it should be noted that recent examples of such intervention in a number of countries had been unsuccessful and even detrimental to the political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights of their citizens. That, together with the continuing human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory with the complicit support of some nations, demonstrated the inefficiency of the UN system, and particularly the Security Council. However, the importance of mechanisms such as the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review, through which the human rights situations in UN Member States could be evaluated on a basis of equality, should not be underestimated.

Ms. R. ALBERNAZ (Portugal) noted that the Charter of the United Nations identified cases in which intervention in domestic affairs could be justified if carried out with the authorization of the United Nations. In recent decades, the protection of human life and the basic dignity of oppressed peoples had been the foundation of international concern and interventions. In a world based on the protection of fundamental rights, a show of strength was sometimes necessary in order to avoid a repetition of the situations previously seen in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, where the international community had had to be summoned to act. The decision of some states to make homosexuality a capital crime was an area in which the international community could not refrain from acting; all permissible forms of economic and trade pressure must be exerted against them. Human rights were an integral part of international law and the international community must stand ready to reject discrimination against and humiliation and persecution of persons who wished to live according to their gender identity.

Mr. L. BARREDO MEDINA (Cuba) said that, while state sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of countries helped to preserve peace and maintain stability in relations between states, some countries supported open and covert interventionism and misused concepts such as the responsibility to protect and human security to justify their actions. Cuba was opposed to any attempt to restrict state sovereignty, particularly on the pretext of protecting human rights and democracy. Those rights were universal, indivisible and interdependent and should be protected and promoted without favouring some countries over others. Her delegation was concerned at the double standards shown by some countries, which supported wars against the people of other nations in the name of protecting human rights. Double standards had also been used in attempts to destabilize revolutionary processes in Latin America, although those attempts had ultimately been unsuccessful. In light of the current global situation, it was vital for states to limit the use of force and endeavour to resolve conflicts through negotiation and other peaceful means. It was also critical to put an end to unilateral blockades of countries and to the use of subversive policies against sovereign states.

Ms. T. NGUYEN (Viet Nam) said that international law had an important role to play in governing relations between nations. Viet Nam was committed to the protection of human rights and the prevention of any attempt to intervene in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation on the pretext of protecting those rights. The draft resolution should therefore emphasize the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, such as respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence, and should reaffirm Member States' commitment to honouring their international human rights obligations and their willingness to promote international law as a useful tool for the promotion of peace, stability and cooperation in the context of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states. It should also highlight the need for international cooperation in all areas, call on states to refrain from any form of intervention or interference in national and regional relations and reaffirm the need for the international community to take steps to avoid the application of double standards.

Mrs. S. BARAKZAI (Afghanistan) said that the Constitution of her country established the Government's responsibility to maintain a policy of non-intervention and mutual respect and understanding. However, Afghanistan was under daily attack from cross-border terrorism that was supported by another country. Double standards in terms of respect for national sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of states and human rights continued to persist at the international level. She urged all countries to respect those principles and enshrine them in their national legislation.

Mr. R. MOHAMMAD (Iraq) stressed that some issues, such as human dignity, were more important than physical borders. Iraq had experienced intervention as a result of the abusive policies of the previous regime, which had violated the human rights of its citizens, and it now faced a new challenge as a result of terrorist activity within its borders. He thanked all the countries that had supported the effort to combat that threat and encouraged them and others to continue to provide such support, particularly to refugees and internally-displaced persons during the coming winter, and to help with the counter-attack against the terrorists.

Mrs. M. GAKNOUN (Sudan) said that it was important to consider whether erroneous interpretations of international law were leading to violations of the principles of respect for national sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of states. Conflict resolution through dialogue and in-depth analysis of the key players was crucial and bellicose words were never a solution; rather, steps must be taken to disarm the parties and lead them into dialogue. It was important to take into account cultural specificities when analysing and discussing individual situations. All countries had recourse mechanisms in place and parliaments should seek to ensure their proper functioning. It was also important not to repeat the patterns of the past.

Mr. D. IBARRA (Uruguay) drew attention to a number of important issues mentioned in the draft resolution, including the protection of human rights, the MDGs, the future Sustainable Development Goals and the need to strengthen national systems for the protection of human rights. The last of those elements was of particular importance for parliamentarians, who had an important role to play in the defence of human rights and must make a greater effort to improve the economic and social status of their countries' citizens. Uruguay had made significant progress in that area; it was implementing a policy to protect the human rights of its people, reduce poverty and ensure access to housing for all.

Mr. O. KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU (Ghana) said that the protection of basic rights, such as freedom of speech, freedom of association and security, was dependent on the ability of parliaments to oppose actions that could undermine them. A number of international conventions and protocols were unfairly skewed in favour of the industrialized economies, to the detriment of emerging economies that were dependent on agricultural production. Given that parliaments were responsible for adopting domestic laws, it was strange that parliamentarians and the IPU were not involved in the drafting of international agreements and protocols that formed the basis of international law. It was time for the IPU to have an input at the early stages of negotiations on such agreements and to establish an annual review mechanism to assess their implementation using universally-accepted standards in order to hold countries accountable. It was also time to conduct a review of the veto in the Security Council; although it had undoubtedly been relevant when the United Nations had been established, allowing such power to remain in the hands of a few select countries in the current international environment undermined the even-handed application of international law.

The sitting rose at 12.20 p.m.

SITTING OF MONDAY, 13 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m., with Ms. F. Naderi (Afghanistan), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT invited the Committee to consider the proposed amendments to the draft resolution that had been submitted by the deadline of 29 September 2014. Amendments had been received in writing from the following parliaments: Canada, China, Cuba, France, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Monaco, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and Venezuela.

Having considered the proposed amendments, the Standing Committee agreed to postpone consideration of the proposal by Switzerland to amend the title of the resolution; to adopt the amendments to preambular paragraph 1 proposed by Switzerland, Ukraine and India, the proposal by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians to add a new preambular paragraph 1bis, the amendment to preambular paragraph 2 proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the proposal by Canada to amend preambular paragraph 3 and to add a new preambular paragraph 3bis, and the proposal by Switzerland to add new preambular paragraphs 4bis, 4ter and 4quater and to sub-amend the new preambular paragraph 4quater to add the word "ethnicity"; to postpone consideration of the proposed amendments to preambular paragraph 5; and to adopt the proposal by Romania to add a new preambular paragraph 6bis.

As the Committee had completed its consideration of only 18 of the 102 proposed amendments at the current sitting, she proposed that a drafting committee should be established to continue work on the list of proposed amendments at the next sitting, to be held on the morning of Wednesday, 15 October.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT invited the geopolitical groups to submit their nominations for members of the drafting committee to the IPU Secretariat at the earliest opportunity.

The sitting rose at 6 p.m.

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 5.30 p.m., with Ms. F. Naderi (Afghanistan), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT informed the Committee that the drafting committee had met that morning to consider the remaining proposed amendments to the draft resolution. The drafting committee, which she chaired, was composed of delegates from Algeria, Bahrain, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Jordan, Namibia, Switzerland, Thailand and Venezuela. It was assisted by the two co-Rapporteurs. The committee had nearly completed its consideration of the list of proposed amendments. Four points had not been resolved, however, and the Committee would be invited to take a decision on those issues. As the Committee had completed its work later than scheduled, it had not been possible to make the revised text of the draft resolution available to Members in advance of the current sitting. She therefore proposed that the Committee should deal first with the other items on its agenda before returning to consideration of the draft resolution.

Mr. L. BARREDO MEDINA (Cuba), supported by Ms. S. DEV (India), Mr. M. ZAHEDI (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. A. FICINI (Monaco), Mr. M. RABBANI (Pakistan), Lord MORRIS OF ABERAVON (United Kingdom) and Mr. A. EL ZABAYAR (Venezuela), expressed concern that the revised text of the draft resolution had not been made available prior to the start of the meeting. Given the sensitive nature of the issue under discussion, it was vital that delegations have time to consider the proposed amendments.

The PRESIDENT, acknowledging the reservations expressed, informed the delegates that a supplementary sitting of the Committee would be held on the following day in order to enable the Members to fully consider the revised text of the draft resolution.

Preparations for future Assemblies**(a) Proposals for the subject item of the next resolution of the Committee**

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had considered the proposals for the next resolution of the Committee and had decided to combine several proposals and submit the following subject for consideration: *Democracy in the digital era and the threat to privacy and individual freedoms*.

Mrs. S. KOUKOUMA KOUTRA (Cyprus), Mr. D. PKOSING LOSIAKU (Kenya) and Ms. U. KARLSSON (Sweden) requested clarification as to how the Bureau had decided which proposals to bring to the Committee's attention.

Mr. M. ZAHEDI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, should the proposed subject be adopted, it would be important to clarify what was understood by the term "democracy".

The PRESIDENT said that the co-Rapporteurs would give due consideration to that issue in their work.

Ms. T. NGUYEN (Viet Nam) said that her delegation had put forward three proposals for discussion at the 132nd IPU Assembly, to be held in Hanoi in March 2015, including a topic on persons with disabilities and sustainable development. She was aware that other delegations had also submitted similar proposals. Given that persons with disabilities made up 10 per cent of the global population, and in light of the multidimensional nature of the issue, the important role of parliaments in that area and the ongoing discussion of the post-2015 development agenda, she considered it to be particularly relevant.

Mr. S. WOODWORTH (Canada) said that all of the topics proposed had been excellent; however, rule 20 of the Rules of the Standing Committees required the Bureau to consider all duly submitted proposals and formulate its recommendation to the Committee, which should therefore trust the judgement of the Bureau in that regard.

The PRESIDENT explained that the Bureau had carefully considered all of the proposals received. She took it that the Committee wished to approve the proposed topic for the next resolution.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that Ms. B. Jónsdóttir (Iceland) had been proposed as one of the co-rapporteurs on the issue. Approval of the second co-rapporteur, who should be from a different geo-political group, could take place at a later date. She took it that the Standing Committee wished to approve the selection of Ms. Jónsdóttir.

It was so decided.

(b) Proposals for the agenda of the Committee at the 132nd Assembly (Hanoi, March 2015) and the 133rd Assembly (Geneva, October 2015)

Mrs. S. KOUKOUMA KOUTRA (Cyprus) introduced her country's proposal: *The Convention on the Rights of the Child 25 years on: Are children's lives better?* It was important to assess whether the Convention had made a difference in the lives of children and the Standing Committee was a logical forum for that discussion. Cooperation with the Committee on the Rights of the Child would be important in facilitating dialogue; it would be useful to view some of the periodic reports submitted to that Committee and the concluding observations that it issued.

Mrs. K. SOSA (El Salvador) introduced her country's proposal: *Human trafficking and migration*. Although prohibited by law, human and cross-border trafficking was of particular concern to El Salvador. Moreover, human trafficking was both a regional and a global issue and therefore warranted further discussion.

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the Bureau's proposal: *Follow-up on implementation of the 2012 IPU resolution on "Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children"*. She took it that the Committee wished to approve the three proposals.

It was so decided.

Elections to the Standing Committee Bureau

(continued)

The PRESIDENT said that since no candidatures had been submitted by the Eurasia Group, the Group's position on the Bureau would remain vacant for the time being and would be filled at the next IPU Assembly.

International law as it relates to national sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and human rights

Consideration of the draft resolution

Title of the resolution

Ms. L. MEIER-SCHATZ (Switzerland) announced that her country wished to withdraw its proposed amendment and sub-amendment to the title of the draft resolution.

Preamble

Preambular paragraph 5

Mr. P. MAHOUX (Belgium), *co-Rapporteur*, explained that many amendments to the paragraph had been proposed; he therefore suggested new wording that incorporated as many of those proposals as possible while avoiding contradictions between them.

Mr. L. BARREDO MEDINA (Cuba) said that he welcomed the attempt to combine the amendments received and proposed that the words "and responsible" should be inserted between "independent" and "media" so that the sentence would read: "*Stressing* that an independent judiciary, representative, accountable and inclusive institutions, an accountable administration, active civil society, and independent and responsible media..."

Mr. P. MAHOUX, *co-Rapporteur*, said that he endorsed the sub-amendment proposed by the representative of Cuba.

Mr. M. RABBANI (Pakistan) proposed inserting a reference to the media after "...active civil society" since both were elements of the rule of law.

Mr. P. MAHOUX, *co-Rapporteur*, said that all of the elements listed in the sub-amendment were components of the rule of law.

The PRESIDENT said she took it that the Committee wished to adopt preambular paragraph 5 as proposed by Mr. Mahoux and sub-amended by the representative of Cuba.

It was so agreed.

Preambular paragraph 7

Mr. P. MAHOUX, *co-Rapporteur*, introduced a proposal to reword the paragraph so as to incorporate all the amendments proposed.

Mr. M. ZAHEDI (Islamic Republic of Iran) pointed out that all of the proposed amendments except the one put forward by his delegation were reflected in the revised text. Cultural diversity was an important issue and should be mentioned. He rejected the co-Rapporteur's proposal and requested a vote on its adoption.

Mr. M. RABBANI (Pakistan) suggested that the reference to refugees and internally displaced persons should be deleted from the fifth line of the paragraph as the term "individuals" covered those groups.

Mr. P. MAHOUX, *co-Rapporteur*, supported retaining the reference to refugees and internally displaced persons, as proposed by a number of delegations, in light of the specific situation of those groups.

Mr. R. MOHAMMAD (Iraq) expressed support for retaining the reference; "internally displaced persons" was a relatively new term and it was important to recognize that the situation of such persons differed from one country to another.

Mr. M. RABBANI (Pakistan) explained that while he was not, in principle, opposed to the inclusion of such a reference, implementation of the resulting provision of the draft resolution might be problematic since it might be interpreted as excluding other vulnerable groups.

Mr. P. MAHOUX, *co-Rapporteur*, maintained that the inclusion of a reference to refugees and internally displaced persons would not exclude other groups.

Mr. A.J. AHMAD, *co-Rapporteur*, said that multiple amendments to the paragraph had been proposed, including a reference to the responsibility of states to protect all individuals in their territory, particularly in the case of occupied territories; numerous groups of people, such as immigrants and tourists, also required protection, but the proposal to include a mention of internally displaced persons and refugees had received the broadest support from delegations.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

The further sub-amendment proposed by the representative of Pakistan was rejected.

The amendment proposed by Mr. Mahoux was adopted.

New preambular paragraph 9bis

The PRESIDENT said that, during the discussions in the drafting committee, it had been suggested that the reference to the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) should be replaced by a reference to the Charter of the United Nations. However, since the text following the reference was a direct quote from the OAS Charter, it had been considered preferable to retain the original wording.

Mr. A. EL ZABAYAR (Venezuela) said that the relevant provisions of the OAS Charter, including the principle of non-intervention in the affairs of States, were also reflected in the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. S. WOODWORTH (Canada) objected that he had reviewed the Charter of the United Nations and had not found wording similar to that of the proposed amendment.

Mr. P. MAHOUX, *co-Rapporteur*, said that if a reference to the Charter of the United Nations was included, the text following that reference must reflected its wording. Otherwise, the proposed amendment, despite the good intentions that had prompted it, must be rejected.

Mr. A.J. AHMAD, *co-Rapporteur*, observed that IPU resolutions that referred to United Nations instruments drew their legitimacy from the fact that they were based on language that had already been approved by the international community. It was therefore vital to verify the sources and wording of such references.

Mr. L. BARREDO MEDINA (Cuba), supported by Ms. S. KOUKOUMA KOUTRA (Cyprus), said that the OAS Charter was a faithful reflection of the UN Charter. He therefore proposed that the word "underscoring" be replaced with "recalling the principles of".

Ms. U. KARLSSON (Sweden) said that the issue had already been discussed during the debate and should not be reopened.

The sub-amendment proposed by the representative of Cuba and the amendment proposed by the delegation of Venezuela were rejected.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.

SITTING OF THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m., with Ms. F. Naderi (Afghanistan), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT urged the Committee to complete its consideration of the draft resolution at the current and final sitting. Under the Rules of the Standing Committees, amendments that had been rejected by the drafting committee could be reintroduced if a delegation wished to do so.

Lord MORRIS OF ABERAVON (United Kingdom) reintroduced his delegation's proposed amendment to operative paragraph 13.

The proposed amendment was adopted.

Ms. C. GUITTET (France) reintroduced her delegation's proposal to add new preambular paragraphs 7bis and 9bis.

The proposal was adopted.

Ms. S. DEV (India) reintroduced her delegation's proposed amendment to operative paragraph 4.

The proposed amendment was adopted.

Mr. M. ZAHEDI (Islamic Republic of Iran) reintroduced his delegation's proposed amendment to operative paragraph 4.

The proposed amendment was adopted.

The PRESIDENT then said that, since the Committee had not been able to finalize the draft resolution during the allotted time, it would resume the debate at the 132nd Assembly, to be held in Hanoi in March 2015, on the basis of the text that had been agreed thus far.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

SITTING OF MONDAY, 13 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 2.30 p.m., with Ms. Z. DRIF BITAT (Algeria), Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the Agenda

(C-I/131/A.1)

The CHAIR introduced the draft agenda that had been distributed to the Committee members (C-I/131/A.1) and said she took it that the Committee wished to adopt it.

It was so decided.

Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 130th IPU Assembly in Geneva (March 2014)

The CHAIR said that, in the absence of any comments or questions thereon, she took it that the Committee wished to approve the summary records.

It was so decided.

Elections to the Standing Committee Bureau

The CHAIR drew attention to the two vacant posts on the Bureau and said that the African Group had nominated Mr. R.J. Tau (South Africa). To date, no candidate had been put forward by the Asia-Pacific Group. As there were no objections, she took it that the Standing Committee wished to approve the election of the candidate from the African Group.

It was so decided.

Hearing on implementation of the IPU resolution *The role of parliaments in striking a balance between national security, human security and individual freedoms, and in averting the threat to democracy* (Cape Town, April 2008 - see <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/118/118-1.htm>)

The CHAIR invited Ms. Birgitta Jónsdóttir (Iceland), speaking as an expert on individual freedoms and human security, to present her views on the resolution, the concept of privacy in the twenty-first century and the future of democracy.

Ms. B. JÓNSDÓTTIR (Iceland) stressed the insidious nature of the erosion of privacy. As a result of her involvement in the production of a video released by WikiLeaks in 2010, the US Department had demanded access to her private data from the social media site, Twitter. At no point had she been charged with a specific crime or officially informed about the investigation. Her experience made it clear that anyone could fall into a State's surveillance dragnet.

Democracy lost its meaning if the constitutional right to privacy of a citizen of any state could not be protected, particularly from foreign governments. It was therefore vital to implement the resolution. As Mr. Edward Snowden, who had leaked classified information from the US National Security Agency, had stated, only legislative change could prevent the pervasive invasion of privacy. In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly had addressed that issue by adopting resolution 68/167 on the right to privacy in the digital age, and she hoped that the IPU would take decisive action in that regard as well.

While some might not view the issue of privacy as important, it was imperative that certain kinds of information remain private; for example, in order to promote participation in the democratic process, election ballots must remain confidential. Parliamentarians often worked on sensitive

issues and needed to feel safe carrying out their mandated tasks. Invasions of privacy that placed citizens at risk could also have a domino effect since the targeted person's contacts also fell under suspicion.

Of course, it was not only governments that spied on their citizens. When drafting legislation, it was also necessary to focus on telecommunications companies, social media sites, Internet browsers and search engines, all of which had access to confidential user data. Facebook was a particularly dangerous example, marketing its users' private lives and monitoring their private messages. It was important to remember that information posted online could not be erased.

The IPU resolution, including, in particular, paragraphs 24, 25 and 27, was a pioneering document and ahead of its time. However, she regretted the failure to implement paragraph 24, in which the Assembly "*Calls on* parliaments to monitor the scope of surveillance and the amount of data collected by public and private organizations, to gauge any changes in the balance between the citizen and the State, and, in this process, to ensure that laws are framed and enforced in such a way as to take account of fast-moving technological developments". If that provision had been implemented by every parliament in the world, her privacy would not have been violated. She urged Members to implement the resolution in full and looked forward to sharing best practices in that regard at future assemblies.

The CHAIR said that the presentation had highlighted the efforts to date and the work that remained to be done. She, too, stressed the importance of implementing the 2008 resolution.

Mr. P. MARTIN-LALANDE (France) provided an overview of his country's counter-terrorism legislation, which had been introduced in the wake of successive waves of terrorist attacks. Since 1986, a number of new laws had been adopted in order to adapt continually to new forms of terrorism and deal with its growing intensity. That legislation had placed judges at the heart of the fight against terror, introduced fundamental guarantees, closed loopholes and strengthened existing provisions. It also covered incitement to terrorism, the financing of terrorist activities and crimes committed by French citizens abroad. Its impact on civil liberties had been taken into account and, in line with the principle of proportionality, measures had been taken to balance the rights of civilians with national security and public safety considerations.

Citizens had a right to live in peace and security. Where that peace was threatened, the measures taken must strike a balance between protecting national security and respecting individual liberties. A system of checks and balances involving the Constitutional Court was in place in his country.

The threat level was currently high and counter-terrorism efforts must take into account the activities of jihadists in Syria and Iraq, who were recruiting French citizens with increasing frequency, and the use of the Internet and social media by terrorists in order to transmit technical information and avoid surveillance.

France had signed various international counter-terrorism conventions; moreover, draft legislation currently being debated by the Senate addressed new forms of terrorism and included measures to prevent suspects from leaving the country, establish a definition of terrorism and require Internet service providers and hosts to issue rapid alerts, block sites and monitor terrorist activities.

Panel discussion on *Cyber warfare – A serious threat to peace and global security*

Mr. A. ALTURAJI (Kuwait) said that access to electronic information and communications was part of States' front-line strategies; however, terrorists also used electronic media to attack States and undermine their interests. The IPU should take action in response to the threat of cyberterrorism and parliaments should introduce legislation to address the growing problem of cyberattacks. Kuwait had criminalized the misuse of electronic data to threaten domestic security.

The CHAIR reminded the Committee that the subject of the debate was national security and individual freedoms, not cyberwarfare.

Mr. S. PAL SINGH (India) said that his country had faced the threat of terrorism on a number of occasions and had adopted legislation to address the problem while taking into account the linguistic and religious diversity of its population. Measures included provisions to ensure the independence of the judiciary, establish commissions on human rights and women's rights, reform the criminal justice system and ensure social, economic and political justice. The legislative reforms also touched on the issues of gender, employment, environmental issues and terrorism.

It was important to consider the impact of terrorism on young people and to include in teaching curriculum programmes designed to prevent terrorism by instilling humanist values. It was also important to address countries' technological challenges and to rationalize the role of the IPU.

Mr. D. SALMAN (Iraq) acknowledged that striking a balance between individual liberties and national security posed a difficult challenge. His Government could not tackle terrorism on its own; more than 1,000 Iraqis had been killed in attacks launched against Camp Speicher in Iraq by Islamic State militants. He wondered whether sanctions had any real impact; rather than punishing terrorists, steps should be taken to deprive them of their tools and weapons.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal) said that concern for peace and security should mobilize the international community in an effort to tackle new forms of terrorism that required innovative responses, including steps to improve economic and living conditions and safeguard citizens' rights. In Portugal, a parliamentary monitoring body oversaw the work of the security services to ensure compliance with the law and accountability. That mechanism had increased public trust in democratic institutions and reassured citizens that their rights were protected.

Mr. P. CHAKONA (Zimbabwe) stressed that cyberwarfare posed a threat to national security. His Government's efforts to combat cybercrime were being hampered by existing constitutional provisions and international human rights declarations. During the 2013 elections, the Internet had been used in vicious attacks on the Government and the ruling party and confidential information had been leaked into the public domain, including through Facebook. Such activities undermined democracy. The Government had taken steps to amend existing laws and introduce new ones in order to tackle the problem of computer-related crime and close existing loopholes. However, further efforts to deal with cybercrime were needed, including amendments to the Constitution and measures to strengthen provisional legislation that had been challenged in court, highlighting the difficult balancing act involved in upholding human rights while protecting national security.

Mr. A. NÚÑEZ BETANCOURT (Cuba) noted that there were many different interpretations of, and approaches to, the issue of human security, which risked being hijacked by political interests. His country's parliamentarians focused on economic and social development rather than defence strategies, including armed intervention. Of course, working to ensure equal opportunities and social development did not mean ignoring international crises; indeed, decisive action was necessary in order to find lasting solutions. However, it was impossible to protect human security in the face of inequality, closed markets, economic instability, restrictions on the transfer of technology and a growing brain drain.

There could be no security when children were starving, millions remained illiterate, unsustainable production and consumption models remained in place, the environment was under threat and double standards were being applied in the field of human rights. Sustainable development, food and energy security, support for economic, social and cultural rights, and nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation were needed. He denounced the economic embargo on Cuba imposed by the United States, which violated international law, cost lives and flew in the face of any paradigm of human security.

Mr. A. NEOFYTU (Cyprus) said that his country's Parliament had adopted counter-terrorism legislation that sought to avoid impinging on individual freedoms and human rights. Both national security and individual liberties were extremely important and the right balance must be achieved.

Mrs. S. BARAKZAI (Afghanistan) said that states too often followed their own interests at any price. Afghanistan had fallen victim to other countries' attempts to protect their national security, including through the use of illicit surveillance during the electoral process. The IPU should take further steps to re-interpret the concept of security by focusing on human rights, education, health and the specific needs of a given country.

Mr. S. ALSAMAHI (United Arab Emirates) said that his country was on the front line in the fight against terrorism and had introduced a wide range of counter-terrorism legislation, including provisions on cyber warfare. It was indeed necessary to establish guarantees to prevent the violation of individual liberties and the resolution facilitated the effort to strike a balance in that regard. Parliaments must work together to find solutions, ratify international conventions and use diplomatic means, such as bilateral cooperation, to combat terrorism, particularly cross-border terrorism.

Mr. J.R. TAU (South Africa) said that it was important to consider who gathered online data, where it was stored and what measures were being taken to ensure that it was not passed on or used without permission. A number of major Internet companies, such as Google and Yahoo, were based in the United States and he wondered whether the Government of that country was the first to gain access to the confidential information that they gathered. He was concerned at the commercialization of private information and asked what steps could be taken to tackle the problem through international instruments, such as the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection. It was extremely important to ensure adequate oversight and implementation of legislation in that field. South Africa's Parliament had recently examined a bill on the protection of State information; perhaps the focus of such legislation should be expanded to include the right to privacy of individual citizens.

Mr. M.Y. ABDALLAH (Sudan) said that Sudan's Constitution enshrined a number of rights and freedoms and its citizens could bring appeals on such matters before the Constitutional Court. New legislation adopted in June 2014 had given the State new powers in an effort to deprive criminals of funding and access to weapons. The country's anti-fraud legislation also enshrined key rights and defined the concept of terrorism.

The first challenge for the IPU was to establish a definition of terrorism; in his country, for example, some rebel groups were not classified as terrorists. Communication networks were another important area for consideration with a focus on oversight.

Mr. S. OWAIS (Jordan) said he agreed that it was important to defend individual liberties. Jordan shared a border with a terrorist State, Israel. Women and children had been killed in Gaza and massacres had taken place along the border with Syria. It was therefore imperative to introduce legislation to combat terrorism.

Mr. M. HOSSEINI SADR (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that differences in approaches to international security should not result in the killing of innocent people in countries such as Iraq and Syria. He called on the Committee and his fellow parliamentarians to take action to protect civilians, particularly women and children, in Syria. The usual diplomatic methods had failed to put an end to the slaughter, and it was time for the international community to take rapid and decisive action in that regard.

Ms. B. JÓNSDÓTTIR (Iceland) said that, in order to protect personal data, it was important to know where certain entities were physically located; for example, Google, Facebook and other media giants were based in the United States. Once data had been captured, it could never be erased and it was important to consider who managed that information and whether there were safeguards to prevent it from being passed on to third parties. States and companies controlled access to personal data and corporations made money from selling or exploiting it. Something must be done to prevent those entities from obtaining access to personal data, or at least make it difficult for them to do so. For example, the new African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection focused on measures that would permit parliaments to adopt the necessary legislation and monitor its implementation.

Mr. K. KIYINGI (Uganda) said that much remained to be done. It was important to raise awareness of existing legislation, examine ways in which freedoms and rights could be protected, consider types of funding – particularly for investment in enforcement – and ensure oversight. It was also necessary to raise awareness among citizens in order to safeguard their freedoms. If legislators were ignorant of the risks involved in using social media, for example, how could citizens be wary of them?

Mr. H. AMARAL (Portugal) pointed out that North Africa, the eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East were experiencing a period of profound political, social and economic change marked by uncertainty and crisis. Each country was following its own trajectory with varying outcomes and impact. As a result, the Mediterranean had become a dangerous place in which thousands of desperate Africans struggling to reach European shores perished or fell into the hands of human traffickers. Action was needed to develop a concerted strategy encompassing both sides of the Mediterranean.

There could be no Western solutions to non-Western problems; it was therefore vital to influence change in North Africa and the Middle East by establishing better education networks with the West, fostering cooperation at all levels, identifying problems and finding joint solutions. It

was also important to take a long-term view, launch sustained cooperation projects, establish shared interests and learn from past failures, such as the intervention in Syria and the failure to effectively mediate in the ongoing conflict between Hamas and Israel. In the West, there was a lack of confidence in the unity and effectiveness of such missions and the credibility of leaders was undermined by decision-making and implementation errors. Only if such obstacles were overcome would it be possible to tackle problems in the Mediterranean, and only through better decision-making would it be possible to achieve democracy, freedom and security for all.

Ms. S. TAQAWI (Bahrain) said that it was incumbent on parliaments to strike the correct balance between security and the protection of individual liberties. It was important to consider the causes of insecurity and to resolve problems at the political and other levels. International consensus was required, as well as effective legislation to protect human rights, including those of minorities, within the framework of a solid constitution, taking into account the potential of new means of communication and technologies to prevent threats at the international level. It was also important to work with all stakeholders in monitoring and discussing national reports to the United Nations Human Rights Council as part of the Universal Periodic Review and to set up a legal framework that took new technologies into account. Parliaments played a vital role in that regard.

Mr. A. BAGDACHE (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, in the Eastern Mediterranean, national sovereignty was frequently and flagrantly violated by certain military powers under the pretext of the fight against terror, for example in Syria and Iraq. It was necessary to look first at the issue of state terrorism, including the activities of the United States and Israel, and to address the root causes of terrorism, which were a legacy of the colonial past, rather than merely treating the symptoms.

Ms. B. JÓNSDÓTTIR (Iceland) said that she welcomed the interesting comments made by delegates, particularly the Members of Parliament from South Africa and Uganda. She noted that her own case had come before the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, one of the few from Western Europe to do so. The fact that it was easy to acquire personal information did not justify foreign states, and the United States in particular, intercepting all communications from a given country. It was essential to consider how to prevent such practices through stronger legislation and international agreements. In that regard, she noted that the Internet community was trying to make it easier to challenge state surveillance activities.

When she had lost her case against the US Department of Justice, the judge had ruled that, in essence, individuals using social media had no right to defend themselves against government or corporate snooping. It was vital to ensure that user agreements were universal and that people understood the rights that they were waiving, for example when using conferencing applications. It was important to know what happened to text, images and audio files once they disappeared into the Cloud, where that data was hosted and by whom it was managed. She urged her fellow parliamentarians to examine the matter in depth and take effective action.

Mr. P. MARTIN-LALANDE (France) said that paragraphs 13 and 28 of the 2008 resolution, as well as its provisions on national reports to the UN Human Rights Council under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, could provide material for future debate. He suggested that the Bureau should examine those issues and that the IPU should continue to monitor implementation of the resolution, including by drawing up an implementation scoreboard. Thus, the resolution could be discussed on a regular basis and remain on the agenda by requesting Members to submit periodic reports.

With regard to private information, while free Internet-based services were useful, they also provided a means for those with the necessary know-how, whether it be states or companies, to gather a great deal of personal data for use or sale to third parties. It was necessary to consider how to change that economic model. There was some hope that legislation adopted at the international level could regulate the gathering and management of personal data. It would be no easy task in view of the power wielded by the Internet giants, but the Web must operate on a basis of trust and consumers could have an impact on the behaviour of Internet companies. Another possible approach involved taking steps to ensure that Cloud data was stored and managed in countries that respected its confidentiality.

While terrorists could use the Internet to spread propaganda, it was also possible to send messages of peace and tolerance. In combating terrorism, it was essential to avoid stigmatizing certain social groups and conflating Islam with terrorism; terrorist groups undermined Islam. It was also important to look at the root causes of terrorism, including poverty, ignorance and racism, and

to use tools such as the MDGs to eliminate some of the problems that allowed it to thrive. The focus should be on pursuing regional and global cooperation while maintaining a balance between national security and individual liberties. Further action was, of course, necessary but the resolution provided a good basis for future measures.

Ms. S. TAQAWI (Bahrain) condemned the conflation of terrorism with Islam, which was a religion of tolerance and freedom. Terrorist groups did not represent Muslims and it was necessary to raise public awareness of that fact at the international level.

Mr. P. MARTIN-LALANDE (France) said he agreed that it was wrong to associate Islam with radicals who used religion to justify their terrorist activities. He stressed the importance of awareness-raising measures in correcting such misconceptions.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

Panel discussion on *Cyber warfare – A serious threat to peace and global security* (continued)

The meeting was called to order at 2.40 p.m., with Ms. Z. Drif Bitat (Algeria), Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT introduced the Moderator of the panel discussion, Mr. Aapo Cederberg of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), and the three expert panellists, Mr. Laurent Gisel of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Mr. Danil Kerimi of the World Economic Forum (WEF) and Mr. Marco Obiso of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The Moderator took the Chair.

The MODERATOR stated that the aim of the panel discussion was to provide an overview of cyberwarfare and cybersecurity in the context of global peace and security, adding that GCSP, the training foundation where he worked on secondment from the Government of Finland, played an important role in disseminating knowledge on the topic, which was now incorporated into all its courses. He invited the panellists to begin by outlining their respective areas of expertise.

Mr. L. GISEL, *Panellist*, explaining that he worked in the ICRC Legal Division, said that ICRC was monitoring the development of new technologies in general and their potential use in armed conflict, with particular reference to the likely human cost and the question of whether international humanitarian law was applicable to cyberwarfare.

Mr. D. KERIMI, *Panellist*, said that his organization WEF, a global multi-stakeholder platform in the information and communication industry, worked to address issues of critical importance for the global economy. Its work on the topic had started four years earlier on the basis of the increasing references in its annual *Global Risks Report* to cyberwarfare and cybersecurity.

Mr. M. OBISO, *Panellist*, said that he was the Cybersecurity Coordinator at ITU, the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs), which implemented a cybersecurity work programme to assist developing countries in improving their connectivity, including by securing infrastructures through regulatory, legal and technical measures, with an emphasis on the role of international cooperation.

The MODERATOR, providing an overview of the topic through a slide presentation, said that a cyberpolicy was essential for a nation's well-being and security. Cyberspace, furthermore, was more than the Internet, including not only hardware, software, data and information systems but also people and social interaction within its digital networks and the entire infrastructure. In addition to citizens, its multiple levels encompassed the technical, economic, political and military. The threats it posed comprised cyberwarfare, cyberterrorism, cyberespionage, cybercrime and cyberactivism. A prerequisite to a functioning society, the critical infrastructure was interconnected, interdependent and often privately run, which called for private-public partnership in addressing its intrinsic vulnerabilities. The emerging cyberarms race in turn called for the introduction of cyberdefence measures. In cybercapacity-building, the three pillars for crisis resilience were the will

embodied in relevant policymaking, the knowledge present in the whole of society, and the tools needed for delivery. Knowledge, situational awareness and recognition of the vulnerabilities inherent in the critical infrastructure were the keys to success in the protection of cyberdomains. In effect, there was a global asymmetry in terms of the thinking on cybersecurity.

Mr. L. GISEL, *Panellist*, presenting the legal viewpoint, said that there was no authoritative definition of cyberwarfare, despite the many cyberattacks regularly reported on a global scale, which usually consisted of illicit information-gathering, spying and other cybercrime occurring outside the context of armed conflict and not governed by international humanitarian law. He defined cyberwarfare as an operation against a computer or computer system through a datastream when employed as a means or method of warfare, using a computer code to create death, injury, destruction or damage. It featured only as a small part of cybersecurity, however.

Cyberwarfare was a concern to ICRC in view of the potentially dramatic consequences for vast numbers of civilians in the event of a cyberattack on utility, transport, nuclear or other vital facilities. International humanitarian law imposed crucial limits on cyberwarfare under the *jus ad bellum* principle derived from the Charter of the United Nations whereas ICRC focused on *jus in bello*. It was clear from the provision of article 36 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, concerning new weapons, that particular care must be taken to protect civilian persons and objects from cyberoperations. The United Nations open-ended intergovernmental expert group on cybercrime had furthermore affirmed that international law was applicable and indeed essential to maintaining peace and stability in cyberspace. A growing number of States and regional organizations had also expressly stated that international humanitarian law was applicable to cyberwarfare.

In that context, however, there were legal interpretation challenges relating to such matters as anonymity and the difficulty of differentiating in a cyberattack between military and civilian cybernetworks owing to the interconnectedness of cyberspace. Any such operations would violate the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks under international humanitarian law. Use of malware damaging to civilian cybernetworks would also be prohibited, as would disproportionate attacks. In accordance with the rules on the conduct of hostilities, all feasible precautions must be taken to minimize collateral damage, yet the interconnectedness of cyberspace could lead indirectly to such damage owing to the reverberating effects of cyberoperations, which must be taken into consideration. Hence, while not explicitly banned in armed conflict, cyberwarfare could be undertaken only in compliance with existing international humanitarian law, which also provided specific additional protection for critical infrastructure, such as water networks.

In the parliamentary context, suggested ways forward would be to seek recognition of the fact that international humanitarian law applied to cyberwarfare, an important step that would in no way legitimize cyberoperations or promote the militarization of cyberspace but rather assert that limits obtained. The conduct of a legal review of new weapons before they were purchased would constitute an equally important step. The increasing development of cyberwarfare capabilities, whether for offensive or defensive purposes, reinforced the urgency of such concerns.

Mr. D. KERIMI, *Panellist*, said that hyperconnectivity fundamentally defined relationships in today's enormously complex and interdependent world, providing economic opportunities, redefining business models and connecting social fabrics. Yet it also carried risks that were only just starting to be recognized and mitigated. Nonetheless, not every hack or cyberoperation constituted an act of cyberwarfare and it was furthermore difficult to be definitive in assigning acts to actors and in defining boundaries. Cybersecurity had not kept good pace with the proliferating Internet technologies that were now part and parcel of the socio-economic fabric but had many unintended costs and consequences that must be addressed by both public and private sectors. The matter was compounded by the fact that much of the Internet structure and indeed critical infrastructure was privately owned, which called for multi-stakeholder cooperation in addition.

The only comparison that could be made with the nuclear age was the time taken to grasp the full implications of the new technology, with its innumerable interconnected networks. Parliamentary responses must be afforded careful consideration, consultation and discussion, as cybersecurity legislation could also entail unforeseen consequences, such as the infringement of economic and innovative elements of the Internet.

Mr. M. OBISO, *Panellist*, said that international cooperation on cyber issues was finally gaining momentum after 20 years of relative inaction, adding that a nationwide approach to those issues was one of the less evident challenges to be overcome in that many countries in fact lacked coordination mechanisms. Many parliamentarians were also unaware of the cross-cutting nature of

cybersecurity and how best to address it at the national level, again underscoring the need for multi-stakeholder cooperation. Once identified, a nationwide response could be translated into strategies and policies for national action, such as the creation of a legal framework for building specific capacities to combat cyberattacks at all levels. Such a bottom-up approach complemented the top-down approach encapsulated in international discussions in pursuit of an agreement on a common way forward. Parliamentarians played an instrumental role in voicing the national view as part of a constructive international discussion aimed at shaping a common global understanding so as to establish an appropriate framework for addressing and minimizing risks from ICT misuse. Reflecting differences in culture and attitude as they did, national views were essential to instigating productive discussions.

Mr. S. ALSAMAHI (United Arab Emirates) noted the close link between international peace and security and the growing cyberterrorism aimed at breaching computer networks, including those relating to critical infrastructure or military installations, the potential risks of which had been aptly exemplified by the Stuxnet computer worm targeted at the Iranian nuclear programme. Challenges in combating cyberterrorism included lack of international legislation; the obstacle posed to regulatory efforts by the fact that cyberspace lay overwhelmingly in private hands; and the difficulty of responding to unidentified sources of attack. States must strengthen their cooperation through such institutions as INTERPOL in order to limit cyberattacks launched from their soil.

In addition to developing an international legal framework or model legislation for criminalizing all such cyberoperations, the link between cyberwarfare and the expanding influence and activities of international terrorist groups must be probed. Solid partnerships between governments and cyberspace businesses were furthermore crucial to combating cyberwarfare, as was joint cooperation among States to harnessing the benefits of cyberspace for international security purposes. An international understanding must also be reached on balancing freedom of expression and information with the maintenance of security. Parliaments had an important role to play in enabling a safe environment for the peaceful use of cyberspace.

Mr. D. KERIMI, *Panellist*, concurred with the emphasis placed on public-private cooperation and on cyberterrorism relating to critical infrastructure, as well as use of the Internet by terrorists. Nuclear-related issues would be addressed at the International Conference on Computer Security in a Nuclear World, to be hosted in June 2015 by the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

Mr. M. TASNER VATOVEC (Slovenia) observed that cyberwarfare was a relatively new and unknown problem and one that raised a red flag, bearing in mind the dependency on the Internet now existing in all areas of life. It must be condemned and robustly tackled by the international community, especially in view of the serious threat posed by cyberattacks aimed at gaining control of military technology.

The MODERATOR re-emphasized in that context the difficulty of categorizing the various types of cyber-related incidents and identifying those responsible.

Mr. M. OBISO, *Panellist*, agreed that cyberwarfare was a red-flag issue and also a moving target. It was substantially debated in international forums, including the United Nations, with an increasing focus on confidence-building measures, taking into account differing national views. The aim was to identify common ground for international cooperation, which was currently lacking, through such measures as judicial assistance and information exchange on regulatory and investigative matters. Progress could then be made on that basis towards the establishment of an agreed international framework for addressing the problem, whether in the form of a treaty, a code of conduct or norms and principles.

The MODERATOR concurred that confidence-building measures were an important element.

Mr. S. PAL SINGH (India) said that, notwithstanding their advantages and potential, ICTs also had harmful and devastating capabilities open to misuse, which could be countered through cooperation in implementing acceptable norms and principles of responsible behavior, including with the private and civil society sectors; protection of the core Internet infrastructure through a globally acceptable legal regime for maintaining openness, security and international trust; management of core Internet resources, which must be transparent, democratic and representative; sensitivity of Internet governance to all cultures and national interests; an Internet environment conducive to inculcating in children human and citizenship values, entailing no

violation of individual privacy and rights and ensuring the maintenance of public order and national security; and exemplary punishment for use of the Internet to propagate radical ideology, violence and terrorism.

In India, a mechanism was in place for overseeing implementation of its Information Technology Act, responding to computer security incidents and reporting on vulnerabilities. Cyberterrorism was punishable with life imprisonment. A cybersecurity policy was likewise in place, together with a ministerial division devoted to global cyber issues, and a multi-layered approach to defence had been proposed. The ICT medium should be used to create spiritual bonds among nations and enhance global peace.

Mr. M. HOSSEINI SADR (Islamic Republic of Iran) stated that the ever-increasing dependence on the Internet called for the introduction of rules and principles supported by all international, public and non-governmental organizations. In today's world, Internet science was vital and should be readily available to all countries, which should also share information and expertise for cybersecurity purposes. Online crime and all cyberattacks should be treated as international crimes for which there was no immunity from prosecution. The development of all viruses, worms, Trojan horses and other destructive programmes must be prohibited and punished, while unauthorized access to confidential personal, financial and scientific data should also be illegal. Cyberspace should furthermore be harnessed to promote moral values and international peace and security and to combat all forms of violence, extremism and warmongering. Concerted efforts must additionally be made to create an appropriate cyberspace and parliaments must likewise step up their efforts to promote measures such as those mentioned in order to prevent all misuse of cyberspace, which could detract from the achievements associated with it.

Mr. L. GISEL, *Panellist*, stressed the importance of the comments made concerning the benefits of cyberspace, access to ICT technology for all States and the treatment of cyberattacks as an international crime, with no immunity from prosecution. Cyberattacks could already be interpreted as a crime under international law if considered to be directly aimed at civilians.

Ms. H. LI (China), underlining the importance of peace in cyberspace, stated that parliaments must actively engage in ensuring that the Internet was used only to promote global development and well-being. On the basis of the Charter of the United Nations, efforts must be channelled into preventing cyberwarfare and any form of cyberarms race in order to preclude threats to international peace and security. China had continued to introduce laws and regulations on cybersecurity since 2000. Cyberspace was unique and any legislation on the subject must be fit for purpose. In working for peace and security in cyberspace, all parliaments must cooperate and exchange relevant information to that end.

Mr. M. OBISO, *Panellist*, commented that the harmonization of an international legal framework was a vitally needed exercise. Several United Nations and other bodies, including ITU, had established repositories of relevant laws that could be used as examples of best practice. Again, international cooperation was key to tapping into available resources in order to engage parliaments in creating laws as a starting point for the development of international instruments on the subject.

Mr. V. SENKO (Belarus) noted the timeliness of the discussion: cybersecurity was a topical item for numerous international and regional organizations; the United Nations had established a Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, in which his country participated; and countries were adopting cybersecurity strategies. Indeed, the possibility of wide-scale disaster from cyberattacks against nuclear plants and critical infrastructure provided grounds for believing that cyberwarfare technologies could be deployed to the same effect as weapons of mass destruction. Some also believed that means of cyberwarfare had been used in recent armed conflicts, which was a cause of growing concern, as was the fact that the software needed to carry out cyberattacks could be developed anywhere within a short time span.

A draft international treaty on cybersecurity should therefore be negotiated in order to determine norms of conduct in cyberspace and, on the basis of those already provided for in international humanitarian law, relevant restrictions. In particular, as already mentioned, cyberattacks fell within the purview of Article 35 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions. The parliamentary community should facilitate a consensus process with a view to the commencement of negotiations.

Mr. K. KIYINGI (Uganda) remarked on the security threat posed by the increasing use of the Internet and cyberspace by terrorists for carrying out propaganda and recruitment, connecting with like-minded individuals, conducting operations and sharing sensitive information. Computer hacking and economic espionage likewise posed significant challenges now that previously isolated hackers had joined forces to create criminal syndicates in the knowledge that organized crime in cyberspace offered higher profits with a lower probability of identification and prosecution.

Loss of data, money, ideas and innovation was the end result of such developments, with citizens particularly vulnerable to information loss. The impact of technology could not be undone and efforts to build collective capabilities for combating the cyberthreat must be pursued through information-sharing, including between law enforcement authorities and the private sector, and joint action aimed at safeguarding property, privacy, ideas and innovation, using connectivity to stop those seeking to do harm and applying lessons learned from counterterrorism activities. National personnel must be appropriately trained for operating in the cyberenvironment and should be empowered to apply for court orders to intercept communications. Structures must also be established for infiltrating criminal online networks and collecting intelligence to prevent attacks. Urgent action was needed to safeguard the future.

Ms. J. DURRIEU (France) recalled that the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime of 2001, the first to be adopted on the subject, defined various offences relating to such matters as interference with network security, computer fraud, copyright and child pornography. It had been ratified by only 35 countries, however, including most European Union Member States and the United States of America but excluding the Russian Federation, China and the majority of African and Latin American countries. What therefore was its use?

She further recalled that only two cyberdefence bodies had been set up by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence in Tallinn, Estonia, which conducted research on cyberwarfare; and the NATO Cyber Incident Response Centre in Mons, Belgium, which dealt with cyberattacks. She wondered what could be expected of the NATO Readiness Action Plan adopted at the NATO Summit held in Wales in September 2014.

