

INTERPRETERS PLEASE CHECK CAREFULLY AGAINST DELIVERY

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Wednesday 12 October 2022, 11 a.m.

First sitting of the 145th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

*Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, closes the meeting of the Governing Council and invites Speaker **Donatille Mukabalisa** to proceed to the podium and – based on the decision of the Governing Council earlier in the morning – to take up her duties as President of the 145th IPU Assembly.*

Opening remarks by Speaker Donatille Mukabalisa – words of welcome, significance of the IPU Assembly for Rwanda and the Rwandan Parliament, importance of the theme of the General Debate, expectations in terms of outcome from the Assembly.

AND NOW, AS A REMINDER OF WHAT GENDER-SENSITIVE PARLIAMENTS ARE ALL ABOUT, MAY I PLEASE INVITE YOU ALL TO VIEW A BRIEF VIDEO. CAN WE PLEASE SEE THE VIDEO.

(IPU VIDEO)

MAY I NOW INVITE THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION, MR. DUARTE PACHECO, TO SHARE HIS PERSPECTIVES ON THE OVERALL THEME OF OUR GENERAL DEBATE AT THE KIGALI ASSEMBLY – *GENDER EQUALITY AND GENDER-SENSITIVE PARLIAMENTS AS DRIVERS OF CHANGE FOR A MORE RESILIENT AND PEACEFUL WORLD*

MR PACHECO, YOU HAVE THE FLOOR.

THANK YOU, MR PRESIDENT.

I AM NOW VERY HAPPY TO INTRODUCE OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS FOR THIS SESSION. WE SHALL START WITH A VIDEO MESSAGE FROM **MS. SIMA BAHOUS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN WOMEN.**

(VIDEO SIMA BAHOUS)

THANK YOU.

I WOULD NOW LIKE TO PROCEED WITH OUR SECOND KEYNOTE SPEAKERS FOR THIS SESSION **MR. WESSEL VAN DEN BERG**, MENCARE OFFICER OF EQUIMUNDO. EQUIMUNDO HAS WORKED INTERNATIONALLY TO ENGAGE MEN AND BOYS AS ALLIES IN GENDER EQUALITY, PROMOTE HEALTHY MANHOOD AND PREVENT VIOLENCE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WOMEN AND GIRLS.

WE ARE VERY PLEASED HE HAVE HIM WITH US TODAY..

MR. VAN DEN BERG, YOU HAVE THE FLOOR.

AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, IT HAS BECOME USUAL PRACTICE AT THE IPU TO INFORM OUR GENERAL DEBATES BY BOTH A GENDER AND A YOUTH PERSPECTIVE.

I WOULD LIKE TO START BY INVITING THE PRESIDENT OF THE BUREAU OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS, MS. LESIA VASYLENKO OF UKRAINE, TO ADDRESS THIS OPENING SESSION.

MS VASYLENKO, YOU HAVE THE FLOOR.

THANK YOU.

NOW I INVITE THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS, MS. SAHAR ALBAZAR OF EGYPT, TO ADDRESS US BY VIDEO MESSAGE.

CAN WE PLEASE PLAY THE VIDEO MESSAGE.

VIDEO MS. ALBAZAR.

THANK YOU TO SPECIAL GUESTS
(special guests are escorted from the podium)

LET US PROCEED.

AS YOU ALL KNOW, ITEM 2 OF THE AGENDA IS THE **CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN EMERGENCY ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THIS ASSEMBLY**. I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND ALL DELEGATIONS THAT WE WILL CONSIDER ITEM 2 OF THE AGENDA THIS AFTERNOON AT 5 P.M.

PLEASE ALLOW ME NOW TO MAKE A FEW ANNOUNCEMENTS IN RELATION TO THE ORGANIZATION OF OUR WORK.

FIRST OF ALL, AS IS CUSTOMARY, WE SHALL START THE LIST OF SPEAKERS IN THE GENERAL DEBATE WITH THE SEGMENT FOR PRESIDING OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT. WE ARE GREATLY HONORED BY THE PRESENCE OF SO MANY DELEGATIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD AT THIS IPU ASSEMBLY. I WISH TO CONFIRM THAT PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN

RESPECTED AND THAT THE ORDER OF SPEAKERS – BOTH PRESIDING OFFICERS, AS WELL AS FIRST AND SECOND SPEAKERS - HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE TRADITIONAL DRAWING OF LOTS. THIS LIST IS AVAILABLE TO DELEGATIONS IN THE HALL.

IN LIGHT OF THE HIGH ATTENDANCE AT THE ASSEMBLY, **ITS STEERING COMMITTEE DECIDED THIS MORNING TO ALLOCATE SIX MINUTES AS THE TOTAL SPEAKING TIME AVAILABLE TO EACH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION, SEVEN MINUTES FOR DELEGATIONS LED BY SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT. THE YOUNG MPs WHO HAVE REGISTERED FOR THE GENERAL DEBATE WILL HAVE AN ADDITIONAL TWO MINUTES. PERMANENT OBSERVERS WILL HAVE A MAXIMUM SPEAKING TIME OF 3 MINUTES.** I WOULD LIKE TO ASK ALL DELEGATIONS TO TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT WHEN DELIVERING THEIR SPEECHES.

IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-RELATED MEASURES WHICH HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE FOR YOUR SAFETY, THE WEARING OF MASKS IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED AT ALL TIMES, EVEN WHEN SEATED.

I ALSO WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT, AS THERE ARE STILL DELEGATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED TO SPEAK, WE WILL BE KEEPING THE LIST OF SPEAKERS OPEN UNTIL TOMORROW, THURSDAY, 13 OCTOBER AT 12 NOON.

THE STEERING COMMITTEE THIS MORNING WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT THE FOLLOWING SPEAKERS WILL NEED TO LEAVE KIGALI EARLY **(2-3 Speakers usually, their names to be communicated in the morning)**. WITH YOUR KIND INDULGENCE, I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THEM THE FLOOR AT THE END OF OUR AFTERNOON SESSION TODAY AT 5 PM, RIGHT BEFORE THE VOTE ON THE EMERGENCY ITEM).

MAY I ASK THE ASSEMBLY TO APPROVE THIS DECISION?

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REMIND DELEGATIONS THAT THEY ARE ENTITLED TO NOMINATE ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THIS ASSEMBLY. I INVITE ALL DELEGATIONS WHO HAVE NOT YET DONE SO TO COMMUNICATE THE NAME OF THEIR CANDIDATE TO THE IPU SECRETARIAT. I WILL BE VERY PLEASED, OVER THE COMING DAYS, TO