Mr. H.-C. SONG (Republic of Korea) said that rapid ICT development had increased dependence on cyberspace in all spheres of life, providing wide-ranging socio-cultural benefits and new opportunities for economic growth. Cyberspace, however, was borderless, unrestricted by time and space and affording relative anonymity to users, all of which increased the threat of cybercrime and cyberterrorism, possibly extending into the realm of real military conflict. Institutional and other computer networks across his country had been paralysed on several occasions by cyberattacks, the frequency and sophistication of which highlighted the global nature of the issue and its potentially damaging effect on international peace and security.

Given the gravity of the multifaceted threats from cybercrime and cyberterrorism, action must be taken to develop an internationally agreed definition of cyberwarfare and cyberweapons, as well as legally binding norms and standards on the subject, using a common approach. Other imperatives were to raise public awareness of those threats to peace and security, explore means of preventing cyberwarfare through international cooperation, and pursue efforts to build consensus and implement related national action plans. The IPU could also play its part by taking the lead in global discussions on cyberwarfare on the basis of ideas and proposals mooted at the current Assembly.

Mr. T. TESSEMA (Ethiopia) said that his country had an information security law but cyberspace was borderless and cyberwarfare was a global problem needing a global solution involving governments, the private sector, academic institutions and civil society. National parliaments and international organizations also had a vital role to play in preventing cyberwarfare through the development of legal frameworks to promote international cooperation on the matter. Moreover, the challenges related to cybersecurity, the digital and broadband divide and lack of local capacity threatened not only the ICT sector but also global peace and security. Developing countries should therefore be afforded technical and capacity-building assistance for preventing cyberwarfare. How would that be achieved?

Mr. S. ALHUSSEINI (Saudi Arabia) noted that dependence on ICTs was already substantial and increasing over time. Cyberwarfare and cyberattacks were even more damaging than conventional weapons and must be criminalized. His country had enacted legislation, notably a law on cybercrime, and set up various mechanisms to address related issues. Cyberwarfare, however, was a new problem that called for new international mechanisms along the lines of those

established for dealing with nuclear and chemical weapons. Cyberwarfare must be clearly defined and should fall within the remit of international courts. Through the United Nations, the IPU could send a strong message concerning the need to explore such possibilities and develop the tools required to realize them.

Mr. A. NÚÑEZ BETANCOURT (Cuba) declared that attention must be devoted to addressing cyberwarfare in all its forms. Indeed, a mechanism for dealing with cybercrime was vital in the light of attacks such as that recently engineered by the US against his country's mobile telephone messaging system. He wondered how proper ICT use might be defined in the context of securing national borders and suggested that the Committee's discussion on cyberwarfare at the 132nd Assembly should be sufficiently broad to take into account the specific interests of all countries.

Mr. M.Y. ABDELLAH (Sudan) said that cyberspace had brought many advantages but was also misused. In the Sudan, cybercrimes punishable by imprisonment for terms of between two and seven years included cyberterrorism; e-piracy; hacking; use of ICTs for embezzlement; use of the Internet for organized terrorism, money-laundering, drug trafficking or gambling; creation of pornographic and other offensive websites; and unlawful gain from communication services.

For its part, the IPU should work with parliaments with a view to defining cybercrime and developing binding international legislation for criminalizing and punishing such crime; adopt an international cooperation agreement on cybercrime; request ITU to conduct a study to determine areas of mandatory cooperation; and assist developing countries in the development of their cyberspace resources.

Mr. C. ZERPA (Venezuela) reported that his country had been subjected to cyberwarfare and cyberespionage. Violations of cyberspace, the newest addition to the domains of air, maritime and space, constituted violations of sovereignty in the management of its peaceful use, as well as a violation of the Charter of the United Nations, and State entities must not engage in cyberwarfare to that end. The United Nations General Assembly must deal with the issue in a transparent and democratic manner, with the full participation of all States and an emphasis on the rights of national sovereignty and privacy in the context of communications. It was also essential to clarify the grey area between cyberwarfare and the cyberespionage activities carried out by certain States, which jeopardized international peace and security and infringed human rights, including those enunciated in article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights concerning arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, family, home or correspondence. He welcomed measures being implemented in his region for the protection of cyberspace, including through the installation of fibre optic cables in order to strengthen the regional communications network. Bearing in mind the emphasis on the need for joint action in tackling cyberwarfare, he wondered how such measures were viewed.

Mr. V. GAPSYS (Lithuania) asked whether major attacks on infrastructure by non-state actors could be treated as cyberwarfare and what measures could be taken to counter such attacks.

Mr. A. AHSAN (Pakistan), recalling that information security had been on the United Nations agenda since 1998, outlined some of the resulting initiatives: General Assembly resolution 68/243 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, adopted in January 2012; the establishment of three Groups of Governmental Experts to examine and report on existing and potential threats from the cybersphere and possible cooperative measures to address them; and the draft international code of conduct for information security proposed by China, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in 2011. Given the inevitable proliferation of ICTs in critical infrastructures and industrial control systems, which created new possibilities for destruction, the development of instruments for regulating their use was an urgent requirement. Should the multilateral initiatives already undertaken be integrated into the IPU's work on the subject?

Mr. M.F. KHAN (Bangladesh) said that the electronic warfare he had learned about during his army service had been superseded by cyberwarfare and its continuing adverse effects. Measures thus far adopted in his country to protect its citizens from cyberattacks and cybercrime comprised a national ICT policy, a cybersecurity strategy, a public awareness programme, the

establishment of a cyberforensic laboratory and the formulation of a cybersecurity law. Its Parliament remained committed to the security and well-being of its people and the world at large.

He wondered what action was being taken by the United Nations and other international agencies to regulate cyberwarfare and related matters. Furthermore, how could the United Nations, including ITU, assist capacity-building in countries such as Bangladesh?

Mr. A. OMARI (Morocco) said that a precise definition of cyberwarfare, which featured as part of the bigger picture of cybersecurity, was essential to the progression of work on the subject, particularly given the rapid and ongoing development of the technologies concerned. He wondered about the existence of any technical terms of reference relating to cyberspace. International organizations had a role to play in bridging the digital divide, not forgetting the trade implications for developing countries. Taking into account the importance of international cooperation, consultation mechanisms must be established with the aim of elaborating a framework convention in the interest of a standardized approach to guaranteeing peace and security in cyberspace.

Mr. A. NEOFYTOU (Cyprus) observed the tendency of the overall debate on cyberspace and cybersecurity to focus on the threat posed to global security and the search for a balance between national security and protection of individual freedoms. He therefore welcomed the view of cyberspace as a great opportunity for promoting the well-being of citizens, which called for the establishment of a robust cyberdomain that would increase productivity and revive competitiveness, thereby serving as a great political, economic, security and technical asset.

Mrs. M.E. LAURNAGA (Uruguay) underlined the importance of sharing information and experiences in seeking to address the threats presented by cyberwarfare and take advantage of the opportunities offered by cyberspace. To guarantee the exercise of human rights and freedoms without compromising values in the quest for security was a complex political conundrum. In that context, the roles and responsibilities of parliaments and other stakeholders in matters of cybersecurity must be clearly articulated. She suggested that an IPU database of relevant legislation would significantly further the debate by enabling comparisons of ways forward in protecting cyberspace and providing the related guarantees.

The MODERATOR expressed confidence that the IPU Secretariat would take note of that suggestion.

Mr. V. CHHEANG (Cambodia) remarked that ICTs were developing at a faster pace than his country, a fledgling democracy emerging from 30 years of conflict, where parliament was working to develop, among others, cybercrime laws. It was experiencing great difficulties in that endeavour, however, insofar as the country's youth and civil society were opposed to any regulation of the Internet. It would be grateful for assistance and advice on how best to proceed in those circumstances.

Mr. D. SALMAN (Iraq) declared that Iraq was the world's biggest victim of cyberterrorism, which caused death to hundreds of Iraqis daily. Terrorist groups, in particular Islamic State, used their enormous technical capabilities to instil fear in the population, prompting mass exodus with their images of beheadings, tricking people into death traps and also brainwashing the younger generation. Development of Iraq's ICT infrastructure was asymmetric and Iraq had neither the laws nor the capacities to combat such utterly rife cyberterrorism. He agreed on the need for a convention to address the dangers of cyberwarfare, adding that United Nations resolutions on counterterrorism must now start to include measures to prevent access to cybertools by terrorist groups.

Mr. H.T. HA (Viet Nam) said that the birth and growth of ICT had created great benefits and opportunities while at the same time posing many risks and threats to peace and international security. The challenge lay in maximizing benefits for business and development while ensuring sovereignty, peace, security and civilian privacy. Viet Nam had taken into account the cyberwarfare factor in building a relevant legal framework and had improved its cooperation at the international level in order to address cyberwarfare, a cross-border challenge that no country was capable of resolving single-handedly. Given the important role of parliaments in that regard, the IPU could perhaps issue a declaration calling on its Members to refrain from the use of cyberwarfare in order to promote international peace and security. He looked forward to the continuation of the discussion at the 132nd Assembly to be hosted in Hanoi.

Ms. B. JÓNSDÓTTIR (Iceland), expressing concern that the focus on cyberwarfare rather than cybersecurity was a deterrent to women's participation in the discussion, said that she had hoped to hear more about threats brought to light by Edward Snowden in his whistle-blower revelations about the cyberwarfare programme of the United States National Security Agency. Did other States have similar capabilities and did States pose a greater threat to cyberspace than individuals? In her experience, hacktivists posed no more threat than street activists. Honesty was called for in the light of the focus on unidentified instigators of terror in cyberspace when it was in fact well known who the biggest players were. She agreed with the suggestion to establish a databank of best practices. The conclusion drawn from her country's analysis of cybersecurity policy was that militarization of the Internet was a worrying scenario.

The MODERATOR said that, notwithstanding the difficulty of identifying those responsible for cyberattacks, his country of Finland considered State actors to pose the most serious threat. There were many State and non-State actors involved in cyberespionage. Summing up the debate, he pinpointed the focus placed on legal aspects, including definitions and standardization; international cooperation and the role of organizations, including the IPU; the development of confidence-building measures at either the global, regional or bilateral levels; and capacity-building in the area of cybersecurity.

Mr. L. GISEL, *Panellist*, thanking participants for their interesting comments, agreed that a definition of the cyberwarfare notion was important but said that other notions relating to cybersecurity and cyberspace in general also needed definition. The new cyberwarfare technology could indeed be compared with both nuclear and air warfare in terms of development stages, which called for a humble approach in discussing ways for dealing with such an evolving technology. He further agreed that the Charter of the United Nations served as a useful basis for work on the peaceful use of cyberspace, with international humanitarian law relating to armed conflict as the second line of defence. In that regard, time was needed to assess whether it was adequate and sufficiently adaptable to account for the features of the technology and its potential human costs. ICRC did not exclude the need for the development of further laws on the basis of that assessment.

Concerning border security, more time was also needed to assess how the existing law of armed conflict, which equated to a law of neutrality, might apply to cyberwarfare and cyberspace in general. As to the attribution of responsibility for cyberattacks from an unidentified source, the same rules applied as to kinetic warfare, which, if attributable to a State, would be governed by the law of armed conflict. If not, it would depend on the law applicable to the situation, although private persons conducting cyberoperations in support of a party to a conflict could lose protection if their actions were deemed to constitute direct participation in hostilities.

While it had no database of laws relating specifically to cyberwarfare, ICRC ran a database on the law of armed conflict and its interpretation. With reference to the work of the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence in Tallinn, he drew attention to the draft Tallinn manual on the international law applicable to cyberwarfare, which had been developed by experts in a private capacity, with ICRC as an observer to the process. It was sometimes criticized as legitimizing cyberwarfare but its purpose was to reflect the civilian protection afforded under existing law. It might therefore be useful in considering how international humanitarian law might apply to cyberwarfare.

The MODERATOR endorsed the view that the draft Tallinn manual was the best available resource at the present time and pointed out that it was to be periodically updated.

Mr. M. OBISO, *Panellist*, said that several databases of national legal frameworks were in place, including the ITU Global Cybersecurity Index, which ranked cybersecurity capabilities, thus far in 100 countries, and could be made available to the parliamentary community through the IPU. Concerning international cooperation, the IPU could serve as a formal mechanism for engaging different organizations in working together with all stakeholders in pursuit of a set objective. A further concrete step would be to ensure that any formal outcome on the subject from the 132nd Assembly took into consideration the work of other agencies and emphasized collaborative efforts as a key element to success, as indeed was borne out by the lack of ratification of the earlier-mentioned Budapest Convention by States not involved in its development. The establishment of coordinated national stakeholder groups was a good means of ensuring that all views were reflected, thus promoting cooperation. It was a matter of combining the bottom-up and top-down approaches. With respect to capacity-building, the private sector was involved in the in-

country activities of the international community but essential coordination was sometimes lacking. Assistance was available to national entities authorized to undertake the process.

The MODERATOR confirmed the existence of many good capacity-building practices.

Mr. D. KERIMI, *Panellist*, said that he had learned much from the excellent discussion, noting that distinctions between cybercrime, cyberterrorism and cyberwarfare had started to emerge. It was also clear that lawmakers the world over faced very similar types of challenges in which they and the executive branch had equally important roles to play, with the judiciary assuming a later role once action had been taken. He welcomed the recognition of the tremendous opportunities provided by cyberspace technology to drive progress, contribute to the global economy and achieve various feats in ways previously impossible. He also highlighted the existence of informal platforms for sharing experience, such as the Global Conference on Cyberspace to be hosted in The Hague in 2015. As in the case earlier technologies, the growing understanding and knowledge of cyberspace would soon usher in the day when fears of its darker side had subsided and its opportunities were more readily embraced.

The MODERATOR thanked the panellists for their contribution to an enlightening discussion, adding that the debate was open to all comers, including women. The evolving challenges relating to cyberspace simply underscored the need for international cooperation, information-sharing and confidence-building measures. The IPU certainly had a role to play and its future work on the subject was keenly anticipated.

The President resumed the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

Elections to the Standing Committee Bureau

The PRESIDENT announced the candidacy of Mr. J.R. Tau (South Africa) for the position of President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and also requested the Committee's endorsement of the decision by its Bureau to appoint Mr. A. Omari (Morocco) as a Vice-President. She took it that the Committee wished to elect Mr. Tau to that position and to endorse the appointment of Mr. Omari as a Vice-President.

It was so decided.

At the invitation of the outgoing President, Mr. J.R. Tau (South Africa) took the Chair as the incoming President of the Committee.

The PRESIDENT said it had been proposed by the Bureau that the Committee's work at the 132nd Assembly in Hanoi should focus on the subject of cyberwarfare and that the precise title of the draft resolution to be prepared on that subject be finalized in due course in the light of its substance. The Bureau also proposed to establish the Committee's full work programme in the coming weeks and to submit a proposal in that regard for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee. He took it that the Committee wished to agree to those two proposals.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that written proposals of text for inclusion in a draft resolution on cyberwarfare should be submitted to the IPU Secretariat by 7 December 2014. On the basis of those proposals, the co-Rapporteurs would then prepare a draft resolution, together with an explanatory memorandum, by 1 January 2015, following which the text would be transmitted to Members for consideration and proposed amendment. He took it that the Committee wished to agree to those arrangements.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 14 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 2.35 p.m, with Mr. R. León (Chile), President of the Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-II/130/A.1)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft agenda distributed to the Member and, in the absence of any comments or objections, said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt it.

It was so decided.

Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 130th IPU Assembly in Geneva (March 2014)

The PRESIDENT said that, in the absence of any comments or questions thereon, he took it that the Committee wished to approve the summary records.

It was so decided.

Elections to the Standing Committee Bureau

The PRESIDENT said that there were four vacancies on the Bureau, one from the Asia-Pacific Group, one from the Twelve Plus Group and two from the Eurasia Group. No candidatures had been received from the Eurasia Group. He invited the Committee to approve the candidatures of Ms. S. Tioulong (Cambodia) and Ms. S. de Bethune (Belgium) for the vacancies from the Asia-Pacific Group and the Twelve Plus Group, respectively.

It was so decided.

Parliamentary contribution to the 2014 Climate Change Conference

(C-II/131/5-DR.1)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the document entitled "Pre-draft of the Outcome Document of the Parliamentary Meeting in Lima submitted by the Rapporteur, Mr. Sergio Tejada Galindo (Peru)" and recalled that the Parliamentary Meeting would take place during the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Lima from 1 to 12 December 2014. He invited the Members to comment on the preliminary draft outcome document.

Mr. S. TCHELNOKOV (Secretariat) provided background information on the draft document, noting that a legally binding resolution on climate change was expected to be adopted at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Paris in 2015. The Parliamentary Meeting in Lima would be held in parallel with the Conference and delegates were encouraged to attend all official meetings, as well as events organized by non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Mr. S. TEJADA GALINDO (Peru), *Rapporteur*, provided an overview of the core ideas contained in the draft outcome document. Although changes in the biosphere concerned all of humanity, Latin America was particularly vulnerable to problems such as desertification and

increasingly frequent natural disasters. Together with other countries in the Amazon area, Peru had a specific responsibility for managing forest resources.

At the Lima conference, it would be important to obtain parliamentary support for the measures proposed and to ensure that the instruments adopted there became public policy. In addition to adopting measures to reduce greenhouse gases, it was also necessary to finance the transfer of technology to developing countries and to amend domestic law in order to combat climate change more effectively.

Lord PRESCOTT (United Kingdom) said that, in order for the new agreement to be successful and effective, it was imperative to put in place a domestically enforceable legal framework.

Mr. H. TAKINAMI (Japan) objected to the reference to "common but differentiated responsibilities" in paragraph 5 of the draft document, stressing that both developed and developing countries should play a role commensurate with their responsibilities and abilities. With regard to paragraph 6, Japan was currently considering its national contribution with the aim of communicating it at the earliest possible date.

Japan had introduced new regulatory requirements since the Fukushima nuclear incident and all of its nuclear plants would remain shut until they met the new regulations, which, unfortunately, had led to an increase in the country's total emissions. Renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power, had limited capacity and could not offer a solution to global warming. His country's Basic Energy Plan, approved in April 2014, classed nuclear power as an important base-load power source. Nuclear power plants could produce stable, low-cost power on a large scale with no greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, the world needed to utilize nuclear power effectively.

Mr. R. SINGH (India) said that India was determined to reduce carbon emissions while taking its development needs and energy requirements into account. His Government's plans included a low-carbon sustainable development strategy. India had been the first developing country to incorporate into its Constitution specific provisions on environmental protection. It had undertaken to reduce the emission intensity of its GDP by 20 to 25 per cent and had pledged to ensure that its per capita emissions did not exceed those of developed countries. Its National Action Plan on Climate Change contained provisions on adaptation and mitigation. A number of laws on environmental protection had been introduced, a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests had been established and the Parliamentary Forum of India on Global Warming and Climate Change had been held. If adequate levels of finance and technology had been made available to developing countries, as required under the Convention, countries such as his own could have made far greater progress. India looked forward to engaging in the inter-governmental process relating to the Convention, especially with regard to the "principle of common but differentiated responsibilities".

While several developed countries had announced that they would be making pledges to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the actual level of additional funds available from public sources remained unclear; steps must be taken to ensure that the Fund was country-owned. Public finance should also be the primary source of funding for climate measures. He therefore called for capitalization of the GCF.

It was essential to promote the exchange of information, international cooperation on environmentally friendly technologies, the transfer of technology to developing countries, access to environmentally sound services and long-term climate financial support to developing nations and to ensure that those measures were incorporated into the new agreement. Climate change was a global problem of a scale that required genuine collaboration.

The representative of GABON, stressing the importance of the issue and noting the pessimistic forecasts regarding the capacity and quality of countries' commitments to meeting the challenge of climate change, said that alternative sources of energy must be found. Gabon was involved in efforts to protect forested areas and would have liked to see that work encouraged and supported by the international community. He urged the IPU to play an active role in the upcoming conferences and stressed the need to strengthen paragraph 10 of the preliminary draft of the outcome document.

The representative of the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES said that his Government had taken a series of successful measures to tackle the problem of greenhouse gas emissions and foster sustainable development, including through the use of solar and wind energy and nuclear power. It

was necessary to reach an agreement that would replace the Kyoto Protocol. It was also important to create strategies for strengthening national efforts to combat climate change and put pressure on governments to enact strict legislation and draft policies for monitoring and assessing implementation and preventing environmental damage.

The representative of SUDAN said that, since it was the industrialized nations' policies that had damaged the environment they should provide assistance so that developing countries that relied on agriculture could replant forests and protect the soil. Parliaments and governments should legislate at the international and domestic levels in order to increase the amount of available arable and agricultural land and to ensure that agriculture was protected from excessive construction.

The representative of the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC said that economic competition between countries prevented implementation of the Convention at the international level. In the absence of international commitments to limit the adverse impact of climate change, parliaments must encourage their governments to respect the agreement to be signed in 2015 at the Paris Conference.

The PRESIDENT asked the remaining speakers to submit their comments in writing at the end of the meeting for inclusion in the summary record.

The representative of VENEZUELA said that developing countries faced a number of challenges, such as eradicating poverty and adapting to climate change. His Government supported the principle of joint but differentiated responsibilities and shared the view that climate change was a problem for which industrialized nations needed to take responsibility by taking the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, providing financial resources to developing countries and participating in the transfer of technology.

In paragraph 1 of the draft document, instead of "human society", it would be preferable to refer to "all forms of life on the planet and the survival of the human species". With regard to paragraph 4, while Venezuela would, in principle, support the establishment of quotas, it would need to see the proposed new legal instrument to ensure that essential issues such as funding and technology transfer were covered. His Government would only be able to sign an international agreement on climate change at the Paris Conference. With respect to the national contributions mentioned in paragraph 6, developing countries also needed support for their efforts to gather the relevant national data. Concerning greenhouse gas emissions (para. 7), he stressed the sensitive nature of discussions on a regional or global legislative framework for monitoring policy implementation and the fact that many countries needed to focus on adaptation rather than mitigation. In paragraph 8, the issue of trans-border adaptive measures and the management of water resources did not fall within the framework of the Convention; issues relating to natural resources should be handled bilaterally.

His Government was concerned at the attempt to turn climate change into a trade opportunity, for example, the trade in carbon emissions or so-called "green technologies". It was important for the final outcome document to refer to the Social Pre-COP preparatory meeting, to be held in Caracas in November 2014 and attended by ministers involved in climate change negotiations. The initiative sought to include civil society in the debate on climate change.

The meeting was suspended at 3.25 p.m. and resumed at 3.35 p.m.

**Multi-stakeholder dialogue on *Corporate investment in sustainable development*
(Joint session with the World Investment Forum)**

(C-II/131/6-Inf.1)

Ms. Gunilla VON HALL (Journalist, Svenska Dagbladet) took the Chair in the role of Moderator.

The MODERATOR drew attention to the concept note entitled «Multi-stakeholder dialogue on *Corporate investment in sustainable development* (joint session with the World Investment Forum) " and introduced the panellists: Mr. Robert Milliner, Business 20 (B20) Sherpa for Australia, Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Bangladesh, Mr. David Carter, New Zealand, Ms. Leonie Shreve, Head of Sustainable Lending, ING Bank, Netherlands, and Mr. Nana Tweneboah-Boateng, Chief Executive Officer, Empretec Ghana Foundation. The main issues to be discussed were financing for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), corporate investment in sustainable development,

the role of international investment agreements relating to foreign direct investment (FDI) in developing countries, interaction between parliaments and corporations in delivering sustainable development and the role of international organizations.

Mr. R. MILLINER, *Panellist*, explained the role of the B20 business advisory group. The Group of 20 was currently focusing on economic growth and jobs, including setting a target of a 2 per cent increase in GDP over the next five years in its countries. Its first meeting since the financial crisis had considered proactive economic measures to ensure sustained and balanced growth. The B20 recommendations to the Group included measures on financial regulation, trade, infrastructure, investment, transparency and combating corruption with a view to sustainable growth. For example, businesses were examining impediments to the investment of available capital in infrastructure as a means of combating the growing infrastructure deficit. It was also important to establish a global infrastructure hub, share knowledge, support public-private partnerships, collect data and set benchmarks and standards. The aim was to create a partnership between the public and private sectors in order to promote sustainable growth.

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, *Panellist*, speaking on the issue of risk resilience, said that the private sector was responsible for the majority of global investment in infrastructure. Risk prevention and reduction strategies were also relevant to the business community; in view of the global economic losses sustained in the wake of natural disasters, it was important to address underlying risks in order to ensure sustainability. Assessing the impact and frequency of such events made it possible to estimate the level of risk that economies faced and the cost of inaction. Investment in prevention would ultimately save money by reducing exposure.

Both multinational companies and SMEs needed to understand and integrate risk management into their business strategies since disasters were becoming more frequent and more intense. Disaster risk reduction was a strategy not only for governments, but for the private sector as well; collaboration between them was therefore of paramount importance.

Mr. D. CARTER, *Panellist*, said that his country faced various sustainability challenges, including that of ensuring social sustainability; the large number of Pacific islanders living in the country and its own indigenous population faced real social and economic disadvantages. The national economy was based on agricultural exports, and it was important to protect the environment whilst promoting the New Zealand "brand". Farmers were the driving force behind that approach; the Government had also been working with the business community.

The business sector required certainty and parliaments needed to provide it by setting clear policies on issues such as taxation and Foreign Direct Investment. Governments should consider whether to privatize certain sectors in whole or in part in order to raise money for infrastructure and other programmes.

Ms. L. SHREVE, *Panellist*, said that commercial banks could support sustainable development by mitigating risk and stimulating and financing sustainable business. In order to do so, they must be proactive, have changing portfolios, monitor sustainability targets and take a more ambitious approach to investment while anticipating and focusing on sustainability leaders. For each client, ING Bank developed a tailor-made approach that involved assessing the enterprise and monitoring progress towards sustainability targets. As an example of its investment in sustainability, the Bank's energy portfolio had shifted from a 5 per cent investment in renewable energy in 2000 to a 39 per cent investment in 2013. Thus, it was possible to be more ambitious with regard to sustainability.

Mr. N. TWENEBOA-BOATENG, *Panellist*, stressed the importance of mentorships. SMEs, the backbone of the business sector in Africa, faced many obstacles, including, in order of importance, lack of skills, funding and access to technology. Measures were being taken, in collaboration with Empretec and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to provide training and funding in order to increase their profitability and, ultimately, their contribution to national economic growth. In Africa, SMEs constituted a significant portion of the business sector and it was necessary to support their development, including through investment and creation of an adequate infrastructure.

Mr. H. SUGI (Japan) said that sustainability required more than simple policy adjustments; a common understanding of societies' priorities was needed in order to determine what required protection. Actions should be guided by moral and ethical principles. Sustainability could not be achieved without a shift from self-interested competition towards efforts to support the livelihoods of

others. It was important to work together to build societies that valued the dignity of life, respected present and future generations and appreciated the earth and its ecosystems. It was to be hoped that corporations would act for the benefit of others, looking to the future while pursuing profits in the present.

Lord CHIDGEY (United Kingdom) said that parliaments often lacked the capacity to work with investors; he asked the panellists to share their views in that regard. If elections were thought to cause instability in a democracy, he wondered what the alternative form of government would entail.

Mr. D. CARTER, *Panellist*, said that elections would have no negative impact on a stable democracy. However, from a business point of view, wild policy fluctuations had a destabilizing effect, as did excessive government involvement in the business sector and market deregulation.

Mr. R. MILLINER, *Panellist*, said it was important to ensure that capital remained mobile; certain criteria had to be met in order to attract investment. Although the business sector needed to understand that governments and policies would inevitably change, governments needed to acknowledge that stability and certainty were conducive to business.

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, *Panellist*, pointed out that not all parliaments were at an equal stage of development or had equal access to data and scientific information. It was important to consider ways to obtain and interpret data, as the business sector was already doing, and to examine the ways in which governments used statistics and scientific data to enhance policy-making and assess risks.

Mr. H.R. MOHAMED (United Republic of Tanzania) asked what could be done to protect national resources and ensure peace and stability in vulnerable countries; what steps could be taken to support young entrepreneurs, whose lack of experience made it difficult to obtain funding; and how best to tackle corruption.

Mr. R. MILLINER, *Panellist*, said that governments needed to work with the public and private sectors to increase transparency and that companies should endorse the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Principles of Corporate Governance in order to combat corruption. There was a need to work with both sides of the market with a focus on compliance and on establishing the necessary legal frameworks.

Human capital was an important factor and provided opportunities for businesses to develop. The recommendations made by the B20 covered trade, internships and vocational training; it was also possible to look at labour market flexibility. Countries could learn from one another on such matters. Because youth unemployment was a problem in many countries, training opportunities were critical.

With regard to economic rents, a stable government and clear policies were essential and transparency and benchmarking were key; for example, the issuance of licences for the exploitation of mineral resources must be transparent in order to protect those resources and to ensure that no secret rents or commissions were being taken out of the system. In addition to concessional frameworks, it would be useful to create some form of profit retention tax in order to ensure that retained rents were properly invested in future projects. Norway was a good example of long-term planning strategies in that regard.

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, *Panellist*, said that oversight was part of the parliamentary mandate. With regard to capacity, the IPU tried to implement best practices, but it was up to parliamentarians to introduce the relevant measures. The creation of assets increased exposure to risk; even in the OECD countries, assets were lost faster than wealth was created and, unless risk management strategies were introduced, that vulnerability would increase.

Mr. D. CARTER, *Panellist*, said that in his country, where corruption was not an issue, there was a modern attitude of transparency within the legislative agenda with budgets examined in detail, ministers responding to media enquiries and open access to information. The system ensured a high level of accountability and transparency.

Mr. N. TWENEBOA-BOATENG, *Panellist*, said that banks did not lend indiscriminately; they had an obligation to the customers whose savings they managed. In order to provide support to young people, governments needed to develop programmes without involving banks, such as

schemes to develop young entrepreneurs' business knowledge, mentoring programmes and opportunities for them to work with seasoned business counsellors to ensure that they were able to draft and implement their business plans. If governments laid the groundwork, the banks would find the confidence to invest.

The representative of PAKISTAN asked what steps governments could take to promote corporate investment in sustainable development, especially without relying on public welfare, and how an environment conducive to investment could be created.

Mr. R. MILLINER, *Panellist*, said that, although corporate investment was driven by the obligation to give shareholders a return on their capital, companies were also aware of their obligation to the communities in which they invested. Business looked to government to ensure the consistency, predictability and sustainability of the operating environment and of legislative regimes. Clear investment rules and an even playing field were needed, particularly in developing countries, in order to ensure that initial investors were not given preferential rights that discouraged follow-on investment.

Mr. D. CARTER, *Panellist*, said that it was important for governments to make it easier to do business legally, especially for SMEs, by providing clear operating rules and regulations.

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, *Panellist*, said that it was time to set sustainable development goals for the entire world. However, national economies were at different stages of development and needed different types of investment, as well as strategies that were responsive to domestic needs.

Ms. J.F. AKELLO (Uganda) asked what role parliaments could play in the awarding of contracts and what they could do to provide adequate oversight and mitigate corruption. In particular, she requested the panellist from Australia to comment on legislation governing public-private partnerships and contract awards. She also asked the panellist from Ghana what in his opinion was the biggest challenge facing SMEs and then she asked Mr. Carter to explain what could be done to develop global partnerships and policies to foster sustainable development throughout the world.

Mr. R. MILLINER, *Panellist*, said that it was important to depoliticize investment in infrastructure and to ensure a transparent cost-benefit analysis. The B20 recommendations encouraged governments to establish independent bodies to assess infrastructure projects in order to ensure transparency and provide a clear analysis of the true benefit to the public. Parliamentarians should insist on such independent assessments when public-private partnership contracts were proposed in order to ensure that sufficient details were available and that the real costs and risks assumed were consistent with the results of the initial cost-benefit analysis.

Mr. D. CARTER, *Panellist*, said that his Government examined ways to help other countries achieve their sustainable development goals and, together with Australia, provided support to Pacific Island nations. The main challenge ahead was food security, and responses included the creation of the Global Research Alliance. The Alliance, developed by New Zealand, involved scientists working together to increase food production while mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

The representative of SUDAN asked whether it would be most beneficial for governments to leave investment issues to the private sector. The embargo on Sudan had damaged its domestic industry; developing countries' SMEs needed capital investment from industrialized countries.

Mr. D. CARTER, *Panellist*, said that individual countries faced a range of challenges. Governments had a role to play in providing incentives for basic infrastructure development but, at a later stage, they would need to consider opportunities to privatize certain sectors in whole or in part and to reinvest in other areas.

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, *Panellist*, said that, in order to attract investment, including domestic investment, governments must implement suitable policies and create an enabling environment that could provide the certainty that business needed. Each country needed to find its own niche in attracting investment; moreover, investment and cooperation patterns were changing as a result of increasing South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation schemes. Although access to technology was important, not all countries required cutting-edge technologies.

Mr. R. FINCI (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) asked whether the corporate culture of ING Bank influenced its investment in sustainable development.

Ms. L. SHREVE, *Panellist*, explained that ING Bank had been formed through the merger of a number of smaller banks, one of which had focused on supporting small businesses. The Bank did work to serve the community and its main priority was to protect the savings of its customers. However, its entrepreneurial-minded management recognized the added value of sustainability and therefore supported sustainable companies.

Mr. H. SINGH (India), after recognizing the importance of pursuing sustainable development goals, raised the issue of gaps in financing. There was a need for national policy frameworks in order to secure investment, as well as international support for the development of global policies and the creation of an enabling environment. Developed nations should provide support to developing ones, including through the transfer of technology. He asked the panellists to comment on the need for corporations to take public policy goals into account when creating strategies to enter the markets of developing countries.

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, *Panellist*, said that, without adequate implementation measures, the future sustainable development goals would never be achieved. Access to technology could be more valuable than financial assistance; however, each country had to establish its own approach in light of the needs on the ground.

Mr. M. GONZI (Malta) asked how sustainable development could be achieved in a small island State like Malta, which had limited resources and an economy based on financial services and tourism, and how such development could be fostered in a competitive environment.

Ms. L. SHREVE, *Panellist*, said that companies needed a long-term vision and an innovative spirit. There were opportunities to make business processes more efficient, for example by introducing a circular economy and recycling resources. Smart solutions were available for countries with limited access to resources.

Mr. W. MUTOMBA (Zimbabwe) asked whether the objectives of economic growth and job creation could be expanded from the Group of 20 to include other countries.

Mr. R. MILLINER, *Panellist*, said that there was certainly the potential to extend those objectives beyond the Group of 20 countries; the International Monetary Fund's work on growth targets suggested that there would be a spill-over effect into other economies. Equally, policy priorities and initiatives, such as infrastructure hubs, could be taken up by other countries. Concepts such as trade velocity, global supply chains, trade facilitation and the fostering of a suitable investment climate could increase economic activity on a global scale. The successful implementation of such measures would also provide a good template for other countries.

Mr. N. TWENEBOA-BOATENG, *Panellist*, said that development must be based on the private sector with a focus on SMEs. The greatest problem was that many entrepreneurs did not have the required knowledge to succeed. In Ethiopia, the Government had brought in expert advisors and had implemented an UNCTAD programme to train entrepreneurs. Of course, access to funding was a problem and governments needed seed money for start-up companies as banks would not invest in such ventures. Measures were required to allow entrepreneurs to start small-scale businesses under the guidance of mentors; banks would then be more likely to lend to them.

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, *Panellist*, suggested that, instead of governments providing seed money to young entrepreneurs, the business sector could provide such funding within the framework of corporate social responsibility schemes. It was imperative to empower young people through job training programmes and help them to establish themselves as entrepreneurs or self-employed workers.

Ms. L. SHREVE, *Panellist*, said that the Bank provided access to finance, including microfinance, and supported young entrepreneurs through a series of programmes, including a long-standing sponsorship arrangement with UNICEF and programmes that sent ING staff to coach people in developing countries and gave entrepreneurs an opportunity to win funding for their ideas. Various community-based funding sources existed as well.

Mr. B. GATOBU (Kenya) asked how developing countries could develop their industrial sectors in order to foster more rapid economic growth.

Mr. R. MILLINER, *Panellist*, said that each country must first look to its national advantages and then focus on its industrial policy, selecting appropriate industries to support and carving out areas of advantage. For example, New Zealand focused on food while Bangladesh concentrated its efforts on textiles. Once the market advantage had been identified, the government could set the necessary policies.

Mr. A. ALMANSOORI (United Arab Emirates) said that, in his country, there were government funds to support young entrepreneurs; the main challenges were the creation of infrastructures, the adoption of legislation, technology transfer and market access. It was important to look at investment and development, especially in the industrial sector, where many international companies were causing environmental damage with a significant impact on developing countries while boasting of their environmental credentials. He wondered what the solutions to those problems might be and what role donors and international organizations could play in that regard.

Mr. R. MILLINER, *Panellist*, said that community interests and concerns must be taken into consideration and independent cost-benefit assessments used to ensure transparency. It could be difficult to implement projects and it was important to have a clear set of rules and time frames in order to make the process effective and ensure public confidence in the outcome. While ways to increase the pace of growth and create an adequate infrastructure must be found, it was up to each investing country to ensure that adequate safeguards existed. It was possible to operate global supply chains while ensuring that adequate protection measures were in place.

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, *Panellist*, said that, for the sake of future generations, ways to better utilize existing resources must be found. Under his country's Constitution, the Government was responsible for the stewardship of the country's natural resources. It was essential to take a long-term view, and each country needed to have a clear idea of the minimum level of resources that must remain untouched.

The MODERATOR invited the panellists to offer recommendations.

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, *Panellist*, said that it was critical to consider approaches to understanding and managing risk. He recommended moving from a business continuity model to a risk management model, seeking ways to turn disaster risk management into a business opportunity, creating a balance sheet for disaster risk management and integrating risk management into investment decisions. With regard to public-private partnerships, he recommended the establishment of a protocol that included risk management measures.

Mr. D. CARTER, *Panellist*, stressing the importance of trade facilitation and market access, said that governments and the private sector needed to work together to achieve sustainable development goals. Each economy should identify its competitive advantage and have the opportunity to compete on an equal footing; government-imposed tariffs and subsidies distorted the market. New Zealand's agricultural sector was more market-responsive now that it was no longer heavily subsidized.

Mr. R. MILLINER, *Panellist*, said that there were opportunities for governments to work closely together to meet sustainable development goals, such as through the Global Infrastructure Initiative. It was clear that more must be done to improve the transfer of knowledge and that sharing experiences, particularly across disciplines, was a useful way to address problems. From a business point of view, governments needed to appreciate the importance of predictability, transparency and stability. Companies reacted to risks and were more willing to invest in stable, predictable environments, even if the returns were lower.

Ms. L. SHREVE, *Panellist*, said that it was necessary to view sustainability as a viable business opportunity in order to attract large-scale investment. She welcomed interaction with parliaments and encouraged further debate; it was important to share experiences and stimulate thought on ways to support a sustainable future.

Mr. N. TWENEBOA-BOATENG, *Panellist*, said that it was important to take the private sector into account and that governments needed to support SMEs – which, like Hyundai and

Samsung in the Republic of Korea, could one day become international business giants – through specific programmes, particularly in Africa.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 2.35 p.m., with Mr. R. León (Chile), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Interactive debate on *Shaping a new system of water governance: Promoting parliamentary action on water*

The PRESIDENT explained that the interactive debate would be organized around the theme of the Committee's future draft resolution, which was expected to be adopted at the 132nd Assembly in Hanoi. He then introduced the panellists: Ms. Elodie Tranchez, an expert on water governance from WaterLex, Mr. Alejandro Iza, Head of the Environmental Law Programme, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Ms. Nola Marino, Australia, and Mr. Fernando Bustamante, Ecuador.

Ms. E. TRANCHEZ, *Panellist*, gave a presentation on access to safe drinking water, stressing that water was a basic human right to which everyone, and particularly vulnerable groups such as women and children, must have access. In view of the widespread corruption, it was vital to adhere to the principle of accountability. One of the challenges to be overcome was ensuring water quality since most wastewater flowed untreated into rivers; water treatment was therefore a priority. However, the significant levels of energy required to process wastewater posed an additional challenge.

Competing uses of water placed pressure on natural resources. As well as being a basic human need, water was required by the industry, energy and agriculture sectors. In order to address those competing demands, integrated water management strategies were required. Coordinated resource management would promote social and economic welfare and the sustainability of water systems. There was also a need for better coordination between ministerial bodies in fields such as health, agriculture and industry. There were serious challenges ahead, but also great opportunities. Good practices could be shared, and it was time to make sustainable development goals on water a priority for the post-2015 development agenda. Now more than ever, parliamentarians' voices mattered.

Mr. A. IZA, *Panellist*, said that the management of transboundary rivers and lake basins posed a challenge for governments. More than half of all transboundary rivers were unregulated or regulated inadequately in light of current challenges. Closer cooperation and agreements were needed in order to establish a governance framework and promote the equitable distribution and use of resources. Water governance was increasingly a matter of global concern, giving rise to conflicts between and within States. It was therefore important to take jurisdictional issues into account and foster the equitable use of water. Climate change was another factor to be considered. For transboundary water agreements to be effective, the support of water users at multiple levels was necessary.

Under the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, States parties were obliged to cooperate, avoid causing transboundary harm, protect ecosystems, resolve regulatory issues and create dispute settlement mechanisms. Once ratified, those instruments must be incorporated into domestic law and implemented at the national level.

Ms. N. MARINO, *Panellist*, pointed out that Australia was the second driest continent on earth. Under her country's federal system, states and territories were responsible for water governance. There were policies in place at the national level, but cross-border measures were only implemented where bodies of water were physically connected. In 1994, the governments of the states and territories had addressed the financial, economic and environmental implications of water reform, looking at issues such as consumption, ownership, water rights, economic regulation, planning and management. It had been concluded that it was impossible to manage what could not

be measured; since then, data on annual flows into each catchment basin, the amount of water lost through evaporation and transpiration and the sustainable diversion limits that could be set without causing environmental damage had been recorded. Each state was responsible for setting such limits, which were reviewed on a regular basis. Limits were also placed on the volume of water available for human consumption, industry and irrigation and under licences issued for environmental use. For each category, permanent water entitlements, which could not be converted from one category to another, were granted. Checks and balances were in place for the granting of entitlements, which could only be traded within catchments, and vulnerable users were protected by prohibition of the sale of entitlements for other uses. That system had proved extremely effective.

Mr. F. BUSTAMANTE, *Panellist*, said that, under his country's Constitution, nature – the land itself – was considered to have rights; thus, the Government was obliged to protect the country's natural resources. The Constitution also enshrined water as a fundamental right essential to life and prohibited its privatization. Only the State could provide water services, which were then managed by the central authorities, municipalities and regions. By law, the first priority was to provide water for human consumption. Only when that need had been met could it be used for food production, and only in an economically sustainable manner. The commercial production of food for export, in turn, took priority over industrial uses. There was a single water authority, which was responsible for the public management of water, and an advisory council, which exerted moral authority. Consultations had been held with civil society before the relevant legislation had been adopted. It was too soon to tell, but there was hope that the country's water management system would be sustainable and fair and would respect the rights of communities and the environment. Lastly, he noted that, in Ecuador, the use of land and the management of water resources by the indigenous population was a sensitive inter-cultural issue.

The PRESIDENT commented that 70 per cent of the world's water reserves were to be found in the southern part of Chile and Argentina in the form of glaciers; there was an ongoing debate on how to ensure that the mining sector did not damage them and to protect underground water resources. Some viewed glaciers as the "lungs" of the world and believed that the increasing frequency of earthquakes was a consequence of the loss of excessive water from those the glaciers through climate change. It was imperative for parliaments to look into water issues for the sake of future generations.

Mr. J. DE MATOS ROSA (Portugal) said that lack of access to drinking water posed a threat to public health and economic growth, jeopardizing trade and perpetuating poverty. Meanwhile, floods and landslides brought death and devastated territories. If nothing changed, the gap between supply and demand would soon affect 40 per cent of the global population. Water and health were inextricably linked, as evidenced by the fact that water-borne diseases were the second leading cause of death in children under five. It was vital to provide access to water for all and to combat wasteful use. That goal was a challenge for all stakeholders, particularly as decisions made outside the water sector had an impact on water management. It was necessary to clarify roles, including those of governments and civil society, in developing and implementing policies, setting standards and regulating prices and tax benefits. Gender equality should also be pursued by ensuring that women played a role in the management of water resources.

Fortunately, the water-related objectives established in the MDGs had been achieved ahead of the target date. However, more work lay ahead. His Government's green growth strategy sought to increase efficiency and restructure the water sector by introducing a range of measures, including those designed to strengthen regulatory bodies and promote more integrated management strategies. The general framework was provided by the country's legislation on water, which transposed Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (the "Water Framework Directive") into domestic law. With European Union funding, Portugal had invested in water-related infrastructure and supply and wastewater treatment with a positive impact on health, the environment, economic development and quality of life. However, further action was required. Only cooperation between governments would lead to the achievement of common goals.

Mr. G. VARNAVA (Cyprus) said that water was essential to life and growth; its scarcity, partly as a result of climate change, was a significant problem in the Mediterranean region. Desertification was a growing problem and water shortages could have a negative impact on food security. There was a need for responsible and consistent action.

In the wake of the global financial crisis, Cyprus was redefining its priorities in order to foster recovery and growth, focusing on the sustainable management of natural resources as part of an integrated environmental policy based on three priorities: providing a safe and reliable water supply; addressing water scarcity, drought and the impact of climate change; and harmonizing domestic water law with European legislation. Water development projects included supply and irrigation schemes, wastewater treatment plants and the construction of dams. Since the country continued to depend on rainfall, attention had been shifted to non-conventional water resources, such as sea water desalination plants and the use of recycled water. Water-saving measures for public buildings and households were also promoted. At the international level, cooperation was essential; Cyprus was collaborating with other countries in the area of water resource management. The solution lay in reform, and it was necessary to exert pressure on governments to ensure effective implementation of the measures needed in order to achieve sustainable water management in the future.

Mr. R. SINGH (India) stressed that water was a fundamental right; water scarcity and poor water quality had a negative impact on development. Population growth and indiscriminate water use placed considerable pressure on water resources as demand outstripped supply. India had developed an integrated water policy, which sought to provide a framework for its equitable distribution and management. Measures were being taken in order to reduce pollution, recycle and treat wastewater, clean up rivers and ensure access to safe drinking water.

Water was an issue high on his Parliament's agenda and a parliamentary forum on water conservation had been established to identify problems and make recommendations. The challenges ahead required a paradigm shift, namely a multi-disciplinary and participatory approach designed to manage water usage effectively and adaptation strategies to mitigate the likely impact of climate change, such as flooding. Parliaments could play a proactive role in raising awareness among decision-makers, promoting a water-centric perspective and implementing the relevant legislation.

Mr. M. SOUBAR (Jordan) said, according to the Koran, water was the source of life. Jordan was one of the poorest countries with regard to water resources, but it was also a hospitable nation and the cradle of democracy in the region. Since 1948, it had hosted large numbers of Palestinian and Iraqi refugees, sharing all its resources with them. As a result, a significant percentage of its energy and water had been depleted. In addition, certain countries had violated international conventions to prevent Jordan from obtaining its share of drinking water.

Mr. H. HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, although all life came from water and that access to water was a human right, water shortages in the developing world were endangering lives as millions perished from waterborne diseases. In many parts of the world, water posed a greater threat to security than armed conflict; indeed, it risked becoming the grounds for conflict, as had occurred in the Middle East, particularly with regard to shared water resources. As it was not possible to increase the existing supply of water, its management and use must be improved. However, the required political will appeared to be lacking. It was essential to establish and implement comprehensive programmes to ensure access to water for all. In the search for solutions, shared interests should take precedence over individual ones. It would also be beneficial to create national and regional policies, provide increased international assistance to developing countries and make multilateral efforts to combat the problem of water access.

Mr. A. ALGHAMDI (Saudi Arabia) said that water was a key natural resource that was vital to future prosperity and stability. Access was a serious problem, particularly in the developing world. The management of water resources required an appropriate legal framework and new policies to improve water use. His country's water resources were already under stress and the situation was likely to become even more acute in the future. His Government was taking steps to prevent water shortages, including by rationalizing agricultural water use, removing incentives for wheat production and establishing mechanisms to control and protect water resources. Saudi Arabia was the world's largest producer of desalinated water and planned to further invest in desalination technology in order to meet 80 per cent of its water needs from that source. The problem of water scarcity required better governance; a radically new approach, with parliaments playing a leading role in formulating and implementing water policies and legislation, was required.

Mr. T. FUKUI (Japan) said that parliamentarians should acknowledge the importance of the proper management of water resources. He provided an overview of the relevant measures taken in Japan, including a water and sanitation board partnership initiative that provided support for a range of water management and conservation projects. His country had also enacted legislation on water circulation and the effective use of rainwater. Recycling rainwater would benefit Japan and other countries with limited water resources, as well as helping to avoid water-related disputes. In 2010, his country had taken the lead in the adoption of United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/153 on follow-up to the International Year of Sanitation; it had also supported global initiatives to promote sustainable sanitation. It had undertaken to supply safe drinking water to approximately 20 million people and to provide training in water management. Japan would continue to play a significant role in the effort to address water-related problems.

Mr. B.-H. CHOI (Republic of Korea) lamented the fact that thousands of children died every day as a result of contaminated water. The growing demand for water, exacerbated by climate change, increased the threat of water shortages. Increased investment in water and sanitation was essential and water should remain a priority in debates on the post-2015 development agenda. It was also important to establish effective international water governance; cooperation was essential in that regard. He encouraged his fellow parliamentarians to attend the 7th World Water Forum, to be hosted by the Republic of Korea in 2015.

Mr. Z. CAI (China) said that, because water was essential to sustainable development, States should establish an institutional framework for water policies in order to create a better future for the next generation. His Government was taking a wide range of measures on water-related matters and was endeavouring to ensure consistency by reforming its water management at the national level through the adoption of legislation, cooperation with municipalities, the establishment of a water governance network whereby ministries could share information, and public awareness-raising on water legislation and management.

Mrs. Z. BENAROUS (Algeria) said that inadequate water management contributed to natural disasters and that, as a result of climate change, millions of people lacked access to water. Water was a "blue treasure" and should be managed in an equitable manner. In Algeria, the ministry responsible for water management had ordered the construction of numerous dams and wastewater treatment plans. Companies were responsible for the distribution of water for domestic use and regional partnerships had been established at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. Algeria also cooperated with Spain to manage water resources in the western Mediterranean region.

Mrs. M. AL-TEMEMI (Iraq) said that her country faced water capacity problems as a result of Turkish activities that had caused a significant decrease in water flow. The management of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers was a legal problem; the violation of agreements on transboundary surface waters by neighbouring countries had had an impact on Iraq. States must work with their neighbours to ensure that their access to water did not have a detrimental impact on other countries.

Mr. M. AMWEELO (Namibia) recalled that paragraph 2 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/292 on the human right to water and sanitation called on States to help developing countries to ensure access to safe, clean water and sanitation for all. Millions of people depended on shared water resources; his own country shared all of its perennial rivers and large aquifers with its neighbours. As demand increased, so did the need for cooperation between countries in order to better manage water resources. The right to water and sanitation was protected under various agreements to which Namibia was a party, including the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Its water resources were extremely precious and efforts were being made to find new sources of water. The country was also involved in water recycling schemes and a recycling plant provided water to the capital.

His Government had introduced an integrated approach to water management in order to ensure effective transboundary basin management and cooperation. Namibia's National Human Rights Action Plan focused, among other issues, on the right to water and sanitation. He urged the IPU and developed countries to take the lead in providing capacity-building to developing countries. It was also essential for national parliaments to play a role in ensuring oversight, technology transfer, the provision of training in water resource management, the adoption of water policies and the drafting and implementation of national and international legislation.

Mrs. F. AL FARSI (Oman) said that water was closely linked to development and that its use and management must be rationalized within a suitable legal framework. The public and private sectors should work together to protect water resources. Her Government attached great importance to the harvesting of rain water, water recycling and desalination. A national desalination strategy and a project designed to protect drinking water were being implemented and efforts were being made to consolidate the existing system with a focus on the allocation of water to certain sectors. Oman had also participated in geological mapping schemes and studies designed to consolidate research in the field, and was involved in international water cooperation efforts.

Mrs. S. TIOULONG (Cambodia) said that international legislation must be transposed into domestic law. Efficient management of water resources was urgently needed; soon there would not be enough drinking water for all. Parliamentarians should pay particular attention to and work together on such issues. In South-East Asia, countries situated along the Mekong River and its tributaries should cooperate in protecting their peoples' needs. Only parliamentarians who were close to their constituents could understand the needs on the ground, bridge the gap between governments and the people and help resolve water use conflicts between upstream and downstream countries. Parliaments should also be involved in international negotiations, oversee the implementation of international treaties and conduct environmental impact surveys.

Mr. D. MAHABIR (Trinidad and Tobago) stressed the need to recycle water but noted that the process required energy and might not be cost-effective for poor countries. In order to guarantee the water supply for the future, steps should be taken to develop systems that used solar energy to recycle freshwater; it was also possible to desalinate sea water. However, such measures required IPU members to collaborate on solar technology so that drinking water could be supplied to coastal communities and piped inland at no cost to the consumer.

Mr. M.R.H. HARRAJ (Pakistan) said that water governance was a key part of the sustainable development framework. It was essential to establish effective political, social, economic and administrative systems to ensure efficient water use and management. Water resources were under stress owing to a range of factors, including declining capacity, ageing infrastructures, desertification and rapid urbanization. Parliaments had a vital role to play in formulating, adopting and ensuring the effective implementation of water management legislation. Water was becoming a more expensive resource and sufficient political will was required to prevent conflicts with regard to its use.

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine) said that in Palestine, the occupying power, Israel, controlled all resources, including water. Water from the West Bank was used in Israeli settlements to water gardens and fill swimming pools, while Palestinians had difficulties in obtaining access to water for drinking and everyday use. Israel was also drawing off water illegally from the Jordan River. That problem, coupled with the fact that the water levels in the Dead Sea were falling steadily, compounded the difficult situation in Palestine.

Mr. R. MHONE (Malawi) said that water was life. Malawi's economy was based on agriculture, and climate change was having a huge impact on the availability of water. Although rainfall was heavy, the country lacked the knowledge and skills needed in order to capture and store it. Legislation was important, but developing countries also required technical support. Another issue that would grow in significance as water resources became scarcer was the impact of international treaties on State boundaries and transboundary water resources.

Mr. H.R. MOHAMED (United Republic of Tanzania) said that there was no life without water and ensuring accountability in water management should be placed on the international agenda as a cross-cutting issue. The IPU, in collaboration with UN agencies, should address the issue of water management and establish a common implementation programme. His country had a plan for ensuring access to clean and safe water, to be funded through a public-private partnership with multinational corporations under a social cooperation scheme.

He wondered whether the panellists could share data on the volume and sources of groundwater and approaches to water collection. Water recycling technology should be made available to developing countries through financial and technical assistance from developed countries.

Lord CHIDGEY (United Kingdom) noted that previous programmes, such as those introduced as part of the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' (2005-2015), had not been successful owing to the complex nature of the problem. Many people still lacked access to water, and inconsistencies in national legal frameworks were linked to inconsistencies in water supply and management; a more robust legal framework was needed. Even in Europe, there were wide seasonal variations in water supply with periods of drought followed by severe flooding. However, a one-size-fits-all approach could not be adopted; what was appropriate for management of the Nile region was not appropriate for southern Africa. Countries should work together.

Ms. M. GREEN (Sweden) stressed that access to clean water was a human right and global solidarity was needed in order to ensure its enjoyment. Nearly 800 million people had no access to clean water and women and children were particularly vulnerable to poor sanitation. Those who had access to water wielded power over those who did not. For example, in the Middle East, where water scarcity was a major problem, Jewish settlements were piping drinking water away from the Palestinians. Her Government planned to provide financial assistance to Gaza with a view to improving its access to water.

Mrs. Y. FERRER GÓMEZ (Cuba) expressed concern regarding the lack of access to drinking water and sanitation in developing countries. Water was a fundamental human right and Cuba supported parliamentary action in that regard. International cooperation, financial support and technology transfer were essential if developing countries were to improve access to drinking water and tackle the problem of contaminated water supplies. As a result of measures taken by Cuba since 1995, 97 per cent of its population had access to drinking water and basic sanitation services. Increasing access further was a priority for parliament. Legislation had been adopted and educational programmes implemented in order to raise awareness of the need to protect water resources, and the privatization of water and sanitation services was prohibited. It was vital to ensure the equitable use of resources, the transfer of technology and the provision of adequate services. Countries had common but differentiated responsibilities and developed countries should provide assistance to help developing countries meet their development goals.

Mr. C. ABELA (Malta) said that access to water was a global issue and it was important to monitor progress in that regard. Even small countries such as Malta should ensure that water was used wisely. The Constitution granted the Government ownership rights with the responsibility to ensure proper governance, and the water supply was managed by the Malta Resources Authority. It was important to guarantee water quality and control the quantity used. Water also had a financial impact on public finance; for example, in his country, desalination was expensive. Parliament debated the issue on an annual basis and worked to monitor and implement water strategies. Challenges included improving water distribution, avoiding leakage, managing storm water, improving the water supply, preventing the illegal extraction of water from boreholes and, above all, improving water governance.

Mr. R. ALSHURAIQI (United Arab Emirates) said that regional parliaments must cooperate to implement international water conventions. Improved resource management would help to improve human health and prevent disease. It was important to consider a range of water-related issues, such as irrigation, shared water resources and transboundary waters, and to organize workshops with experts in the field. Between 2009 and 2013, his country had provided international assistance on water issues and had helped to fund water projects in a number of countries. In 2014, it had launched an initiative that sought to supply water and, in particular, drinking water to millions throughout the world. It also sponsored an international prize of \$1 million for finding sustainable solutions to water shortages through the use of solar energy to desalinate and purify water.

Mr. V.P. NGUYEN (Viet Nam) said that, at the national level, parliaments should focus on improving legislation and establishing a budget for water governance; without adequate funding and oversight, it would be impossible to improve the situation. At the international level, it was vital to ratify and monitor the implementation of conventions in order to establish a legal framework for water governance, an issue that should be incorporated into parliamentary diplomacy. It was also important to establish a dialogue between parliaments in order to share experiences on issues such as law-making and the implementation of legislation on water resource management.

Mr. W. ADAMU (Ethiopia) said that his Government had drawn up a water resource management policy that sought to promote effective, equitable and optimum use with a view to sustainable development. Water was a common good and the policy, which included environmental protection and sustainability measures, was designed to ensure that all citizens had water to meet their basic needs. A number of water supply systems had already been constructed in both urban and rural areas.

Mr. B. MERJANEH (Syrian Arab Republic) stressed that water was a fundamental right and that more funding for improving access to it should be made available. He condemned the violations taking place in his country, where terrorists had cut off the supply of water to households in Aleppo and prevented repair work on the pipes, leaving 3 million people without water for the three hottest months of the year. Such tactics constituted crimes against humanity. During crises, steps must be taken to ensure that water was distributed to all. His country was the cradle of peace and its people should be allowed to make their own choices and live their lives in peace.

Mr. F. Bustamante (Ecuador) took the Chair.

Mr. A. CISSÉ (Mali) pointed out that that, in some parts of the world, women had to walk long distances to obtain water. It was important to focus on the management of shared water resources in order to ensure access to water for all.

Mr. A.H. MAHADI (Sudan) said that his Government had brought in water experts, introduced legislation and built bridges and tunnels to improve water access. It was important to consider how water resources were shared and governed. There was a need for additional framework agreements in order to avoid conflicts over access to water and the IPU should focus on that issue.

Mr. F.W. BOKONA (Democratic Republic of the Congo) noted that water was scarce in Africa. Half of the continent's water resources lay within the borders of his country and its national legislation on water was being updated. The IPU should encourage parliaments to enact legislation to protect water resources and the UN should be involved in water management efforts in order to ensure access and prevent conflicts. It was important to enshrine the right to water in international instruments, establish an adequate legal framework in that regard and lobby for ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses.

Mr. W. MUTOMBA (Zimbabwe) said that water governance should focus on integrated management, including by clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders with regard to the ownership and management of water resources, fostering intersectoral dialogue and coordination, addressing the issue of water rights and permits, regulating prices and subsidies and providing tax incentives and credits. Water reform was also linked to macroeconomics, demographics and social and political stability. Civil society should be kept informed about water issues.

It was impossible to discuss water governance without addressing the issue of land reform. In Zimbabwe, steps were being taken to ensure that the disadvantaged black majority had access to water. The reforms had been driven by the global concern for more sustainable approaches to water management and the need to update the country's legislation on water-related matters in order to make it more flexible. The measures taken had included replacing water rights with permits, prohibiting the private ownership of water and creating stakeholder-driven councils to participate in decision-making on water allocation and management. The management of water resources had been decentralized and the councils were responsible for plans at the catchment level. The reforms had, however, stalled following the imposition of sanctions on Zimbabwe as important donors had withdrawn their funding. It was time to consolidate water governance structures and programmes under existing regional and international protocols.

Mr. O. HAV (Denmark) stressed that water was not a business opportunity but a biological need and that the primary challenge was to secure access for all. It was important to establish plans for the use, distribution and protection of water resources, implement measures to prevent flooding and mitigate its impact and introduce cost-effective technology to protect water as a human right.

Mr. L. SANG (Kenya) said that Kenya was taking steps to improve water services and promote sustainability, including by setting specific targets. Provisions relating to environmental protection were enshrined in the Constitution. His Government faced a range of challenges, including water scarcity, conflicts over access, drought, corruption and the degradation of catchment basins. Parliament's role included oversight of water governance, while the regional governments were responsible for the implementation of national policies. There was, however, a need for capacity-building and access to technology.

Mr. V.A. STERIU (Romania) said that water was crucial to people and the environment. Water and sanitation were essential public services and should be included among the sustainable development goals as part of the post-2015 development agenda. From a human rights perspective, it was important to look at ways to prioritize water access and at the role of parliaments in that regard.

Mr. M. SOUBAR (Jordan) said that water management was high on the international agenda as a major challenge faced by most countries. As representatives of their people, parliamentarians had an important role to play in addressing that challenge; they should develop a framework for water management and ensure that it was conducive to implementation. The current meeting of the Standing Committee should be not simply a forum for discussion of the issue, but an opportunity to identify strategies for implementation. Parliaments should adopt water management plans and strategies to protect water resources, review the existing legislation on such matters and enhance its enforcement, encourage the preparation of studies on water desalination, protect groundwater and improve its storage using water replenishment strategies, develop programmes to treat and recycle wastewater and agricultural drainage, and enhance cooperation with their countries' governments in designing policies and plans capable of addressing the challenges faced by the water sector.

Mr. I. CASSIS (Switzerland), *Co-rapporteur*, said that water was indeed a blue treasure, as the delegate from Algeria had described it, and that all life sprung from water. Water shortages were a major problem. Many speakers had mentioned the need for technologies to facilitate sustainable water management, and it was essential for the IPU to address that issue. The two expert panellists had highlighted the importance of considering how water was used and the need to enact legislation and cooperation measures. International resolutions were meaningless unless they were incorporated into national legislation by parliamentarians.

The delegate from China had pointed out that regulations were necessary, while the representatives of Australia and Ecuador had provided examples of different national approaches to water management. The future resolution would reflect the fact that, as noted by the delegates from Sweden, Palestine and Iraq, water was an instrument of power. Its use should be rationalized and, as noted by the representative of Trinidad, it should be recycled. The technology needed in order to rationalize water use would be expensive and it was also necessary to invest in improving water access, points stressed by the representatives of Pakistan and Namibia, among others. It was important to establish a legal framework at the domestic level, as mentioned by the representative of Saudi Arabia, who had also called for water to be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda. The relevant international instruments should be incorporated into domestic law and it would be beneficial to share good practices in that regard, for example at the 132nd Assembly in Hanoi. The need for cooperation in preventing natural disasters had also been mentioned. Parliaments must be aware of their responsibilities and should focus on adopting legislation, monitoring its implementation and endeavouring to settle water-related disputes.

Mr. J.J. MWIIMBU (Zambia), *Co-rapporteur*, said that the following issues had emerged from the discussion: the need to ensure the equity of water services, conflicts resulting from poor water governance, environmental degradation, poverty, the importance of a holistic approach in striking a balance between personal and industrial use of water, and the impact of climate change in the form of droughts or flooding. The innovative approach adopted in Ecuador, which had integrated the rights of the land into its Constitution, reflected the special emphasis that its Government placed on protecting the environment. The co-Rapporteurs would endeavour to integrate the views of all the speakers into the draft resolution.

The CHAIR invited the panellists to make concluding remarks.

Ms. E. TRANCHEZ, *Panellist*, said she agreed that a water-related goal should be included in the future sustainable development goals. Parliamentarians could place pressure on governments to take that step, for example at the 7th World Water Forum in the Republic of Korea.

Mr. A. IZA, *Panellist*, said that a policy objective of ensuring the inclusion of water in the sustainable development goals could supplement the ongoing endeavours to strengthen water governance at the national and transboundary levels. It was also important to put in place clear legislative and institutional frameworks, set sustainable development goals and ensure the effective implementation of legislation.

Mr. BUSTAMANTE, *Panellist*, speaking as a panellist, said that politicians should speak for the electorate; they represented those who were far from the decision-making process and lacked access to water and other resources. In particular, the voices of indigenous communities should be heard and their situation should be a priority. It was necessary to consider the environmental impact of every proposed activity, bearing in mind that, if humanity destroyed the natural world, it would also destroy itself.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 14 OCTOBER

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.40 a.m., with Mrs. D.-T. Avgerinopoulou (Greece), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-IV/131/A.1)

The PRESIDENT said she took it that the Committee wished to adopt the agenda.

It was so decided.

Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 130th IPU Assembly in Geneva (March 2014)

The PRESIDENT said she took it that the Committee wished to approve the summary records of its previous session, held in Geneva in March 2014.

It was so decided.

Interactive debate with Professor Alfred de Zayas, United Nations Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

The PRESIDENT drew attention to a number of examples of cooperation between the United Nations and the IPU, including the May 2014 adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/272 on interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The resolution was based on recommendations made by the Standing Committee during the 130th IPU Assembly, held in March 2014. Several members of parliament had represented the IPU at a number of UN meetings, including the High-level Political Forum 2014, held in New York from 30 June to 9 July 2014 under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, and a side event held on the occasion of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, at which IPU Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 23, *Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, had been launched. A full list of activities was included in the documentation for the present meeting. She encouraged the participants to attend the Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, to be held in New York in November 2014.

She then introduced the guest speaker, Professor Alfred de Zayas, United Nations Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order.

Professor A. DE ZAYAS, after welcoming the important contribution of the IPU to democracy, said that he had been considering the concepts of public participation in national decision-making processes and the equitable participation of all countries in decision-making at the global level. He highlighted the different forms of democratic governance, including the direct democracy exercised in Switzerland and the most common model of parliamentary democracy, and said he had recommended that a study should be conducted with a view to the possible establishment of a United Nations parliamentary assembly that could promote a shift to a more democratic and equitable world order. However, it would be important to prevent duplication between the work of such an assembly and that of the IPU. Another problem was the "disconnect" between the public and those in power; he intended to work closely with parliaments to see how that issue could be addressed.

After welcoming the various IPU declarations and resolutions on democracy and human rights, such as the 1997 Universal Declaration on Democracy and the 2013 Quito Communiqué, he drew attention to the recommendations to parliaments contained in paragraphs 74 to 78 of his third report to the UN Human Rights Council (A/HRC/27/51). Among other things, he had recommended that "parliamentarians should regularly inform, and consult with, their constituents, particularly on matters of fiscal and budget priorities. They should resist the pressure of vested interests, and the lobbies of defence contractors and others belonging to the military-industrial complex", who often provided funding to electoral campaigns.

He had also recommended the establishment of cross-party parliamentary committees to oversee and monitor defence spending. Given the financial crisis and the need for austerity measures, there seemed to be a moral crisis of priorities: in many countries, huge sums of money were being spent on defence procurement and research into military technologies, while cuts were being made in health and education budgets. Moreover, it was unclear to what extent such spending was being discussed by parliamentarians and whether their constituents were fully aware of the issue. All States should agree to cut their annual military spending by, for example, 10 per cent of the current US\$ 1.3 trillion, leaving no one at a disadvantage, and allocate the savings to peacetime industries. Because military budgets were often complex, more training for parliamentarians was needed. Although many countries had such programmes, it was important to note that military spending was not limited to ministries of defence; funding was also allocated to research and intelligence. Parliaments should develop inter-parliamentary capacity-building and cooperation programmes in order to strengthen the oversight functions of young democracies.

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine) expressed his delegation's appreciation for the recent adoption of Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1 on ensuring respect for international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and particularly its condemnation of Israel's excessive use of force and of the high level of casualties and its call for international protection of the Palestinian people. He noted that Israel was the only State in the region that had nuclear weapons and endorsed the United Nations call for it to disarm.

The PRESIDENT recalled that the issue raised by the representative of Palestine had recently been discussed by the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions.

Mrs. A. WAHOME (Kenya) said that ensuring public participation was a significant challenge, particularly for newly-elected members of parliament. The public often had very high expectations of their elected officials, which were difficult to fulfil. The Constitution of Kenya provided for the participation of private individuals in political life, for example by attending conferences and sending memorandums asking their elected representatives to raise issues in Parliament. In addition, the national budget, including military spending, now fell under parliamentary mandate. However, there had been increasing inconsistency in the courts' interpretation of Parliament's oversight role.

Mr. F. ALSHAYEE (Kuwait) said that his delegation welcomed the idea that constituents should play a role in decision-making and that ongoing cooperation was needed. In Kuwait, citizens could bring appeals against legislation before the Constitutional Court. Parliaments had an important role to play in many areas, including education, respect for cultural diversity and equality.

Mr. A. COSTA (Portugal) said that he welcomed the proposal to establish a United Nations parliamentary assembly; current cooperation between the United Nations and the IPU was insufficient and more parliamentarians should play an active role in the UN system. The IPU had an important role to play in that respect. In addition, bodies such as the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO should be integrated into the UN system and be subjected to parliamentary scrutiny at the global level. He asked the Independent Expert what steps he considered necessary to achieve such a result.

Professor A. DE ZAYAS said he agreed that organizations such as the World Bank and the IMF should be integrated into the UN system in order to make them accountable to the people; they often functioned in an undemocratic fashion with agreements, particularly on free trade, negotiated behind closed doors. In his most recent report to the Human Rights Council, he had recommended that they should be included in the proposed UN parliamentary assembly. Such an assembly could be an advisory body, operating in parallel with the UN General Assembly, or it could be incorporated into the UN system. It would be vital to ensure cooperation and dialogue between the IPU and any such body in order to avoid competition and duplication of work.

Responding to the representative of Kenya, he acknowledged that constituents often had high expectations of their elected representatives and that a failure to meet those expectations could contribute to voter absenteeism, which eroded the legitimacy of governments. Parliamentarians should work proactively to keep their constituents informed of the issues and to ensure that they understood the latter's needs and desires. He supported the holding of national referendums on important issues, and even the concept of global referendums; if such a referendum had been held prior to the invasion of Iraq, the vast majority of the global population would have opposed it.

Mr. W. MARK (Trinidad and Tobago) asked whether the Independent Expert considered the current expectations and demands of citizens to be at odds with existing democratic institutions, particularly in light of the rapid changes in scientific and technological knowledge, and how the gap between the people's aspirations and the ability of parliaments to respond could be reduced. Many developing countries lacked the tools to properly scrutinize budgets, and particularly defence spending; what could be done to address that issue?

Mr. A. ALMANSOORI (United Arab Emirates) asked what kind of mechanism was required to ensure that the United Nations listened to the IPU. Parliaments were often slow-moving bodies and communication through new types of media, including social media, was rapid. While democracy was vital, it had to come from the people; it could not be built by the United Nations, although that body had an important role to play. It was also important to take country situations into account in that regard.

Mr. A. NÚÑEZ BETANCOURT (Cuba) asked whether the Independent Expert considered that the global social and political situation and unilateral coercive measures, such as increased military expenditure, impeded a democratic and equitable world order and what parliamentarians should do to address the underlying problems.

Mr. H.B. NARAYAN SINGH (India) encouraged the Independent Expert to study the functioning of international institutions and make recommendations as to how they could become more democratic and equitable. In order for the United Nations to remain relevant, it needed to evolve and adapt to the changing international order and the Independent Expert could play an important role in that regard. His delegation did not support the creation of new global bodies since it was difficult to see how their democratic nature could be ensured and how they would be financed. India was, however, firmly committed to the principle of self-determination, which enabled people to freely choose their own form of government and allowed all segments of society to participate in national decision-making through representative, democratic institutions.

Mr. M.A.H. AL AMIN (Sudan) said that developing countries needed large military budgets to ensure national security in the face of numerous threats, such as tribal wars, rebel movements and internal conflicts. He wondered how they could exercise the same power as the larger and more powerful developed countries.

The PRESIDENT suggested that, in light of the limited time available, delegates wishing to ask the Independent Expert additional questions should do so via email after the meeting. A platform for dialogue could also be developed in order to facilitate consultations. The partnership between the UN and the IPU had yet to be developed to its full potential. The Standing Committee could play a particularly important role in that regard as it was mandated to convene hearings with UN officials, review the fulfilment of international commitments, exercise a degree of oversight in respect of UN operations and provide parliamentary input to major UN processes.

Professor A. DE ZAYAS said that all countries needed to take steps to reform their institutions and ensure that they were democratic. While the media facilitated that process, they were becoming increasingly corporate bodies and were not adequately playing their proper role of informing the public. It was important to ensure that the veto power in the UN Security Council was not misused. The issue of unilateral sanctions was complex; the Human Rights Council had organized a workshop on the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, held in Geneva on 23 May 2014, and its Advisory Committee was planning to carry out a study on the legality and impact of such measures.

He reiterated that the proposed global parliamentary assembly, if established, must not duplicate the work of other bodies but stressed the need to give civil society a genuine voice in international institutions. UN reform was key, as was proper use of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism. He understood that some countries felt the need to increase military spending as a deterrent; however, that problem could be resolved if the use or threat of force were less frequently employed. Lastly, he welcomed the IPU resolution, *Towards a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World: The Contribution of Parliaments*, adopted at the 130th Assembly.

Mrs. E. NURSANTY (Indonesia) stressed that her country disagreed with the views on self-determination expressed by the Independent Expert in his 2013 report to the General Assembly (A/68/284, annex); West Papua would always be part of Indonesia's territory.

Panel discussion on the role of corporations in UN decision-making

The SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE introduced the panellists: Mr. Jens Martens, Executive Director, Global Policy Forum, Ms. Petra Bayr, Austria, and Ambassador John Kakonge, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The discussion would be moderated by Mr. Alessandro Motter, Senior Adviser, IPU.

The MODERATOR noted that, since 2000, relations between the United Nations and the corporate world had been growing closer. Corporations could not be seen as civil society organizations as they had economic interests and tremendous financial power. They were becoming increasingly active in developing countries, which they viewed as market opportunities and which, in turn, viewed them as funding opportunities. The increase in global inequality had coincided with an increased level of private sector activity within the United Nations, and he wondered whether closer scrutiny of such relationships was needed.

Mr. J. MARTENS, *Panellist*, said that there were now more than 1,000 partnerships between the United Nations and corporations. UN organizations were becoming increasingly dependent upon private sector funding; for example, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was the second biggest contributor to the WHO and some UN institutions were primarily dependent on private funding, which amounted to giving the private sector a say in global governance. Corporations were becoming interested in funding UN institutions and programmes as a means of solving problems, promoting their interests, improving their reputations and preventing the adoption of more binding rules and regulations.

The MODERATOR asked how much support the concepts of corporate social responsibility and voluntary compliance had received from governments and whether there had been active lobbying by the private sector at the national level to prevent the development of binding regulations.

Mr. J. MARTENS, *Panellist*, said that governments and parliaments tended to seek pragmatic solutions, of which corporate social responsibility was one; it was difficult to impose binding regulations on big business. Parliamentarians faced the power of transnational corporations on a daily basis as they lobbied for or against such regulations according to their interests. Responding to the Moderator, he said that the main issue that needed to be addressed within the United Nations was capacity; despite worsening global problems such as poverty, climate change and hunger, the UN budget followed a nominal policy of zero growth for decades. During the previous discussion, the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order had emphasized the high level of global military spending, which was significantly greater than the budget of all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes combined. Better monitoring and accountability standards were required, particularly for partnerships with the private sector, and frank discussion of the risks of private sector involvement was needed at all levels.

Ms. P. BAYR, *Panellist*, said that while it would be unfair to say that the United Nations had been "captured" by the private sector, corporations exercised greater influence than parliamentarians within it and the private sector was often mentioned specifically as a stakeholder in its documents. The United Nations had a specific Office for Partnerships and focal points for its relations with the private sector, in which there was no institutional involvement of parliamentarians. Of course, the private sector and civil society also exerted an influence at the national level and it was the responsibility of parliamentarians to balance the different interests and be well-informed. Her country, Austria, attached great importance to transparency and had established a register in which lobbyists were required to list the companies and organizations from which they received support. The register could be reviewed by any interested party, including members of the public.

Mr. J. MARTENS, *Panellist*, said such a register was needed at the international level. He noted that some business interest groups, such as the World Economic Forum, were classified as NGOs by the United Nations and were therefore subject to the same rules as other NGOs. However, individual corporations were not required to disclose any information and were not accountable at the global level.

The MODERATOR recalled that, on 26 June 2014, the UN Human Rights Council had adopted resolution 26/9 on the elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights. Did that decision signify a shift in approach by the United Nations? Like the majority of the European States, Austria had voted against that resolution and he wondered what Ms. Bayr's constituents would think of their country's position.

Ms. P. BAYR, *Panellist*, said that she welcomed the adoption of the resolution, which provided an important opportunity for the Human Rights Council to receive feedback from all stakeholders. She had been unaware of her country's vote at the time and had since raised the issue with its Minister for Foreign Affairs. It was not clear why Austria had opposed the resolution's adoption since it had a similar project in place at the national level. It was important to find a way to hold corporations accountable for their actions abroad. A legal framework based on international law, together with an international court of human rights, was one way to address the issue and ensure transparency and accountability.

Ambassador J. KAKONGE, *Panellist*, said that, owing to the decline in official development assistance (ODA) over the past 10 years, new and innovative solutions had had to be found. The inability of some countries to achieve the MDGs was partly a consequence of funding constraints; many of the pledges made had not been fulfilled. Therefore, the private sector should be included in the post-2015 development agenda.

In addition, funding constraints within the United Nations meant that its agencies could not afford to hire the most qualified staff and were forced to outsource work. Moreover, some organizations had no alternative to cooperation with the private sector; WHO, for example, had to work with the pharmaceutical industry on certain issues. However, stricter standards for such cooperation should be set; memorandums of understanding were vital in that regard. UNDP had established clear guidelines for its dealings with NGOs and the private sector.

Ms. P. BAYR, *Panellist*, said that the architecture of multi-stakeholder dialogue was based on the premise that all stakeholders had the same interests, which was not the case. While different interests were not necessarily a negative, it was important to acknowledge from the outset that they existed.

Ambassador J. KAKONGE, *Panellist*, drew attention to an example of successful cooperation with the private sector, namely, the WHO Onchocerciasis Control Programme, for which the funding sources included traditional donors, private sector companies, foundations, NGOs and UN agencies. The Programme had signed with each stakeholder a memorandum of understanding establishing a clear mandate and specific responsibilities. The programme had been a complete success, achieving the elimination of river blindness in 11 West African countries.

Mr. J. MARTENS, *Panellist*, said that it was important to distinguish between operational activities and norm-setting. Cooperation with the private sector could be beneficial where there were clear guidelines defining the roles and responsibility of the various stakeholders. The only norm-setting agreement concerning the private sector was the United Nations Global Compact, the principles of which were non-binding. Moreover, the governance structure of the Compact had been outsourced to a foundation whose governing body comprised mainly private sector representatives and which was not required to report to Member States.

Mr. M. TASNER VATOVEC (Slovenia) said that, in an increasingly globalized world, it was the responsibility of parliaments to adopt legislation to prevent corruption and ensure respect for human rights. He asked the panellists for their views on secret treaties negotiated at the international level, such as the proposed Trade in Services Agreement.

Mr. H. SUGI (Japan) said that it was possible to build cooperative relations between corporations and the United Nations, as long as there was an awareness of common goals and a clear division of roles and responsibilities. It was vital that relations between them were based not on private interests, but on cooperation and the needs of the people.

The MODERATOR asked the Standing Committee and the panellists to consider whether corporations could be considered civil society organizations.

Ms. C. MUKIITE NABWALA (Kenya) said that corporate influence during the international debate on climate change had blocked effective solutions and led the United Nations into global initiatives that compromised human rights. The UN should overhaul its decision-making processes to give parliaments a more prominent role and limit industry influence. It should also develop an accountability policy for existing partnerships and, for its work with the private sector, clear, legally binding regulations requiring corporations to report on their social and environmental activities.

Mr. A. CHIBAYA (Zimbabwe) said that his country had received significant support from the United Nations; UNDP had established a Zimbabwe basket fund, into which other organizations could deposit funds to support capacity-building and gender-related programmes for members of parliament. His country also received strong support from NGOs. It was important to have clearly defined memorandums of understanding for all cooperation relationships.

Ms. P. BAYR, *Panellist*, responding to the representative of Japan, said that it was unclear whether the United Nations and the private sector had any common goals. In reply to the representative of Slovenia, she said that secret treaties were unacceptable; for example, some bilateral investment treaties allowed corporations to sue the State to recover potential profits lost as a result of labour, human rights and environmental legislation, yet the State was unable to sue the corporation.

Mr. J. MARTENS, *Panellist*, observed that transatlantic trade and investment negotiations were one example of a situation in which corporations put pressure on governments to ensure investor-friendly regulations. With regard to climate change, in Europe, some automobile manufacturers were re-inventing themselves for the public as environmentally friendly while, at the same time, lobbying the European Union against stricter emissions limits. Within the United Nations, there was a clear distinction between for-profit and non-profit organizations; private sector organizations were not considered part of civil society. Nevertheless, a distinction between small and large businesses should be made.

Ambassador J. KAKONGE, *Panellist*, said that the United Nations should not be considered as one entity; its many bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes all had different relationships with corporations. The adoption of a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights would be extremely useful, particularly in the oil and gas sector; however, its implementation would pose a major challenge.

Mr. H.B. NARAYAN SINGH (India) noted that, in recent years, certain UN processes had adopted a multi-stakeholder approach to decision-making and some of them, including the United Nations Global Compact, had been criticized for their lack of monitoring and accountability. It was important to continue to scrutinize UN decision-making processes, perhaps by developing a mechanism for that purpose.

Mr. A. ALMANSOORI (United Arab Emirates) said that the relationship between the United Nations and the private sector raised ethical issues. It was important to ensure that the UN was working for equality for all, and he wondered whether the world was in fact going backwards in that regard. He asked how the United Nations and its Member States could overcome the negative aspects of corporate relations.

Mrs. E. NURSANTY (Indonesia) stressed the need to address the issue of the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of engagement with the private sector. Many of the multi-national and transnational corporations that were active in her country were involved in extractive industries and, owing to the sensitive nature of their activities, were often perceived to be violating and undermining human rights. She asked whether the international community should do more to ensure that private sector companies did not violate international law, particularly as they were often granted a degree of immunity in that respect.

Ms. L. ALGAUD (Bahrain) asked whether multinational corporations that produced weapons and military equipment used their influence on organizations and countries to ensure that their products were purchased. The United Nations could play an important role in preventing such influence and ensuring that all countries were treated equally.

Ms. K. KOMI (Finland) maintained that the private sector had a role to play in poverty eradication and sustainable development, for example through job creation. However, small and medium-sized businesses were not well represented at the United Nations and steps should be taken to address that issue. She also wondered what the UN could do to prevent corruption in its partnerships with the private sector.

Mr. S. YANG (Cambodia) asked whether the United Nations, and indeed governments and parliaments, ever received so-called "dirty money".

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine) suggested that the United Nations and other relevant agencies should consider joining forces with Palestinian companies and organizations in rebuilding his country's infrastructure.

Ms. P. BAYR, *Panellist*, said that Member States should adopt strong international laws and binding treaties to govern all activities involving transnational corporations. Consideration should also be given to the establishment of an international court on human rights. Businesses whose approaches were inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations and those that had transparency and corruption issues should be precluded from cooperating with UN bodies.

Mr. J. MARTENS, *Panellist*, said that mandatory guidelines, conflict-of-interest policies and monitoring and accountability mechanisms for partnerships were needed in order to combat corruption. Although some partnerships and agencies already used such tools, they tended to be weak and inconsistently applied. In reply to the representative of Cambodia, he said that there was no evidence that "dirty money" had been received by the United Nations; however, approximately US\$ 1 billion per year was being taken out of States and put into tax havens as a result of tax evasion and mispricing schemes by transnational corporations, some of which were members of the Global Compact.

Ambassador J. KAKONGE, *Panellist*, said that it was important for countries to have strict and clear national laws, particularly on extractive industries, and sufficient capacity to implement them. Before the United Nations accepted funding from corporations, many procedures had to be followed in order to prevent corruption and conflicts of interest. Key challenges included finding ways to strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems and increase the capacity of UN bodies to strike an adequate balance in their relations with corporations.

The MODERATOR said it was clear that the majority of the participants were in favour of closer parliamentary scrutiny of relations between the United Nations and corporations and encouraged them to raise the issue with their governments. It should also be reported to the United Nations that the topic had been discussed by the IPU.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.15 a.m, with Mrs. D.-T. Avgerinopoulou (Greece), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Discussion on *International cooperation towards an integrated strategy to counter the global drug problem*

(C-IV/131/6-Inf.1)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the background note entitled "Discussion on international cooperation towards an integrated strategy to counter the global drug problem" (C-IV/131/6-Inf.1) and recalled that, in anticipation of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem, to be held in 2016, the delegations of Mexico and Sweden had requested the approval of a special research project on the issue under the mandate of the Standing Committee. Ms. Laura Angélica Rojas Hernández (Mexico) and Mr. Anti Avsan (Sweden) had been appointed co-rapporteurs for the project and would therefore serve as co-moderators during the present session. She introduced the panellists: Ambassador Luis de Alba, Ambassador of Mexico to Austria and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the international organizations based in Vienna; Mr. Erik de la Reguera, Journalist; and Mr. Jean-Luc Lemahieu, Director, Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Ambassador L. DE ALBA, *Panellist*, said that the preparatory process for the Special Session must be truly interactive, involving all stakeholders. The universal support for the holding of such a session reflected the high level of frustration with the lack of success in implementing the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. Consumption of drugs was increasing, particularly in developing and middle-income countries, and the levels and severity of drug-related violence were alarming. Although the need for a comprehensive international approach incorporating law enforcement, health care, social development, treatment alternatives and efforts to reduce links between organized crime and drug trafficking had been discussed, that goal had not been achieved. The focus should be not on combating criminals and addressing the collateral damage caused by their activities, but on the human rights of individuals. Although it would not be possible to design an entirely new strategy during the Special Session, it would be important to adjust the current strategy, maintaining some of its elements while updating others.

Mr. E. DE LA REGUERA, *Panellist*, said that, in his 10 years of experience covering the drug wars in Latin America, he had seen increasing frustration with traditional policies. The primary victims of drug-related violence were the poor, who never saw the profits of trafficking. Moreover, inequality and corruption in Latin America were worsening. The main arguments for and against the legalization of drugs were that prohibition led to a rise in organized crime; that treatment was easier if drugs and their production were legal; that legalization would result in tax revenue that could be used for prevention and treatment; and that legalization would lead to an increase in drug abuse and addiction. Future discussion might lead to different interpretations of the relevant conventions; parliamentarians should be aware of different countries' policies and recognize their interdependent nature.

Ms. L.A. ROJAS HERNÁNDEZ, *co-Moderator*, noted that, at the mid-term review of progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, held in Vienna from 13 to 21 March 2014 during the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/CN.7/2014/L.15), the participants had recognized the lack of success of the approach taken and the need to adapt to new global situation.

Mr. J.-L. LEMAHIEU, *Panellist*, said that, although implementation of the drug-related conventions had not been as successful as hoped, it should be borne in mind that more people died each year from alcohol and tobacco abuse than from drugs. The participants in the mid-term review had raised a number of substantive issues that would also be considered at the Special Session in 2016, including the need for a rights-based approach combining public health actions, criminal justice, the need to combat organized crime and the importance of giving due consideration to underlying economic and social issues and providing development opportunities to the most vulnerable. Differences in regional strategies also needed to be acknowledged.

Mr. A. AVSAN, *co-Moderator*, noted that three separate issues had been raised: crime, health and information. He wondered whether they should be addressed concurrently or with a focus on one of the three.

Mr. E. DE LA REGUERA, *Panellist*, said that a combination of preventive and reparative measures was needed, taking into account country-specific needs and traditions. Although it was difficult to impose a single approach on all States, it should be recognized that different approaches would affect each other. For example, the ongoing discussion of the potential legalization of cannabis cultivation in Morocco could have an impact on other countries. There would always be tensions between regions and it was essential that parliamentarians were aware of and understood different contexts and perspectives when discussing and adopting legislation on the issue.

Ambassador L. DE ALBA, *Panellist*, said that the focus had shifted to the human rights and health dimensions of drugs, which also took into account socio-economic and development factors. Interpretation of the relevant conventions had been limited and had not led to very advanced measures. Some countries were contemplating the decriminalization of marijuana and other substances, but there were divergent views even within regions and a frank and open discussion of the consequences of such action was needed. Regulating the market could be a more positive approach, but flexibility in interpreting the conventions was key.

Mr. J.-L. LEMAHIEU, *Panellist*, said that significant differences between regions, and particularly their social and cultural values, resulted in free treatment of addicts in some countries but not in others. Institutional approaches and capacities differed; for example, if a public health approach was taken, it was crucial to allocate adequate funding to the health sector. A country's position in the trafficking chain also had a significant impact on the actions that needed to be taken; producer countries needed to help farmers, while awareness-raising and strengthened law enforcement were more important in consumer countries.

Mr. P.J. KURIEN (India) said that the Political Declaration and Plan of Action had been a major milestone in the global war on drugs. Member States were striving to achieve the targets established therein; however, new challenges required further concerted effort by the international community. As a transit country, India was endeavouring to improve its capacity to address the impact of drug trafficking and abuse. However, drugs were a global issue and an integrated approach was needed; parliaments could play a role in that regard.

Mr. A. NÚÑEZ BETANCOURT (Cuba), drawing attention to the many cooperation agreements that Cuba had signed with other countries, said that its national programme on drugs took a preventive and educational approach in which the main roles were played by the public health and education sectors. He asked how effective cooperation between other countries in Latin America had been and whether ineffectiveness in that regard had contributed to the lack of success of the current approach. He also wondered what preventive strategies were being followed.

Lord PRESCOTT (United Kingdom) said that the conventions had limitations; they were agreements based on the lowest common denominator as a result of governments' unwillingness to be flexible. He asked whether the preparations for the Special Session signified a change in the UN decision-making process by involving legislators in the discussions.

Ambassador L. DE ALBA, *Panellist*, explained that there was more regional cooperation in Latin America than in other regions; several such institutions were in place. At present, the focus of that cooperation was on fighting criminal organizations. However, that approach appeared to be changing and he hoped that more attention would soon be paid to prevention, treatment and the medicinal use of some drugs. A more balanced and comprehensive regional strategy was needed.

Mr. J.-L. LEMAHIEU, *Panellist*, suggested that it would be useful to have contributions from all stakeholders, including parliamentarians, in the run-up to the Special Session. One way to do so would be to set up a dedicated web site where stakeholders could share their views on the issues.

Ambassador L. DE ALBA, *Panellist*, said he agreed that the existing decisions and resolutions were generally based on the lowest common denominator on which agreement could be reached, which was a misinterpretation of the value of consensus. Genuine interaction with all stakeholders, including parliaments, civil society and academia, was vital in any negotiation process. It was unlikely that the Special Session would result in a new binding instrument; an outcome statement was the most probable result, but it must not be drafted and negotiated prior to the meeting and must take into account the new global reality and the new information and ideas that would emerge from the deliberations. Another new issue was synthetic drugs, which could be produced in small laboratories with limited equipment.

Mrs. M. CHRISOVELONI (Greece) called for increased emphasis on the standard of care in treatment centres and for greater efforts to address the issue of synthetic drugs, such as ecstasy, which were spreading rapidly and threatened to dominate the global drug trade.

Dr. J. JAHANGIRZADEH (Islamic Republic of Iran) stated that, as a transit country, the Islamic Republic of Iran was doing its utmost to prevent drug trafficking. He noted, however, that the cultivation of opium poppies had increased as a result of Western involvement in Afghanistan.

Ms. C. MUKIITE NABWALA (Kenya) said that alcohol and drug abuse were significant public health challenges in her country, which had introduced legislation and established institutions to remedy the situation. At the global level, a shared sense of responsibility, increased international cooperation and an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach were needed. An international drug monitoring and evaluation mechanism, drug use prevention programme and drug treatment programme based on cooperation between Member States could be useful in that regard.

Mrs. A. IBRO (Niger) asked how developing countries, many of which were still experiencing rapid population growth and faced significant challenges in the areas of education, health care and agriculture, could be expected to combat drug trafficking. She urged the United Nations and the international community to provide support to countries in the Sahel and Sahara region so that they could take the necessary action.

Mr. A.N. BANGASH (Pakistan) said that countering drug abuse required an increasingly multi-stakeholder approach with the active involvement of the international community in formulating national, regional and international action plans to decrease both supply and demand. There was a need to build developing countries' infrastructure and human resource capacities and to strictly regulate the production and sale of chemicals and agents used to refine drugs. In addition, steps should be taken to monitor and assess risk factors since prevention was better than a cure.

Mr. E. DE LA REGUERA, *Panellist*, said that the concerns raised by the representative of the Niger had shown that the issue of drug trafficking was closely linked to that of development; more UN agencies, such as WHO, should become involved. Drug trafficking and abuse was a truly global problem and it was important for parliamentarians to have a clear grasp of the issue and of the differences between countries. The study proposed by the co-Moderators was an interesting idea which might lead to the production of a handbook to help members of parliament understand the problem and the ways in which different policies affected each other.

Mr. J.-L. LEMAHIEU, *Panellist*, noted that the opium situation in Afghanistan was similar to that of the ore, coltan, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; both were natural resources that were at the heart of insecurity and conflict and were impeding sustainable and inclusive development. The issues were complex, but there was clearly shared responsibility, particularly in the case of Afghanistan, where the chemicals used to create opiates had to be imported from other countries. Cooperation between development activities and action on drugs was needed, particularly in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. The many new psychoactive substances that were entering the market posed a significant challenge for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Rules should be established to prevent the marketing of drugs that could damage the health of those who took them.

Mr. A. HAMISA (Jordan) asked the panellists how they envisaged the IPU contribution to the fight against drug trafficking and noted that parliamentarians had an important role to play in that regard through the adoption of legislation.

Mr. T. DEYALSINGH (Trinidad and Tobago), highlighting his country's position as a transit point between the drug-producing countries of the South and the drug-consuming countries of the North, asked how parliamentarians, who were bound by constitutional requirements and the rule of law, could combat forces that had no respect for those rules or for human rights.

Ms. M. STOLBIZER (Argentina) stressed the importance of preventing money laundering; as long as drug traffickers could hide and spend their money freely in certain countries, it would be impossible to eradicate the problem. In addition, drug trafficking was usually linked to complicity among public officials, including police officers, politicians and members of the judiciary. What could be done to make public funding more transparent?

Mr. A. ALMANSOORI (United Arab Emirates) pointed out that drug-related issues were usually addressed from a technical standpoint; however, legislation, monitoring and information-sharing were also important. The problem was compounded by competition between the different sectors involved, namely health, education and security, and by corruption at both the governmental and the grass-roots levels. He wondered what parliamentarians could do to address that problem, particularly corruption in government.

Mrs. R. BENMASSAOUD (Morocco) said that drugs were considered a scourge in her country, particularly because of their impact on young people. Morocco prohibited the sale of narcotic drugs and was working to combat cannabis cultivation and to raise young people's awareness of the danger of drugs. However, there was also an ongoing dialogue between political groups and civil society regarding the possible legalization of cannabis for humanitarian reasons since large swathes of land in the country were suitable only for the cultivation of that crop.

Mr. A. AVSAN, *co-Moderator*, replying to the question from the representative of Trinidad and Tobago, said that multilateral cooperation between countries within a legal framework was vital but would depend on the relevant legislation of the countries in question; a toolkit would be useful in that regard.

Ambassador L. DE ALBA, *Panellist*, suggested that it would be useful to compare the legislation on drug-related matters around the world. In addition, small drug producers, many of whom were small farmers and single mothers, were often punished as severely as large ones, most of which were criminal gangs earning vast amounts of money. There was a moral imperative to analyse and rebalance that situation.

Mr. J.-L. LEMAHIEU, *Panellist*, said that shared responsibility was a concept that must be taken up in greater depth. At the national level, more needed to be done to increase the transparency of political funding. Furthermore, not all forms of money laundering were illegal; there were loopholes in many countries' legislation. It was therefore necessary to strengthen the monitoring of financial institutions. It was also essential for law enforcement agencies to work with communities, not against them.

Mr. E. DE LA REGUERA, *Panellist*, said that the ongoing debate in Morocco to which he had referred was legitimate; such issues were being discussed all over the world. It also highlighted the importance of understanding the local context, although human rights were among the fundamental principles on which all activities should be based. Corruption at the local level was a serious problem in some areas and undermined efforts to build a viable democracy.

Mr. A. AVSAN, *co-Moderator*, recalling General Assembly resolution 68/272 on interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, said that the inclusion of a parliamentary dimension in discussions on drugs-related issues was urgently needed and should be organized within the framework of the IPU. A broad, open and inclusive debate was crucial in that regard and a study should be carried out to analyse which strategies were working and which were not and to learn from the experiences of different countries.

Ms. L.A. ROJAS HERNÁNDEZ, *co-Moderator*, said that, based on the discussion during the meeting, the co-Moderators would draft a list of proposals with a view to the development of a roadmap for the participation of parliamentarians in the preparatory process for the Special Session. She suggested that the Standing Committee should write to the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the President of the General Assembly to request that resolution 57/5 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, entitled *Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016*, be amended to include specific mention of parliamentarians as relevant stakeholders in the preparatory process. The IPU might also suggest that the studies and inputs produced by the Commission should include a parliamentary dimension. Comparative studies on successful legislation were also needed and, there as well, a parliamentary perspective would be useful.

Mr. A. AVSAN, *co-Moderator*, invited the Standing Committee to endorse the actions proposed by Ms. L.A. Rojas Hernández.

It was so agreed.

Elections to the Standing Committee Bureau

The PRESIDENT reminded the Eurasia Group that it had yet to submit candidatures for the vacant positions on the Bureau.

The meeting rose at 11.00 a.m.

Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

MONDAY, 13 OCTOBER

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.40 a.m., with Mr. K. Dijkhoff (Netherlands) in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

The CHAIR said he took it that the Forum wished to adopt the agenda.

It was so decided.

Contribution to the work of the 131st Assembly

The CHAIR said that, unfortunately, little information could be shared with the Forum as the relevant reports had not been prepared on time. He stressed the need to comply with deadlines and indicated that the new Board would have to address that problem as a matter of urgency. It was vital to ensure the timely drafting of reports on Assembly items to be discussed by the Forum so that recommendations to the relevant committees could be made.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum*, recalled that, at the previous meeting of the Forum, Mr. D. Vintimilla (Ecuador) and Mr. B. Gatobu (Kenya) had been appointed as Rapporteurs to draft youth overview reports on items to be adopted by committees at the 132nd Assembly.

The CHAIR asked the Rapporteurs to prepare those documents within the next few weeks.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum*, drew attention to several topics of interest at the 131st Assembly, namely cyber warfare, water governance and corporate investment, and announced that the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs would meet on the following day to discuss the issue of drugs and that the theme for the Future Policy Award at the 131st Assembly was "Ending violence against women and girls"; perhaps youth policies could be proposed as the theme for another year's award.

Election of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians

(A/131/Inf.1.rev.6)

The CHAIR invited the participants to elect the Board based on candidatures received from the geographical groups pursuant to Rule 5 of the Rules and Working Modalities of the Forum.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum*, said that candidatures had been received from the African Group, the Arab Group, the Twelve Plus Group and the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean. As yet, no candidatures had been received from the Eurasia Group or the Asia-Pacific Group; however, she understood that there were two candidates from the Maldives and one from the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was up to the Group to put forward one male and one female candidate; otherwise, the seats would remain vacant until the next round of elections.

The representative of SURINAME said that the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean had agreed to submit the candidatures of two male candidates from Suriname and Ecuador, respectively.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum*, said that the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean had subsequently withdrawn the name of the candidate from Suriname.

Mr. S. TEJADO (Peru) said that Peru had also presented a candidate for the vacant position from the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean.

During the Forum meeting, the Asia-Pacific Group submitted in writing a male and a female candidature. The representative of the MALDIVES complained that her candidature had been withdrawn because she had not realized that, as a candidate, she was required to be present at the meeting of the Asia-Pacific Group at which the selection was to be made.

The representative of ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN provided an overview of youth participation in his country's political arena.

The CHAIR insisted that the Forum could not abandon its rules of procedure. He had just received from the Asia-Pacific Group a written submission of candidatures for one man and one woman. He therefore took it that the participants wished to elect Mr. R. Igbokwe (Nigeria) and Ms. M. Dziva (Zimbabwe) from the African Group, Ms. T. Alriyati (Jordan) and Mr. F. Al-Tenajji (United Arab Emirates) from the Arab Group, Mr. M. Hun (Cambodia) and Ms. M. Alvarez (Philippines) from the Asia-Pacific Group, Mrs. C.L. Crexel (Argentina) and Mr. D. Vintimilla (Ecuador) from the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean and Mr. V. Gapšys (Lithuania) and Ms. M. Lugarič (Croatia) from the Twelve Plus Group.

It was so decided.

The CHAIR congratulated the members of the Board on their election. Several members of the Forum took the floor in their turn to congratulate the newly elected members of the Board.

The representative of the AFRICAN GROUP, standing in as proxy for Ms. M. Dziva, thanked the Forum on her behalf. The other members of the Board, namely Mr. F. Al-Tenajji (United Arab Emirates), Mr. R. Igbokwe (Nigeria), Ms. M. Dziva (Zimbabwe), Ms. T. Alriyati (Jordan), Mr. M. Hun (Cambodia), Ms. M. Alvarez (Philippines), Ms. C. Crexel (Argentina), Mr. D. Vintimilla (Ecuador), Mr. V. Gapšys (Lithuania) and Ms. M. Lugarič (Croatia), thanked the Forum members for supporting their candidatures.

Hearing with the candidates for the post of President of the IPU

(A/131/Inf.1.rev.6)

The CHAIR introduced the four candidates for the presidency: Mrs. B. Bishop (Australia), Mr. S.H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), Mrs. N. A. Assegaf (Indonesia) and Mr. A. Shahid (Maldives).

Mrs. B. BISHOP (Australia) stressed her interest in and commitment to youth issues. Having become involved in politics at a very early age, she had risen through the ranks to become, in turn, party chairperson, senator and Minister of Defence. If elected, she would bring her experience as Speaker of the House of Representatives, her current post, to the presidency of the IPU, for example by encouraging the USA to re-join the Organization.

In reply to questions from the participants, she said that the issue of the Muslim face veil in Australia stemmed from an interim decision adopted by Parliament in response to a security threat; all those entering private sections of its building were obliged to identify themselves. Her Government had implemented a programme and established a forum to promote the participation of women from Pacific Island States. She hoped that that successful programme would be expanded and encouraged young women to focus on winning respect rather than worrying about the opinions of others.

Mr. S.H. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) said that the youth agenda was close to his heart and should have been included in the IPU strategic plan. At the constituency level, he had promoted employment opportunities for young people in Bangladesh. At the global level, he had stressed the importance of measures designed to foster sustainable development, tackle climate change and alleviate poverty, all of which issues had an impact on the youth agenda. It was also essential to acknowledge that young people in different countries had different needs. Disaggregated data was required in that regard.

Youth and gender constituted a double handicap in a political career. Young men and women could make a difference and it was important to listen to their views and reach out to them at both the IPU and the national levels. It was up to parliamentarians to take action in their own countries.

Replying to questions from the participants, he said that, in order to bring the youth agenda to the attention of the IPU, it was necessary to introduce incentives. Three priorities – the Hyogo framework for action, which included risk reduction strategies; the future sustainable development goals; and climate change – would take centre stage in 2015. Ways to include the youth perspective in those issues and to advocate for young people at the national level must be found.

The fact that Bangladesh currently held the presidency of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) would not constitute a conflict of interest if he were elected because the CPA was not an associate member of the IPU; one was a regional, the other a global, organization. In reply to a question as to what the IPU was doing to combat terrorism, he recalled that cyber warfare was on the current agenda of the Standing Committee on Peace and International

Security. Disillusionment with democracy created space for terrorism, as did a lack of knowledge and insufficient education.

Ms. N.A. ASSEGAF (Indonesia) recalled that she had been involved in the initial discussions on establishing the Forum. If elected to the presidency of the IPU, she would ensure that young parliamentarians could work closely with their colleagues in the Standing Committees and other bodies and would include the youth agenda in the IPU Strategy. From the point of view of diversity, it was important to have a woman at the helm of the Organization.

Responding to a comment that the IPU had traditionally had weak presidents and strong secretaries general, she said that her achievements spoke for themselves and her re-election to Parliament reflected her performance; if elected, she would be a strong leader of the IPU. She was committed to achieving a power balance within the Organization and to ensuring that it operated on the basis of cooperation and communication. While she was aware of the issues regarding young Muslim parliamentarians, Islam fostered equality between men and women.

Mr. A. SHAHID (Maldives) said that he was aware of the hopes and aspirations of young people; he had begun his parliamentary career at an early age before rising to his current position as Speaker of the People's Majlis (parliament), which had a high percentage of members under the age of 45. Moreover, the Maldives was a small island nation and innovative in its approaches, even hosting a cabinet meeting under water to highlight the dangers of climate change. In a globalized world, intolerance was a threat and youth parliaments could reverse regressive trends. If elected, he would encourage youth participation in the IPU and use the Organization as a driving force to bring greater vigour to national politics.

In reply to questions from the participants, he stressed the need for dialogue and participation, emphasized his support for democracy and human rights for all and said that, if elected, he would increase the participation of women and young people in the work of the IPU. He stood ready to address the many challenges that the Organization faced.

Update and discussion on the Forum's activities in 2014 and 2015

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum*, said that, although youth participation was not an explicit objective of the IPU Strategy, the Organization had nevertheless undertaken to address the issue. Funding for the establishment of a Programme on youth participation in parliament had been provided by international foundations and development agencies. With generous support from Worldwide Support for Development (WSD), the first IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians had been held in the days preceding the 131st Assembly and in 2014 a data collection programme on youth participation in parliament had been launched. The results indicated that there was definite room for improvement in that area.

The IPU youth programme had two main objectives: to help parliaments reach out to young people and to empower young parliamentarians, including by creating and expanding networking opportunities. Future measures would include awareness-raising campaigns, capacity-building activities and a mentoring programme. The Forum had received numerous requests for cooperation and invitations to youth events, which she planned to discuss with the Board in order to decide on appropriate action.

Q-and-A session with the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

The CHAIR invited Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, to address the Forum.

Mr. A. ALHENDAWI (United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth) expressed his support for the IPU youth participation initiative. Youth participation was important at all levels and it would be vital for all stakeholders to work together to implement the post-2015 development agenda. He suggested that a task force on that agenda should be established within the IPU.

Replying to questions from the participants, he said that the UN was taking steps to ensure regular, institutional engagement with young people in order to address the challenges of unemployment and poverty. The Economic and Social Council's Youth Forum provided one such opportunity for cooperation.

In order to combat terrorism and halt its spread by preventing terrorist groups from recruiting new members, it was important to create an enabling environment for young people's development. In Somalia, for example, it was necessary to reclaim the Arabic word "shebab",

which meant "youth" but had been hijacked by a terrorist group, and to focus on supporting young people. However, terrorism was a complex problem and required cooperation. He therefore welcomed the IPU efforts to promote youth participation.

The International Trade Centre (ITC) and the United Nations were working together to expand mobile and internet connectivity and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) was cooperating with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the private sector within the framework of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development. The latter was a successful mechanism and one of the few that included cooperation with the private sector. He would welcome the involvement of the IPU in those processes.

At governments' request, the International Labour Organization (ILO) could provide technical support and assistance in combating youth unemployment through a range of programmes and policies; he encouraged parliamentarians to advocate in that regard. He also urged members of the Forum to promote investment in young people by adopting legislation to stimulate economic growth and providing education and employment opportunities.

In reply to questions regarding the rebuilding of countries such as Libya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the recruitment of child soldiers, the problems posed by militias and rebel groups and the impact of Security Council sanctions on young people in Zimbabwe, he said that it was necessary to take a stand and to promote peace. Young people were often portrayed as the problem; they were manipulated in conflict situations and often sent to the front line but were rarely included in peace negotiations. Although international mediation had a role to play, sometimes it was also necessary to focus on internal measures. It was important to advocate for peace and respond to extremism. In addressing the challenges at hand, it was essential to show the real face of young people today and to provide them with opportunities; for example, Africa's young population was its primary asset.

Election of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians)

(A/131/Inf.1.rev.6)

(continued)

The members of the Board renewed their thanks to the members of the Forum for their support.

The representative of SURINAME congratulated the members of the Board and asked the President to address the voting problem and to look into his complaint.

The representative of JORDAN congratulated the members of the Board and invited them to visit his country. Jordan was faced with the threat of terrorism and young people could be messengers of peace.

The CHAIR announced that the Board had elected a President, Mr. F. Al-Tenaiji (United Arab Emirates). He congratulated the new President and invited him to chair the end of the Forum's meeting.

Mr. F. AL-TENAIJI (United Arab Emirates) took the Chair.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law on *Ensuring respect for women's rights in situations of conflict*

TUESDAY, 14 OCTOBER

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.10 a.m., with Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (Mexico) in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT introduced the subject of women's rights in situations of conflict, stressing that women and children were often specifically targeted in conflicts. She introduced the guest speakers, namely Ms. Madeleine Rees Secretary General, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Ms. Bineta Diop, Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security of the African Union, and Ms. Coline Rapneau, Sexual Violence Advisor at the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Ms. M. REES, *Panellist* said that serious questions needed to be answered with regard to how the world had lost control of peace, and failed to understand the causal factors of armed conflict. In the context of women and conflict, it was necessary to redefine the concept of gender, rather than relying on tokenism and imagining that gender equality existed. It was essential to examine power structures and their impact on both men and women, and how those structures facilitated conflicts. It was vital to look at gender and the political economy of violence, for example who wielded power in families. She stressed that the economic empowerment of women was one way of dismantling existing structures of power. With regard to the political economy, challenges included unequal gender structures and monolithic gender representation in parliaments.

Research showed that, as situations moved towards conflict, there was a marked reduction in the representation of women and non-violent men. The pervasive narrative in conflict situations was gendered: focusing on protection, security, defence, and weapons. Men were viewed as "defenders" of women, and women lost economic and political space. It was vital to look at the roles of women and non-violent men in such situations, moving away from a binary narrative. Women were never solely victims of conflict. They played a wide range of roles, including humanitarian work. Still, they were not taken seriously by international negotiators such as United Nations agencies, who were in theory mandated to ensure the participation of women. It was important to provide space for women to demand involvement in every aspect of the decision-making process. In Ukraine, for example, there was a women-led advocacy movement.

Parliamentarians and member parliaments should focus on the proper implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions, multinational fora and regional bodies, to ensure that once peace processes began, it would be possible to identify the roles played by women and non-violent men, rather than focusing solely on the weapons-bearers.

There was currently good guidance from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, grounding United Nations resolutions in human rights law and indicating how States should implement its provisions.

It was also vital to consider post-conflict situations. A binary narrative was based on self-interest, focusing on the same nationalist parties, unable to move forward because the conflict had been institutionalized in the peace agreements. A paradigm change was necessary in approaches to conflict and conflict resolution.

A video produced by the ICRC was shown, involving interviews with victims of conflict and the challenges they faced, for example the fear that women had of testing for sexually transmitted diseases in places such as the Central African Republic. The video also addressed the issue of raising awareness of women's rights, and responses to situations of violence, and sexual violence in particular.

Ms. C. RAPNEAU, *Panellist*, said that sexual violence was widespread in situations of conflict, but that its impact was underestimated because victims were often too afraid to come forward. Humanitarian organizations and States had to be more proactive in providing for the needs of victims. There was also a need to address the consequences and causes of sexual violence. Victims required care, safety and support, including medical care, for example through

mobile clinics, post-rape kits, anti-retroviral treatment or emergency contraception, as well as psychological counselling and support in the short, medium and long term. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, psychological support was provided through so-called “listening houses” (*maisons d'ecoute*). Victims also needed support to maintain their livelihoods. Many feared reprisals and had to start again from scratch, regain their dignity and find ways to support their families. Social support was also needed, as were outreach programmes. It was necessary to raise awareness of sexual violence, to prevent victims being blamed, inform them where the relevant services could be obtained, and explain emergency procedures. The ICRC provided those essential services through local partners, who had a good knowledge of the local culture and context. They were the main actors in the field.

Measures were necessary to identify the root causes of problems, enhance the protection of at risk populations, engage in bilateral dialogue with authorities and weapons-bearers, and train authorities to disseminate important information on humanitarian law, including the prohibition of violence against civilians.

It was also important to hold discussions with parties to the conflict, informing them of legal implications and their obligations under international humanitarian law. It was essential to remember that States bore the primary responsibility for preventing sexual violence. One of the most important responses to the problem was a solid and clear legal framework, and parliamentarians had a role to play in that regard.

The ICRC offered the following recommendations for parliamentarians. Measures were necessary to:

- Ensure that the prohibition of rape was integrated into the domestic legal framework.
- Integrate international humanitarian law obligations into the domestic system, and address any gaps, such those relating to the competences of the judiciary.
- Provide training to police and prosecutors on effective means of prosecuting perpetrators.
- Take steps to inform victims of their rights, and ensure that they are able to report abuse safely, without stigma or lengthy procedures.
- Adopt a domestic framework in order to guarantee access to health services for victims.

For example, legislation introduced in 2014 in Colombia contained a vast range of provisions relating to judicial, sanitary and health measures. In terms of transitional justice, such as truth and reconciliation commissions, it was important not to forget victims of rape or sexual violence. The ICRC advisory service on international humanitarian law was prepared to offer support and advice in that regard.

Ms. B. DIOP, *Panellist*, said that she had seen the impact of conflict on women during her visits to South Sudan and the Central African Republic to investigate human rights violations. Women were specifically targeted, along with boys. There was ample evidence that women could help to rebuild society, and their involvement in peace agreements would lead to a lasting peace. They could contribute their know-how and experience, addressing issues that concerned them, such as security, education, sanitation, and health care, rather than focusing on power sharing. A number of resolutions had been adopted by bodies such as the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the United Nations Security Council, but there were major gaps in their implementation at the national level. Moreover, women needed to be formally a part of the peace-making process, either as part of preventative measures, or in post-conflict peace negotiations. Women were frequently only involved in such discussions in an ad hoc manner. It was worth considering why mediation processes rarely involved women, how mediators could be provided with the relevant mandate, and held to account.

Nearly 50 countries had developed national action plans on the United Nations Security Council resolution on women and peace and security, resolution 1325 (2000). In Africa, there was also a parity principle adopted by the African Union, promoted at national level. In certain African countries, more than a third of parliamentarians were women. She also noted that in places such as South Africa, women would sit in caucus and engage in cross-party debate when addressing important issues, in order to ensure that certain agenda items were adopted.

The focus was currently on finding solutions to existing problems. Violence had become a feature of elections in Africa, with a huge impact on the civilian population. In places such as Senegal, women created a situation room where representatives from civil society and parliamentarians discussed how to stop the violence. It was important to mobilize women from all sections of society, as they could mediate in conflict situations, including through traditional means

as women elders, help to monitor elections through social media, and encourage cross-party agreement on non-violent solutions.

She encouraged the IPU to contribute to documenting how women were engaged in rebuilding societies. In parliament, women were monitoring violence and working to introduce legislation to protect women. It was also important to ensure women's access to resources, such as land. Parliamentarians need to support those measures and play a monitoring role. It was also important to work with civil society, building coalitions with women's groups, and to ensure accountability. Justice was vital to heal women's dignity and women's bodies. Justice and reconciliation were necessary for peace.

Her recommendations included providing support to civil society movements, building alliances with women in legislative and executive bodies, and adopting laws and programmes to protect women.

In 2015 the African Union would celebrate the year of women's empowerment. The Union had a protocol on women's rights, adopted by the majority of African states, addressing protection and prevention issues. Declarations had also been adopted on gender equality. She stressed that Ms. Zuma, the leader of the African Union, held women's issues very close to her heart.

The PRESIDENT noted that out of 300 peace agreements in the last 20 years, only 18 had addressed sexual violence in conflict situations. Much remained to be done at domestic and international level.

Mr. L. DUQUE (Colombia) provided an overview of measures taken in Colombia, which included the introduction of pioneering legislation on victims of armed conflict, focusing on a model of transitional justice, designed to ensure accountability and prevent a repetition of the conflict that had plagued the country for more than fifty years and claimed millions of victims. The legislation aimed to ensure a lasting and sustainable peace, providing the victims with the right to truth, justice and reparations. It also focused on institutional rights and community dialogue, affirmative action by the State, humanitarian assistance, prevention policies, family reunification measures, the right of victims to the restitution of land and to live free of violence. The legislation also enshrined the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

Mr. A. AHMAD (United Arab Emirates) stated that wars, political crises and other conflicts had a negative impact on women's rights. In the United Arab Emirates, measures were being taken at government and community level to combat human trafficking and violence against women. The Government had promulgated a range of laws on gender-based violence and strengthened existing sanctions. Police officers also received special training, specialist staff were available to offer psychological support to victims, and hospitals had special areas dedicated to treating victims of violence. Governments and civil society needed to work together to combat and prevent violence. The Internet and social media had an important role to play with regard to raising awareness, as could government policies to support women in society.

Ms. J. AHMED (Bahrain) said that it was not enough to ratify agreements and promulgate legislation. Laws needed to be implemented. She condemned the deplorable situation in countries such as Syria and Iraq, which had a negative impact on women and girls in particular. It was vital to ensure appropriate measures existed to protect women and children. There was a need to intensify efforts at international and domestic level, to ensure that pragmatic, practical steps were taken. Women needed psychological support, access to health care, shelter, and food. The international media should mobilize public opinion to support women. Civil society and the international community needed to find a means to providing support and protection, including through the work of the United Nations Security Council.

Ms. Y. MEFTALI (Algeria) regretted the lack of progress at international level with regard to the rights of women and children, particularly victims of conflict, and condemned the flagrant interventionism implemented by certain States under the pretext of protecting human rights. When a woman was raped, she lost all her rights: her dignity, her right to a dignified life. Violence was still a problem, in spite of international conventions. Agreements were frequently not binding, or were mere verbal commitments. What was required was a firm commitment from all parties. Women were not consulted or asked about their needs in conflict situations, and were excluded from the decision-making processes, both before war broke out and in post-conflict situations.

The Algerian Government had amended the electoral law and the Constitution to ensure equality in law for women. It had also ratified international conventions on violence against women, and national legislation prohibited any form of violence or discrimination. There were also measures in place to promote the participation of women. She stressed that political will was needed to address the problem of violence against women.

Mr. S. OWAIS (Jordan), noting that his country shared a border with Palestine, stressed the need to monitor the situation of women. Jordan hosted millions of refugees. Women were particularly vulnerable and often the victims of human rights violations, such as rape, child marriage and sexual abuse. Governments needed to take actions to improve the situation and put pressure on Israel. The international community needed to mobilize to tackle the problem.

Ms. M. REES, *Panellist*, stressed the importance of a legislative framework, but said that implementation was even more important. The narrative would not change unless action was taken to address the structures of power at national and international level.

Ms. C. RAPNEAU, *Panellist*, said that the problem was indeed implementation, as the relevant instruments did exist. In 2015, the Red Cross and Red Crescent would hold an international conference, and all countries would meet to discuss the protection of civilians, and particularly victims of sexual violence. It would provide an appropriate space to discuss improved implementation of existing legislation in the field.

Ms. B. DIOP, *Panellist*, emphasized the need for psychological support. She had heard about good practices in countries such as Colombia, and said it was important to see how issues were dealt with in other countries. She also stressed the need for a multidisciplinary approach.

The PRESIDENT thanked the panellists for their contributions and declared the meeting closed.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

Adoption of resolutions, final documents and reports

SITTING OF THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 4.35 p.m., with Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), President of the IPU, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on Achieving gender equality, ending violence against women (A/131/3-DR)

The PRESIDENT, underscoring the important role of both sexes in the effort to achieve gender equality and end violence against women, invited a Member of each sex, Ms. S. Ataullahjan (Canada) and Mr. G. Monde (Zambia), to report on the outcome of the General debate.

Ms. S. ATAULLAHJAN (Canada) and Mr. G. MONDE (Zambia), speaking in turn, read out the outcome document for the General debate (A/131/3-DR).

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Assembly wished to approve the outcome document (see page 123).

It was so decided.

Item 4 of the agenda

International law as it relates to national sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and human rights (Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)

The PRESIDENT announced that, despite considerable efforts, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights had been unable to finalize the draft resolution on its subject item during the allocated time. The Committee therefore proposed to resume the debate at the 132nd Assembly in Hanoi on the basis of the text that had been agreed thus far. He took it that the Assembly wished to agree to that proposal.

It was so decided.

The representative of CUBA said that a fundamental objective of IPU Assemblies was the adoption of resolutions to inspire and guide the actions of parliaments on issues of high priority for the peoples whom they represented. Maximum transparency and participation in the work of the Standing Committees were therefore vital, as was the allocation of sufficient time for the consideration and amendment of draft resolutions with the ideal aim of producing a consensus text.

At the present Assembly, however, adoption of the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights had been thwarted by procedural irregularities, including late submission of the proposed text and the convening of a meeting for its consideration that was not only truncated, but ill-timed to coincide with the voting for the new IPU President. As a result, few delegations had been able to participate and time that would otherwise have been devoted to finalizing the text had instead been wasted on clarifying with the Secretariat confusions over the applicable Rules of the Standing Committees.

In Hanoi, the Committee would have to decide whether the most recent version of the draft resolution, agreed during that poorly-attended meeting of the drafting committee, would stand. In her delegation's view, the proper solution would be to resume work on the previous version. She suggested that the Standing Committees' procedures and time allocation should be evaluated at

the next Assembly with a view to ensuring that, in discharging their mandates, they worked in a genuinely transparent, democratic and participatory manner.

The PRESIDENT said that those comments had been noted.

Item 5 of the agenda

Reports of the Standing Committees

(a) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security
(A/131/5(a)-R)

Mr. J.R. TAU (South Africa), President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, introduced the report of the Committee on its work at the 131st Assembly (A/131/5(a)-R). The Committee had held its first hearing on implementation of the IPU resolution on *The role of parliaments in striking a balance between national security, human security and individual freedoms, and in averting the threat to democracy*, adopted in Cape Town in 2008, and a panel discussion on the theme of cyber warfare.

He noted that one vacancy on the Bureau remained unfilled because no nomination had been received from the relevant geopolitical group and said that collective efforts must be channeled into ensuring the functionality of the Committee. He looked forward to progress in that respect at the 132nd Assembly.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Assembly wished to endorse the report of the Committee (see page 126).

It was so decided.

(b) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade
(A/131/5(b)-R)

Mr. A. CISSÉ (Mali), Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, introduced the report of the Committee on its work at the 131st Assembly (A/131/5(b)-R). The Committee had held two meetings: an interactive debate on corporate investment in sustainable development and a debate on the subject item of the Committee's next resolution, *Shaping a new system of water governance: Promoting parliamentary action on water*. The Committee had approved the candidatures received for only two of the four vacancies on its Bureau, no candidatures having been received from one geopolitical group.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Assembly wished to endorse the report of the Committee (see page 129).

It was so decided.

(c) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs
(A/131/5(c)-R)

Mrs. D.-T. AVGERINOPOULOU (Greece), President of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, introduced the report of the Committee on its work at the 131st Assembly (A/131/5(c)-R). The Committee had held three meetings: an interactive debate with the UN Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, a panel discussion question of corporate influence on UN decision-making and a panel discussion on the process leading up to the 2016 UN General Assembly Special Session that would review progress on the goals set in the 2009 *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*.

The Bureau had resolved to enhance the effectiveness of IPU interaction with the United Nations and advance work on the renewed cooperation agreement between the two organizations, beginning at the next annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, to be held in New York on 19 and 20 November 2014. The three vacancies on the Bureau had been filled.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Assembly wished to endorse the report of the Committee (see page 131).

It was so decided.

Item 6 of the agenda

Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 133rd IPU Assembly
(A/131/6-R.1)

The PRESIDENT announced that the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights had proposed *Democracy in the digital era and the threat to privacy and individual freedoms* as its subject item for the 133rd Assembly. It had also proposed that Ms. B. Jónsdóttir (Iceland) should serve as one of the two co-Rapporteurs and that consultations be organized in the coming weeks with a view to identifying a second co-Rapporteur. He took it that the Assembly wished to agree to those proposals.

It was so decided.

Closure of the Assembly

The PRESIDENT, in his final address to the Assembly, said that it had been a distinct pleasure for him to preside over an organization as illustrious and long-standing as the IPU. He had seen it grow, thrive and become more modern and efficient and was proud of its accomplishments. At the current Assembly, achievements had included the adoption of a resolution on the emergency item dealing with the Ebola crisis and the issuance of a statement on terrorism by the Executive Committee, which read:

We, members of the Executive Committee, gathered for our 270th session in Geneva, wish to express our deep concern over the spread of terrorism in the world. As an organization committed to promoting democracy, human rights, peace and international security, the IPU condemns all forms of violence, especially acts of terror and intimidation committed against innocent civilians under any banner.

We express our dismay over the proliferation of terrorist acts and their disastrous consequences on entire regions and countries throughout the world. Such acts result in political instability, social unrest, insecurity, internal displacement and mass refugee movements, not to mention widespread death and destruction. The humanitarian impact of terrorist acts is untold.

We deplore the formation and proliferation of terrorist groups and organizations, as well as the provision of weapons and funds to such entities. We appeal to all IPU Members to make concerted efforts to stem the spread of terrorism and extremism.

We also call on the media to play their part in reporting objectively and on parliamentarians, as opinion shapers, to play an active role in dispelling the myths surrounding extremist ideologies that may lead to terrorist acts.

We are unanimous in stating that terrorism in any form is indefensible. We appeal for calm and peace, which are the only guarantees of a stable and secure future for the next generations.

He had been especially moved to see so many male colleagues debate with such passion and resolve the topic of "Achieving gender equality, ending violence against women". The outcome document of the General Debate would be a high point in the history of the IPU.

During his tenure, the number of IPU Members had grown from 159 to the current figure of 166, bringing the Organization close to its goal of universal membership. Encouragingly, no Members had been lost at the present Assembly and contributions had been reduced under the newly approved Budget and Programme for 2015. The unexpectedly high levels of voluntary funding had placed the Organization on a healthy footing and expanded prospects for its future activities.

The highlight of the Assembly, however, had been the election of a new IPU President, Mr. Saber H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh). He congratulated his successor and wished him well in the tasks ahead, in which he would be ably guided by the Secretary General and his dedicated team. He thanked Members for the privilege of serving as their President for the past three years, which had been an immensely rewarding experience on all counts. He would retain fond memories of IPU Assemblies and looked forward to meeting with his fellow Members in the future. On that note, he declared the 131st IPU Assembly closed.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.

Outcome Document of the General Debate on the theme *Achieving gender equality, ending violence against women*

*Endorsed by the 131st IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 16 October 2014)*

In October 2014, we members of parliament gathered at the 131st IPU Assembly on the theme: *Achieving gender equality, ending violence against women.*

Gender equality is at the heart of progress, peace and development. If we are committed to achieving peace and security in the world, ending poverty and achieving sustainable development, we must tackle this issue head-on.

No country today can claim to have achieved gender equality. Women account for half the world's population, yet they make up only 21.8 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide, they continue to earn systematically less than men for the same work, and over 31 million girls are prevented from attending primary school. Gender inequality holds all our countries back, and the struggle to overcome it must therefore be a priority for each and every one of us, both men and women.

Today, the scourge of violence against women is a key issue in every country and internationally. No nation is spared; the latest global and regional estimates by the World Health Organization show that one out of every three women worldwide has experienced intimate partner violence or sexual violence by someone other than a partner.

Whether in the public or the private sphere, violence against women and girls in all its forms and manifestations robs them of their dignity, violates their fundamental rights, damages their health, reduces their productivity and prevents them from achieving their full potential. It also has significant consequences for peace and security and a negative impact on development. We strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and girls.

Gender inequality and violence against women feed on each other. On the one hand, it is impossible to achieve equality between men and women without putting an end to violence against women; on the other, women's vulnerability to violence is heightened by unbalanced power relations between men and women. In order to address this problem, we must take into account the broader context of women's lives and the need to secure respect for all their fundamental rights.

Addressing violence against women is a complex issue that requires profound change. It means looking at power relations; confronting patriarchy, which permeates all aspects of our societies; changing mentalities; and challenging the social roles and stereotypes that we have internalized, including those related to men. It also means enabling women to take ownership of their lives, their bodies and their destinies since women who are empowered, including economically, are less vulnerable to abuse.

There is no one solution for achieving gender equality and putting an end to violence against women; instead, there are a variety of approaches that reflect the diversity of situations and national experiences. It is nevertheless within the reach of parliaments to develop key strategies and responses. If we have the commitment and the will, progress is an achievable goal.

The commitment to achieving gender equality and eradicating violence against women must first translate into the development of strong, comprehensive legislation that is non-discriminatory, supports women's empowerment and addresses all forms of discrimination. This means a legal framework with no loopholes, one that provides for the implementation of temporary special measures to level the playing field and facilitates gender mainstreaming. It also means a framework that is consistent with States' commitments under the international instruments on human rights and gender equality to which they are parties, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

We need comprehensive legislation that criminalizes all forms of violence against women and includes provisions on prevention, protection and support for the survivors and prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators. It must also take into account and meet the needs of different groups of women, especially the most vulnerable, including girls, migrant women and refugee

women. This is an area in which progress has been achieved; for example, two thirds of the world's countries now have laws criminalizing domestic violence.

Putting laws into practice remains the key challenge. Appropriate mechanisms must be envisaged in domestic law and budgets must be scrutinized to ensure that adequate financial and human resources are allocated to the effective implementation of legislation.

In order for laws to meet the needs of the survivors of gender-based violence, easily accessible services are fundamental. Several States have established women's shelters, hotlines and "one-stop crisis centres" that provide survivors of gender-based violence with legal, medical and counselling services. Investment in a justice system based on the protection of women survivors and their rights is vital; specialized courts on domestic violence and sexual offences are invaluable in that regard. In addition, law enforcement agencies must be trained to focus on the protection and dignity of the survivors and to secure criminal evidence so that more women will feel that it is safe for them to report violence and seek justice.

Enhanced implementation requires a coordinated community-based response to violence in which all stakeholders – including governments, parliaments, police, prosecutors, judges, health-care providers, social workers, women's organizations and religious and community leaders – have a role to play.

Awareness of the laws is also crucial. Legislation must be disseminated and made easy for people to obtain and understand, including through education, translation into local languages and public debates. For policies to be successful, sustained and effective awareness-raising campaigns are vital. All citizens, whether men or women, boys or girls, must understand that there is nothing private about violence and that it cannot be truly eliminated without an understanding that its tolerance in any form is unacceptable. In some countries, the support, cooperation and understanding of traditional leaders will be key to the success of any awareness-raising campaign.

It is essential to monitor the implementation of laws and policies. The oversight role of parliamentarians is key and must be strengthened, including by building partnerships across parties and with civil society movements. Information is also essential to the drafting and enactment of effective laws and the assessment of their impact. To that end we, as legislators, need to build our national statistical capacities and gather sex-disaggregated data and to focus particularly on the number of reported cases of violence against women and on the implementation of household surveys.

The specific situation of vulnerable groups should be taken into account and addressed as a priority. In particular, women's vulnerability to abuse and violence rises sharply in times of crisis. Women and girls are the main victims of situations of armed conflict, which, together with terrorist acts, insecurity and violence linked to drug trafficking, heighten their vulnerability and place them at greater risk of gender-based violence and abuse in the form of rape, kidnapping, forced and early marriage, exploitation and sexual slavery. Women's bodies are directly targeted by these horrifying crimes and by the increasing use of sexual violence as a weapon of war.

In light of the alarming reports of current violations of women's rights in conflict situations, we must condemn such acts publicly and denounce the use of religion and culture to justify them. We must also take urgent action at the national, regional and international levels to protect women and ensure that the survivors are given support, that they have access to justice and reparation and that the perpetrators are prosecuted. In this context, States must continue to fulfil their international obligations under the relevant human rights instruments and must implement in full United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), the Council's other resolutions on women, peace and security and general recommendation No. 30 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Girls constitute another vulnerable group and face additional forms of violence, including female genital mutilation and other harmful practices, forced and early marriage, and murder in the name of so-called "honour". In developing countries, one third of all girls will be married before they turn 18 and 3.3 million girls are at risk of genital mutilation. In 50 per cent of cases, sexual attacks target girls aged 15 or even younger. Tailored responses to the specific needs of girls must be developed. As parliamentarians, we have the obligation to speak on their behalf and defend their right to a childhood free from fear and violence.

Change starts at birth. Education is a powerful equalizer; it is the key to transforming mentalities, addressing stereotypes and discrimination and building a culture of equality and tolerance. Girls' access to education is essential for their social and economic empowerment and security. Educating boys and girls on human rights and gender equality from an early age – for example, through the use of appropriate games, plays and stories – would help to instil non-violence and respect in relations between the sexes. Teaching and learning materials used in the schools must also be reviewed in order to remove stereotypes, and families must be engaged in order to raise awareness about women's rights and challenge social stereotypes. Parental education on women's rights and gender equality is also needed.

The media, including social media, can be major allies in educating and raising awareness. They must not perpetuate stereotypes and gender inequalities or appear to condone violence against women. With today's media reporting on acts of violence against women around the world, more and more people are becoming outraged by these crimes and calling for an end to impunity.

Achieving gender equality and ending violence against women is the responsibility of both men and women. The potential is there, and men are part and parcel of the solution; they should take an active part in the debate and stand up for women's rights. The silent majority of non-violent men must speak out now and assume their responsibilities alongside women.

Women's voices must also be heard. Women in leadership positions have the power to take specific action in response to the interests of and challenges faced by other women whose voices are not being heard or taken into account. However, women are still poorly represented in leadership positions and their presence in decision-making bodies must be increased; to that end, the adoption of temporary special measures should be considered.

Effective change requires both a strong institutional framework and national bodies with the power to take action. We must build our parliaments' capacity to put an end to violence against women and to achieve gender equality. Implementation of the IPU Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments should serve as a reference as we introduce reforms and strengthen our institutions.

In 2015, we will turn the page on the Millennium Development Goals and celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action. The period 2015 to 2030 must be the final battle in the centuries-old fight for gender equality, and we must meet the challenge. As members of parliament, we vow to make that goal a reality.

Report of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

*Noted by the 131st IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 16 October 2014)*

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security met in Geneva from 13 to 15 October during the 131st IPU Assembly. In the absence of the elected President, Ms. Z. Drif Bitat (Algeria) took the chair.

At its first meeting, on 13 October, the Committee held its first hearing on implementation of the IPU resolution on *The role of parliaments in striking a balance between national security, human security and individual freedoms, and in averting the threat to democracy*, adopted in Cape Town in 2008. This resolution was selected not only because of its great current relevance, but because some 20 parliaments had postponed the implementation of several of its articles while fulfilling their statutory obligation to submit an annual report. The discussion was preceded by the statements of two speakers.

First, Ms. B. Jónsdóttir (Iceland) spoke as an expert on individual freedoms and human security. She stressed that the digital age and private life could be mutually exclusive and that, without privacy, there could be no functional democracy since the pillars on which it rested included private life, transparency, responsibility and freedom of expression. She herself had been a victim of human rights violations after co-producing a video that had been disseminated by Wikileaks.

Drawing a parallel between the ability of governments to spy on the citizens of other countries and the implementation of the 2008 resolution, she regretted the failure to implement paragraph 24 thereof, in which the Assembly *Calls on parliaments to monitor the scope of surveillance and the amount of data collected by public and private organizations, to gauge any changes in the balance between the citizen and the State, and, in this process, to ensure that laws are framed and enforced in such a way as to take account of fast-moving technological developments*. If that provision had been implemented by every parliament in the world, her privacy would not have been violated.

Mr. P. Martin-Lalande (France) spoke about counter-terrorism and his country's legal arsenal, which evidenced the desire and the need to adapt continually to new forms of terrorism and to deal with its growing intensity. It was important to implement paragraph 5 of the resolution, in which the Assembly *Urges national parliaments to enact effective anti-terrorism legislation, in keeping with the relevant international instruments and commitments, including the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and to assess such legislation at regular intervals so as to ensure that it is fully compatible with national security and individual freedoms*. He also spoke of the need for strict monitoring of restrictions on public freedoms since counter-terrorism legislation was closely linked to the highly sensitive issue of individual freedoms. Legislators always sought to strike a balance between the prevention of crimes against the public order, including the safety of persons and property, and the exercise of constitutionally protected freedoms, including freedom of movement, the inviolability of the home, the confidentiality of correspondence and respect for private life.

The discussion gave all the participants an opportunity to express their views regarding the various aspects of the resolution. Several of them said that it was difficult to find the balance called for in the resolution, while others described the systems that their countries had put in place and the implications of those systems for national security and the protection of public freedoms.

At the close of the hearing, Ms. Jónsdóttir called on her colleagues to ensure that their countries' laws were respected and that universal laws, such as the 2008 resolution, were implemented in order to defend the right to privacy and to protect citizens from universal surveillance.

Mr. Martin-Lalande, for his part, proposed that the IPU should continue to monitor the implementation of the 2008 resolution, including by drawing up an implementation scoreboard. Thus, the resolution could be discussed on a regular basis and kept alive by requesting Members to submit periodic reports.

The Committee met for the second time on the afternoon of 15 October with a panel discussion on the theme of cyber warfare, which was also the topic of the resolution that was expected to be adopted by the IPU at the 132nd Assembly in Hanoi (Viet Nam). The purpose of the discussion was to give Committee members an opportunity to learn about current issues related to cyber warfare and to

exchange views with experts in the field. Ms. Z. Drif Bitat (Algeria), Vice-President, opened the meeting and introduced the experts who would make presentations during the two-and-a half-hour discussion:

- Mr. Apoo Cederberg, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
- Mr. Danil Kerimi, World Economic Forum (WEF)
- Mr. Laurent Gisel, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Mr. Marco Obiso, International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

She then gave the floor to Mr. Cederberg, moderator of the session.

The moderator introduced the topic, stressing the importance of a robust cyber policy in a domain that was crucial to wellbeing and security. He described various aspects of the subject in detail, explaining that cyberspace was an interactive domain made up of digital networks used to store, modify and communicate information. It included not only the Internet, but also the other information systems that supported businesses, infrastructures and services. It therefore included not only hardware, software, data and information, but also people, networks and the entire infrastructure that made social interaction possible. He then defined cyber security, which comprised five levels – civil, technical, economic, political, and military – and sought to overcome the problems that arose at each of those levels using effective tools for preventing and combating:

- cyber warfare;
- cyber terrorism;
- cyber espionage;
- cybercrime; and
- cyber activism.

In closing, he wondered whether cyber defence might become a new aspect of sovereignty and defence policy.

The other panellists were given the floor in order to address additional aspects of cyber warfare. In order to focus the debate on the main topic, the representative of the ICRC informed the Committee that international humanitarian law should be used to place limits on cyber warfare in order to protect civilians. He explained the concepts of "cyber attack" and "cyber warfare", which could be used by different people to mean different things. The term "cyber attack" referred to broad data collection operations, such as industrial espionage, and other cybercrimes occurring outside the context of armed conflict. That kind of cyber attack was not covered by international humanitarian law. The term "cyber warfare", on the other hand, referred to large data stream operations employed as methods of warfare. Those operations were intended to cause death, suffering and destruction during an armed conflict and thus fell within the scope of international humanitarian law.

The representative of the ICRC expressed concern that cyber warfare might have dramatic humanitarian consequences, resulting in high numbers of civilian casualties and significant property damage. Recalling the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) of 1977, he said that there was no legal vacuum in cyber-space since, under article 36 of that instrument, any new weapon, means or method of warfare was subject to international humanitarian law. One challenge lay in the anonymity of cyberspace, which made it difficult for States to attribute acts of aggression to the perpetrators in a timely manner. A second challenge was the interconnectedness of cyberspace: the same networks, routes and cables were shared by civilian and military users, making it impossible to determine who owned what. It was therefore strongly recommended that States should apply the law of armed conflict under international humanitarian law to cyber warfare and should review their existing legislation in light of the development of new weapons.

The representative of the WEF recalled that cyberspace not only carried potential risks and threats to society; it also offered opportunities that had been unthinkable before the development of the Internet. The hyper-connectivity of the Web had had unintended consequences, and security had not yet caught up to its technological potential. Moreover, the costs of risks and product security had been overlooked at the outset. Since most network infrastructures are privately owned, it was crucial to include private stakeholders.

The representative of the ITU stressed the need to take a bottom-up approach and to ensure coordination at the national level in securing infrastructures. Unless countries had mechanisms for including all stakeholders at the national level, all efforts at the international level would fail. The solution lay in a combination of national coordination and international cooperation. It was also necessary to synthesize the various national perspectives and bring them to the international level.

The statements made by Committee members focused on the following issues:

1. Legal considerations, the importance of defining the terms "cyberspace" and "cyber warfare" in new national legislation and the need for new international conventions;
2. The need for international cooperation and, in particular, the role of international organizations and the importance of confidence-building measures at the national, bilateral and global levels;
3. Especially in the case of developing countries, the need for capacity-building programmes so that they could provide adequate technological responses;
4. The difficult balance between State security and individual freedom; young populations, in particular, would reject close regulation of the cybersphere;
5. The problematic issue of false information, especially in countries in conflict, where the Internet was often used to threaten opponents, spread panic and disseminate false information to the public.

There was general agreement on the need to take legislative measures at the national and international levels to secure the cybersphere. As an agent of change, the IPU was requested to promote best practices and facilitate discussions that would increase parliamentary awareness and lead to the drafting of relevant legislation.

The Bureau of the Standing Committee met on 14 October 2014. It established its work programme for the 132nd IPU Assembly, to be held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in March 2015. At that Assembly, the Committee would first discuss the draft resolution on *Cyber warfare – A serious threat to peace and global security*. It would then consider the proposed amendments to the draft resolution in plenary with a view to submitting it to the Assembly for adoption. With regard to the preparation of a longer-term work plan, the Bureau decided to take time to consider the matter and, in a month, to prepare a synthesis of their ideas in order to submit a comprehensive proposal to the Committee at its next session.

The Bureau also considered the question of the successor to Mr. G. Schneemann (South Africa) as President of the Committee and proposed the election of Mr. J. R. Tau (South Africa) to replace him. It also proposed that Mr. A. Omari (Morocco) should be confirmed as Vice-President. On 15 October 2014, the Committee approved these proposals. Nevertheless, one vacancy on the Bureau, from the Asia-Pacific Group, remained unfilled because no nomination had been received from that geopolitical group. Thus, for the moment, the Bureau comprises 17 members.

Report of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

*Noted by the 131st IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 16 October 2014)*

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade held two sittings during the 131st Assembly, one on 14 October and one on 15 October, chaired by its President, Mr. R. León (Chile).

At the first sitting, the Committee discussed the draft Outcome Document of the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Peru in December. The Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Meeting, Mr. S. Tejada Galindo (Peru), submitted the pre-draft of the Outcome Document to the Committee for comments. The IPU Secretariat took note of the feedback provided and would incorporate it into the document that would be presented to the Parliamentary Meeting in Lima. The Parliamentary Meeting will be organized by the IPU and the Congress of the Republic of Peru, with the support of the IPU Geopolitical Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC). The Outcome Document adopted at the Parliamentary Meeting would be presented to the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

The first sitting also comprised, for the first time ever at an IPU Assembly, an interactive debate with private sector representatives. The debate focused on corporate investment in sustainable development and was organized jointly with the World Investment Forum of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The participants included Ms. L. Schreve, Head of Sustainable Lending at ING Bank, Mr. R. Milliner, B20 Sherpa for Australia, Mr. N. Boateng, Chief Executive Officer of Empretec, Ghana, Mr. S. Chowdhury (Bangladesh, MP) and Mr. D. Carter (New Zealand, MP).

The debate highlighted the private sector's growing role in funding for development and called for closer interaction with parliamentarians to make development more sustainable, not just financially, but also in social, environmental and ethical terms. The participants agreed that parliamentarians in all countries had a critical role to play in creating stable and enabling environments for investment and private sector development. They underscored the importance of taking account of risks, particularly disasters, and the need for the private sector and governments to include a risk mitigation component as a key underlying component of sustainable development.

The panel emphasized that, in developing countries, the State had a central role in devising strategies to support the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as key drivers of development, particularly in Africa. SMEs today faced many obstacles, ranging from inadequate management skills to access to funding and technology. It was important for parliamentarians to understand the role of SMEs and their potential to spur growth, so that they could come up with strategies and plans to support their development. Such strategies should include access to financing, but also business advice, education, mentorship and other support programmes. Strong government strategy in this regard, accompanied by clear and transparent laws and policies, would also leave commercial banks more comfortable about dealing with start-ups.

The exchanges also included a useful reflection on the sometimes low capacity of parliaments to engage with the private sector and stimulate investments and private sector development. The private sector panellists admitted that they were not aware of those obstacles and acknowledged that the private sector had a relatively poor understanding of parliaments and vice versa. Both parliamentarians and the private sector representatives welcomed opportunities for further exchanges and expressed the hope that the IPU would continue to create them. Such exchanges were also critical in order to tackle other hindrances to development, such as corruption and illicit financial flows and trade.

The sitting on 15 October was dedicated to the debate on the subject item of the Committee's next resolution, *Shaping a new system of water governance: Promoting parliamentary action on water*. The subject item was introduced Mr. A. Iza, Head of the Environmental Law Programme, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Ms. E. Tranchez of Waterlex, Ms. N. Marino (Australia, MP) and Mr. F. Bustamante (Ecuador, MP). A total of 35 parliamentarians from 34 countries took part in the debate, highlighting different aspects of water governance at national, regional and international level

and stressing the important role that parliaments played in all of them. At the end of the debate, the co-Rapporteurs reflected on the Committee deliberations and provided initial insight into how they would incorporate the input provided during the debate into the draft resolution.

The participants observed that the planet was running out of water, our most important resource for sustaining life and all ecosystems. The adoption of middle class lifestyles by developing countries moving up the income ladder, climate change and population growth would only exacerbate the water crisis. A strong water governance system was critical to supporting much needed conservation measures while making water accessible to all equitably and fairly. Most of the world's water reserves, whether situated in individual countries or across borders, were not being actively managed. One way to ensure they would be was to implement two key international conventions that most parliaments had already ratified.

Access to clean and affordable water should be considered a human right. Water itself had the right to be preserved, so that aquifers would have enough time to replenish themselves. As several countries had reported, lax regulations were at the root of water overconsumption. Concern to secure vital water supplies was a root cause of conflict between and within countries. As most water was used for agriculture, it would be important to shift to crops that were less water-intensive and generally reform agricultural practices with an eye to the best practices that traditional agriculture and modern methods had to offer.

Water governance must be established at all levels, from national to local. There was no single model of water governance and the overall context had to be considered. One approach that many speakers alluded to was based on the notion that water was a public good belonging to everyone and requiring strong government regulation to make sure it did not become a mere commodity. That model valued strong community involvement through water councils that included representatives of minority groups and the most vulnerable in society. In Ecuador, for example, water rights had been enshrined directly in the Constitution, and all essential water services had to be provided directly by the government or at least guaranteed by it.

Although several countries had achieved the water target of the Millennium Development Goals (many fewer had achieved the closely related sanitation target), much stronger action worldwide would be required to turn the tide. The current draft Sustainable Development Goals therefore included a stand-alone water goal. Parliaments were encouraged to actively support that goal as negotiations of the draft began in earnest next year.

In addition to the debates, the Standing Committee Bureau had four vacancies to fill, one by the Asia-Pacific Group, one by the Twelve Plus Group and two by the Eurasia Group. The Committee approved the candidatures of Ms. S. Tioulong (Cambodia) and Ms. S. de Bethune (Belgium). No candidatures were received from the Eurasia Group.

Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 131st IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 16 October 2014)*

The Committee held three panel discussions over two days, on 14 and 15 October. Ms. D.-T. Avgerinopoulou (Greece) introduced all the discussions in her capacity of President.

The first discussion took the form of **an interactive debate with the UN Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, Mr. A. de Zayas**. He drew from his reports to the UN Human Rights Council to argue for a deeper, more participatory form of democracy at both national and international level. He said that representative democracy had its inherent limitations: it only worked if parliamentarians were held accountable to their constituents. In too many countries, however, politicians fell prey to the influence of lobbies and other organized interests that were at variance with the popular will.

There were numerous illustrations of this, such as military and defence budgets that were not fully disclosed to the people and adopted without debate in parliament on the need to reduce military expenditure in order to invest more in education, health care and other public goods. Global military spending could easily be cut by, say, 10 per cent (of the current USD 1.3 trillion annually) if all countries agreed to do the same, which would leave no one at a disadvantage.

Mr. de Zayas suggested that measures to strengthen representative democracy should include providing more real choices when it came to candidates running for election and weakening the grip of party leaders on elected representatives. Referendums should be used more frequently to allow people to have a direct say in government.

The same democratic deficit found in many countries, both developed and developing, permeated the institutions of global governance, from the United Nations to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization. Those institutions should all be regrouped under the UN umbrella, and the United Nations itself needed to be made more accountable to the people. According to Mr. de Zayas, the constitution of a world parliamentary assembly of elected representatives would contribute to making the United Nations more responsive to the real concerns of people around the world. While that idea was accepted by one delegation in the room, it was rejected by another. The Committee President reminded participants of the core mandate of the IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, i.e. to hold hearings with UN officials, shape parliamentary input to major UN processes, and examine UN operations with a view to enhancing accountability.

There was a clear sense in the ensuing discussion with members that Mr. de Zayas's perspective resonated in several regards. Questions were raised about the democratic deficit at the global level, which included a Security Council that did not fairly represent the global community, the fact that developing countries were not members of key international bodies, and the growing influence of unaccountable transnational corporations at the United Nations and other global institutions. None of that was likely to change unless parliaments acquired stronger oversight capacities and the political will to hold governments to account.

The Committee's second panel discussion dealt with **the question of corporate influence on UN decision-making**. The panel consisted of Ms. P. Bayr (Austria), Mr. J. Kakonge, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations Office at Geneva, and Mr. J. Martens, Director of the Global Policy Forum. Mr. A. Motter, of the IPU Secretariat, moderated.

The overall conclusion of the discussion was that parliaments ought to pay closer attention to the growing relationship between the United Nations and corporations. While there might be some scope for the United Nations to partner with the corporate sector either at the global level or within countries, it was imperative that all partnership agreements be subject to strict mandatory guidelines and to regular reviews. UN agencies and programmes should adopt a common standard for dealing with the corporate sector. Corporate funding of UN offices and field operations needed to be made more transparent through mandatory disclosure and conflict-of-interest rules.

The United Nations lacked a proper vetting system to make sure that the corporate entities it worked with upheld the highest standards, which must go well beyond the 10 core principles of the Global Compact. It was contradictory for corporations that did business with the United Nations to follow those core principles at the same time as they undermined development goals by looking for tax havens or advocated policies (e.g. oil and gas subsidies) that affected climate change and development efforts. Good corporate citizenship should be defined in terms of respect for tax laws and government regulations, human rights and public goods.

A more fundamental problem was the United Nations' growing reliance on the corporate sector to help establish global norms by including corporations on key advisory boards and other such decision-making bodies. Concomitant to that was the rising number of multi-stakeholder forums at the United Nations in which partners were invited to discussions with governments as if they were all on the same footing. Governments needed to better differentiate between partners and clarify that, in the final analysis, they were accountable to the people via their elected representatives. The institutional relationship between the United Nations and the IPU as a parliamentary organization could help strengthen that essential link between global and national levels of governance. By all accounts, the United Nations invested more resources in the relationship with the corporate sector than in that with parliaments. In an ideal scenario, the reverse should be the case.

The recent exponential growth in the number of corporate partnerships was closely linked to government cuts to the UN budget. The United Nations was being starved for resources, prompting it to reach out to the corporate sector for support for development-related initiatives. Corporations, for their part, tended to regard this as a good exercise in public relations and a way to ensure that the global regulatory framework remained fundamentally skewed in their favour. Corporations had long preferred a regime based on the principle of voluntary compliance with respect to human rights and other standards. It was also possible that some corporate partners wished to ensure that a market-based approach remained the preferred policy option when it came to guaranteeing fundamental rights such as access to water or food.

Yet, in what might amount to an important shift on the part of the United Nations, a 2014 Human Rights Council resolution called for a human rights instrument that was legally binding on transnational corporations and other business enterprises. If properly implemented, the resolution would also help fill a gap in many national jurisdictions where legislation on corporate behaviour was lax. Ultimately, it was at the national level that action was needed to strengthen the legal frameworks for good corporate behaviour at all levels and in all jurisdictions. Here again, parliaments had a central role to play.

The Committee's third, interactive, panel discussion considered the process leading up to the 2016 UN General Assembly Special Session that would review progress on the goals set in the 2009 ***Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem***.

The discussion was co-moderated by Mr. A. Avsan (Sweden) and Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico). The panel comprised Mr. L. de Alba, Mexico's ambassador to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Mr. J.-L. Lemahieu, UNODC Director, Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, and journalist Mr. E. de la Reguera, and examined the tension between the law enforcement versus the prevention and rehabilitation approach.

The moderators pointed out that failure to discuss the issue nationally and internationally meant that serious problems – deaths in developed and developing countries; incoherent regional policies that had an unintended impact on neighbouring States; collateral damage on women and children in poor communities; flourishing money laundering, corruption and organized crime – were not being addressed. Criminal enterprises were described as akin to multinationals in their scope and impact. Inaction was leading to greater inequality within and between nations.

In the ensuing discussion, the participants pointed out that, while some nations were discussing legalization to reduce harm and generate tax revenues, others bemoaned the lack of debate and understanding in parliaments, among the general public and in the media. They referred to the need for access to proper basic health care, pharmaceutical products, treatment and pain mitigation, and suggested that new policies had to be predicated on individual human rights and be solidly grounded in the post-2015 development agenda. Account had to be taken of economic and social issues, and regional approaches adopted.

International conventions on drugs did not allow national frameworks the flexibility to tackle drug issues in the light of the local context, history and traditions. The capacity of public health systems to deal with opiates and pain management had to be enhanced.

The participants expressed concern for transit countries that dealt with the consequences of inaction in consuming and producing countries, even though the distinction between the two was becoming less relevant in the wake of new developments, such as synthetic drugs that could be produced anywhere. They expressed a desire for further input, a flexible framework and the establishment of a coalition of the willing to work towards coherent strategies and implementation. The United Nations should involve more of its agencies, such as the World Health Organization, in tackling the problem, and each country should adopt a comprehensive approach, reducing consumption through education, treatment, supply restrictions, civil society awareness, enhanced security to combat corruption and a better legal framework. The impact of national policies at the grassroots level needed to be considered.

Mr. Lemahieu encouraged parliamentarians to post comments on the website of the UN General Assembly Special Session (www.ungass2016.org) and suggested that the IPU report on the panel discussion on *The legalization of drugs: Can it help curb organized crime?*, held at the 128th IPU Assembly (Quito, March 2013), should also be posted there. Mr. de Alba noted that the current panel discussion was the first global meeting he was aware of that included the views of parliamentarians from a cross-section of Member States. He expressed frustration at the growing tendency to negotiate international agreements by consensus through the UN process, as the result was agreements aimed at the lowest common denominator.

It was recommended that the IPU provide a forum for further engagement leading up to the UN General Assembly Special Session. Parliamentarians wanted to be involved and explicitly referenced in the relevant UN documents.

**The role of parliamentarians in countering terrorism, terrorist groups
such as the so-called daesh and massive violence against civilians
and in building an international partnership through
the United Nations and other International Organizations**

**Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Ecuador and the United Arab
Emirates for the inclusion of an emergency item**

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes.....	813	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	857
Negative votes	44	Two-thirds majority.....	571
Abstentions	660		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	
Afghanistan	14			Germany			19	Oman	10			
Albania		<i>Absent</i>			Ghana			14	Pakistan	21		
Algeria	15			Greece			13	Palestine	11			
Andorra	10			Guatemala		<i>Absent</i>		Panama			11	
Angola			12	Guinea			13	Paraguay		<i>Absent</i>		
Argentina	16			Guinea-Bissau			11	Peru		<i>Absent</i>		
Armenia	3		8	Haiti			13	Philippines		<i>Absent</i>		
Australia			14	Hungary	13			Poland			15	
Austria	12			Iceland	10			Portugal	13			
Bahrain	10			India			23	Qatar	8			
Bangladesh		<i>Absent</i>			Indonesia	20			Republic of Korea		<i>Absent</i>	
Belarus			13	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Romania	14			
Belgium			12	Iraq		<i>Absent</i>		Russian Federation			20	
Benin	12			Ireland			11	Rwanda			12	
Bhutan			10	Italy	17			San Marino	5		5	
Bolivia		<i>Absent</i>			Japan	20			Saudi Arabia	14		
Bosnia and Herzegovina		<i>Absent</i>			Jordan	12			Senegal		10	
Botswana				Kazakhstan	13			Serbia	12			
Brazil	10		10	Kenya			14	Seychelles		<i>Absent</i>		
Burkina Faso			13	Kuwait	9			Singapore	11		1	
Burundi	12			Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	Slovakia		<i>Absent</i>		
Cabo Verde			10	Latvia		<i>Absent</i>		Slovenia	11			
Cambodia	13			Lebanon		<i>Absent</i>		South Africa			17	
Cameroon	13			Lesotho			11	Spain	10			
Canada		15		Libya		<i>Absent</i>		Sri Lanka		<i>Absent</i>		
Chad			13	Liechtenstein		<i>Absent</i>		Sudan			15	
Chile			13	Lithuania	11			Suriname		<i>Absent</i>		
China			23	Madagascar			14	Sweden	12			
Colombia	12		2	Malawi			13	Switzerland	12			
Costa Rica		<i>Absent</i>			Malaysia	14			Syrian Arab Rep.		3 10	
Côte d'Ivoire			13	Maldives	10			Tajikistan		<i>Absent</i>		
Croatia			10	Mali	13			Thailand			18	
Cuba	13			Malta		<i>Absent</i>		Timor-Leste	11			
Cyprus	10			Mauritius		<i>Absent</i>		Togo			12	
Czech Republic	13			Mexico	20			Tonga		<i>Absent</i>		
DR of the Congo			17	Micronesia (Fed. States of)			8	Trinidad & Tobago			11	
Denmark	12			Monaco		<i>Absent</i>		Turkey	12		6	
Djibouti		<i>Absent</i>			Mongolia		<i>Absent</i>		Uganda		13	
Dominican Rep.			12	Morocco	15			Ukraine	10			
Ecuador	13			Myanmar	10			United Arab Emirates	11			
El Salvador	12			Namibia			11	United Kingdom	18			
Equatorial Guinea			11	Netherlands			13	United Republic of Tanzania	5	10		
Estonia	11			New Zealand	11			Uruguay	8	2		
Ethiopia	19			Nicaragua	8			Venezuela	13			
Finland	12			Niger			13	Viet Nam	15		4	
France	18			Nigeria	5		5	Zambia			13	
Gabon			11	Norway	12			Zimbabwe			13	
Gambia			10									
Georgia		<i>Absent</i>										

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

**The role of the inter-parliamentary union in addressing the terrorism and
extremism of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL),
Al Nusra Front (ANF) and other terrorist groups**

**Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of the Syrian Arab
Republic for the inclusion of an emergency item**

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes	286	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	589
Negative votes	303	Two-thirds majority.....	393
Abstentions	929		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan			14	Germany		19		Oman	10		
Albania	<i>Absent</i>			Ghana	7		7	Pakistan	21		
Algeria			15	Greece			13	Palestine	11		
Andorra			10	Guatemala	<i>Absent</i>			Panama			11
Angola			12	Guinea			13	Paraguay	<i>Absent</i>		
Argentina	16			Guinea-Bissau			11	Peru	<i>Absent</i>		
Armenia	6		5	Haiti			13	Philippines	<i>Absent</i>		
Australia		14		Hungary	13			Poland			15
Austria			12	Iceland			10	Portugal			13
Bahrain		10		India			23	Qatar		8	
Bangladesh	<i>Absent</i>			Indonesia	12		8	Republic of Korea	<i>Absent</i>		
Belarus	13			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Romania		14	
Belgium			12	Iraq	<i>Absent</i>			Russian Federation	20		
Benin			12	Ireland			11	Rwanda			12
Bhutan			10	Italy			17	San Marino	10		
Bolivia	<i>Absent</i>			Japan			20	Saudi Arabia		14	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<i>Absent</i>			Jordan			12	Senegal			10
Botswana				Kazakhstan	13			Serbia			12
Brazil			20	Kenya			14	Seychelles	<i>Absent</i>		
Burkina Faso			13	Kuwait			9	Singapore			12
Burundi			12	Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	Slovakia	<i>Absent</i>		
Cabo Verde			10	Latvia	<i>Absent</i>			Slovenia	11		
Cambodia			13	Lebanon	<i>Absent</i>			South Africa			17
Cameroon			13	Lesotho			11	Spain		10	
Canada		15		Libya	<i>Absent</i>			Sri Lanka	<i>Absent</i>		
Chad			13	Liechtenstein	<i>Absent</i>			Sudan			15
Chile			13	Lithuania			11	Suriname	<i>Absent</i>		
China			23	Madagascar			14	Sweden		12	
Colombia	14			Malawi			13	Switzerland		12	
Costa Rica	<i>Absent</i>			Malaysia	14			Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
Côte d'Ivoire			13	Maldives			10	Tajikistan	<i>Absent</i>		
Croatia			10	Mali			13	Thailand			18
Cuba	13			Malta	<i>Absent</i>			Timor-Leste			11
Cyprus			10	Mauritius	<i>Absent</i>			Togo			12
Czech Republic			13	Mexico	8		12	Tonga	<i>Absent</i>		
DR of the Congo			17	Micronesia (Fed. States of)			8	Trinidad & Tobago			11
Denmark		12		Monaco	<i>Absent</i>			Turkey		18	
Djibouti	<i>Absent</i>			Mongolia	<i>Absent</i>			Uganda			13
Dominican Rep.			12	Morocco			15	Ukraine			10
Ecuador			13	Myanmar			10	United Arab Emirates		11	
El Salvador	12			Namibia			11	United Kingdom		18	
Equatorial Guinea			11	Netherlands			13	United Republic of Tanzania			15
Estonia		11		New Zealand			11	Uruguay			11
Ethiopia			19	Nicaragua	8			Venezuela	13		
Finland		12		Niger			13	Viet Nam	10		
France		18		Nigeria			10	Zambia			13
Gabon			11	Norway			12	Zimbabwe			13
Gambia			10								
Georgia	<i>Absent</i>										

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

**The role of the IPU in encouraging and supporting
an initiative aimed at ensuring international protection for the
Palestinian people under occupation until a two-state solution is
achieved, in the light of the latest Israeli military aggression on Gaza**

**Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Palestine
for the inclusion of an emergency item**

Results

Affirmative votes	524	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	687
Negative votes	163	Two-thirds majority.....	458
Abstentions	831		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan			14	Germany		19		Oman	10		
Albania	<i>Absent</i>			Ghana			14	Pakistan	21		
Algeria	15			Greece			13	Palestine	11		
Andorra			10	Guatemala	<i>Absent</i>			Panama			11
Angola			12	Guinea			13	Paraguay	<i>Absent</i>		
Argentina			16	Guinea-Bissau			11	Peru	<i>Absent</i>		
Armenia			11	Haiti	13			Philippines	<i>Absent</i>		
Australia		14		Hungary	6		7	Poland			15
Austria			12	Iceland			10	Portugal	3	4	6
Bahrain	10			India	23			Qatar	8		
Bangladesh	<i>Absent</i>			Indonesia	20			Republic of Korea	<i>Absent</i>		
Belarus			13	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Romania			14
Belgium	6		6	Iraq	<i>Absent</i>			Russian Federation	20		
Benin			12	Ireland	11			Rwanda			12
Bhutan			10	Italy			17	San Marino	5		5
Bolivia	<i>Absent</i>			Japan			20	Saudi Arabia	14		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<i>Absent</i>			Jordan	12			Senegal	10		
Botswana				Kazakhstan	13			Serbia			12
Brazil	10		10	Kenya		14		Seychelles	<i>Absent</i>		
Burkina Faso			13	Kuwait	9			Singapore	12		
Burundi			12	Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	Slovakia	<i>Absent</i>		
Cabo Verde			10	Latvia	<i>Absent</i>			Slovenia	11		
Cambodia			13	Lebanon	<i>Absent</i>			South Africa	17		
Cameroon			13	Lesotho			11	Spain			10
Canada		15		Libya	<i>Absent</i>			Sri Lanka	<i>Absent</i>		
Chad			13	Liechtenstein	<i>Absent</i>			Sudan	15		
Chile			13	Lithuania			11	Suriname	<i>Absent</i>		
China	13		10	Madagascar			14	Sweden		12	
Colombia			14	Malawi			13	Switzerland		12	
Costa Rica	<i>Absent</i>			Malaysia	14			Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
Côte d'Ivoire			13	Maldives	10			Tajikistan	<i>Absent</i>		
Croatia			10	Mali	6		7	Thailand			18
Cuba	13			Malta	<i>Absent</i>			Timor-Leste			11
Cyprus	5		5	Mauritius	<i>Absent</i>			Togo			12
Czech Republic			13	Mexico	12		8	Tonga	<i>Absent</i>		
DR of the Congo			17	Micronesia (Fed. States of)			8	Trinidad & Tobago			11
Denmark			12	Monaco	<i>Absent</i>			Turkey	18		
Djibouti	<i>Absent</i>			Mongolia	<i>Absent</i>			Uganda			13
Dominican Rep.			12	Morocco	15			Ukraine			10
Ecuador	13			Myanmar			10	United Arab Emirates	11		
El Salvador	12			Namibia			11	United Kingdom		18	
Equatorial Guinea			11	Netherlands		13		United Republic of Tanzania	15		
Estonia			11	New Zealand			11	Uruguay			11
Ethiopia			19	Nicaragua	8			Venezuela	13		
Finland		12		Niger			13	Viet Nam	10		
France		18		Nigeria			10	Zambia			13
Gabon			11	Norway			12	Zimbabwe			13
Gambia			10								
Georgia	<i>Absent</i>										

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

Commitment by the world's parliamentarians to promote a multilateral legal framework for restructuring countries' sovereign debt with a view to achieving a more stable and predictable international financial system

Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Argentina for the inclusion of an emergency item

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes	286	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	574
Negative votes	288	Two-thirds majority.....	383
Abstentions	944		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan		14		Germany		19		Oman			10
Albania		<i>Absent</i>		Ghana			14	Pakistan			21
Algeria			15	Greece	3		10	Palestine			11
Andorra			10	Guatemala			<i>Absent</i>	Panama	11		
Angola			12	Guinea			13	Paraguay			<i>Absent</i>
Argentina	16			Guinea-Bissau			11	Peru			<i>Absent</i>
Armenia			11	Haiti			13	Philippines			<i>Absent</i>
Australia			14	Hungary			13	Poland		15	
Austria	6		6	Iceland			10	Portugal			13
Bahrain		10		India	23			Qatar			8
Bangladesh		<i>Absent</i>		Indonesia	12		8	Republic of Korea			<i>Absent</i>
Belarus			13	Iran (Islamic Republic of)			18	Romania			14
Belgium			12	Iraq			<i>Absent</i>	Russian Federation	10		10
Benin		12		Ireland			11	Rwanda			12
Bhutan			10	Italy			17	San Marino			10
Bolivia		<i>Absent</i>		Japan		20		Saudi Arabia		14	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		<i>Absent</i>		Jordan		12		Senegal			10
Botswana				Kazakhstan	13			Serbia			12
Brazil	20			Kenya		14		Seychelles			<i>Absent</i>
Burkina Faso			13	Kuwait		9		Singapore			12
Burundi			12	Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	Slovakia			<i>Absent</i>
Cabo Verde			10	Latvia			<i>Absent</i>	Slovenia			11
Cambodia			13	Lebanon			<i>Absent</i>	South Africa			17
Cameroon			13	Lesotho			11	Spain			10
Canada		15		Libya			<i>Absent</i>	Sri Lanka			<i>Absent</i>
Chad			13	Liechtenstein			<i>Absent</i>	Sudan	15		
Chile	13			Lithuania			11	Suriname			<i>Absent</i>
China			23	Madagascar			14	Sweden		12	
Colombia	14			Malawi			13	Switzerland		12	
Costa Rica			<i>Absent</i>	Malaysia			14	Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
Côte d'Ivoire			13	Maldives			10	Tajikistan			<i>Absent</i>
Croatia			10	Mali			13	Thailand			18
Cuba	13			Malta			<i>Absent</i>	Timor-Leste			11
Cyprus	10			Mauritius			<i>Absent</i>	Togo			12
Czech Republic			13	Mexico	12		8	Tonga			<i>Absent</i>
DR of the Congo			17	Micronesia (Fed. States of)			8	Trinidad & Tobago			11
Denmark			12	Monaco			<i>Absent</i>	Turkey			18
Djibouti			<i>Absent</i>	Mongolia			<i>Absent</i>	Uganda			13
Dominican Rep.			12	Morocco			15	Ukraine			10
Ecuador	13			Myanmar			10	United Arab Emirates		11	
El Salvador	12			Namibia			11	United Kingdom		18	
Equatorial Guinea			11	Netherlands			13	United Republic of Tanzania		15	
Estonia		11		New Zealand			11	Uruguay	11		
Ethiopia	10		9	Nicaragua	8			Venezuela	13		
Finland		12		Niger			13	Viet Nam	15		
France		18		Nigeria			10	Zambia			13
Gabon			11	Norway			12	Zimbabwe			13
Gambia			10								
Georgia			<i>Absent</i>								

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

**The role of Parliaments in supporting implementation of
UN Security Council resolution 2178 and international support
to address the humanitarian disaster caused
by the terrorist attacks in Iraq and Syria**

**Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Chile
for the inclusion of an emergency item**

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes	415	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	642
Negative votes	227	Two-thirds majority.....	428
Abstentions	876		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan		14		Germany		19		Oman			10
Albania		<i>Absent</i>		Ghana			14	Pakistan			21
Algeria			15	Greece	13			Palestine			11
Andorra			10	Guatemala			<i>Absent</i>	Panama	11		
Angola			12	Guinea			13	Paraguay			<i>Absent</i>
Argentina	16			Guinea-Bissau			11	Peru			<i>Absent</i>
Armenia			11	Haiti			13	Philippines			<i>Absent</i>
Australia	14			Hungary	13			Poland			15
Austria			12	Iceland			10	Portugal			13
Bahrain		10		India			23	Qatar			8
Bangladesh		<i>Absent</i>		Indonesia	12		8	Republic of Korea			<i>Absent</i>
Belarus	13			Iran (Islamic Republic of)			18	Romania	10		4
Belgium			12	Iraq			<i>Absent</i>	Russian Federation	20		
Benin			12	Ireland	11			Rwanda			12
Bhutan			10	Italy			17	San Marino	10		
Bolivia		<i>Absent</i>		Japan	20			Saudi Arabia		14	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		<i>Absent</i>		Jordan		12		Senegal			10
Botswana				Kazakhstan	13			Serbia			12
Brazil	20			Kenya		14		Seychelles			<i>Absent</i>
Burkina Faso			13	Kuwait		9		Singapore	12		
Burundi			12	Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	Slovakia			<i>Absent</i>
Cabo Verde			10	Latvia			<i>Absent</i>	Slovenia			11
Cambodia			13	Lebanon			<i>Absent</i>	South Africa			17
Cameroon			13	Lesotho			11	Spain	10		
Canada		15		Libya			<i>Absent</i>	Sri Lanka			<i>Absent</i>
Chad			13	Liechtenstein			<i>Absent</i>	Sudan			15
Chile	13			Lithuania			11	Suriname			<i>Absent</i>
China	23			Madagascar			14	Sweden		12	
Colombia	14			Malawi			13	Switzerland		12	
Costa Rica		<i>Absent</i>		Malaysia	14			Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
Côte d'Ivoire			13	Maldives			10	Tajikistan			<i>Absent</i>
Croatia	7		3	Mali			13	Thailand			18
Cuba	13			Malta			<i>Absent</i>	Timor-Leste			11
Cyprus			10	Mauritius			<i>Absent</i>	Togo			12
Czech Republic			13	Mexico	20			Tonga			<i>Absent</i>
DR of the Congo			17	Micronesia (Fed. States of)	8			Trinidad & Tobago			11
Denmark		12		Monaco			<i>Absent</i>	Turkey	12		6
Djibouti		<i>Absent</i>		Mongolia			<i>Absent</i>	Uganda			13
Dominican Rep.	12			Morocco			15	Ukraine			10
Ecuador			13	Myanmar			10	United Arab Emirates		11	
El Salvador	12			Namibia			11	United Kingdom		18	
Equatorial Guinea			11	Netherlands		13		United Republic of Tanzania			15
Estonia			11	New Zealand			11	Uruguay			11
Ethiopia			19	Nicaragua	8			Venezuela	13		
Finland		12		Niger			13	Viet Nam	15		
France		18		Nigeria			10	Zambia			13
Gabon			11	Norway			12	Zimbabwe			13
Gambia			10								
Georgia		<i>Absent</i>									

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

The role of Parliaments in supporting an immediate and robust international response to the Ebola epidemic and in enacting laws ensuring an effective response to and preparedness for Ebola and other infectious disease outbreaks

Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Belgium and Zambia for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes	1079	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	1221
Negative votes	142	Two-thirds majority.....	814
Abstentions	297		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan		14		Germany	19			Oman			10
Albania	<i>Absent</i>			Ghana	14			Pakistan			21
Algeria	15			Greece	13			Palestine			11
Andorra			10	Guatemala	<i>Absent</i>			Panama			11
Angola	12			Guinea	13			Paraguay	<i>Absent</i>		
Argentina			16	Guinea-Bissau	11			Peru	<i>Absent</i>		
Armenia			11	Haiti	13			Philippines	<i>Absent</i>		
Australia	14			Hungary	13			Poland	15		
Austria	8		4	Iceland	10			Portugal	13		
Bahrain		10		India	23			Qatar			8
Bangladesh	<i>Absent</i>			Indonesia	20			Republic of Korea	<i>Absent</i>		
Belarus			13	Iran (Islamic Republic of)			18	Romania	14		
Belgium	12			Iraq	<i>Absent</i>			Russian Federation	20		
Benin	12			Ireland	11			Rwanda	12		
Bhutan	10			Italy			17	San Marino	5		5
Bolivia	<i>Absent</i>			Japan	20			Saudi Arabia		14	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<i>Absent</i>			Jordan		12		Senegal	10		
Botswana				Kazakhstan			13	Serbia	12		
Brazil	20			Kenya	14			Seychelles	<i>Absent</i>		
Burkina Faso	13			Kuwait		9		Singapore	6		6
Burundi	12			Lao People's Dem. Republic	12			Slovakia	<i>Absent</i>		
Cabo Verde	10			Latvia	<i>Absent</i>			Slovenia	11		
Cambodia	13			Lebanon	<i>Absent</i>			South Africa	17		
Cameroon	13			Lesotho	11			Spain	10		
Canada	15			Libya	<i>Absent</i>			Sri Lanka	<i>Absent</i>		
Chad	13			Liechtenstein	<i>Absent</i>			Sudan	15		
Chile			13	Lithuania	11			Suriname	<i>Absent</i>		
China	10		13	Madagascar	14			Sweden			12
Colombia	14			Malawi	13			Switzerland	12		
Costa Rica	<i>Absent</i>			Malaysia	14			Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
Côte d'Ivoire	13			Maldives	10			Tajikistan	<i>Absent</i>		
Croatia	10			Mali	13			Thailand	18		
Cuba	13			Malta	<i>Absent</i>			Timor-Leste	11		
Cyprus	5		5	Mauritius	<i>Absent</i>			Togo	12		
Czech Republic	13			Mexico	20			Tonga	<i>Absent</i>		
DR of the Congo	17			Micronesia (Fed. States of)	8			Trinidad & Tobago	1		10
Denmark		12		Monaco	<i>Absent</i>			Turkey	18		
Djibouti	<i>Absent</i>			Mongolia	<i>Absent</i>			Uganda	13		
Dominican Rep.	12			Morocco	10		5	Ukraine			10
Ecuador			13	Myanmar	10			United Arab Emirates		11	
El Salvador			12	Namibia	11			United Kingdom		18	
Equatorial Guinea	11			Netherlands	13			United Republic of Tanzania	15		
Estonia			11	New Zealand	11			Uruguay			11
Ethiopia	19			Nicaragua			8	Venezuela	13		
Finland		12		Niger	13			Viet Nam	19		
France		18		Nigeria	10			Zambia	13		
Gabon	11			Norway		12		Zimbabwe	13		
Gambia	10										
Georgia	<i>Absent</i>										

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

The role of parliaments in supporting an immediate and robust international response to the Ebola epidemic and in enacting laws ensuring an effective response to and preparedness for Ebola and other infectious disease outbreaks

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 131st IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 16 October 2014)*

The 131st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Expressing concern at the unprecedented Ebola outbreak that has affected West Africa in the past months, and *alarmed* at the numerous deaths that have resulted, especially of multiple members of the same family and in the most vulnerable groups, such as health-care workers and women,

Also expressing concern at the high risk that the virus will spread around the world,

Aware that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa may, according to the United Nations, become a humanitarian disaster with immeasurable consequences,

Recalling that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa has been designated a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization (WHO) and declared a threat to international peace and security by the United Nations Security Council,

Also recalling that, on 19 August 2014, the African Union Peace and Security Council invoked Article 6(f), on humanitarian action and disaster management, of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, and authorized the immediate deployment of ASEOWA (African Union Support to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa),

Further recalling that, on 18 September 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 69/1 approving the establishment of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) to stop the outbreak, treat the infected, ensure essential services, preserve stability and prevent further outbreaks,

Aware that the non-governmental organizations at the forefront of the fight against Ebola, such as Doctors Without Borders and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, deem the international response dangerously insufficient,

Acknowledging nevertheless that many countries have already increased their funding and material support for the countries affected in West Africa and deployed personnel on the ground to help contain the outbreak,

Noting the measures taken by the States affected in response to the Ebola epidemic, but *aware* that the means that the governments concerned are able to mobilize may be insufficient, and that the shortcomings brought to light by the Ebola epidemic have revealed an urgent need for support,

Concerned that many countries continue to have poorly funded and weak health systems, outdated or inadequate health laws and regulations, and insufficient capacity under the International Health Regulations, and that this hampers national and international efforts to respond to outbreaks of infectious disease,

Bearing in mind that the countries concerned are already suffering shortages of food and drinking water and that their economies are collapsing as a result of disruptions to trade, commercial flights and agricultural activity,

Expressing concern that, as a result of inadequate investment in research, there is as yet no vaccine or effective specific treatment against the Ebola virus,

Taking into consideration that the achievements of the worst affected countries in terms of consolidating peace and development risk being wiped out by the Ebola epidemic, and *underscoring* that the epidemic is compromising the stability of those countries,

Noting the WHO advisory opinion on the negative consequences of the Ebola response, namely the isolation and stigmatization of the countries and region affected, and on the need for all countries, especially neighbouring States, to keep their borders open to goods and people, maintain air routes, strengthen national and regional preparedness, increase the exchange of information and reinforce their health systems,

Stressing that national, regional and international action and cooperation are required to check epidemics of serious infectious diseases and that a coordinated international response to the Ebola epidemic is therefore a vital and immediate need,

1. *Deplores* all loss of life in the Ebola epidemic;
2. *Expresses support* for the governments and populations concerned in West Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which have been severely affected by the Ebola outbreak;
3. *Demands* that all political parties in the countries concerned work together in unity and harmony to facilitate, without delay, free and safe access for humanitarian organizations and their staff to areas where the population needs them;
4. *Recognizes* that national leadership and ownership of the Ebola response in the countries concerned remains the guiding principle for international support, in keeping with their right to self-determination under the Charter of the United Nations;
5. *Applauds* the commitment and contribution of those battling the epidemic on the front lines, notably national and international humanitarian relief workers;
6. *Deeply regrets* the international community's slow and generally insufficient response and the time lost in drawing up an effective and coordinated strategy, while *acknowledging* that a number of States and international organizations have already provided critical assistance;
7. *Urges* the relevant United Nations bodies, especially WHO, which must play a lead role, to take all necessary emergency measures to reinforce their contribution to local, national, regional and international efforts to halt the outbreak of the Ebola virus;
8. *Welcomes* the establishment of UNMEER, which must work in close coordination with regional organizations such as the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States;
9. *Calls on* the countries affected, responding countries and the international organizations active on the ground to work together closely and share information so as to enhance coordination and ensure effective control of the current outbreak;
10. *Calls on* the States that have the requisite means and on international donors to mobilize without delay essential financial resources and capacities, including medical and logistical means that can be deployed on the spot (personnel, supplies, means of transport), paying particularly close attention to the protection of women and children and of health workers entering into contact with infected persons;
11. *Vigorously condemns* the stigmatization of the countries concerned and their citizens, as this may exacerbate their humanitarian plight and have a negative impact on their economies;
12. *Appeals* to States, in particular those in the region, and all competent stakeholders providing the assistance required to deal with the Ebola epidemic to redouble their efforts to heighten public awareness, apply security and health protocols, and correct the misinformation circulating about the disease's transmission and the scope of the epidemic;
13. *Invites* parliaments to promote effective policies to combat the Ebola epidemic at national and international level;
14. *Also invites* parliaments to enact the legislation needed to improve health systems and emergency preparedness, with a view to boosting the capacity to deal with the serious public health and humanitarian crises that may result from an infectious disease outbreak;

15. *Urges* the pharmaceutical industry, the private sector, research institutions, philanthropic organizations and governments to invest in research on viable treatment options and vaccines to treat and prevent Ebola and to make them available at an affordable cost to affected populations, especially the poorest victims;
16. *Recommends* that plans be drawn up to help the countries affected recover quickly from the negative effects of the Ebola crisis based on the lessons currently being learnt;
17. *Also recommends* that the international community set up a rapid health response unit to cope with health crises of this kind and *urges* it to learn from the management of earlier epidemics/pandemics;
18. *Urges* States and the international community to conduct worldwide awareness campaigns to prevent fresh outbreaks of Ebola;
19. *Suggests*, with regard to international development cooperation, that public health – and the prevention of health crises – be added as a core priority to cooperation programmes.

Statement by the Executive Committee on Terrorism

*Noted by the 131st IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 16 October 2014)*

We, members of the Executive Committee, gathered for our 270th session in Geneva, wish to express our deep concern over the spread of terrorism in the world. As an organization committed to promoting democracy, human rights, peace and international security, the IPU condemns all forms of violence, especially acts of terror and intimidation committed against innocent civilians under any banner.

We express our dismay over the proliferation of terrorist acts and their disastrous consequences on entire regions and countries throughout the world. Such acts result in political instability, social unrest, insecurity, internal displacement and mass refugee movements, not to mention widespread death and destruction. The humanitarian impact of terrorist acts is untold.

We deplore the formation and proliferation of terrorist groups and organizations, as well as the provision of weapons and funds to such entities. We appeal to all IPU Members to make concerted efforts to stem the spread of terrorism and extremism. We also call on the media to play their part in reporting objectively and on parliamentarians, as opinion shapers, to play an active role in dispelling the myths surrounding extremist ideologies that may lead to terrorist acts.

We are unanimous in stating that terrorism in any form is indefensible. We appeal for calm and peace, which are the only guarantees of a stable and secure future for the next generations.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ***LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS***

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President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Président de l'Union interparlementaire

Mr./M. Martin Chungong

Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire

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ALBANIA – ALBANIE

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(DA: Demòcrates per Andorra)

(PS: Social Democratic Party / *Parti Social-démocrate*)**ANGOLA**CERQUEIRA, Carolina (Mrs./Mme)
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Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UNITA)

ELIAS, Carolina (Mrs./Mme)

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Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)

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PEREIRA, Isabel (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	

(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

URTUBEY, Rodolfo (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Senate, President of the Committee on Internal Security and Drug-trafficking / <i>Membre du Sénat, Président de la Commission sur la sécurité interne et le trafic de drogue</i>
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(PS: Socialist Party / *Parti socialiste*)

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Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
GRIGORYAN, Artur (Mr./M.)	
Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	

(HHK: Republican Party of Armenia / *Parti républicain arménien*)
(ROLF: Rule of Law Party / *Parti « L'Etat de droit »*)

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STERLE, Glenn (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate / <i>Membre du Sénat</i> (ALP)
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	<i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (LPA)
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<i>Secrétaire et Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
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<i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
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<i>Chef du Secrétariat de la Présidente</i>	
TRY, Talitha (Mr./M.)	
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(LPA: Liberal Party of Australia / *Parti libéral australien*)
(ALP: Australian Labor Party / *Parti travailliste australien*)

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MOSER, Gabriela (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council, Chair of the Court of Audit Committee / <i>Membre du Conseil national, Présidente de la Commission d'audit de la Cour</i> (Grüne)
RUND, Petra (Ms./Mme)	
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<i>Conseillère, Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
WINTONIAK, Alexis (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary General
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	<i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>

(FPÖ: Austrian Freedom Party / *Parti de la liberté*)
(ÖVP: Austrian People's Party / *Parti populaire*)
(Grüne: Green Party / *Les Verts*)

BAHRAIN – BAHREIN

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ALQATTAF, Ameera (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
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Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs, Standing Committee on Ministry of Finance / *Membre du Parlement, Président de la Commission permanente du Ministère des affaires intérieures, Commission permanente du Ministère des finances* (AL)

MAJUMDER, Sadhan Chandra (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament, Standing Committee on Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Standing Committee on Ministry of Religious Affairs / *Membre du Parlement, Commission permanente du Ministère du logement et des travaux publics, Commission permanente du Ministère des affaires religieuses* (AL)

OMAR, Md. Nurul Islam (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament, Standing Committee on Ministry of Agriculture / *Membre du Parlement, Commission permanente du Ministère de l'agriculture* (J)

AHMED, Kazi Nabil (Mr./M.)
Advisor / *Conseiller*

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement*

SHIMUL, Shafiqul Islam (Mr./M.)
Advisor / *Conseiller*

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement*

MOQBUL, Ashraf (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP / *Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

CHAKRABORTY, Pranab (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

BILLAH, M. A. Kamal (Mr./M.)

KHAN, Naimul Azam (Mr./M.)

ASHRAF, Md. Ali (Mr./M.)

(AL: Bangladesh Awami League / *Ligue Awami du Bangladesh*)

(JSD: Jatiyo samajtantrik Dal)

(J: Jatiyo Party / *Parti Jatiyo*)

BELARUS

SENKO, Vladimir (Mr./M.)
Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the delegation / *Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Council of the Republic, Chairman of the Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs and National Security / *Membre du Conseil de la République, Président de la Commission permanente des affaires étrangères et de la sécurité nationale*

NAUMOVICH, Andrei (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Standing Commission on Human Rights, National Relations and Mass Media / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission permanente des droits de l'homme, des relations nationales et des médias</i>
SHAMAL, Elena (Ms./Mme) Substitute member of the Coordinating committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membre suppléant du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the House of Representatives, Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Commission on Health, Physical Culture, Family and Youth Policy / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Vice-Présidente de la Commission permanente de la santé, de la culture physique, de la famille et de la jeunesse</i>

BELGIUM – BELGIQUE

DE BETHUNE, Sabine (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	President of the Senate <i>Présidente du Sénat</i>
VIENNE, Christiane (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, Substitute member of the Committee on Middle East Questions / <i>Présidente du Groupe, Membre suppléant du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i> (PS)
MAHOUX, Philippe (Mr./M.) Co-Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights / <i>Co-rapporteur de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PS)
VERSTREKEN, Johan (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (CD&V)
HONDEQUIN, Hugo (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
DEBOUTTE, Reinhilde (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Director, House of Representatives <i>Directrice à la Chambre des Représentants</i>
DE ROUCK, Marc (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Director, Senate / <i>Directeur au Sénat</i>
PELEMAN, Martin (Mr./M.) Deputy Secretary of the Group and to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Senior Executive Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Premier Conseiller de direction à la Chambre des Représentants</i>
PIRET, Antoine (Mr./M.) Assistant to Mr. Mahoux / <i>Assistant de M. Mahoux</i>	

(PS: Socialist Party (French) / *Parti socialiste (francophone)*)
(CD&V: Christian Democratic and Flemish / *Chrétiens-démocrates et flamands*)

BENIN

NAGO, Mathurin Coffi (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (FCBE)
GONROUDOBOU, Orou Dèkè (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (FCBE)
QUENUM, Epiphane (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (RDR)
SANI GLELE, Yibatou (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PRD)
TCHOCODO, Gabriel (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (UN)
OLORY-TOGBE D'ALMEIDA, Claude (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary-General <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>

BONOU, Lucien (Mr./M.)
Adviser / *Conseiller*

GUIDI, Kouassi (Mr./M.)
Adviser / *Conseiller*

(FCBE: Cauri Forces for an Emerging Benin / *Forces Cauris pour un Bénin émergent*)
(RDR: Rally for Democracy and the Republic / *Rassemblement pour la démocratie et la république*)
(PRD: Democratic Renewal Party / *Parti du renouveau démocratique*)
(UN: Build the Nation Union / *Union fait la Nation*)

BHUTAN – BHOUTAN

ZANGPO, Jigme (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*
DORJI, Tashi (Mr./M.)

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PDP)

Member of the National Council, Chairperson of the
Social and Cultural Affairs Committee, Foreign Relations
Committee / *Membre du Conseil national, Président de la*
Commission des affaires sociales et culturelles,
Commission des relations étrangères

KHANDU, Sangay (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Council, Deputy Chairperson of
the Legislative Committee / *Membre du Conseil national,*
Vice-Président de la Commission législative

THARCHEN, Tharchen (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Council, Good Governance
Committee / *Membre du Conseil national, Commission*
de la bonne gouvernance

WANGCHUK, Sonam (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Council, Legislative Committee
Membre du Conseil national, Commission législative

NORBU, Wangdi (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Good Governance
Committee / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale,*
Commission de la bonne gouvernance (DPT)

OM, Kinley (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly, Human Rights
Committee / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale,*
Commission des droits de l'homme (PDP)

WANGDI, Kinzang (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

TOBGAY, Sonam (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

(PDP: People's Democratic Party / *Parti populaire démocratique*)
(DPT: Druk Phuensum Tshogpa)

BOLIVIA – BOLIVIE

SORIANO, Sandra (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Senator / *Sénatrice* (MAS)

GARCÍA MAMANI, Carmen (Ms./Mme)

Senator / *Sénatrice* (MAS)

HUARACHI CONDORI, Ninfa (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (MAS)

CHANGARAY, Wilson (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (MAS)

SALVATIERRA, Herberth (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (CN)

RAMIREZ NAVA, Agripina (Ms./Mme)
President of the Group
Président du Groupe

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (MAS)

CHÁVEZ, Jorge Donny (Mr./M.)

Senator / *Sénateur* (CN)

LLANOS, Daniela (Ms./Mme)

Parliamentary Assistant / *Assistante parlementaire*

(MAS: Movement for Socialism / *Mouvement pour le socialisme*)
(CN: Convergencia)

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

KALABIĆ, Drago (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe / Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Peoples, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Joint Committee on Administrative Affairs <i>Membre de la Chambre des Peuples, Commission des affaires étrangères, Commission mixte des affaires administratives (SNSD)</i>
FRANJIĆEVIĆ, Mato (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, Deputy Chair of the Constitutional Legal Committee, Joint Committee on Supervision of the Work of Intelligence and Security Agency / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants Vice-président de la Commission constitutionnelle juridique, Commission mixte du contrôle du travail de l'agence de renseignement et de sécurité (HDZ)</i>
ĆEMALLOVIĆ, Nermina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives, Committee on Foreign Trade and Customs, Joint Committee on Human Rights, Rights of Children, Youth, Immigration, Refugees, Asylum and Ethics / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Commission du commerce extérieur et des douanes, Commission mixte des droits de l'homme, des droits de l'enfant, de la jeunesse, de l'immigration, des réfugiés, de l'asile et de l'éthique (SDP)</i>
RELJIĆ, Dragoljub (Mr./M.)	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
VANJEK, Dejan (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
ĆUJO, Amila (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
(SNSD: Alliance of Independent Social Democrats / <i>Parti social-démocrate indépendant</i>) (HDZ: Croatian Democratic Union / <i>Parti démocratique croate</i>) (SDP: Social Democratic Party / <i>Parti social-démocrate</i>)	

BOTSWANA

NASHA, N. Margaret (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
SAUBI, Babui (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
SEEMULE, Sissy Valerie (Ms./Mme) Permanent Mission of Botswana in Geneva <i>Mission permanente du Botswana à Genève</i>	

BRAZIL – BRESIL

NOGUEIRA, Ciro (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Federal Senate, Committee on Citizenship and Justice, Committee on Economic Matters / <i>Membre du Sénat fédéral, Commission de la citoyenneté et de la justice, Commission des affaires économiques (PP)</i>
CAJADO, Claudio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (DEM)</i>
LINS, Atila (Mr./M.) Treasurer of the Group / <i>Trésorier du Groupe</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PSD)</i>
PORTELLA, Iracema (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PP)</i>
MUDALEN, Jorge Tadeu (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (DEM)</i>

ARAUJO, Silvia (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

(PP: Progressive Party / *Parti progressiste*)
(DEM: Democrats / *Démocrates*)
(PSD: Social Democratic Party / *Parti social-démocrate*)

BURKINA FASO

DIENDÉRÉ-DIALLO, Fatoumata (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Comité exécutif Chef de la délégation</i> Ex-officio member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians <i>Membre de droit du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires</i> Standing Committee on Peace and Security <i>Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (CDP)
ABGAS, Armand (Mr./M.) Standing Committee on Development, Finance and Trade <i>Commission permanente du développement, du financement et du commerce</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (UPC)
DRABO-OUEDRAOGO, Zénabou (Mrs./Mme) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights <i>Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (CDP)
LANKOANDÉ, Folga Ildevert (Mr./M.) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights <i>Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ADF/RDA)
KONE, Ibrahima (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
TRAORÉ, Mélégué (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs / <i>Vice-Président de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (CDP)
SAMBARÉ, Palguim (Mr./M.) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade / <i>Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (CFR)
ZOBILMA-MANTORO, Emma (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire générale</i>
BAKIO, Inès (Ms./Mme) Administrative Secretary <i>Secrétaire administrative</i>	

(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*)
(ADF/RDA: Alliance for democracy and Federation/African Democratic Rally
Alliance pour la démocratie et la fédération/Rassemblement démocratique africain)
(CFR: Convention of Republican Forces / *Convention des forces républicaines*)

BURUNDI

BERAHINO, Gloriose (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (CNDD-FDD)
NDIHOKUBWAYO, Norbert (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (Frodebu)
RWABAHUNGU, Marc (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

NIYONZIMA, Rénovat (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

CNDD-FDD: National Council for the Defence of Democracy - Front for the Defence of Democracy
Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie - Forces pour la défense de la démocratie
(Frodebu: Front for Democracy in Burundi / *Front pour la démocratie du Burundi*)

CABO VERDE

MOSSO RAMOS, Basílio (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*
Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PAICV)

LÚCIA SILVA ALVES, Joanilda (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PAICV)

PEDRO SOUSA MONTEIRO, Miguel (Mr./M.)
Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPD)

DAS DORES ANTUNES BRITO, Libéria (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
Secretary General / *Secrétaire générale*

AUGUSTO GOMES, Joaquim (Mr./M.)
Secretary / Secrétaire

(PAICV: African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde / *Parti africain pour l'indépendance du Cap-Vert*)
(MPD: Movement for democracy / *Mouvement pour la démocratie*)

CAMBODIA – CAMBODGE

CHHEANG, Vun (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*
Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission permanente des affaires étrangères, de la coopération internationale, de l'information et des médias*

YANG, Sem (Mr./M.)
Member of the Senate, Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, Reception of Complaints, Investigation / *Membre du Sénat, Vice-Président de la Commission des droits de l'homme, de l'instruction des plaintes et des enquêtes*

BAN, Sreymom (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the National Assembly, Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires étrangères, de la coopération internationale, de l'information et des médias*

HUN, Many (Mr./M.)
Member of the National Assembly, Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires étrangères, de la coopération internationale, de l'information et des médias*

KY, Wandara (Mr./M.)
Member of the National Assembly, Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires étrangères, de la coopération internationale, de l'information et des médias*

NHEM, Thavy (Mr./M.)
Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

LORK, Kheng (Mrs./Mme)
Bureau Member, Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights / *Membre du Bureau, Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme*
Member of the National Assembly, Commission on Human Rights, Reception of Complaints, Investigation and National Assembly-Senate Relations / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des droits de l'homme, de l'instruction des plaintes et des enquêtes et des relations Assemblée nationale-Sénat*

TIOULONG, Saumura (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairperson of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media / *Membre de*

OUM, Sarith (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

CHHIM, Sothkun (Mr./M.)

KIMYEAT, Dararith (Mr./M.)

KHLANG, Oudam (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

SOK, Pisey (Mr./M.)

CHEA, Danet (Ms./Mme)

DAV, Ansan (Mr./M.)

HOK, Bunly (Mr./M.)

SONG, Chankannica (Ms./Mme)

l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-président de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la coopération internationale, de l'information et des médias

Secretary General of the Senate
Secrétaire général du Sénat

Director / *Directeur*

Director / *Directeur*

Deputy Director / *Directeur adjoint*

CAMEROON – CAMEROUN

NIAT NJIFENJI, Marcel (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

CAVAYE YEGUIE, Djibril (Mr./M.)
President of the Group / *Président du Groupe*

FOTSO, Joséphine (Ms./Mme)

President of the Senate
Président du Sénat

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)

Member of the National Assembly, Committee on Finance and Budget / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des finances et du budget* (RDPC)

EMAH ETOUNDI, Vincent (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Committee on Constitutional Laws, Human Rights and Freedom, Justice, Legislation and Rules, Administration
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des lois constitutionnelles, des droits de l'homme et des libertés, de la justice, de la législation et du règlement, et de l'administration (RDPC)

KOULTCHOUMI AHIDJO, Oumoul (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UNDP)

TSOMELOU, Jean (Mr./M.)

Senator / *Sénateur* (SDF)

TJOUES, Geneviève (Mrs./Mme)

Vice-President of the Senate
Vice-Présidente du Sénat

ZANG OYONO, Calvin (Mr./M.)

Senator / *Sénateur*

EBONGUE NGOH, Jean (Mr./M.)
Advisor / *Conseiller*

Senator / *Sénateur*

OKALA BILAÏ, Nicole (Ms./Mme)
Advisor / *Conseillère*

Senator / *Sénatrice*

MEVA'A M'EBOUTOU, Michel (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the Senate
Secrétaire général du Sénat

YENE OSSOMBA, Victor (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the National Assembly
Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale

NJOMATCHOUA, Justin (Mr./M.)

Director of the Senate President's Office
Directeur du Cabinet du Président du Sénat

ESSEBA, Cyriaque (Mr./M.)
Administrative Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire administratif du Groupe

Senate / *Sénat*

ETOGA, Ursule (Ms./Mrs.)
Administrative Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire administrative du Groupe

BOUBA, Simala (Mr./M.)

Office of the President of the Senate
Fonctionnaire au Cabinet du Président du Sénat

NGUESSE EWANE, Guy Paulin (Mr./M.)

Office of the President of the Senate
Fonctionnaire au Cabinet du Président du Sénat

NDOUMEN FONDJA, Bérénger (Mr./M.) Office of the President of the Senate
Fonctionnaire au Cabinet du Président du Sénat

INOSECK, Daniel (Mr./M.) Advisor / *Conseiller*

(RDPC: Cameroon People's Democratic Movement / *Rassemblement démocratique du peuple camerounais*)
(UNDP: National Union for Democracy and Progress / *Union nationale pour la démocratie et le progrès*)
(SDF) Social Democratic Front / *Front social démocratique*)

CANADA

ATAULLAHJAN, Salma (Ms./Mme) Member of the Senate
President of the Group, Member of the Executive Committee / *Présidente du Groupe, Membre du Comité exécutif*
Membre du Sénat (CPC-PCC)

DAWSON, Dennis (Mr./M.) Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat (LPC-PLC)

ALLEN, Malcolm (Mr./M.) Member of the House of Commons
Membre de la Chambre des Communes (NDP-NPD)

WOODWORTH, Stephen (Mr./M.) Member of the House of Commons
Membre de la Chambre des Communes (CPC-PCC)

BOSC, Marc (Mr./M.)
ASGP President / *Président de l'ASGP*

GRAVEL, Line (Ms./Mme)
Executive Secretary / *Secrétaire exécutive*

FORGE, Frédéric (Mr./M.)
Adviser / *Conseiller*

(CPC-PCC: Conservative Party of Canada / *Parti conservateur du Canada*)

(LPC-PLC: Liberal Party of Canada / *Parti libéral du Canada*)

(NDP-NPD: New Democratic Party / *Nouveau parti démocratique*)

CHILE – CHILI

COLOMA, Juan Antonio (Mr./M.) Member of the Senate
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation
Membre du Sénat (UDI)

LETELIER, Juan Pablo (Mr./M.) Member of the Senate
President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians / *Président du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires*
Membre du Sénat (PS)

HASBÚN, Gustavo (Mr./M.) Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (UDI)

JARPA, Carlos Abel (Mr./M.) Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRSD)

LEÓN, Roberto (Mr./M.) Member of the Chamber of Deputies
President of the GRULAC, President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable, Finance and Trade
Président du GRULAC, Président de la Commission permanente du développement, du financement et du commerce
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PDC)

PASCAL-ALLENDE, Denise (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions
Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PS)

NOGUEIRA, Claudia (Ms./Mme) Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (UDI)

LABBÉ, Mario (Mr./M.) Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

PEILLARD, Jacqueline (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

OSÉS, Juan (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
ROJAS GALLARDO, Luis (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary, Chamber of Deputies <i>Secrétaire adjoint à la Chambre des Députés</i>
FONTECILLA, Mariano (Mr./M.)	Ambassador / <i>Ambassadeur</i>

(UDI: Independent Democratic Union / *Union démocrate indépendante*)
 (PS: Socialist Party / *Parti socialiste*)
 (PRSD: Radical Social-Democratic Party / *Parti radical social-démocrate*)
 (PDC: Christian Democratic Party / *Parti démocrate-chrétien*)

CHINA – CHINE

WANG, Xiaochu (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National People's Congress, Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale, Vice- Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères (CP)</i>
CAI, Zhansheng (Mr./M.)	Member of the National People's Congress <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale (CP)</i>
JING, Wenchun (Mr./M.)	Member of the National People's Congress, Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale, Commission des affaires étrangères (CP)</i>
LI, Hong (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National People's Congress <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale (CP)</i>
LU, Yuanjing (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
LIU, Di (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
CHEN, Yanhang (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
SHANG, Wei (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
WANG, Yixing (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
YAN, Lijun (Mr./M.) Secretary of the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
WANG, Wen (Mr./M.) Secretary of the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
ZHU, Hongying (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	

(CP: Communist Party / *Parti communiste*)

COLOMBIA – COLOMBIE

CORZO ROMÁN, Juan Manuel (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Senator, Committee on Economic Affairs <i>Sénateur, Commission des affaires économiques (PC)</i>
GARCÍA ROMERO, Teresita (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Speaker of the Senate, Committee on Economic Affairs / <i>Vice-Présidente du Sénat, Commission des affaires économiques (POC)</i>
GALÁN PACHÓN, Juan Manuel (Mr./M.)	Senator, Chairman of the Constitutional Standing Committee / <i>Sénateur, Président de la Commission permanente constitutionnelle (PL)</i>
HOYOS GIRALDO, Germán (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Committee on Economic Affairs <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission des affaires économiques (U)</i>

MORA JARAMILLO, Manuel Guillermo (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Environment Committee <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission de l'environnement (U)</i>
GUERRA DE LA ESPRIELLA, António (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Committee on Economic Affairs <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission des affaires économiques (RC)</i>
ELIAS VIDAL, Bernardo Miguel (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
DUQUE, Luis Fernando (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
NAME VAZQUEZ, Ivan Leonidas (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
CORZO ALVAREZ, Andrea (Ms./Mme) Assistant to Mr. Corzo Román <i>Assistante de M. Corzo Román</i>	
(PC: Conservative Party / <i>Parti conservateur</i>)	
(POC: Citizens' Option Party / <i>Parti option citoyenne</i>)	
(PL: Liberal Party / <i>Parti libéral</i>)	
(U: Social Party of National Unity / <i>Parti social de l'unité nationale</i>)	
(RC: Radical Change / <i>Changement radical</i>)	

COSTA RICA

ARCE SANCHO, Michael (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Legislative Assembly, International Relations and Foreign Trade Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative, Commission des relations internationales et du commerce extérieur (PLN)</i>
DÍAZ QUINTANA, Natalia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Legislative Assembly, International Relations and Foreign Trade Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative, Commission des relations internationales et du commerce extérieur (PML)</i>
QUESADA SANTAMARÍA, Carmen (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Legislative Assembly, Social Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative, Commission des affaires sociales (PML)</i>
(PLN: National Liberation Party / <i>Parti de libération nationale</i>)	
(PML: Liberty Movement / <i>Mouvement libertain</i>)	

COTE D'IVOIRE - COTE D'IVOIRE

AGBRE, Touni Jean Albert (Mr./M.) President of the Group / <i>Président du Groupe</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Committee on External Relations / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des relations extérieures (RDR)</i>
GNANGBO, Kacou (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires économiques et financières (Esp)</i>
OUATTARA, Siaka (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Committee on General and Institutional Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires générales et institutionnelles (RDR)</i>
YACE DE MEL, Laurette Andrée (Mrs./Mme) Vice-President of the Group <i>Vice-présidente du Groupe</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Committee on Security and Defence / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de la Sécurité et de la Défense (PDCI/RDA)</i>
ZIMBRIL, Kouamenan Alphonse (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Committee on External Relations / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des relations extérieures (PDCI/RDA)</i>
LATTE, Ahouanzi N'drin Lazare (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>

ACAKPO-ADDRA, Alain Bonaventure (Mr./M.)
Administrative Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire administratif du Groupe

Director / *Directeur*

(RDR: Rally of Republicans / *Rassemblement des Républicains*)
(Esp: Espérance)
(PDCI/RDA: Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire/African Democratic Rally
Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire/Rassemblement démocratique africain)

CROATIA – CROATIE

ĐUROVIĆ, Dražen (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Member of the Croatian Parliament, Defence Committee,
Member of the War Veterans Committee,
Interparliamentary Co-operation Committee
*Membre du Parlement de Croatie, Commission de la
défense, Commission des anciens combattants,
Commission de la coopération interparlementaire (SDASB)*

LUGARIĆ, Marija (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Croatian Parliament, Legislation
Committee, Labour, Retirement System and Social
Partnership Committee, Committee on the Family, Youth
and Sports / *Membre du Parlement de Croatie,
Commission de la législation, Commission du travail, du
système de retraites et du partenariat social, Commission
de la famille, de la jeunesse et des sports (SDP)*

DUNIĆ, Goranka (Ms./Mme)
Adviser / *Conseillère*

(SDASB: Croatian Democratic Alliance of Slavonia and Baranja / *Alliance démocratique croate de Slavonie et Baranja*)
(SDP: Social Democratic Party / *Parti social-démocrate*)

CUBA

FERRER GÓMEZ, Yolanda (Mrs./Mme)
President of the Group
Présidente du Groupe

Member of the National Assembly of the People's
Power / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir
populaire*

NÚÑEZ BETANCOURT, Alberto (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly of the People's
Power / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir
populaire*

BARREDO MEDINA, Lázaro (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly of the People's
Power / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir
populaire*

RODRÍGUEZ CAMEJO, Anayansi (Ms./Mme)
Ambassador of Cuba to Geneva
Ambassadeur de Cuba à Genève

CASTILLO SANTANA, Alejandro (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission of Cuba to Geneva
Mission permanente de Cuba à Genève

BERTI OLIVA, Pablo (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission of Cuba to Geneva
Mission permanente de Cuba à Genève

ROMEU ÁLVAREZ, Belkis (Ms./Mme)
Permanent Mission of Cuba to Geneva
Mission permanente de Cuba à Genève

ROMERO PUENTES, Yusnier (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission of Cuba to Geneva
Mission permanente de Cuba à Genève

CYPRUS – CHYPRE

NEOFYTOU, Averof (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission permanente des affaires étrangères et européennes</i> (DISY)
GAROYIAN, Marios (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (DIKO)
KOUKOUMA KOUTRA, Skevi (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Refugees, Enclaved, Missing, Adversely Affected Persons / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Présidente de la Commission permanente des réfugiés, des personnes enclavées, disparues ou lésées</i> (AKEL)
VARNAVA, George (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defence Affairs / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission permanente des affaires de défense</i> (EDEK)
ANASTASSIADOU, Vassiliki (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
CHRISTOU, Avgousta (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>

(DISY: Democratic Rally / *Rassemblement démocratique*)(DIKO: Democratic Party / *Parti démocratique*)(AKEL: Progressive Party of the Working People / *Parti progressiste des masses laborieuses*)(EDEK: Social Democratic Movement / *Mouvement social démocrate*)**CZECH REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE**

HORSKA, Miluse (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Senate <i>Vice-Présidente du Sénat</i>
FISCHEROVÁ, Jana (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Committee on Public Administration and Regional Development <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Vice-président de la Commission des affaires étrangères, Commission de l'administration publique et du développement régional</i> (ODS)
LOBKOWICZ, Jaroslav (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Committee on Budgetary Control, Committee on Agriculture <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés Commission du contrôle budgétaire, Commission de l'agriculture</i> (TOP09)
MAXOVÁ, Radka (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Social Policy / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Vice-président de la Commission de la politique sociale</i> (ANO 2011)
ZLATUŠKA, Jirí (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chairperson of the Committee on Science, Education, Youth and Sport, Mandate and Immunity Committee / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Président de la Commission des sciences, de l'éducation, de la jeunesse et des sports, Commission des mandats et des immunités</i> (Ano 2011)
DOUBRAVA, Jaroslav (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate, Vice-Chair of the Committee on European Union Affairs / <i>Membre du Sénat, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires européennes</i> (S.cz)

ŠARAPATKA, Milan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Committee on Foreign Affairs / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Commission des affaires étrangères</i> (Usvit)
KYNSTETR, Petr (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Députés</i>
UKLEIN, Jiri (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
KRBEC, Jiri (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
TUKOVÁ, Alena (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
(ODS: Civic Democratic Party / <i>Parti démocrate civique</i>)	
(TOP 09: Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 / <i>Tradition, responsabilité, prospérité 09</i>)	
(Ano 2011: Yes 2011 / <i>Oui 2011</i>)	
(S.cz: Severoces.cz)	
(Usvit: Dawn of Direct Democracy / <i>Aube de la démocratie directe</i>)	

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - *REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO*

MOKOLO WA MPOMBO, Edouard (Mr./M.) Co-President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Co-Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	First Vice-President of the Senate <i>Premier Vice-Président du Sénat</i>
BOKONA, Francois Wipa (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
SHEOKITUNDU, Léonard (Mr./M.) Rapporteur of the Group <i>Rapporteur du Groupe</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
MASUKA, Fifi Saini (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
SESSANGA DJA KASIV, Patrice Aimé (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
KABAMBA WA UMBA, Isabelle (Ms./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i>
MAYAMBA, Serge Massaka (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Tourism <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de l'environnement, des ressources naturelles et du tourisme</i>
NZANGI, Muhindo (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MOMBUNZA, Annie Libotolo (Mrs./Mme) Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>	Member of the National Assembly, External Relations Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des relations externes</i>
MBEMBI, Jacques (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
MUTUMBE, Crispin (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Parliamentary Adviser to the Speaker of the National Assembly / <i>Conseiller parlementaire du Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
KATAKO KOMBE MASUDI, Josué (Mr./M.)	Head of the Office of the First Vice-President of the Senate / <i>Chef de cabinet du premier Vice-Président du Sénat</i>
KABANGU DIBA-NSESE, François (Mr./M.) Administrative Joint Secretary of the Group <i>Co-Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Advisor and Coordinator, Senate Research Office <i>Conseiller coordonnateur du Bureau d'études du Sénat</i>
MADJUBOLE MODRIKPE, Patrice (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
TUPA, Benoit Patrice (Mr./M.)	Advisor to the Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Conseiller du Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

DENMARK – DANEMARK

SCHMIDT, Hans Christian (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Folketing, Business, Growth and Export Committee, Transport Committee / <i>Membre du Folketing, Commission des affaires, de la croissance et de l'exportation, Commission des transports</i>
DAHL, Jonas (Mr./M.)	Member of the Folketing, Finance Committee, Research Committee, Innovation and Further Education Committee / <i>Membre du Folketing, Commission des finances, Commission de la recherche, Commission de l'innovation et de l'éducation continue</i>
HAV, Orla (Mr./M.)	Member of the Folketing, Chairman of the Children's and Education Committee, Foreign Policy Committee / <i>Membre du Folketing, Président de la Commission de l'enfance et de l'éducation, Commission de la politique étrangère</i>
NONBO, Karsten (Mr./M.)	Member of the Folketing, Chairman of the Defence Committee, Chairman of the Intelligence Services Committee / <i>Membre du Folketing, Président de la Commission de la défense, Président des services du renseignement</i>
LARSON, Claudius (Mr./M.) Assistant Secretary of the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation</i>	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
VESTERGAARD, Mette (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	

DJIBOUTI

HASSAN, Said Goumaneh (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Law Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des lois (UMP)</i>
DAOUAD, Ali Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AHMED ELMI, Deka (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
BOULHAN HOUSSEIN, Nima (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

(UMP: Union pour la majorité présidentielle / *Union for the Presidential Majority*)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE

FERMIN, Graciela (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Justice Committee, Public Prosecutor's Committee, Human Rights Committee / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Commission des droits de l'homme, Commission de la justice, Commission du Ministère public (PRD)</i>
ARIAS MEDRANO, Orfelina (Mrs./Mme) Substitute Member of the Coordinating committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membres suppléant du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Justice Committee, External Relations Committee, Human Development Committee / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Commission de la justice, Commission des relations extérieures, Commission du développement humain (PLD)</i>
GARCIA, Carlos Gabriel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Communication Media Committee, Committee on the Presidency of the Republic / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Commission des médias et de la communication, Commission de la présidence de la République (PRD)</i>

- SUAREZ, Victor Valdemar (Mr./M.) Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chairman of the External Relations Committee, Justice Committee, Prosecutor's Office Committee / *Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Président de la Commission des relations extérieures, Commission de la justice, Commission du Ministère public* (PLD)
- VASQUEZ, Jose Alberto (Mr./M.) Member of the Chamber of Deputies, External Relations Committee, Human Rights Committee, Maritime Issues Committee / *Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Commission des relations extérieures, Commission des droits de l'homme, Commission des affaires maritimes* (PLD)
- (PRD: Dominican Revolutionary Party / *Parti révolutionnaire dominicain*)
(PLD: Dominican Liberation Party / *Parti de la libération dominicaine*)

ECUADOR – EQUATEUR

- BUSTAMANTE, Fernando (Mr./M.) Member of the National Assembly
Bureau Member, Standing Committee on Development, Finance and Trade, Leader of the delegation
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)
Bureau, Commission permanente du développement, du financement et du commerce, Chef de la délégation
- DÍAZ, María Gabriela (Mrs./Mme) Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)
- MACHUCA, Linda (Mrs./Mme) Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)
- OCLES PADILLA, Alexandra (Ms./Mme) Member of the National Assembly
Substitute member of the Coordinating committee of Women Parliamentarians / *Membres suppléant du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires*
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)
- VINTIMILLA, Diego (Mr./M.) Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)
- RIVAS, Libia (Ms./Mme) Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
- HERRERA, Silvia (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the delegation / *Secrétaire de la délégation*
- (AP: Alianza País)

EL SALVADOR

- REYES, Sigfrido (Mr./M.) Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, President of the Political Committee, Committee on Foreign Relations, Central American Integration and Salvadorans Abroad
Président de l'Assemblée législative, Président de la Commission politique, Commission des relations étrangères, d'intégration d'Amérique centrale et des Salvadoriens de l'étranger (FMLN)
- MERINO, Francisco (Mr./M.) Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Rapporteur of the Treasury and budget Committee, Rapporteur of the Committee on the Economy, Rapporteur of the Committee on Elections and Constitutional Reforms
Vice-Président de l'Assemblée législative, Rapporteur de la Commission de la trésorerie et du budget, Rapporteur de la Commission de l'économie, Rapporteur de la Commission des élections et des réformes constitutionnelles (CN)
- SOSA, Karina (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Legislative Assembly, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Relations, Central American Integration and Expatriate Salvadorans / *Membre de l'Assemblée législative, Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de l'intégration centraméricaine et des Salvadoriens vivant à l'étranger* (FMLN)

FERRUFINO, Julio (Mr./M.)
Secretary the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

(FMLN: Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front / *Front de libération nationale Farabundo Marti*)
(CN: National Conciliation Party / *Parti de conciliation nationale*)

EQUATORIAL GUINEA – GUINEE EQUATORIALE

ELA NTUGU NSA, Atanasio (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PDGE)
ROKU ENUMBIE, Juan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
ONDO NSE MADJA, Juan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (PDGE)
ESIMI MANGUE, Juliana (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (PDGE)
NKA OBIANG MAYE, Victorino (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
EKUA ESONO ABE, Bienvenido (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Députés</i>

(PDGE: Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea / *Parti démocratique de Guinée équatoriale*)

ESTONIA – ESTONIE

KÕIV, Tõnis (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Estonian Parliament, Environment Committee, European Union Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement estonien, Commission de l'environnement, Commission des affaires de l'Union européenne</i> (ERP)
NOOL, Erki (Mr./M.)	Member of the Estonian Parliament, Deputy Chairman of the Environment Committee / <i>Membre du Parlement estonien, Vice-Président de la Commission de l'environnement</i> (IRL)
TUUS-LAUL, Marika (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Estonian Parliament, Social Affairs Committee / <i>Membre du Parlement estonien, Commission des affaires sociales</i> (ECeP)
ÕUNAPUU, Jaan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Estonian Parliament, Economic Affairs Committee / <i>Membre du Parlement estonien, Commission des affaires économiques</i> (SDE)
ALAJÕE, Maria (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
OTSEPP, Riina (Ms./) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	

(ERP: Reform Party / *Parti de la réforme*)

(IRL: Pro Patria and Res publica Union / *Union Pro Patria et Res publica*)

(ECeP: Estonian Centre Party / *Parti estonien du centre*)

(SDE: Estonian Social Democratic Party / *Parti social-démocrate d'Estonie*)

ETHIOPIA – ETHIOPIE

TEKLEBRHAN, Kasa (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of the Federation <i>Président de la Chambre de la Fédération</i> (EPRDF)
ADAMU, Worku (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the Federation <i>Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération</i> (EPRDF)
DEMISSIE, Daniel (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the Federation <i>Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération</i> (EPRDF)
BUAYALEW, Yohannes (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the Federation <i>Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération</i> (EPRDF)

ESHETE, Ayelech (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple</i> (EPRDF)
TILAHUN, Meles (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple</i> (EPRDF)
WELDESILASSIE, Asmelash (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple</i> (EPRDF)
TESSEMA, Tekle (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives, Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple,</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères et de la défense</i> (EPRDF)
MEGERSA WAKO, Lemma (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
MHADI, Beshir Ali (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
BARUD, Debebe (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
LEMMA, Negus (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
CHEWAKA, Estifanos Alemayehu (Mr./M.)	Head of Protocol / <i>Chef du protocole</i>

(EPRDF: Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front / *Front populaire démocratique révolutionnaire de l'Ethiopie*)

FINLAND – FINLANDE

KOMI, Katri (Ms./Mme) Vice President of the Group, Bureau Member, Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, Leader of the delegation / <i>Vice-Président du Groupe,</i> <i>Membre du Bureau, Commission permanente des</i> <i>affaires des Nations Unies Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament, Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission des affaires</i> <i>étrangères (KESK)</i>
HEMMILÄ, Pertti (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (KOK)</i>
TIAINEN, Eila (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (Vas)</i>
TIITINEN, Seppo (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
VUOSIO, Teemu (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
HUTTUNEN, Marja (Ms./Mme) Deputy Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire adjointe du Groupe</i>	

(KOK: National Coalition Party / *Coalition nationale*)
(KESK: Center Party / *Parti du Centre*)
(Vas: The Left Alliance / *Alliance de gauche*)

FRANCE

ANDRÉ, Michèle (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Membre du Comité de</i> <i>coordination des femmes parlementaires, Chef</i> <i>de la délégation</i>	Senator, Deputy Chairperson of the Finance Committee / <i>Sénatrice, Vice-Présidente de la</i> <i>Commission des finances (SRC)</i>
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DEL PICCHIA, Robert-Denis (Mr./M.)
President of the Twelve Plus Group
Président du Groupe des Douze Plus

Senator, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces / *Sénateur, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées* (UMP)

GUITTET, Chantal (Ms./Mme)
Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions
Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient

Member of the National Assembly / *Députée* (SRC)

DURRIEU, Josette (Ms./Mme)
Bureau Member, Standing Committee on Peace and Security / *Membre du Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité*

Senator, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces
Sénatrice, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées (PS)

MARTIN-LALANDE, Patrice (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly / *Député* (UMP)

MEFFRE, Françoise (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Director, International Affairs and Defence, National Assembly / *Directrice du Service des affaires internationales et de défense*

MEUNIER-FERRY, Dominique (Ms./Mme)
Executive Co-Secretary of the Group
Co-Secrétaire exécutive du Groupe

Deputy Director, National Assembly
Directrice adjointe à l'Assemblée nationale

BOURASSÉ, Philippe (Mr./M.)
Executive Co-Secretary of the Group
Co-Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe

Deputy Director, Senate / *Directeur adjoint au Sénat*

EIFERMANN, Didier (Mr./M.)

Advisor, National Assembly
Conseiller à l'Assemblée nationale

CORNET, Anne-Céline (Ms./Mme)

Deputy Administrator, Senate
Administratrice adjointe, Sénat

FAUCONNIER, Inès (Ms./Mme)
ASGP Secretariat / *Secrétariat de l'ASGP*

Administrator, National Assembly
Conseillère à l'Assemblée nationale

VELASCO, Karine (Ms./Mme)
ASGP Administrative Secretariat
Secrétariat administratif de l'ASGP

Secretary, National Assembly
Secrétaire à l'Assemblée nationale

WALFARD, Adrien (Mr./M.)
Proceedings of the Twelve Plus Group
Compte rendu du Groupe des Douze Plus

Analyst, Senate / *Analyste des débats, Sénat*

(SRC: Socialist, Republican and Citizen Group / *Groupe socialiste, républicain et citoyen*)

(UMP: Union for a Popular Movement / *Union pour un mouvement populaire*)

GABON

OWONO NGUEMA, François (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of the Senate, Law Committee
Vice-Président du Sénat, Commission des lois (PDG)

MOULENGUI MOUELE, Sophie (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the Executive Committee, ex-officio
Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women
Parliamentarians / *Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre de droit du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires*

Member of the Senate, Law Committee
Membre du Sénat, Commission des lois (PDG)

NZE MOUENIDIAMBOU, Josephine (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly, Rapporteur of the Committee on Economic Affairs / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Rapporteuse de la Commission des affaires économiques* (PDG)

NZENGUE MAYILA, Philippe (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and National Defence / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la Coopération internationale et de la défense nationale* (PDG)

OSSELE NDONG, Remy (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PDG)
OBAME ONDO, Jean Marie (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Law Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des lois</i> (PDG)
SOUMOUNA, Edmond (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
ROSSATANGA, Lygie (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
BOULE, Dieudonné (Mr./M.)	

(PDG: Gabonese Democratic Party / *Parti Democratique Gabonais*)

GAMBIA (THE) – GAMBIE

SAIDYKHAN, Bafaye (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Vice Chairperson of the Agriculture Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission de l'agriculture</i> (APRC)
MBYE, Kalipha M.M. (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	

(APRC: Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction / *Alliance patriotique pour la réorientation et la construction*)

GEORGIA – GEORGIE

USUPASHVILI, David (Mr./M.) KOBAKHIDZE, Manana (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament / <i>Président du Parlement</i> Deputy Speaker of Parliament <i>Vice-Présidente du Parlement</i> (GDC)
JAPARIDZE, Tedo (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee / <i>Membre du Parlement, Président de la Commission des relations étrangères</i>
BEZHUASHVILI, David (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i> (Ind)
KHIDASHELI, Tinatin (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
MARAKVELIDZE, Zurab (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
PERADZE, Lika (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	

(GDC: Georgian Dream coalition / *Coalition Rêve géorgien*)

(Ind: Independent / *Indépendant*)

GERMANY – ALLEMAGNE

LAMMERT, Norbert (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the delegation / <i>Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the German Bundestag <i>Président du Bundestag allemand</i> (CDU/CSU)
ROTH, Claudia (Mrs./Mme)	Deputy Speaker of the German Bundestag, Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development <i>Vice-Présidente du Bundestag allemand, Commission de la coopération économique et du développement</i> (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen)
FABRITIUS, Bernd (Mr./M.)	Member of the German Bundestag, Committee on the Affairs of the European Union, Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid / <i>Membre du Bundestag allemand, Commission des affaires de l'Union européenne, Commission des droits de l'homme et de l'aide humanitaire</i> (CDU/CSU)

SÜTTERLIN-WAACK, Sabine (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the German Bundestag, Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection / <i>Membre du Bundestag allemand, Commission des affaires juridiques et de la protection des consommateurs</i> (CDU/CSU)
FREITAG, Dagmar (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the German Bundestag, Chairperson of the Sports Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre du Bundestag allemand, Présidente de la Commission des sports, Commission des affaires étrangères</i> (SPD)
RISSE, Horst (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the German Bundestag <i>Secrétaire général du Bundestag allemand</i>
SCHÖLER, Ulrich (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the ASGP, Member of the ASGP <i>Vice-Président de l'ASGP, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary-General of the German Bundestag <i>Secrétaire général adjoint du Bundestag allemand</i>
KREBS, Andrea (Mrs./Mme)	Head of the Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies / <i>Chef de la Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales</i>
BEATRICE, Gelsomina (Mrs./Mme) Assistant to the delegation / <i>Assistante de la délégation</i>	
BRAMMER, Claudia (Mrs./Mme) Assistant to the delegation <i>Assistante de la délégation</i>	
TEPASSE, Nicole (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
(CDU/CSU: Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union / <i>Union chrétienne démocrate/Union chrétienne sociale</i>) (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen: Green Party / <i>Les Verts</i>) (SPD: Social Democratic Party / <i>Parti social-démocrate</i>)	

GHANA

ADJAHO, Edward Doe (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament, Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee / <i>Président du Parlement, Président de la Commission du règlement</i> (NDC)
ADDO, Irene Naa Torshie (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament, Committee on Gender and Children / <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission sur les questions de genre et les enfants</i> (NPP)
APPOH, Rachel Florence (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament, Public Accounts Committee <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission des comptes publics</i> (NDC)
BAGBIN, Alban Sumana Kingsford (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Business Committee / <i>Membre du Parlement, Président du Comité directeur</i> (NDC)
KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU, Osei (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Minority Leader <i>Membre du Parlement, ef de la minorité</i> (NPP)
ANYIMADU, Emmanuel (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
GOMBILLA, Ibrahim (Mr./M.) Deputy Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
(NDC: National Democratic Congress / <i>Congrès démocratique national</i>) (NPP: New Patriotic Party / <i>Nouveau parti patriotique</i>)	

GREECE – GRECE

KONSTANTOPOULOS, Georgios (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Hellenic Parliament, Standing Committee on Social Affairs / <i>Membre du Parlement hellénique, Commission permanente des affaires sociales</i> (ND)
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- AVGERINOPOULOU, Dionysia-Theodora (Mrs./Mme)
Chairperson of the Standing Committee
on UN Affairs / *Présidente de la Commission
permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies*
- CHRISOVELONI, Marina (Mrs./Mme)
- RIGAS, Panagiotis (Mr./M.)
- TRIANTAFYLLOU, Maria (Mrs./Mme)
- PAPAIOANNOU, Athanassios (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
- GEORGOPOULOU, Varvara (Mrs./Mme)
Head of the Secretary General's Office
Chef du Bureau du Secrétaire général
- KARTSAKLI, Aikaterini (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation
- (ND: New Democracy / *Nouvelle démocratie*)
(AE: Independent Hellenes / *Parti des Grecs indépendants*)
(PS: Socialist Party / *Parti socialiste*)
(SYRIZA: Coalition of the Radical Left / *Coalition de la gauche radicale*)

GUATEMALA

- BOUSSINOT, Christian (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*
- Member of the Congress of the Republic
Membre du Congrès de la République (BT)

(BT Bloque Todos)

GUINEA – GUINÉE

- FOFANA, Loucény (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation / *Chef de la délégation*
- SYLLA, El Hadj Dembo (Mr./M.)
- DIALLO, Dian Baïlo (Mr./M.)
- Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale
- Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
- Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

GUINEA-BISSAU - GUINEE-BISSAU

CASSAMÁ, Cipriano (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the People's National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAIGC)</i>
CALIFA, Seidi (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAIGC)</i>
CASSAMÁ, Almame (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire</i>
BIOTE, Certório (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PRS)</i>
SANCA NDOE, Teresa (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the People's National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAIGC)</i>
INDEQUI, Matilde (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the People's National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAIGC)</i>
DOS SANTOS, Nicolau (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's National Assembly, Member of the Committee on External Affairs and International Cooperation / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire, Membre de la Commission de la politique extérieure et de la coopération internationale</i>
RODRIGUES DA FONSECA, José Carlós (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
ANSUMANE, Sanhá (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary / <i>Secrétaire administratif</i>	

(PAIGC: African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde
Parti africain pour l'indépendance de la Guinée et du Cap-Vert)

(PRS: Party for Social Renovation / *Parti de la rénovation sociale*)

HAITI

DESRAS, Simon Dieuseul (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Senate / <i>Président du Sénat</i>
ANDRIS, Riche (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the Senate, Committee on Justice, Defence and Public Security / <i>Vice-Président du Sénat, Commission de la justice, de la défense et de la sécurité publique</i>
BENOIT, Steven Irvenson (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate, Committee on Finance, Justice, Human Rights and Anti-Corruption / <i>Membre du Sénat, Commission des finances, de la justice, des droits humains et de la lutte contre la corruption</i>
GILOT, Jean Rony (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>

HUNGARY – HONGRIE

BALLA, Mihály (Mr./M.) President of Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères (FIDESz)</i>
BARTOS, Mónika (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Committee on Sustainable Development <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires étrangères, Commission du développement durable (FIDESz)</i>
GYÖNGYÖSI, Márton Balázs (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères (Jobbik)</i>

JÓZSA, István (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Committee of European Affairs, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Immunity / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires européennes Vice-Président de la Commission des immunités</i> (MSZP)
SCHMUCK, Erzsébet (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Budget / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission du budget</i> (LMP)
SOMFAINÉ ÁDÁM, Katalin (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
(FIDESz: Hungarian Civic Union / <i>Union civique hongroise</i>) (Jobbik: Movement for a Better Hungary / <i>Mouvement pour une meilleure Hongrie</i>) (MSZP: Hungarian Socialist Party / <i>Parti socialiste hongrois</i>) (LMP: Politics Can Be Different / <i>Faire de la politique autrement</i>)	

ICELAND – ISLANDE

DADASON, Asmundur Einar (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Althingi / <i>Membre de l'Althingi</i>
GUNNAROSDÓTTIR, Valgerdur (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Althingi / <i>Membre de l'Althingi</i>
JÓNSDÓTTIR, Birgitta (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Althingi / <i>Membre de l'Althingi</i>
JÓNSDÓTTIR, Vigdis (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe</i>
BANG, Arna (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Adviser on International Affairs / <i>Conseillère des affaires étrangères</i>

INDIA – INDE

MAHAJAN, Sumitra (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of the People <i>Présidente de la Chambre du Peuple</i>
KURIEN, P. J. (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the Council of States <i>Vice-Président du Conseil des Etats</i>
BANDYOPADHYAY, Sudip (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du Peuple</i> (AITC)
SINGH, Rakesh (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du Peuple</i> (BJP)
NARAYAN SINGH, Hari Bansh	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du Peuple</i> (JDU)
DEV, Sushmita (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du Peuple</i> (INC)
HEMATBHAI MAADAM, Poonamben (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du Peuple</i> (BJP)
PAL SINGH, Satya (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du Peuple</i> (BJP)
GROVER, P. K. (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the House of the People <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre du Peuple</i>
K. SHERIFF, Shumsher (Mr./M.) Executive Member of the ASGP <i>Membre exécutif de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Council of States <i>Secrétaire général du Conseil des Etats</i>
SAXENA, U. S. (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Joint Secretary / <i>Co-Secrétaire</i>
PANDE, Mukul (Mr./M.) Joint Secretary / <i>Co-Secrétaire</i>	
TATED, Sunil (Mr./M.) Principal Secretary / <i>Secrétaire principal</i>	
GUPTA, N. C. (Mr./M.)	

JASON, S. (Mr./M.)
 RAMANA, L.V. (Mr./M.)
 Deputy Secretary / *Secrétaire adjoint*
 VATSA, Sanjay (Mr./M.)
 Private Secretary, Speaker's Office
Assistant particulier de la Présidente
 KSHIRSAGAR, Pankaj (Mr./M.)
 Media Officer, Speaker's Office
Chargé des médias auprès de la Présidente
 ROY, Rashmi (Ms./Mme)
 SALEEM, Mohd. (Mr./M.)

(AITC: All India Trinamool Congress)
 (BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party / Parti Bharatiya Janata)
 (JDU: Janata Dal
 (INC: Indian National Congress / Parti du Congrès national indien)

INDONESIA – *INDONESIE*

ASSEGAF, Nurhayati Ali (Mrs./Mme) Leader of delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PD)
HIDAYAT, Surahman (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PKS)
SUPRATIKNO, Hendrawan (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PDI-P)
NURSANTY, Evita (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PDI-P)
RIWU KORE, Jefirstson (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PD)
MUHAMMAD, Hidayat Nur Wahid (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PKS)
HAFID, Meutya Viada (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PG)
ASOKAWATI, Okky (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PPP)
MUSTOFA, Assegaf (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PPP)
CHALIM, Chusnunia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PKB)
MUNAWAR, Rofi (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PKS)
KURTUBI, (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
SWASANANY, Winantuningtyastiti (Mrs./Mme) Head of the ASGP delegation, Member of the ASGP <i>Chef de la délégation de l'ASGP, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
ISLAM, Saiful (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
PURBA, Robert Juheng (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
HARDJONO, Sartomo (Mr./M.) Assistant Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire assistant de la délégation</i>	
ALFIAH, Warsiti (Ms./Mme) Assistant Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire assistante de la délégation</i>	

PRASETYO, Hery (Mr./M.)
Assistant Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire assistant de la délégation

RETNOASTUTI, Endah (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

WANGKE, Humprey (Mr./M.)
Adviser to the delegation
Conseiller de la délégation

HARRIS, Damayanti (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary to the ASGP delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation de l'ASGP

EVAYANTI, Nina (Ms./Mme)
Adviser to the delegation
Conseillère de la délégation

GAFUR, Abdul (Mr./M.)
Adviser to the delegation
Conseiller de la délégation

SOEMARNO, Rina Prityasmiarsi (Ms./Mme)
Adviser to the delegation
Conseillère de la délégation

(PD: Democrats Party / *Parti démocrate*)
(PKS: Prosperous Justice Party / *Parti de la justice et de la prospérité*)
(PDI-P: Indonesian Democracy Party - Struggle / *Parti démocrate indonésien en lutte*)
(PG: Golkar Functional Groups Party / *Parti des groupes fonctionnels Golkar*)
(PPP: United Development Party / *Parti du développement uni*)
(PKB: National Awakening Party / *Parti du réveil national*)

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) - IRAN (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D')

LARIJANI, Ali (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Président du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
DASTGHEIB, S. Ahmad Reza (Mr./M.) President of the Group / <i>Président du Groupe</i>	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, Vice-Chair of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran, Vice-Président de la Commission de la sécurité nationale et de la politique étrangère</i>
HOSSEINI SADR, Moayed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, Committee on Industries and Mines / <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran, Commission de l'industrie et des mines</i>
JALALI, Kazem (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, National Security and Foreign Policy Committee / <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran, Commission de la sécurité nationale et de la politique étrangère</i>
JAHANGIRZADEH, Javad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, National Security and Foreign Policy Committee / <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran, Commission de la sécurité nationale et de la politique étrangère</i>
ZAHEDI, Mohammad Mehdi (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, Chair of the Education and Research Committee / <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran, Président de la Commission de l'éducation et de la recherche</i>
HOSSEINI, S. Hadi (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, Committee on Industries and Mines / <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran, Commission de l'industrie et des mines</i>
RAHBAR, Fatemeh (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, Vice-Chairperson of the Article 90 of the Constitution <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran, Vice-Président de l'Article 90 de la Constitution</i>
SADEGHI, Zargham (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>

POPIZADEH, Abbas (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee / <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran, Commission de l'agriculture et des ressources naturelles</i>
AFRASHTEH, Ali (Mr./M.) Secretary General of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire général du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
SHEIKHOLESLAM, Hossein (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary-General <i>Vice-Secrétaire général</i>
GHASSEMPOUR, Amir Abbas (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
GHASHGHAVI, Mahdi (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
SHAKERIAN, S.H. (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	
JAFARBEIGLU, Alireza (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	

IRAQ

AL-GBURI, Saleem (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Council of Representatives <i>Président du Conseil des Représentants</i>
SALMAN, Dhafer (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i>
AL-GBURI, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i>
TALABANI HABIB, Ala (Mrs./Mme) Substitute Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membre suppléant du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i>
MOHAMMAD, Renas (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i>
AL-MUSAWI, Samerah (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i>
AL-HAJAJ, Saleem (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i>
MOHAD, Majida (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i>
AL-GHABBAN, Mohammed (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i>
NAMIK MAJID, Ayad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
MOHAD, Salam (Mr./M.)	Director General, Public Relations <i>Directeur général des relations publiques</i>
AL-MOSSLEHEY, Ali (Mr./M.)	Speaker's Secretary / <i>Secrétaire du Président</i>
AL-MAGMAIE, Mohanad (Mr./M.)	Speaker's Aide / <i>Aide du Président</i>
AL-GBURI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Speaker's Media Advisor <i>Conseiller des médias auprès du Président</i>
ESMIEL, Esam (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
AL-GBURI, Khalid (Mr./M.)	Media Director / <i>Directeur des médias</i>
RASOOL, Emad (Mr./M.)	Speaker's Office / <i>Bureau du Président</i>
AL-TURFI, Mohanad (Mr./M.)	Speaker's Office / <i>Bureau du Président</i>
FAWZI, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Public Relations / <i>Relations publiques</i>
ENAD, Majid (Mr./M.)	Public Relations and Protocol <i>Relations publiques et protocole</i>
AL-JANABI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Foreign Relations / <i>Relations étrangères</i>

EISA, Sami (Mr./M.)
Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*

IRELAND – IRLANDE

BURKE, Patrick (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of Seanad Éireann
Président de Seanad Éireann (FG)

MCENTEE, Helen (Ms./Mme)

Member of Dáil Éireann, Committee on Public Service, Oversight and Petitions, Committee on Transport and Communications / *Membre de Dáil Éireann, Commission du service public, de la surveillance et des pétitions, Commission des transports et des communications* (FG)

NOLAN, Derek (Mr./M.)

Member of Dáil Éireann, Committee on Public Service, Oversight and Petitions, Committee on Public Accounts / *Membre de Dáil Éireann, Commission du service public, de la surveillance et des pétitions, Commission des comptes publics* (L)

BYRNE, Thomas (Mr./M.)

Member of Seanad Éireann, Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, Committee on Standing Orders / *Membre de Seanad Éireann, Commission des finances, des dépenses publiques et des réformes, Commission du règlement* (FF)

MATHEWS, Bernadette (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

Inter-Parliamentary Relations
Relations interparlementaires

(FF: Fianna Fáil)
(L: Labour Party / *Parti travailliste*)
(FG: Fine Gael)

ITALY – ITALIE

CASINI, Pier Ferdinando (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Senate, President of the Foreign Affairs Committee / *Membre du Sénat, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères* (PI)

FARINA, Gianni (Mr./M.)
Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions
Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient

Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Foreign Affairs Committee / *Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Membre de la Commission des affaires étrangères* (PD)

MONTEVECCHI, Michela (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Senate, Committee on Education
Membre du Sénat Commission de l'éducation (M5S)

SORIAL, Giorgio (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Finance and Budget Committee / *Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Commission des finances et du budget* (M5S)

SORBELLO, Sandro (Mr./M.)
Secretary of Group, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

LASORSA, Antonella (Ms./Mme)
Interpreter / *Interprète*

SCARAMUZZI, Angela (Ms./Mme)
Interpreter / *Interprète*

(PI: « Per l'Italia »)
(PD: Democratic Party / *Parti démocrate*)
(M5S: Five Stars Movement / *Mouvement cinq étoiles*)

JAPAN – JAPON

UESUGI, Mitsuhiro (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LDP)

FUKUI, Teru (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LDP)

WASHIO, Eiichiro (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (DPJ)
KANEKO, Megumi (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (LDP)
TAKINAMI, Hirofumi (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers</i> (LDP)
SUGI, Hisatake (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers</i> (K)
HAYASHIYAMA, Yasuhiko (Mr./M.) Secretary of Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
NISHIKOBE, Natsuko (Ms./Mme) Secretary of Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
KATO, Akira (Mr./M.) Secretary of Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
SUGIYAMA, Jin (Mr./M.) Secretary of Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
KONO, Miho (Ms./Mme) Secretary of Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
KURATA, Yasuo (Mr./M.) Secretary of Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
OGAWA, Akiko (Ms./Mme) Secretary of Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
SUZUKI, Yuko (Ms./Mme) Secretary of Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
TAKEUCHI, Kenta (Mr./M.) Secretary of Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
(LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / <i>Parti libéral démocrate</i>)	
(DPJ: Democratic Party of Japan / <i>Parti démocrate japonais</i>)	
(K: Komeito / <i>Komei</i>)	

JORDAN – JORDANIE

RAWABDEH, Abdur-Rauf (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	President of the Senate <i>Président du Sénat</i>
JWAZNEH, Mazen Aldala'en (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
BARAKAT, Salwa (Mrs./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i>
SOUBAR, Munir (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
HAMISA, Ahmad (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
BANI-ATA, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
OWAIS, Samer (Mr./M.) Committee to Promote Respect For International Humanitarian Law <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
AL-BARAISEH, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
AL-SMADI, Tayseer (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
ALSHAWAKBEH, Zaid (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
AL-GHRIR, Hamad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants</i>

HEDAIB, Mohammad (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

ALRIYATI, Tamam (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

ALSHAWABKEH, Fayez (Mr./M.)

Advisor to the President of the Senate
Conseiller du Président du Sénat

AL-ZYOUS, Ali (Mr./M.)

General Director, Senate President's Office
Directeur général du Bureau du Président du Sénat

AL-TARAWNEH, Hassan (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Head of the International Affairs Section
Chef de la Section des affaires internationales

SHARADGAH, Mahmoud (Mr./M.)

Secretary to the President of the Senate
Secrétaire du Président du Sénat

KAZAKHSTAN

AIMBETOV, Seitsultan (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation
Chef de la délégation

Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Committee on Economic Reform and Regional Development / *Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission des réformes économiques et du développement régional* (Nur Otan)

AITAKHANOV, Kuanysh (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Rural Development
Membre du Sénat, Commission permanente de l'agriculture, de l'environnement et du développement rural (Nur Otan)

PERUASHEV, Azat (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives, Committee on Economic Reform and Regional Development, *Membre de la Chambre des représentants, Commission des réformes économiques et du développement régional* (Ak Zhol)

(Ak Zhol: Democratic Party of Kazakhstan / *Parti démocrate du Kazakhstan*)
(Nur Otan: People's Democratic Party / *Parti populaire démocratique*)

KENYA

EKWEE ETHURO, David (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the Senate
Président du Sénat (NA)

WA KABANDO, Kabando (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NA)

GATOBU, Boniface (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Ind)

PKOSING LOSIAKU, David (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (URP)

WAHOME, Alice (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NA)

MUKIITE NABWALA, Catherine (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat

GURE, Shukran Hussein (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

SANG, Leonard (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

WAMUNYINYI, Wafula (Mr./M.)
Advisor / *Conseiller*

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CORD)

M. NYEGENYE, Jeremiah (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the Senate
Secrétaire général du Sénat

ALI MOHAMED, Mohamed (Mr./M.)

Director, Senate / *Directeur au Sénat*

CHANIA, Daniel (Mr./M.)

Senior Clerk / *Greffier principal*

EDUNG, Edward (Mr./M.)
Personal Assistant to the Speaker of the Senate
Assistant particulier du Président du Sénat

KAIRU, Rachel (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Senior Clerk Assistant, National Assembly
Greffier principal assistant à l'Assemblée nationale

LEMUNA, Moses (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

MOGERE, Zakayo I. (Mr./M.)

Principal Clerk / *Greffier principal*

(NA: The National Alliance / *Alliance nationale*)

(URP: United Republican Party / *Parti républicain uni*)

(Ind: Independent / *Indépendant*)

(CORD: Coalition for Reforms and Democracy / *Coalition pour les réformes et la démocratie*)

KUWAIT – KOWEIT

AL-GHANIM, Marzouq (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale

ALAZEMI, Saif (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

ALTURAIJI, Dr. Abdullah (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

ALSHAYEE, Faisal (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

ASHOUR, Saleh (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

ALKANDARI, Allam (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

ALDEGAISHEM, Jamal (Mr./M.)

Director of Protocol / *Directeur du protocole*

HASSAN, Ameer (Mr./M.)

Director, External Relations
Directeur des relations extérieures

BOHAMDI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)

Advisor, Speaker's Office
Conseiller au Bureau du Président

FARDAN, Amer (Mr./M.)

ALAJMI, Mubarak (Mr./M.)

ALMONAIFI, Jamal (Mr./M.)

ALDAYHANI, Deyab (Mr./M.)

Head, Development of Parliamentary Affairs
Chef du développement des affaires parlementaires

ALMOTAWA, Amal (Mrs./Mme)
Press / *Presse*

DOWAIHI, Naseer (Mr./M.)

BOEDHAM, Khaled (Mr./M.)

Political Researcher / *Chercheur politique*

ALSHAYEJI, Dalal (Mrs./Mme)
Press / *Presse*

ALOTAIBI, Dana (Ms./Mme)

ALMUTAIRI, Naseer (Mr./M.)

Secretary / *Secrétaire*

ALAWADI, Abdullah (Mr./M.)

Researcher, External Relations
Chercheur, relations extérieures

ALSUBAIE, Muslat (Mr./M.)
Press / *Presse*

SHESHTERI, Bader (Mr./M.)

Legal Researcher, President's Office
Chercheur juridique, Bureau du Président

ALENEZI, Meshal (Mr./M.)

Head, Arab Affairs / *Chef des affaires arabes*

ALHARBAN, Talal (Mr./M.) Political Researcher / *Chercheur politique*
 AL DEHANI, Khalid (Mr./M.)
 Press / *Presse*

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE LAO

BOUNGNONG, Boupma (Ms./Mme) Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairperson
 Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation* of the Foreign Affairs Committee / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères*

KETKEO, Syhalath (Mr./M.) Member of the National Assembly, Foreign Affairs
 Committee / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires étrangères*

KHEMPHONG, Anothay (Mr./M.) Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*
 Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

LATVIA – LETTONIE

MIRSKIS, Sergejs (Mr./M.) Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement*
 President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

OZOLINS, Janis (Mr./M.) Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement*

REIZNIECE - OZOLA, Dana (Mrs./Mme) Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement*

PAURA, Sandra (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

LEBANON – LIBAN

BERRY, Nabih (Mr./M.) Speaker of the National Assembly
 President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation / *Président de l'Assemblée nationale (DLB)*

EL- ZEIN, Abdel- Latif (Mr./M.) Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the
 Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Committee / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président, Commission des affaires étrangères et des expatriés*

KABBANI, Mohamad (Mr./M.) Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the
 Committee on Public Works, Transport, Energy and
 Water / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des travaux publics, des transports, de l'énergie et de l'eau (FM)*

RAHME, Emile (Mr./M.) Member of the National Assembly, Administration and
 Justice Committee / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de l'administration et de la justice (SP)*

ZOUEIN, Gilberte (Mrs./Mme) Member of the National Assembly, Chair of the Women
 and Child Committee / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Présidente de la Commission de la femme et de l'enfant (FPM)*

DAHER, Adnan (Mr./M.) Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*
 Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

BERRY, Mahmoud (Mr./M.) Adviser to the Speaker / *Conseiller du Président*

CHARARA, Bilal (Mr./M.) Secretary, Foreign Affairs
Secrétaire des affaires étrangères

FAWAZ, Fouad (Mr./M.) Adviser to the Speaker / *Conseiller du Président*

HAMAD, Ali (Mr./M.) Director General for Speaker's Affairs
Directeur général des affaires présidentielles

(DLB: Development and Liberation Bloc / *Bloc de développement et libération*)
 (FM: Future Movement / *Courant du futur*)
 (SP: Solidarity Party / *Parti de la solidarité*)
 (FPM: Free Patriotic Movement / *Mouvement patriotique libre*)

LESOTHO

RAKUOANE, Lekhetho (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Parliamentary Reforms Committee / <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des réformes parlementaires</i>
LETHUNYA, Nts'iang (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Women Caucus, Law Cluster / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Forum parlementaire des femmes, Commission du droit (ABC)</i>
PHEKO, Thabang (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chief Whip, Business Committee, Privileges Committee, Law Cluster / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Chef de file, Comité directeur, Commission des privilèges, Commission du droit (LCD)</i>
MOTSAMAI, Ntlhoi (Ms./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Development Planning Committee, Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Reforms Committee, Committee on Standing Orders, Economic Cluster / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de la planification du développement, Vice-Président de la Commission des réformes parlementaires, Commission du règlement, Commission de l'économie (DC)</i>
HOOHLO, Futho (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate, Chairperson of the Millenium Development Goals Committee, Business Committee, Committee on Standing Orders and Staff / <i>Membre du Sénat, Président de la Commission des OMD, Comité directeur, Commission du règlement et du personnel (ABC)</i>
MAEMA, Lebohang (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MOTLELENG, Mokatakise (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
TSEPANE, Maduma (Mr./M.) Secretary of the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	

(ABC: All Basotho Convention (Kobo-Tata) / *Convention des Basotho*)(LCD: Lesotho Congress for Democracy / *Congrès pour la démocratie au Lesotho*)(DC: Democratic Congress / *Congrès démocratique*)**LIBYA – LIBYE**

AL ABID, Mousab (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
RUJBANI, Salah Alsuhibi (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ALGHAWI, Loie (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ALWANDI, Hisham (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
ABURGHIGHA, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>

LIECHTENSTEIN

LANTER-KOLLER, Violanda (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Diet <i>Vice-Présidente, Diète (VU)</i>
BÜCHEL, Helmuth (Mr./M.)	Member of the Diet / <i>Membre, Diète (FBP)</i>
WACHTER, Gabriele (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	

(VU: Patriotic Union / *Union patriotique*)(FBP: Progressive Citizens' Party / *Parti des citoyens progressistes*)

LITHUANIA – LITUANIE

GAPSYS, Vytautas (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Member of Parliament, Committee on Legal Affairs
Membre du Parlement, Commission des affaires juridiques (L)

GYLYS, Povilas (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament, Committee on Budget and Finance / *Membre du Parlement, Commission du budget et des finances (DK)*

ALEKSONIS, Gedeminas (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Deputy Secretary General
Secrétaire général adjoint

SUMSKIENE, Laura (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

(L: Labour party / *Parti du travail*)

(DK: "The Way of Courage" / *La Voie du courage*)

MADAGASCAR

RAKOTOMAMONJY, Jean Max (Mr./M.)

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale

RAZAFIMANANTSOA, Lobo Hanitriniaina (Mrs./Mme),

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale

RABETAFIKA, Norovelomampionona Roberthine
(Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly, Deputy General Rapporteur / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Rapporteuse générale adjointe*

RAZAFINDRAKOTO, Harifanja Francette (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

RAHANTASOA, Lydia Aimée Vololona (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

RANDRIAMAHAFANJARY ANDRIAMITARIJATO, Calvin (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the National Assembly
Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale

RAMIAOAMANANA, Augustin (Mr./M.)

Protocol Officer / *Chargé du protocole*

RAJAOARINELINA, Lova Tahina (Ms./Mme)

Advisor / *Conseillère*

MALAWI

CHILENJE NKHOMA, Esther Mcheka (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale

KACHIKHO, Anna (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

MHONE, Raphael (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

MLOMBWA, Clement (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

MANZI, Joel Joseph (Mr./M.)

Deputy Secretary-General
Secrétaire général adjoint

GONDWE, Dennis (Mr./M.)

Adviser / *Conseiller*

MANDALA, Elias (Mr./M.)
Personal Assistant to the Deputy Speaker
Assistant particulier de la Vice-Présidente

MALAYSIA – MALAISIE

WEE, Ka Siong (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (MCA)

ABDUL AZIZ, Mohamed Nazri (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (UMNO)

BRODI, Doris Sophia (Mrs./Mme)

Deputy Speaker of the Senate
Vice-Présidente du Sénat (SPA)

ABDUL RAHIM, Norliza (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate / <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
LAU KIONG YIENG, Alice (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (DAP)
RAMLI, Mohd. Hatta (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
RAHMAT, Riduan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
ABU HANIPAH, Adam (Mr./M.)	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
SAMSURI, Zamrizam (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
SELAMAT AMIR, Suzana Akmam (Ms./Mme)	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>
WONG, Lih Yen (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
ADNAN, Syuhada (Ms./Mme)	Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>

(MCA: Malaysian Chinese Association / *Association sino-malaisienne*)

(UMNO: United Malays National Organisation / *Organisation malaisienne nationale unie*)

(SPA: Sarawak Peoples' Party / *Parti populaire Sarawak*)

(DAP: Democratic Action Party / *Parti d'action démocratique*)

MALDIVES

MOHAMED, Abdulla Maseeh (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the People's Majlis <i>Président du Majlis du Peuple</i> (PPM)
MANIK, Ahmed Nihan Hussain (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis, Majority Leader <i>Membre du Majlis du Peuple, Chef de la majorité</i> (PPM)
ADAM, Rozaina (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the People's Majlis <i>Membre du Majlis du Peuple</i> (MDP)
HUSSAIN, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis <i>Membre du Majlis du Peuple</i> (JP)
SALEEM, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis <i>Membre du Majlis du Peuple</i> (PPM)
SHAHID, Abdulla (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis <i>Membre du Majlis du Peuple</i> (MDP)
RIFAU, Abdulla (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis <i>Membre du Majlis du Peuple</i> (PPM)
ABDULLA, Eva (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Coordinating committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membre du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the People's Majlis <i>Membre du Majlis du Peuple</i> (MDP)
MOHAMED, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
ZAKARIYYA, Abdul Hameed (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
RASHEED, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>

(PPM: Progressive Party of Maldives / *Parti progressiste des Maldives*)

(MDP: Maldivian Democratic Party / *Parti démocratique des Maldives*)

(JP: Jumhooree Party / *Parti Jumhooree*)

MALI

CISSE, Amadou (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Third Vice-President of the National Assembly <i>Troisième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
TIMBINE, Moussa (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MAIGA, Amadou (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
DRAME, Maïmouna (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

Haidara Haidara, Aissata (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairperson, Education Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Présidente de la Commission de l'éducation</i>
Diarra, Moussa (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
Diallo, Madou (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>

MALTA – MALTE

Abela, Carmelo (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives, Government Spokesman, House Business Committee / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Porte-parole du gouvernement, Commission des questions internes (PL)</i>
Gonzi, Michael (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PN)</i>
Curmi, Kenneth (Mr./M.)	Research Analyst / <i>Analyste de recherche</i>

(PL: Labour Party / *Parti du travail*)
(PN: Nationalist Party / *Parti nationaliste*)

MAURITANIA – MAURITANIE

Baba Sy, Marianne (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
Ely Salem, Zeinebou (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
Talebna, Ahmed Salem (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
Vall Lekoueiry, Mohamed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>

MAURITIUS – MAURICE

Peeroo, Abdool Razack Mohamed Ameen (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
Ramchurn, Urmila (Ms./Mme)	Acting Clerk of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale ad intérim de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

MEXICO – MEXIQUE

Cuevas Barron, Gabriela (Ms./Mme) President of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, Leader of the delegation / <i>Présidente du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire, Chef de la délégation</i>	Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères (PAN)</i>
Ortiz González, Graciela (Ms./Mme) Member of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs / <i>Membre de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Legislative Study <i>Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission de l'étude législative (PRI)</i>
Guerra Castillo, Marcela (Ms./Mme)	Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs North America / <i>Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères pour l'Amérique du nord (PRI)</i>
Rojas Hernández, Laura Angélica (Ms./Mme)	Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Organisms / <i>Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères et des organismes internationaux (PAN)</i>

MONREAL ÁVILA, David (Mr./M.)	Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Jurisdictional Affairs / <i>Sénateur, Président de la Commission des affaires juridictionnelles</i> (PT)
PADIERNA LUNA, Dolores (Ms./Mme) Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membre du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires</i>	Senator, Committee on Justice / <i>Sénatrice, Commission de la justice</i> (PRD)
ENRIQUEZ BALDAZO, Arelí (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, International Affairs <i>Directrice des affaires internationales</i>
(PAN: National Action Party / <i>Parti de l'Action nationale</i>)	
(PRI: Institutional Revolutionary Party / <i>Parti révolutionnaire institutionnel</i>)	
(PT: Labour Party / <i>Parti travailliste</i>)	
(PRD: Democratic Revolution Party / <i>Parti de la révolution démocratique</i>)	

MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF) - MICRONESIE (ETATS FEDERES DE)

PANUELO, David W. (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Congress, Chairman of the Resources and Development Committee / <i>Membre du Congrès, Président de la Commission des ressources et du développement</i>
MARTIN, Berney (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress, Vice-Chairman, External Affairs Committee and Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee / <i>Membre du Congrès, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires extérieures et de la Commission des opérations judiciaires et gouvernementales</i>
JACKSON, Alik K. (Mr./M.) Secretary of Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	

MONACO

FICINI, Alain (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national</i> (HM)
AMORATTI-BLANC, Nathalie (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national</i> (HM)
COLOMBO-PASTORELLI, Mariam (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
(HM: Monaco Horizon / <i>Horizon Monaco</i>)	

MONGOLIA – MONGOLIE

RADNAASUMBEREL, Gonchigdorj (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the State Great Hural, Standing Committee on Legal Affairs, Standing Committee on budget / <i>Vice-Président du Grand Khoural de l'Etat, Commission permanente des affaires juridiques, Commission permanente du budget</i> (DP)
GANTUMUR, Uyanga (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the State Great Hural Standing Committee on State Structure Standing Committee on Economy <i>Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat, Commission permanente de la structure étatique, Commission permanente de l'économie</i> (MPRP)
BATBOLD, Sundui (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Great Hural <i>Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat</i> (MPP)

(DP: Democratic party / *Parti démocratique*)
(MPRP: Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party / *Parti révolutionnaire du peuple mongol*)
(MPP: Mongolian People's Party / *Parti populaire mongole*)

MOROCCO – MAROC

TALBI ALAMI, Rachid (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Président de la Chambre des Représentants (RNI)</i>
BIADILLAH, Mohamed Cheikh (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of Councillors <i>Président de la Chambre des Conseillers (PAM)</i>
BENMASSAOUD, Rachida (Mrs./Mme) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs <i>Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Vice-Présidente de la Chambre des Représentants (USFP)</i>
KOUSKOUS, Hamid (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (MP)</i>
OMARI, Abdelaziz (Mr./M.) Standing Committee on Peace and Security <i>Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PJD)</i>
TEGHOUANE, Bouamer (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PI)</i>
LAZRAK, Nouredine (Mr./M.) Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Peace and Security / <i>Rapporteur de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (RNI)</i>
ELABDI, Rachid (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PAM)</i>
TOUIZI, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers</i>
ELKHADI, Najib (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
KHOUJA, Abdelouahid (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
CHAKRI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Director, Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives / <i>Directeur de Cabinet du Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
CHIBAN, Omar (Mr./M.)	Director, Office of the Speaker of the House of Councillors / <i>Directeur de Cabinet du Président de la Chambre des Conseillers</i>
IDBELHAJ, Hafida (Mrs./Mme) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administrative du groupe</i>	
DRIOUCHE, Abdelwahad (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du groupe</i>	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
(RNI: National Rally of Independents / <i>Rassemblement national des indépendants</i>)	
(PAM: Authenticity and Modernity Party / <i>Parti Authenticité et modernité</i>)	
(USFP: Socialist Union of Popular Forces / <i>Union socialiste de forces populaires</i>)	
(MP: Popular Movement / <i>Mouvement populaire</i>)	
(PJD: Justice and Development Party / <i>Parti de la justice et du développement</i>)	
(PI: Istiqlal Party / <i>Parti de l'Istiqlal</i>)	

MYANMAR

TOE, Maung (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (USDP)</i>
MU, Aye Aye (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Member of the House of Representatives, Commission on Legal Affairs and Special Issues / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Commission des affaires juridiques et des questions spéciales</i>

(USDP: Union Solidarity and Development Party / *Parti de la solidarité et du développement de l'Union*)

NAMIBIA – NAMIBIE

MENSAH-WILLIAMS, Margaret Natalie (Mrs./Mme) President of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires, Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Council, Standing Rules and Orders Committee, Women Caucus / <i>Vice-Présidente du Conseil national, Commission du règlement et de la procédure, Forum parlementaire des femmes</i> (SWAPO)
AMWEELO, Moses (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Chairperson of the ICT Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission de l'ICT</i> (SWAPO)
JANKOWSKI, Maureen (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Member of the Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Membre de la Commission des ressources humaines, du développement social et des communautés</i> (SWAPO)
LUCKS, Heiko (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des comptes publics</i> (RDP)
KANDJII, Ambrosius (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council, Gender, Youth and ICT Committee / <i>Membre du Conseil national Commission de l'égalité des sexes, de la jeunesse et de l'ICT</i> (SWAPO)
NAMBILI, Ndapewoshali Nangula (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council, Gender, Youth and ICT Committee, Habitat Committee, Women Caucus <i>Membre du Conseil national, Commission de l'égalité des sexes, de la jeunesse et de l'ICT, Commission de l'habitat, Forum parlementaire des femmes</i> (SWAPO)
JACOBS, Johannes (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
SHIMUTWIKENI, Panduleni N (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
NAKUTWIMA, Mirjam N. (Ms./Mme)	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>
SHALI, Auguste (Ms./Mme) Co-Secretary of the Group <i>Co-Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>
FINNIES, Shaandre (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
BOTMA, Sandre (Ms./Mme)	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>
ISAAC, Willem H. (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
TAIT, Tania (Ms./Mme) Legal Adviser / <i>Conseillère juridique</i>	

(SWAPO: South-West African People's Organization / *Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain*)

(RDP: Rally for Democracy and Progress / *Rassemblement pour la démocratie et le progrès*)

NETHERLANDS - PAYS-BAS

DIJKHOFF, Klaas (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (VVD)
FRANKEN, Hans (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate / <i>Membre du Sénat</i> (CDA)
DE BOER, Margreet (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate / <i>Membre du Sénat</i> (GL)
WOLBERT, Agnes (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (L)
NIEUWENHUIZEN, Bas (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire de la délégation, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>

(VVD: People's Party for Freedom and Democracy / *Parti populaire pour la liberté et la démocratie*)

(CDA: Christian Democratic Appeal / *Rassemblement chrétien-démocrate*)

(GL: Green Left / *Verts-gauche*)

(L: Labour Party / *Parti du travail*)

NEW ZEALAND - NOUVELLE-ZELANDE

CARTER, David (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairperson of the Standing Orders Committee, Chairperson of the Business Committee, Chairperson of the Officers of Parliament Committee / *Président de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission du règlement*
Président du Comité directeur, Président de la Commission des fonctionnaires du parlement (PN)

TISCH, Lindsay (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, Law and Order Committee / *Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants, Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et du commerce, Commission du droit et de l'ordre public (PN)*

HART, Wendy (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

(PN: National Party / *Parti national*)

NICARAGUA

MONTENEGRO BLANDON, Iris (Mrs./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairperson of the Modernization Committee, Committee on Health and Social Security, Chairperson of the Institutional Group of Parliamentarians to Promote Gender Equity / *Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la modernisation, Commission de la santé et de la sécurité sociale, Présidente du Groupe institutionnel de parlementaires pour promouvoir l'égalité entre les sexes (FSLN)*

CRUZ TORUÑO, Nestor (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission of Nicaragua in Geneva
Mission permanente du Nicaragua à Genève

ARANA VIZCAYA, Jenny (Ms./Mme)
Permanent Mission of Nicaragua in Geneva
Mission permanente du Nicaragua à Genève

CORSETTI, Laura (Ms./Mme)
Permanent Mission of Nicaragua in Geneva
Mission permanente du Nicaragua à Genève

(FSLN: Sandinista National Liberation Front / *Front sandiniste de libération nationale*)

NIGER

BEN OMAR, Mohamed (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Fourth Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Quatrième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale

HABIBOU, Aminatou (Mrs./Mme)
Vice-President of the Group
Vice-Présidente du Groupe

Member of the National Assembly, Committee on Rural Development and Environment / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission du développement rural et de l'environnement (PNDS)*

IBRO, Aoua (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly, Committee on Foreign Affairs / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires étrangères (PNDS)*

MAIZOUMBOU, Laoual Amadou (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Committee on Economic Affairs and Planning / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Commission des affaires économiques et du plan (ARN)*

NOUHOU, Daoudou (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly Finance and Budget Committee / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Commission des finances et du budget (MDN)*

SAMAILA, Ali (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS)

ALIO, Issa (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

Director, Cooperation
Directeur de la coopération

IBRAHIM, Laouali (Mr./M.)
Technical Adviser / *Conseiller technique*

(PNDS: Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism / *Parti nigérien pour la démocratie et le socialisme*)
(ARN: Alliance for National Reconciliation / *Alliance pour la réconciliation nationale*)
(MDN: Moden Fa Lumana - Niger Democratic Movement for an African Federation
Mouvement démocratique nigérien pour une fédération africaine)

NIGERIA

IHEDIOHA, Chukwuemeka Nkem (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants (PDP)

BARATA, Ahmed Hassan (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat (PDP)

UZAMERE, Ehigie Edobor (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate, Inter-Parliamentary Relations
Committee / *Membre du Sénat, Commission des relations interparlementaires (PDP)*

USMAN, Abdul'aziz (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate, Chairman of the Inter-
Parliamentary Relations Committee / *Membre du Sénat, Président de la Commission des relations interparlementaires (PDP)*

BELLO, Binta Fatimah (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDP)

GARBA, Ado Alhassan (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of
the MDGs Committee / *Membre de la Chambre des Représentants Président de la Commission des OMD (APC)*

IGBOKWE, Raphael (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDP)

ASHIEKAA, Christopher (Mr./M.)

Special Assistant to the Clerk
Assistant special du Secrétaire général

LASISI, Alh. Bukoye (Mr./M.)

Director / *Directeur*

EDHERE, Basil U. (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly
Secrétaire general adjoint de l'Assemblée nationale

BADAMASI, Abubakar (Mr./M.)

Committee Clerk / *Greffier de commission*

GARBA, Lawal A. (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the Delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Director / *Directeur*

SANI IDRIS, Mohammed (Mr./M.)

Adviser / *Conseiller*

BERNARD, Okoh (Mr./M.)

Committee Clerk / *Greffier de commission*

ESEKE, Augustine (Mr./M.)
IPU Desk

Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
Assistant administratif

(PDP: People's Democratic Party / *Parti démocratique populaire*)

(APC: All Progressives Congress)

NORWAY – NORVEGE

SVENDSEN, Kenneth (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Standing Committee on
Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs / *Vice-Président du Parlement, Commission permanente du scrutin et des affaires constitutionnelles*

LØDEMEL, Bjørn (Mr./M.)
Deputy Leader of the delegation
Chef adjoint de la délégation

Member of Parliament, Standing Committee on Local
Government and Public Administration / *Membre du Parlement, Commission permanente du gouvernement local et de l'administration publique*

ELDEGARD, Gunvor (Mrs./Mme)

Member of Parliament, Standing Committee on Scrutiny
and Constitutional Affairs / *Membre du Parlement Commission permanente du scrutin et des affaires constitutionnelles (L)*

TRETTEBERGSTUEN, Anette (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament, Standing Committee on Labour and Social Affairs / <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission permanente du travail et des affaires sociales</i> (L)
LIADAL, Hege Haukeland (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament, Standing Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs / <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission permanente de la famille et des affaires culturelles</i> (L)
HOTVEDT, Bjørnar Dahl (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
HØGE, Anne Laila (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>
(L: Labour Party / <i>Parti du travail</i>)	

OMAN

AL KA'ABI, Salim (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Consultative Council <i>Vice-Président du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL FARSI, Fawziya (Mrs./Mme) Second Vice-President of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Deuxième Vice-Présidente du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the State Council <i>Membre du Conseil de l'Etat</i>
AL WARDI, Nadya (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the State Council <i>Membre du Conseil de l'Etat</i>
AL DARAAI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL RUSHEIDI, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL-OWAISI, Aiman (Mr./M.)	Director / <i>Directeur</i>

PAKISTAN

BOKHARI, Syed Nayyer Hussain (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Senate Chairman of the Finance Committee, Employees Welfare Fund / <i>Président du Sénat, Président de la Commission des finances et du fonds de prévoyance des employés</i>
AHSAN, Aitzaz (Mr./M.) Standing Committee on Peace and Security <i>Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité</i>	Member of the Senate, Foreign Affairs Committee, Rules of Procedure and Privileges Committee, Law and Justice Committee, Finance Committee / <i>Membre du Sénat, Commission des affaires étrangères, Commission des règles de procédure et des privilèges, Commission des lois et de la justice, Commission des finances</i>
RABBANI, Mian Raza (Mr./M.) Member Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the Senate, Rules of Procedures and Privileges Committee, Law and Justice Committee, Functional Committee on Human Rights, Defence Production Committee / <i>Membre du Sénat, Commission des règles de procédure et des privilèges, Commission des lois et de la justice, Commission fonctionnelle des droits de l'homme, Commission de la défense</i>
HARRAJ, Mohammad Raza Hayat (Mr./M.) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights <i>Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
KANJU, Abdul Rehman Khan (Mr./M.) Standing Committee on Development, Finance and Trade / <i>Commission permanente du développement, du financement et du commerce</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MEHR, Ghous Bux Khan (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

VIRK, Chaudhry Bilal Ahmad (Mr./M.) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights <i>Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
BANGASH, Abdul Nabi (Mr./M.) Standing Committee on Development, Finance and Trade / <i>Commission permanente du développement, du financement et du commerce</i>	Member of the Senate / <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
ALI KHAN KHOSA, Sirdar Zulfiqar (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate / <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
PERVEZ, Amjed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
RIAZ, Mohammad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire à l'Assemblée nationale</i>
SAYYED, Mushahid Hussain (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
BANGASH, Abdul Nabi (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
KHOSA, Sirdar Zulfiqar Ali Khan (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>

PALESTINE

QUBÁ, Tayseer (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Palestinian National Council <i>Vice-Président du Conseil national palestinien</i>
ALAHMAD, Azzam (Mr./M.) Member of the Standing Committee on Peace and Security / <i>Membre de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité</i>	Member of the Palestinian National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien</i>
ALWAZIR, Intisar (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Palestinian National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien</i>
KHRISHI, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien</i>
SANDUKA, Zuheir (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien</i>
BELLAL, Kasem (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien</i>
KHRISHI, Ibrahim (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
HAMED, Omar (Mr./M.) Secretary of Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
QAWAS, Rasha (Ms./Mme) Secretary of Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director / <i>Directrice</i>

PANAMA

CASTILLO, José Luis (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MILLER, Mario (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Committee on Credentials, Rules, Parliamentary Ethics and Legal Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de vérification des pouvoirs, du règlement, de l'éthique parlementaire et des affaires juridiques (CD)</i>
VALLARINO, Marilyn (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Committee on Credentials, Rules, Parliamentary Ethics and Legal Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de vérification des pouvoirs, du règlement, de l'éthique parlementaire et des affaires juridiques (CD)</i>
MENDOZA, Alejandro (Mr./M.)	Staff / <i>Secrétariat</i>

(CD: Democratic Change / *Changement démocratique*)

PARAGUAY

FERRER MIRANDA, Néstor (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (C)</i>
ROJAS SOSA, Sergio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PLRA)</i>
ACOSTA DE VÁZQUEZ, Perla (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (Ind)</i>

(C: Colorado Party / *Parti Colorado*)
(PLRA: Authentic Radical Liberal Party / *Parti libéral radical authentique*)
(Ind: Independent / *Indépendant*)

PERU – PEROU

TEJADA GALINDO, Sergio Fernando (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Congress of the Republic, Committee on Andean, Amazonian, Afro-Peruvian Peoples, Committee on Environment and Ecology, Committee on Youth and Sport, Committees on External Relations <i>Membre du Congrès de la République, Commission des peuples andins, amazoniens et afro-péruviens, Commission de l'environnement et de l'écologie, Commission de la jeunesse et des sports, Commission des relations extérieures (GP)</i>
SALAGADO RUBIANES, Luz Filomena (Ms./Mme)	Committee on Constitution and Procedure, Committee on National Defence, Internal Order, Alternative Development and Fight against Drugs, Committee on Intelligence and Relations <i>Commission de la Constitution et du règlement, Commission de la défense nationale, de l'ordre interne, du développement alternatif et de la lutte anti-drogue, Commission du renseignement et des relations (FP)</i>
MULDER BEDOYA, Claude Maurice (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress of the Republic, Audit Committee, Justice and Human Rights Committee, Labour and Social Security Committee / <i>Membre du Congrès de la République, Commission de contrôle, Commission de la justice et des droits de l'homme, Commission du travail et de la sécurité sociale (CP)</i>
CONDORI JAHUIRA, Natalie (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Congress of the Republic, National Defence, Trade, Tourism, Women and Family, External Relations Committee / <i>Membre du Congrès de la République, Commission de la défense nationale, du commerce et du tourisme, des femmes, de la famille et des relations extérieures (DD)</i>
RODRIGUEZ ZAVALA, Elias Nicolas (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress of the Republic, Vice-Chairman of the Energy and Mining Committee, Budget and General Accounts Committee, Health and Population Committee / <i>Membre du Congrès de la République, Vice-Président de la Commission de l'énergie et des mines, Commission du budget et des comptes généraux, Commission de la santé et de la population (CP)</i>

(GP: Gana Peru)
(FP: Fuerza popular)
(CP: Concertación parlamentaria)
(DD: Dignidad y Democracia)

PHILIPPINES

DRILON, Franklin (Mr./M.) Member of Executive Committee, Leader of the delegation / <i>Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Senate / <i>Président du Sénat</i>
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CAYETANO, Pia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate / <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
TUPAS Jr., Niel (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
PIMENTEL III, Aquilino Martin (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate / <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
POE, Grace (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate / <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
ANGARA, Juan Edgardo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate / <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
COLMENARES, Neri (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ALVAREZ, Mercedes (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
YABES, Oscar (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
BARUA-YAP, Marilyn (Mrs./Mme)	Secretary General, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
BANTUG JR., Renato (Mr./M.)	Chief-of-Staff to the President of the Senate <i>Chef du Secrétariat du Président du Sénat</i>
DE GUZMAN JR., Antonio (Mr./M.)	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
DE CHAVEZ, Cesar (Mr./M.)	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
Technical Staff Adviser / <i>Conseiller technique</i>	
MALING, Roberto (Mr./M.)	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
DALEON III, Benjamin Paolo (Mr./M.)	
Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
TORRES III, Anthony (Mr./M.)	Executive Assistant of Senate President <i>Assistant exécutif du Président du Sénat</i>
REGINALDO, Maria Elizabeth Cheryl (Ms./Mme)	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>
ALVAREZ, Leslie (Ms./Mme)	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>
REBONG, Cecilia (Ms./Mme)	
Ambassador, Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadrice, Représentante permanente</i>	
BAJA, Noralyn (Ms./Mme)	
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippines in Geneva / <i>Représentant permanent adjoint des</i> <i>Philippines à Genève</i>	
FOS, Enrico (Mr./M.)	
Permanent Mission of the Philippines in Geneva <i>Mission permanente des Philippines à Genève</i>	
VALDERRAMA, Celeste (Ms./Mme)	
Permanent Mission of the Philippines in Geneva <i>Mission permanente des Philippines à Genève</i>	
HERMOSO, Raphael (Mr./M.)	
Permanent Mission of the Philippines in Geneva <i>Mission permanente des Philippines à Genève</i>	

POLAND – POLOGNE

BUKIEWICZ, Bozenna (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Sejm / <i>Membre, Sejm (PO)</i>
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	
WOJTCZAK, Michal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate / <i>Membre du Sénat (PO)</i>
NOWICKA, Wanda (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Speaker of the Sejm <i>Vice-Présidente, Sejm</i>
Vice-President of the Group <i>Vice-Président du Groupe</i>	
IWINSKI, Tadeusz (Mr./M.)	Member of the Sejm / <i>Membre, Sejm (SLD)</i>
MAZUREK, Beata (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Sejm / <i>Membre, Sejm (PiS)</i>

STEFANIUK, Franciszek Jerzy (Mr./M.)	Member of the Sejm / <i>Membre, Sejm</i> (PSL)
POLKOWSKA, Ewa (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
CZAPLA, Lech (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
KARWOWSKA-SOKOLOWSKA, Agata (Ms./Mme)	Director / <i>Directrice</i>
GRUBA, Wojciech (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
(PO: Civic Platform / <i>Plate-forme civique</i>)	
(SLD: Democratic Left Alliance / <i>Alliance de la gauche démocratique</i>)	
(PiS: Law and Justice / <i>Droit et justice</i>)	
(PSL: Polish Peasant Party / <i>Parti paysan polonais</i>)	

PORTUGAL

SILVA, Guilherme (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
AMARAL, Helder (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
ALBERNAZ, Rosa Maria (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
CARDOSO, Maria Paula (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
JESUS, Fernando (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
PACHECO, Duarte (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
DE MATOS ROSA, José (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
COSTA, Alberto (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
ARAÚJO, José Manuel (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General <i>Vice-Secrétaire général</i>
ISIDORO, Ana Margarida (Ms./Mme) Adviser of the delegation <i>Conseillère de la délégation</i>	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>

QATAR

AL-KAWARI, Issa (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Advisory Council, Internal and External Affairs Committee / <i>Vice-Président du Conseil consultatif, Commission des affaires intérieures et extérieures</i>
AL-MAADEED, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Advisory Council, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee / <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif, Commission des affaires juridiques et législatives</i>
AL-KHAYARIN, Hadi (Mr./M.)	Member of the Advisory Council, Committee on Services and Public Utilities Affairs / <i>Membre du Conseil consultative, Commission des services publics</i>
AL-MEADADI, Rashid (Mr./M.)	Member of the Advisory Council, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee, Cultural and Information Affairs Committee / <i>Membre du Conseil consultative, Commission des affaires juridiques et législatives, Commission des affaires culturelles et de l'information</i>
AL-JEHANI, Nasser (Mr./M.)	Member of the Advisory Council, Internal and External Affairs Committee, Services and Public Utilities Affairs Committee / <i>Membre du Conseil consultative, Commission des affaires intérieures et extérieures, Commission des services publics</i>

AL-MAJID, Abdulreda (Mr./M.)	Head of the Editing and Translation Section <i>Chef de la Section de la publication et de la traduction</i>
AL-SHAWANI, Mesfer (Mr./M.)	Assistant Head of Public Relations and Media <i>Chef adjoint des relations publiques et des médias</i>
AL DELAIMI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Data Processing Officer <i>Chargé du traitement des données</i>

REPUBLIC OF KOREA – REPUBLIQUE DE COREE

AHN, Hong-Joon (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Education, Culture, Sports and Tourism Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de l'éducation, de la culture, des sports et du tourisme</i> (SP)
CHOI, Bong-Hong (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Environment and Labour Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de l'environnement et du travail</i> (SP)
YOU, Jee-Young (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Gender Equality and Family Committee, Science, ICT, Future Planning, Broadcasting and Communications Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de l'égalité entre les sexes et de la famille, Commission des sciences, des TIC, de la planification, de la radiodiffusion et des communications</i> (SP)
SONG, Ho-Chang (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Special Committee on Budget and Accounts, Science, ICT, Future Planning, Broadcasting and Communications Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission spéciale du budget et des comptes, Commission des sciences, des TIC, de la planification, de la radiodiffusion et des communications</i> (AD)
PARK, Heong-Joon (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
NAMKOONG, Suk (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Director General, Legislative Counsel Office <i>Directeur général du Bureau législatif</i>
SHIN, Moon-Keun (Mr./M.)	Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference Department <i>Directeur du Département des conférences interparlementaires</i>
PARK, Je-Sung (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Director / <i>Directeur adjoint</i>
KIM, Hyun-Sook (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference Department / <i>Directrice adjointe du Département des conférences interparlementaires</i>
LEE, Gyu-Hee (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Director, Asia-Pacific Affairs <i>Directeur adjoint des affaires Asie-Pacifique</i>
CHO, Seo Yeon (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargée du protocole</i>
KIM, Eui-Jeong (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargée du protocole</i>
OH, Nam-Gyun (Mr./M.)	Programme Coordinator / <i>Coordinateur de programme</i>
KANG, Jung-Min (Ms./Mme)	Programme Coordinator / <i>Coordinatrice de programme</i>
CHO, Hyeun Grace (Ms./Mme) Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>	

(SP: Saenuri Party)

(AD: Alliance for Democracy / *Alliance pour la démocratie*)

ROMANIA – ROUMANIE

STERIU, Valeriu Andrei (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee for Agriculture, Forestry, Food Industry and Specific Services / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Commission de l'agriculture, des forêts, de l'industrie alimentaire et des services spécifiques (NURP)</i>
MITU, Augustin Constantin (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate, Committee for Labour, Family and Social Protection, Committee for Culture and Media <i>Membre du Sénat, Commission du travail, de la famille et de la protection sociale, Commission de la culture et des médias (SDP)</i>
NISTOR, Marioara (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee for Culture, Arts and Mass Media / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés Commission de la culture, des arts et des médias (NURP)</i>
ROMAN, Cristian Constantin (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Committee for Defense, Public Order and National Security / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Commission de la défense, de l'ordre public et de la sécurité nationale</i>
KEREKES, Karoly (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Committee for Labour and Social Protection / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Commission du travail et de la protection sociale (HDUR)</i>
DUMITRICA, George Ionut (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies <i>Secrétaire général adjoint de la Chambre des Députés</i>
COMAN, Victor Viorel (Mr./M.)	General Director, Office of the Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies / <i>Directeur du Bureau du Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Députés</i>
DUMITRESCU, Cristina (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, External Multilateral Relations, Senate <i>Directrice des relations multilatérales extérieures, Sénat</i>
GEORGIAN, Daniela (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Counsellor, Foreign Affairs General Directorate, Chamber of Deputies / <i>Conseillère, Direction générale des affaires étrangères de la Chambre des Députés</i>

(NURP: National Union for Romania's Progress / *Union nationale pour le progrès de la Roumanie*)

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / *Parti social-démocrate*)

(HDUR: Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania / *Union démocratique des Magyars de Roumanie*)

RUSSIAN FEDERATION - FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

BABAKOV, Alexander (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation (State Duma) <i>Chef de la délégation (Douma d'Etat)</i>	Member of the State Duma, Committee on International Affairs / <i>Membre, Douma d'Etat, Commission des affaires internationales</i>
KLIMOV, Andrey (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation (Council of the Federation) <i>Chef de la délégation (Conseil de la Fédération)</i>	Member of the Council of the Federation, Vice-Chair of the Committee for Foreign Affairs / <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
TIMOFEEVA, Olga (Ms./Mme) Substitute member of the Coordinating committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membre suppléant du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the State Duma, Committee on Informational Policy, Informational Technologies and Communication <i>Membre, Douma d'Etat, Commission de la politique de l'information, des technologies de l'information et de la communication</i>
VTORYGINA, Elena (Mrs./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights / <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the State Duma, Committee on Agrarian Relations and Construction / <i>Membre, Douma d'Etat, Commission des relations agraires et de la construction</i>
YEMELIANOV, Michail (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma, Deputy chairman of the Committee on Economic Policy, Innovational Development and Enterprise / <i>Membre, Douma d'Etat, Vice-Président de la Commission de la politique économique, du développement innovant et des entreprises</i>

MISHNEV, Anatoly (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of the Federation, Committee for Agrarian and Food Policy and Environmental Management / <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération Commission de la politique agricole et alimentaire et de la gestion de l'environnement</i>
MOROZOV, Igor (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of the Federation, Committee for Foreign Affairs / <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération, Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
MARTYNOV, Sergey (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
SHERBAKOV, Stanislas (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	
BOGDANOVA, Natalia (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
BELOVA, Julia (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
STAVITSKY, Valery (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
TKACHENKO, Mikhail (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
FOLOMEEVA, Olga (Mrs./Mme) Secretary (ASGP Meetings) <i>Secrétaire (réunions de l'ASGP)</i>	

RWANDA

MUKARUGEMA, Alphonsine (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy Chair, Committee on Social Affairs / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires sociales</i>
UWILINGIYIMANA, Philibert (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Committee in charge of Assessment of the Chamber of Deputies Activities, Deputies Conduct and Legislative Immunity <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Comité chargé de l'évaluation des activités de la Chambre des Députés, de la discipline, du comportement et de l'immunité des Députés (FPR)</i>

(FPR: Rwandan Patriotic Front / *Front patriotique rwandais*)

SAN MARINO - SAINT-MARIN

MICHELOTTI, Augusto (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Great and General Council <i>Membre, Grand Conseil général (ZL)</i>
CARDELLI, Alessandro (Mr./M.)	Member of the Great and General Council <i>Membre, Grand Conseil général</i>
MURATORI, Michele (Mr./M.)	Member of the Great and General Council <i>Membre, Grand Conseil général</i>
RENZI, Nicola (Mr./M.)	Member of the Great and General Council <i>Membre, Grand Conseil général</i>
MARFORI, Lucia (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
(ZL: United Left / <i>Gauche Unie</i>)	

SAUDI ARABIA - ARABIE SAOUDITE

ALJEFRI, Mohammed (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Consultative Council <i>Vice-Président du Conseil consultatif</i>
ALENAZI, Hamda (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
ALANSARI, Lubna (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
ALGAITH, Issa (Mr./M.)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
ALGHAMDI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
ALHUSSEINI, Saleh (Mr./M.)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
ALHELAISSI, Hoda (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
ALAMR, Mohammed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
ALANGARI, Saad (Mr./M.)	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
ALSAUD, Turki (Mr./M.) Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	
ALSAUD, Reem (Ms./Mme) Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	
ALHAMLAN, Mansour (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
ALENAZI, Moteb (Mr./M.) Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	
ALGHAMDI, Abdullah (Mr./M.) Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	
ALSHUBAILI, Rasha (Ms./Mme)	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>
ALSHALAN, Mishal (Mr./M.) Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	
ALSAEED, Anas (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
ALMUBARAK, Khalid (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
FALLATAH, Abdullah (Mr./M.) Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	

SENEGAL

SQUARE, Djimo (Mr./M.) Acting President of the Group, Leader of the delegation / <i>Président délégué du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (BBY)
DIENG, Penda Seck (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (BBY)
DIOUF, Aïssatou (Mrs./Mme) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights <i>Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (BBY)
GUEYE, Alioune Abatalib (Mr./M.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (BGG)
THIAM, Fatou (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PDS)
CISSE, Baye Niassé (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	

(BBY: Benno Bokk Yaakaar)
(BGG: Bokk Guis Guis)
(PDS: Senegalese Democratic Party / *Parti Démocratique Sénégalais*)

SERBIA – SERBIE

GOJKOVIĆ, Maja (Ms./Mme)
President of Group, Leader of the delegation
Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale

BOGDANOVIĆ, Goran (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Kosovo-Metohija Security Services Control Committee, Defence and Internal Affairs Committee / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission du Kosovo-Metohija, Commission de contrôle des services de sécurité, Commission de la défense et des affaires intérieures*

MIJATOVIĆ, Jelena (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly, Committee on the Economy, Regional Development, Trade, Tourism and Energy, Committee on Labour, Social Issues, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, Committee on Administrative, Budgetary, Mandate and Immunity Issues / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de l'économie, du développement régional, du commerce, du tourisme et de l'énergie, Commission du travail, des affaires sociales, de l'inclusion sociale et de la réduction de la pauvreté, Commission des affaires administratives et budgétaires et des questions relatives au mandat et à l'immunité*

MIJATOVIĆ, Milorad (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Foreign Affairs Committee, Committee on Finance, State Budget and Control of Public Spending, Security Services Control Committee / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires étrangères, Commission des finances, du budget d'Etat et du contrôle des dépenses publiques, Commission du contrôle des services de sécurité*

LJUBIČIĆ, Jana (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

DROBNJAK, Srdjan (Mr./M.)
Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*

FILIPOVIĆ, Vladimir (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

MILANOVIĆ, Ana (Ms./Mme)

Adviser / *Conseillère*

MLADENOVIĆ, Vladislav (Mr./M.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

SEYCHELLES

HERMINIE, Patrick (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale

VEL, Jeniffer (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des comptes publics*

SINGAPORE – SINGAPOUR

GAN, Thiam Poh (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament Committee for the National Development and Environment / <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission du développement national et de l'environnement</i>
GIAM, Gerald (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
MOKHTAR, Intan Azura (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament, Committee for Education <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission de l'éducation</i>
CHEN, Xiaolin (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	

SLOVAKIA – SLOVAQUIE

PASKA, Pavol (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Council <i>Président du Conseil national (Smer-SD)</i>
SOLYMOS, László (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council, Committee for Culture and Media / <i>Membre du Conseil national, Commission de la culture et des médias (MH)</i>
GUSPAN, Daniel (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
STRÝČKOVÁ, Katarína (Mrs./Mme)	Director / <i>Directrice</i>
MALINKOVÁ, Jana (Mrs./Mme)	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>
ROSOCHA, Fedor (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
KMOŠENA, Martin (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
KABÁČ, Martin (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
(Smer-SD: Smer - Social Democracy / <i>SMER - Démocratie sociale</i>) (MH: MOST-HÍD)	

SLOVENIA – SLOVENIE

MURGEL, Jasna (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Commission on Rules of Procedure / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Comité des règles de procédure (SMC)</i>
TASNER VATOVEC, Matej (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Commission on Rules of Procedure / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Comité des règles de procédure (ZL)</i>
PANDEV, Tanja (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Director / <i>Directrice</i>
(NSi: New Slovenia / <i>Nouvelle Slovénie</i>) (ZL: United Left / <i>Gauche Unie</i>) (SMC: Party of Miro Cerar / <i>Parti de Miro Cerar</i>)	

SOUTH AFRICA – AFRIQUE DU SUD

MBETE, Baleka (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)</i>
TAU, Johannes Raseriti (Mr./M.)	Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces <i>Vice-Président du Conseil national des provinces (ANC)</i>
WATERS, Michael (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DA)</i>

MPONTSHANE, Alfred (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (IFP)
MOTARA, T. (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council of Provinces <i>Membre du Conseil national des provinces</i>
MPAMBO-SIBHUKWANA, Tandi (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council of Provinces <i>Membre du Conseil national des provinces</i> (DA)
TSOLELI, S. (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ANC)
BOROTO, Mmatlala Grace (Ms./Mme) Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ANC)
DIKGALE, Masefako Clarah (Ms./Mme) Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>	Member of the National Council of Provinces <i>Membre du Conseil national des provinces</i>
PHINDELA, Eric (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
PAULSE, Cheryl Ann (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Acting Team Leader / <i>Chef d'équipe ad intérim</i>
JARDINE, Zurina (Ms./Mme)	International Relations Assistant <i>Assistante des relations internationales</i>
SONJICA, Nomfundo (Ms./Mme) Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>	Acting Manager, International Relations and Protocol Division / <i>Directrice ad intérim de la Division des relations internationales</i>
MONNAKGOTLA, Roseline (Ms./Mme)	Researcher / <i>Chercheuse</i>
DLABAZANA, Mzwandile (Mr./M.)	Political Adviser / <i>Conseiller politique</i>
BRANDT, Madeleinine (Ms./Mme)	Developer / <i>Développeur</i>
GOVENDER, K. (Ms./Mme)	
MASEKWAMENG, L.S. (Mr./M.) Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	
LAKA, K.S. (Mr./M.) Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	

(ANC: African National Congress / *Congrès national africain*)

(DA: Democratic Alliance / *Alliance démocratique*)

(IFP: Inkatha Freedom Party / *Parti de la liberté Inkatha*)

SPAIN – ESPAGNE

GIL LÁZARO, Ignacio (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Congress of Deputies <i>Vice-Président, Congrès des Députés</i>
TORME PARDO, Ana (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Senate / <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
MOSCOSO DEL PRADO, Juan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress of Deputies <i>Membre, Congrès des Députés</i>
PICO I AZANZA, Antoni (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress of Deputies <i>Membre, Congrès des Députés</i>
SAEZ JUBERO, Alex (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress of Deputies <i>Membre, Congrès des Députés</i>
CAVERO, Manuel (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
GUTIERREZ, Carlos (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Congress of Deputies <i>Secrétaire général du Congrès des Députés</i>
BOYRA, Helena (Mrs./Mme)	Director / <i>Directrice</i>
JUAREZ, Maria R. (Mrs./Mme) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administrative du Groupe</i>	

SRI LANKA

RAJAPAKSA, Chamal (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament / <i>Président du Parlement</i>
DE SILVA, Niletthi Nimal Siripala (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management / <i>Membre du Parlement, Ministre de la gestion de l'irrigation et des ressources hydriques</i>
MAHESWARAN, Vijayakala (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
PERERA, Ajith (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
SAMARASINGHE, Mahinda Buddhadasa (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Minister of Plantation Industries <i>Membre du Parlement, Ministre du Secteur des plantations</i>
DASANAYAKE, Dhammika (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>

SUDAN – SOUDAN

ABDALLAH, Mohamed Yousif (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Chairperson of the Foreign Relations Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des relations étrangères (NCP)</i>
AL AMIN, Mohamed Al Hassan (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Foreign Relations Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des relations étrangères (NCP)</i>
GAKNOUN , Marwa Osman (Mrs./Mme) Committee to Promote Respect For International Humanitarian Law / <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire</i>	Member of the National Assembly Justice and Legal Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de la justice et des affaires légales (NCP)</i>
MAHADI, Alfa Hashim (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Roads and Transportation Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Commission des routes et des transports (NCP)</i>
ABDELLAH, Abdelgadir (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
AL SHAIKH, Hafiz (Mr./M.)	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
ABDELGADIR, Thana Fadul (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director / <i>Directrice</i>
SALIH, Ramah (Mr./M.) Ambassador of Sudan to Geneva <i>Ambassadeur du Soudan à Genève</i>	
MOHAMED ADALLAH, Azza (Ms./Mme) Permanent Mission of Sudan to Geneva <i>Mission permanente du Soudan à Genève</i>	

(NCP: National Congress Party / *Parti du Congrès national*)

SURINAME

MISIEKABA, Andre (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly Chairman of the Committee of the Ministry of Labour, Technological Development and Environment, Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Committee of the Ministry of Trade and Industry / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Président de la Commission du Ministère du travail, du développement technologique et de l'environnement Commission du Ministère des affaires intérieures Commission du Ministère du commerce et de l'industrie</i>
AJAISO, Waldi (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Committee of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Tourism, Committee of the Ministry of Planning, Land and

	Forest Management <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission du Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche, Commission du Ministère des transports, des communications et du tourisme, Commission du Ministère du plan et de la gestion des terres et des forêts</i>
BOUVA, Melvin (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Committee of the Ministry of Education, Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Committee of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission du Ministère de l'éducation, Commission du Ministère des affaires étrangères, Commission du Ministère des sports et de la jeunesse</i>
DJOJOSEPARTO, Martha (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Committee of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Committee of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission du Ministère du commerce et de l'industrie, Commission du Ministère des sports et de la jeunesse</i>
SANTOKHI, Chandrikapersad (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Committee of the Ministry of Defence, Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Committee of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Tourism / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale / Commission du Ministère de la défense, Commission du Ministère des affaires étrangères, Commission du Ministère des transports, des communications et du tourisme</i>
DE WINDT, Ruth (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe</i>
CASTELEN, Milton (Mr./M.)	Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>

SWEDEN – SUEDE

AVSAN, Anti (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament, Committee on Justice <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission de la justice (m)</i>
ÖRNFJÄDER, Krister (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Committee on Industry and Trade <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission de l'industrie et du commerce (s)</i>
KARLSSON, Ulrika (Ms./Mme) Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law / <i>Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires, Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire</i>	Member of Parliament, Committee on EU Affairs <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission des affaires de l'Union européenne (m)</i>
GREEN, Monica (Ms./Mme) Vice-Chair, Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Vice-Présidente du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (s)</i>
EKLÖF, Lena (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Secretary, International Department <i>Secrétaire au Département international</i>
LUNDSTEDT, Helena (Ms./Mme) Deputy Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation</i>	Deputy Secretary, International Department <i>Secrétaire adjointe au Département international</i>
DE LA REGUERA, Erik (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
INGVARSSON, Johanna (Ms./Mme) Intern / <i>Stagiaire</i>	

(m: Moderate Party / *Parti modéré*)
(s: Social Democratic Party / *Parti social-démocrate*)

SWITZERLAND – SUISSE

VEILLON, Pierre-François (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national</i> (SVP/UDC)
BIERI, Peter (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats</i> (CVP/PDC)
GUTZWILLER, Felix (Mr./M.) Deputy Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef adjoint de la délégation</i>	Member of the Council of States, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats,</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la politique extérieure</i> (FDP/PLR)
JANIAK, Claude (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats</i> (SP/PS)
CASSIS, Ignazio (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national</i> (FDP/PLR)
KIENER NELLEN, Margret (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians / <i>Membre du Comité</i> <i>des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national</i> (SP/PS)
MEIER-SCHATZ, Lucrezia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national</i> (CVP/PDC)
MÜRI, Felix (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council, Deputy Chair, Committee on Science, Education and Culture <i>Membre du Conseil national, Vice-Président,</i> <i>Commissions de la science, de l'éducation et de la culture</i> (SVP/UDC)
SCHWAB, Philippe (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee of the ASGP <i>Membre du Comité exécutif de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
BUOL, Martina (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe</i>
WILDI-BALLABIO, Elena (Ms./Mme) Deputy Secretary / <i>Secrétaire adjointe</i>	
ZEHNDER, Daniel (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
EQUEY, Jérémie (Mr./M.) <i>Substitute Secretary to the delegation</i> <i>Secrétaire suppléant de la délégation</i>	
BAERISWYL, Yves (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
RIZZOTTI, Nathalie (Mrs./Mme) Adviser to M. Cassis <i>Conseillère de M. Cassis</i>	
(SVP/UDC: Swiss People's Party / <i>Union démocratique du centre</i>)	
(CVP/PDC: Christian Democrat People's Party / <i>Parti démocrate-chrétien</i>)	
(FDP/PLR: The Liberals / <i>Les libéraux-radicaux</i>)	
(SP/PS: Social Democratic Party / <i>Parti socialiste</i>)	

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE

ALLAHAM, Mhd. Jihad (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the People's Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>
BAGDACHE, Ammar (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly, Chairman of the Financial Laws Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du</i> <i>Peuple, Président de la Commission des lois de</i> <i>financement</i>
MAHMOUD HAMDO, Omar (Mr./M.) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights / <i>Commission permanente de la démocratie</i> <i>et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the People's Assembly, Rapporteur of the Foreign Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple,</i> <i>Rapporteure des affaires étrangères</i>

MERJANEH, Boutros (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly, Member of the Environment Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple, Membre de la Commission de l'environnement</i>
SUKKARY, Ziad (Mr./M.) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights / <i>Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the People's Assembly, Constitutional Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple, Commission constitutionnelle</i>
ROUSTOM, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly, Service and Youth Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple, Commission du service et de la jeunesse</i>
TRAIFI, Fayha (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the People's Assembly, Steering and Guidance Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple, Commission pilote d'orientation</i>
ALWAWI, Mhd. Nasser (Mr./M.)	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
DIAB, Abdul Azim (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director / <i>Directeur adjoint</i>

TAJKISTAN – TADJIKISTAN

GAFOROVA, Nazira (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of Parliament <i>Vice-Présidente du Parlement</i>
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THAILAND – THAILANDE

FUTRAKUL, Virasakdi (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Legislative Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative</i>
KRAIRIKSH, Sakthip (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative</i>
CHAOWALITTAWIL, Saithip (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe</i>
TANTIVONG, Anuvat (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
MASRICHAN, Krisanee (Ms./Mme)	Director, ASGP Division <i>Directrice de la Division de l'ASGP</i>
KHAMASUNDARA, Supasinee (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, Foreign Affairs <i>Conseillère des affaires étrangères</i>
KUNKLOY, Chollada (Mrs./Mme)	Director / <i>Directrice</i>
NOPPAWONG, Monton (Mr./M.)	Director, IPU Division <i>Directeur, Division de l'UIP</i>
PUTORNJAY, La-Or (Ms./Mme)	Director, Foreign Affairs <i>Directrice des affaires étrangères</i>
SIRIWONG, Kanjanat (Ms./Mme)	Foreign Affairs Officer <i>Chargée des affaires étrangères</i>
UMAVIJANI, Thaniya (Ms./Mme)	Foreign Affairs Officer <i>Chargée des affaires étrangères</i>
TAVARATUTH, Chalongkwan (Ms./Mme)	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>
SUNGTO, Neeranan (Ms./Mme)	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>
PATARACHOKE, Kanchana (Mrs./Mme)	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>
THONGPHAKDI, Thani (Mr./M.) Ambassador of Thailand to Geneva <i>Ambassadeur de la Thaïland à Genève</i>	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>

TIMOR-LESTE

NUNES, Duarte (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Parliament, Vice-President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security <i>Membre du Parlement national, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et de la sécurité (CNRT)</i>
CORREIA, Brígida (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Parliament, Member Economy and Development Committee / <i>Membre du Parlement national Commission de l'économie et du développement (CNRT)</i>

MARÇAL, Leonel (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Parliament, Member Committee on Wealth, Education, Culture, Veterans and Gender Equality / <i>Membre du Parlement national, Commission de la santé, de l'éducation, de la culture, des anciens combattants et de l'égalité entre les sexes</i> (FRETILIN)
OSÓRIO DA COSTA, Florindo (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Parliament, Member Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Communications / <i>Membre du Parlement national, Commission des infrastructures, des transports et des communications</i> (FRETILIN)
SOARES, Izilda (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament, Vice-President of the Public Finance Committee / <i>Membre du Parlement national, Vice-Président de la Commission des finances publiques</i> (CNRT)
XIMENES BELO, Mateus (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
VAZ, Rui (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
PEREIRA, Jemmy (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
(CNRT: National Congress for the Reconstruction of Timor-Leste / <i>Congrès national pour la reconstruction du Timor</i>) (FRETILIN: Revolutionary Front for an independent East Timor / <i>Front révolutionnaire pour l'indépendance du Timor-Leste</i>)	

TOGO

DAGBAN-ZONVIDE, Ayawavi Djigbodi (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation, <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Third Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly / <i>Troisième Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (UNIR)
APEVON, Kokou Dodji (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Law Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des lois</i> (Arc-en-Ciel)
PENN, Laré Batouth (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Parliamentary Secretary / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Secrétaire parlementaire</i> (UNIR)
LAWSON-BANKU, Boévi Patrick (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Committee on Environment and Climate Change / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de l'environnement et du changement climatique</i> (ANC)
KANSONGUE, Yembandjoi (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly / <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
(UNIR: Union for the Republic / <i>Union pour la République</i>) (Arc-en-Ciel: Rainbow Coalition / <i>Coalition Arc-en-ciel</i>) (ANC: National Alliance for Change / <i>Alliance nationale pour le changement</i>)	

TONGA

TU'IHA'ATEIHO (Lord) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly / <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée législative</i>
TU'UTAFIVA, Siosifa (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - TRINITE-ET-TOBAGO

MARK, Wade (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Finance Committee, Vice chairman of the Executive Committee, Chairman of the Committee of Privileges / <i>Président de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission des finances, Vice-Président du Comité exécutif, Président de la Commission des privilèges</i>
MAHABIR, Dhanayshar (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate, Member of the Public Accounts Committee, Joint Committee Business / <i>Membre du Sénat, Membre de la Commission des comptes publics, Comité directeur mixte</i>

BAKER, Delmon (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, Finance Committee / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants Commission des finances</i>
DEYALSINGH, Terrence (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, Executive Committee / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants Comité exécutif</i>
LA ROCHE, Chantal (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>

TURKEY – TURQUIE

DAĞCI CIĞLIK, Fazilet (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie, Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
GÜNEŞ, Hurşit (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
BAYAZIT KAÇAR, Sevde (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Committee on Petitions / <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie, Commission des pétitions</i>
KAVAKLIOĞLU, Alpaslan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Spokesman of the Internal Affairs Committee, Spokesman of the National Defence Committee <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie, Porte-parole de la Commission des affaires internes, Porte-parole de la Commission de la défense nationale</i>
KORKMAZ, Süleyman Nevzat (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Committee on Constitution / <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie, Commission de la Constitution</i>
SERTER, Fatma Nur (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Committee on National Education, Culture, Youth and Sports / <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie, Commission de l'éducation nationale, de la culture, de la jeunesse et des sports</i>
SAGLAM, Mehmet (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
YILDIRIM, Murat (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
NEZIROGLU, Irfan (Mr./M.) Member of ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
AGAÇ, Isa Yusuf (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
ER AS, Hatice (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>

UGANDA – OUGANDA

KADAGA, Rebecca (Ms./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the delegation, Ex-officio member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation, Membre de droit du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires</i>	Speaker of Parliament / <i>Présidente du Parlement</i>
AKELLO, Judith Franca (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament, Budget and Finance Committee <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission du budget et des finances</i>
AMONGI, Betty (Ms./Mme) Member of Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membre du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of Parliament, Agriculture Committee <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission de l'agriculture</i>

DOMBO, Emmanuel (Mr./M.)
Committee to Promote Respect for International
Humanitarian Law / *Comité chargé de promouvoir
le respect du droit international humanitaire*

Member of Parliament Natural Resources Committee
*Membre du Parlement, Commission des ressources
naturelles*

KIYINGI, Kenneth (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament, HIV/AIDS Commission
Membre du Parlement, Commission du VIH/sida (Ind)
Member of Parliament, Finance Committee
Membre du Parlement, Commission des finances

BALYEJJUSA, Sulaiman (Mr./M.)

Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

KIBIRIGE, Jane (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Deputy Secretary-General
Vice-Secrétaire général

WABWIRE, Paul (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Deputy Director / *Directeur adjoint*

KASIRYE, Ignatius (Mr./M.)

Adviser / *Conseiller*

KASULE, Ali (Mr./M.)

Adviser / *Conseillère*

MUKYASI, Alice (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

ODEKE, Peter (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Adviser / *Conseiller*

(Ind: Independent / *Indépendant*)

UKRAINE

GRYNEVETSKYI, Sergiy (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Verkhovna Rada, Committee on National
Security and Defence / *Membre du Verkhovna Rada,
Commission de la sécurité nationale et de la défense*

VASCHUK, Katerina (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Verkhovna Rada, Committee on Taxation and
Customs Policy / *Membre du Verkhovna Rada, Commission
de la taxation et des douanes*

KRAVCHUK, Vasyl (Mr./M.),

Member of the Verkhovna Rada, Deputy Chair, Committee on
Agrarian Policy and Land Relations / *Membre du Verkhovna
Rada, Vice-Président de la Commission de la politique agraire
et des terres*

ZAICHUK, Valentyn (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

FURMAN, Oleksandr (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

SHPIN, Ivanna (Ms./Mme)
Advisor / *Conseillère*

KLIMENKO, Yurii (Mr./M.)
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ukraine
in Geneva / *Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent
de l'Ukraine à Genève*

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - EMIRATS ARABES UNIS

ALQUBAISI, Amal (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Federal National Council
Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération

ALNUAIMI, Ali (Mr./M.)

Member of the Federal National Council
Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération

ALMANSOORI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)

Member of the Federal National Council
Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération

ALSAMAHI, Sultan (Mr./M.)

Member of the Federal National Council
Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération

AL-TENAIJI, Faisal (Mr./M.)

Member of the Federal National Council
Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération

ALSHURAIQI, Rashed (Mr./M.)

Member of the Federal National Council
Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération

JASIM, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL SUWAIDI, Hamad Mohd (Mr./M.)	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
ALYAMMAHI, Khaseibah (Ms./Mme)	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>
AL AQEELI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
AL HAMMOUDI, Samyah (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
AL MARRI, Bader (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
AL SHIHHE, Roudha (Ms./Mme)	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>
ALSHEHHI, Abdulrahman (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
ALSHEHHI, Salama (Ms./Mme)	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>
ELNAEIMI, Yasser (Mr./M.)	
Press / <i>Presse</i>	
ELDIKHAIIRI, Elfatih (Mr./M.)	
Press / <i>Presse</i>	
ALSHEHADAT, Maher (Mr./M.)	
Press / <i>Presse</i>	

UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI

Rt Hon BURT, Alistair (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes</i>
WALTER, Robert (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes</i>
Rt Hon CLWYD, Ann (Mrs./Mme) Vice-President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians / <i>Vice-Présidente du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)</i>
JUDD, Frank (Lord) Chair of the Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Président du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (L)</i>
MUNN, Meg (Ms./Mme) Standing Committee on Peace and Security <i>Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité</i>	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)</i>
CHIDGEY, David (Lord) Standing Committee on Development, Finance and Trade / <i>Commission permanente du développement, du financement et du commerce</i>	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords</i>
Rt Hon MORRIS OF ABERAVON KG QC, John (Lord) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights / <i>Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (L)</i>
PRESCOTT, John (Lord) Standing Committee on UN Affairs / <i>Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (L)</i>
SMITH, Chloe (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes</i>
NIMMO, Rick (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
LIBEROTTI-HARRISON, Gabriella (Ms./Mme)	International Project Manager <i>Chef de projets internationaux</i>
KENYON, Stef (Ms./Mme)	International Project Manager <i>Chef de projets internationaux</i>
PICHÉ, Nicole (Ms./Mme) Human Rights Advisor	

Conseillère aux droits de l'homme

LAURENCE SMYTH, Liam (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

House of Commons / *Chambre des Communes*

MAWSON, Chloe (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

House of Lords / *Chambre des Lords*

COMMANDER, Emily (Ms./Mme)
Joint Secretary of the ASGP
Co-Secrétaire de l'ASGP

MOELLER, Daniel (Mr./M.)
Joint Secretary of the ASGP
Co-Secrétaire de l'ASGP

MATTHEWS, Mark (Mr./M.)
Ambassador of the United Kingdom, Geneva
Ambassadeur du Royaume-Uni à Genève

STAINES, Andrew (Mr./M.)
UK Mission, Geneva
Mission permanente du Royaume-Uni à Genève

AYRE, James (Mr./M.)
UK Mission, Geneva
Mission permanente du Royaume-Uni à Genève

DUDDY, Ian (Mr./M.)
UK Mission, Geneva
Mission permanente du Royaume-Uni à Genève

LÉVIGNE, Teresa (Ms./Mme)
UK Mission, Geneva
Mission permanente du Royaume-Uni à Genève

(L: Labour Party / *Parti du travail*)

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA - REPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE

MAKINDA, Anne (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the National Assembly
Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale

MOHAMED, Hamad Rashid (Mr./M.)
Standing Committee Development, Finance and
Trade / *Commission permanente du
développement, du financement et du commerce*

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CUF)

KIKWEMBE, Pudenciana (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)

LYIMO, Susan (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly, Spokesperson of
the Committee on Education and Vocational Training
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Porte-parole de la
Commission de l'éducation et de la formation
professionnelle (CHADEMA)*

KAFULILA, David (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NCCR-Mageuzi)

KASHILILAH, Thomas (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Clerk of the National Assembly
Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale

JOEL, John (Mr./M.)

Director / *Directeur*

MPANDA, Emmanuel (Mr./M.)

Assistant Director, Clerk's Office
Directeur adjoint au Bureau du Secrétaire général

UKHOJYA ELIUFOO, Daniel (Mr./M.)

Director, Speaker's Office
Directeur au Bureau de la Présidente

MWANDUMBYA, Owen (Mr./M.)

Information Officer / *Chargé de l'information*

(CUF: Civic United Front / *Front civique unifié*)

(CCM: Revolutionary Party of Tanzania / *Parti révolutionnaire de Tanzanie*)

(CHADEMA: Party of Democracy and Development / *Parti de la démocratie et du développement*)

(NCCR-Mageuzi: National Convention for Construction and Reform - Mageuzi
Convention nationale pour la construction et la réforme - Mageuzi)

URUGUAY

GALLO, Luis (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Senate, Vice-President of the Committee on Transport and Public Works / *Membre du Sénat, Vice-Président de la Commission des transports et des travaux publics* (FA)

LACALLE HERRERA, Luis Alberto (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate, International Affairs Committee, Public Health Committee / *Membre du Sénat, Commission des affaires internationales, Commission de la santé publique* (PN)

TAJAM, Héctor (Mr./M.)
Member of the Executive Committee from 9 to 12 October / *Membre du Comité exécutif du 9 au 12 octobre*

Member of the Senate, President of the Labour Issues and Social Security, Public Funds Committee / *Membre du Sénat, Président de la Commission du travail et de la sécurité sociale, Commission des fonds publics* (FA)

GAMOU, Carlos (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives, Constitution and Legislation Committee / *Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Commission de la Constitution et de la législation* (FA)

IBARRA, Doreen Javier (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives Chair of the Budget Committee / *Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Présidente de la Commission du budget* (FA)

LAURNAGA, María Elena (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the Executive Committee from 13 to 16 October / *Membre du Comité exécutif du 13 au 16 octobre*

Member of the House of Representatives, Foreign Affairs Committee, Special Committee on Gender and Equity / *Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Commission des affaires étrangères, Commission spéciale de l'égalité entre les sexes*

RODRÍGUEZ FILIPPINI, Hugo (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

PIQUINELA, Oscar (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group and Secretary of the Delegation; Secretary of GRULAC / *Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation, Secrétaire du GRULAC*

Director / *Directeur*

GALVALISI, Carina (Mrs./Mme)
Adviser to the Group and Secretariat of GRULAC / *Conseillère du Groupe, Secrétariat du GRULAC*

Adviser / *Conseillère*

MOREIRA, Solange (Mrs./Mme)

Adviser / *Conseillère*

GONZÁLEZ, Cristina (Mrs./Mme)
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

DUPUY, Laura (Mrs./Mme)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative / *Ambassadrice/Représentante permanente*

(FA: Frente Amplio (Broad Front) / *Front élargi*)
(PN: National Party / *Parti national*)

VENEZUELA

VIVAS VELASCO, Dario (Mr./M.)
Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the delegation / *Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Media Committee / *Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des médias* (PSUV)

EL ZABAYAR, Adel (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Defense and Security Committee / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de la défense et de la sécurité* (PSUV)

JABOUR TANNOUS, Yul (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, President of the Foreign Affairs Committee / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères* (PSUV)

REQUENA, Gladys Del Valle (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly, President of the Culture and Recreation Committee / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission de la culture et des loisirs* (PSUV)

ZERPA, Christian (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires étrangères</i> (PSUV)
ZAMBRANO, Edgar (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Indigenous Peoples Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des peuples indigènes</i> (AD)
AVILA, Jose (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
GARCIA, Fenix (Mrs./Mme)	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>
ZAMBRANO LOPEZ, Jhonny Jesús (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
MUJICA, Veronica (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
GÓMEZ, Ruben (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
GARCIA, Maigualida (Mrs./Mme) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
GARAYCOA, Merlyn Del Valle (Ms./Mme) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
(PSUV: United Socialist Party of Venezuela / <i>Parti socialiste uni du Venezuela</i>) (AD: Democratic Action / <i>Action démocratique</i>)	

VIET NAM

TONG, Thi Phong (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
HA, Huy Thong (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
HA, Minh Hue (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Membre de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
NGUYEN, Van Phuc (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NGUYEN, Thuy Anh (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Social Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires sociales</i>
TRAN, Van Hang (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
VU, Hai Ha (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
TRUONG, Thi Mai (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairperson of the Committee for Social Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires sociales</i>
NGUYEN, Hanh Phuc (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
LE VIET, Truong (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NGUYEN, Si Dzong (Mr./M.) Secretary of Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Deputy Secretary-General <i>Vice-Secrétaire général</i>
VU, Thi Ngoc Quynh (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Deputy Director / <i>Directrice adjointe</i>

NGUYEN, Tuong Van (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*
LE, Hong Son (Mr./M.)
Secretary of Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*
LE, Minh Thong (Mr./M.)
Secretary of Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*
LY, Duc Trung (Mr./M.)
Secretary of Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*
LE, Thu Ha (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*
LE VIET, Truong (Mr./M.)
Adviser / *Conseiller*
HUYNH, Vinh Ai (Mr./M.)
Secretary of Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*
DANG, Ngoc Huy (Mr./M.)
Secretary of Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*
BUI, Thu Phuong (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*
DAO, Duy Trung (Mr./M.)
Secretary of Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

Deputy Director / *Directrice adjointe***ZAMBIA – ZAMBIE**

LUNGU, Mkhondo (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MMD)

BANDA, Esther Mwila (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PF)

KUNDA, Howard (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Committee on Lands,
Environment and Tourism / *Membre de l'Assemblée*
nationale, Commission des terres, de l'environnement et
du tourisme (MMD)

MWIIMBU, Jack Jacob (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Chairperson of the
Committee on Legal Affairs, Governance, Human Rights,
Gender Matters and Child Affairs / *Membre de*
l'Assemblée nationale, Présidente de la Commission des
affaires juridiques, de la gouvernance, des droits de
l'homme, des affaires de genre et des enfants (UPND)

MONDE, Greyford (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPND)

MWINGA, Doris Katai Katebe (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

BANDA, Naomi (Ms./Mme)

Adviser / *Conseillère*

MONGA, Pauline (Ms./Mme)

Adviser / *Conseillère*

MANDA, Mwenya Iréné (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

(MMD: Movement for Multi-Party Democracy / *Mouvement pour la démocratie pluraliste*)

(PF: Patriotic Front / *Front patriotique*)

(UPND: United Party for National Development / *Parti uni pour le développement national*)

ZIMBABWE

MUDENDA, Jacob Francis (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)

MANDI MANDITAWEDI, Chimene (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chief Whip
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Chef de file adjointe
(ZANU/PF)

MUTOMBA, William (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)

CHAKONA, Paradzai (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ZANU/PF)
MACHINGURA, Raymore (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ZANU/PF)
CHIBAYA, Amos (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (MDC-T)
ZVOMA, Austin (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk of Parliament / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
GWAKWARA, Cleophas (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
CHINYEMBA, Gift (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
MUKANDIWA, Claudius (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
MUNKOMBWE, Pangani (Mr./M.) Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	

(ZANU/PF: Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front / *Union nationale africaine - Front patriotique du Zimbabwe*)
(MDC-T: Movement for Democratic Change / *Mouvement pour un changement démocratique*)

II. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - MEMBRES ASSOCIES**ANDEAN PARLIAMENT – PARLEMENT ANDIN**

DUQUE GARCÍA, Luis Fernando (Mr./M.) Member / *Membre*
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

**ARAB PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT ARABE**

ESSED, Nouredine (Mr./M.) Vice-President / *Vice-Président*
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*
LABDAG, Abderrahmane (Mr./M.) Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement*
ALABBASI, Abdalnaser Janahi (Mr./M.) Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
ABDULHAMEED, Mudher Abdulraheem (Mr./M.) Chief of Cabinet of the President
Chef du Bureau du Président

**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)
ASSEMBLEE LEGISLATIVE EST-AFRICAINE (ALEA)**

ZZIWA, Nantongo Margaret (Ms./Mme) Speaker / *Présidente*
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*
ODIKO, Bobi (Mr./M.) Senior Public Relations Officer
Chargé principal des relations publiques
KALIBA, Winifred (Mrs./Mme) Personal Assistant to the Speaker
Assistante particulière de la Présidente

**INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OF THE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC
AND MONETARY UNION (WAEMU)
COMITE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION ECONOMIQUE
ET MONETAIRE OUEST-AFRICAINE (UEMOA)**

DANGNON, Victor (Mr./M.) Speaker / *Président*
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*
BASSIERE, Nestor Batio (Mr./M.) Member / *Membre*
PAYE SECK, Marie Thérèse Aïda (Mrs./Mme) Member / *Membre*
MORA, Ouorou Baro (Mr./M.) Member / *Membre*
SANWIDI WARE, Maria (Mrs./Mme) Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

**LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT LATINO-AMERICAIN**

WIMMER, Carolus (Mr./M.) Vice-President / *Vice-Président*
AQUILES MORENO, Luis (Mr./M.) Member / *Membre*

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (PACE)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE (APCE)**

RECORDON, Luc (Mr./M.) Member, Committee on Social Affairs, Health and
Sustainable Development / *Membre, Commission des
affaires sociales, de la santé et du développement
durable*
MARTINS, Mario (Mr./M.) Director / *Directeur*
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
RAMANAUSKAITE, Aiste (Ms./Mme) Adviser / *Conseillère*
Committee Secretary / *Secrétaire de commission*

III. OBSERVERS – OBSERVATEURS**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)
UNION PARLEMENTAIRE AFRICAINE (UPA)**N'ZI, Kofi (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*CHEROUATI, Samir (Mr./M.), Director / *Directeur***ARAB INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (AIPU)
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ARABE (UIPA)**BOUCHKOUJ, Noureddine (Mr./M.), Secretary general / *Secrétaire général***ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE ASIATIQUE**ISLAMI, Masoud (Mr./M.), Deputy Secretary-General / *Secrétaire général adjoint*AZARIKHAH, Asghar (Mr./M.), Assistant Secretary-General / *Secrétaire général assistant*KHORRAM, Ali (Mr./M.), Assistant Secretary-General / *Secrétaire général assistant*MOSHIRVAZIRI, Bijan (Mr./M.), Assistant Secretary-General / *Secrétaire général assistant***ASSOCIATION OF SENATES, SHOORA AND EQUIVALENT COUNCILS IN AFRICA AND THE ARAB
WORLD (ASSECAA)****ASSOCIATION DES SENATS, SHOORA ET CONSEILS EQUIVALENTS D'AFRIQUE ET DU MONDE ARABE**YUSUF ALI, Abdulwasie (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général***MAGHREB CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DU MAGHREB**MOKADEM, Said (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général***COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**RUOTANEN, Marja (Ms./Mme), Director, Human Dignity and Equality
Directrice, Dignité humaine et égalité

KOPACI DI MICHELE, Liri (Ms./Mme)

**GENEVA CENTRE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES (DCAF)
CENTRE POUR LE CONTROLE DEMOCRATIQUE DES FORCES ARMEES - GENEVE**FLURI, Philipp (Mr./M.), Deputy Director / *Directeur adjoint*HAGEMANN, Daria (Mrs./Mme), Research Assistant / *Assistante de recherche*KIELMANN, Alica (Ms./Mme), Project Assistant / *Assistante de projet***INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)
COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR)**PELLANDINI, Cristina (Ms./Mme), Advisory Service Unit / *Services consultatifs*HELLE, Daniel (Mr./M.), Diplomatic Advisor / *Conseiller diplomatique*RAPNEAU, Coline (Ms./Mme), Sexual Violence Adviser / *Conseillère Violences sexuelles*LONDOÑO, Maria-Ximena (Ms./Mme), Legal Adviser / *Conseillère juridique***INTERNATIONAL IDEA**LETERME, Yves (Mr./M.), Secretary-General / *Secrétaire général*KANDAWASWIKI-NHUNDU, Rumbidzai (Ms./Mme), Senior Programme Manager
Directrice principale de programme

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE (ILO)
BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DU TRAVAIL (BIT)CROWE, Raphael (Mr./M.), Senior Gender Specialist
*Spécialiste principal des questions d'égalité entre hommes et femmes***INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)**
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LES MIGRATIONS (OIM)HELKE, Jill (Ms./Mme), Director / *Directrice***PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (PABSEC)**
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE POUR LA COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER NOIREÇETINKAYA, Mehmet Necati (Mr./M.), Vice President / *Vice-Président*ÜSTÜNDAG, Ali Gürkan (Mr./M.), Administrator / *Administrateur***PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)**
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE (APM)PIAZZI, Sergio (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*SCHATZER, Peter (Mr./M.), Ambassador / *Ambassadeur***PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF BELARUS AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION DU BELARUS ET DE LA FEDERATION DE RUSSIENAUMOVICH, Andrei (Mr./M.), Head of Committee / *Président de commission*BORTSOV, Nikolay (Mr./M.), Deputy Head of Committee / *Vice-Président de commission*STRELCHENKO, Sergey (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*LEYKAUSKAS, Audryus (Mr./M.), Deputy Head of Department / *Chef adjoint de département***PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY – UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (PA-UfM)**
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE – UNION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE (AP-UpM)LEAL, Isabel (Ms./Mme), Secretary General / *Secrétaire générale***PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE TURKIC-SPEAKING COUNTRIES (TURKPA)**
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DES PAYS DE LANGUE TURCIQUEASANOV, Jandos (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*HASANOV, Emin (Mr./M.), Secretary of Commission / *Secrétaire de commission***PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE MEMBER STATES (PUIC)****UNION PARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'ORGANISATION DE LA CONFERENCE ISLAMIQUE (UPCI)**KILIC, Mahmut Erol (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*MOHAMMADI SIJANI, Ali Asghar (Mr./M.), Assistant Secretary General / *Secrétaire général assistant***PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH)**
PARTENARIAT POUR LA SANTE DE LA MERE, DU NOUVEAU-NE ET DE L'ENFANTDE FRANCISCO SERPA, Luis Andres (Mr./M.), Deputy Executive Director / *Directeur exécutif adjoint*MCDougall, Lori (Ms./Mme), Senior Technical Officer, Policy and Advocacy
*Chargée principale, Policy and Advocacy***SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL**
INTERNATIONALE SOCIALISTEAYALA, Luis (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*PERRY, Latifa (Ms./Mme), Coordinator / *Coordinatrice***THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TB AND MALARIA**
LE FONDS MONDIAL DE LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA, LA TUBERCULOSE ET LE PALUDISMEROBINSON, Svend (Mr./M.), Senior Adviser, Parliamentary Relations
Conseiller principal, Relations parlementaires

**JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
PROGRAMME COMMUN DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LE VIH/SIDA (ONUSIDA)**

BAUERLE, Cheryl (Ms./Mme), Team Leader / *Chef d'équipe*

EBA, Patrick (Mr./M.), Human Rights Advisor / *Conseiller pour les droits de l'homme*

CROCKET, Alison (Ms./Mme)

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)
CONFÉRENCE DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LE COMMERCE ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT (CNUCED)**

MILLINER, Robert (Mr./M.), B20 Sherpa for Australia

TWENEBOA-BOATENG, Nana (Mr./M.), Director General EMPRETEC – Ghana Foundation / Directeur général EMPRETEC – Ghana Foundation)

**UN WOMEN
ONU FEMMES**

BALLINGTON, Julie (Ms./Mme), Policy Advisor / *Conseillère politique*

**UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)
FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA POPULATION**

ALYANAK, Leyla (Ms./Mme), Deputy Director, Geneva Office / *Directrice adjointe, Genève*

**UNITED NATIONS
NATIONS UNIES**

ALHENDAWI, Ahmad (Mr./M.), UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
Envoyé spécial du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies pour la jeunesse

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (PNUD)**

KEUTGEN, Julia (Mrs./Mme), Programme Specialist / *Spécialiste de programme*

BEAVERS, Suki (Ms./Mme), Policy Advisor, Inclusive Political Processes
Conseillère politique, Processus d'intégration politique

BEECKMANS, Ruth (Mrs./Mme), iKNOW Politics Coordinator
Coordinatrice de iKNOW Politics

CHAUVEL, Charles (Mr./M.), Parliamentary Advisor, Democratic Governance Group / *Conseiller parlementaire, Groupe de la gouvernance démocratique*

**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)
OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES CONTRE LA DROGUE ET LE CRIME (ONUDC)**

LEMAHIEU, Jean-Luc (Mr./M.)

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE (OMS)**

TEMMERMANN, Marleen (Ms./Mme), Director, Department of Reproductive Health and Research
Directrice du Département Santé reproductive et recherche

BUSTREO, Flavia (Mr./M.), Director General for Family, Women's and Children's Health
Directrice générale, Santé de la famille, de la femme et des enfants

SCOLARO, Elisa (Ms./Mme), Technical Officer / *Administratrice technique*

SCHUTT-AINE, Jessie (Ms./Mme)

**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE (OMC)**

EL HACHIMI, Said (Mr./M.), Adviser, Information and External Relations Division
Conseiller, Division de l'information et des relations extérieures

**PARLIAMENTS PARTICIPATING AS OBSERVERS WITH A VIEW TO A POSSIBLE
AFFILIATION/REAFFILIATION
PARLEMENTS PARTICIPANT EN QUALITE D'OBSERVATEURS EN VUE D'UNE
AFFILIATION/REAFFILIATION EVENTUELLE**

BARBADOS - BARBADE

CARRINGTON, Michael (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée</i>
EASTMOND, Pedro (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>

COMOROS – COMORES

HAMIDOU, Bourhane (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the Assembly of the Union <i>Président de l'Assemblée de l'Union</i>
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TURKMENISTAN

TAYLYEV, Atamyrat (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée</i>
SHERIPOV, Yoldash (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée</i>

TUVALU

TAUSI, Otinielu (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
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**ADVISERS TAKING PART IN THE WORK OF THE 131st ASSEMBLY
CONSEILLERS PARTICIPANT AUX TRAVAUX DE LA 131^{ème} ASSEMBLEE**

CONGO

OKELE, Gaspard (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary / <i>Secrétaire administratif</i>	National Assembly / <i>Assemblée nationale</i>
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**SPECIAL GUESTS TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 131st ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
INVITES SPECIAUX PRENANT PART A DES ACTIVITES PREVUES A L'OCCASION
DE LA 131^{ème} ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

**General debate on *Achieving gender equality, ending violence against women*
*Débat général sur le thème Instaurer l'égalité entre hommes et femmes et mettre fin à la violence faite aux femmes***

Mr. Michael MØLLER, Acting Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva
Directeur général ad intérim de UNOG

Ms. P. MLAMBO-NGCUKA, Executive Director, UN Women / *Directrice exécutive de ONU Femmes*

Ms. Chantal COMPAORE, First Lady of Burkina Faso / *Première Dame du Burkina Faso*

Dr. Gertrude Ibengwe MONGELLA, Secretary General of the Fourth (Beijing) World Conference on Women
Secrétaire générale de la Quatrième Conférence mondiale sur les femmes (Pékin)

Ms. Patricia SCHULZ, CEDAW

Mr. Michael PAYMAR, Representative in the Minnesota House of Representatives (United States of America)
Représentant de la Chambre des Représentants du Minnesota (Etats-Unis d'Amérique)

**Standing Committee on Peace and International Security
*Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité***

Mr Marco OBISO, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) / *Union internationale des télécommunications (UIT)*

Mr Danil KERIMI, World Economic Forum (WEF) / *Forum économique mondial*

Mr Aapo CEDERBERG, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
Centre de politique de sécurité de Genève (GCSP)

Mr Laurent GISEL, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
Comité international de la Croix-Rouge (CICR)

Mr Daniel STAUFFACHER, ICT4Peace Foundation / *Fondation ICT4Peace*

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade
Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce

Mr. A. IZA, Head of Environmental Law Programme, IUCN
Chef du Programme de droit de l'environnement, UICN

Mr. J.-B. CHARRIN, Executive Director, WaterLex / *Directeur exécutif de WaterLex*

Mr. Robert MILLINER, B20 Sherpa for Australia

Mr. Nana TWENEBOA-BOATENG, Chief Executive Officer, EMPRETEC Ghana Foundation
Chef de la direction de la Fondation EMPRETEC au Ghana

Standing Committee on UN Affairs
Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies

Prof. Alfred DE ZAYAS, UN Independent Expert for the Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order
Expert indépendant pour la promotion de la démocratie et d'un ordre international équitable

Ms. Petra BAYR, MP, Austria / *Parlementaire, Autriche*

Mr Jens MARTENS, Executive Director, Global Policy Forum / *Directeur exécutif, Global Policy Forum*

Ambassador John KAKONGE, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Représentant permanent du Kenya auprès du Bureau des Nations Unies à Genève

Mr. Erik DE LA REGUERA (Sweden), Journalist / *Journaliste*

Ms. Alison CROCKET, Senior Advisor, UNAIDS / *Conseiller principal, UNAIDS*

Mr. Jean-Luc LEMAHIEU, Director, Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, UNODC
Directeur des affaires publiques de l'ONUDC

Ambassador Luis DE ALBA, Ambassador of Mexico in Austria & Permanent Representative of Mexico to the international organizations based in Vienna / *Ambassadeur du Mexique en Autriche et Représentant permanent du Mexique auprès des organisations internationales à Vienne*

Future Policy Award

Mr. Jakob VON UEXKULL, Chairman, World Future Council (WFC) / *Président de WFC*

Ms. Alexandra WANDEI, Director, WFC / *Directrice de WFC*

Ms. Karin HEISECKE, WFC Senior Project Manager - Ending Violence against Women and Girls
Chef principale du projet Elimination de la violence faite aux femmes et aux filles, WFC

Forum of Young Parliamentarians
Forum des jeunes parlementaires

Mr. Ahmad ALHENDAWI, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Youth
Envoyé spécial du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies pour la jeunesse

Public Session of the Committee for Respect of International Humanitarian Law
Séance publique du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire

Ms. Coline RAPNEAU, International Committee of the Red Cross / *Comité international de la Croix-Rouge*

Ms. Bineta DIOP, African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security
Envoyée spéciale de la Commission de l'Union Africaine pour les Femmes, la Paix et la Sécurité

Ms. Madeleine REES, Secretary General of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Secrétaire générale de la Ligue internationale de femmes pour la paix et la liberté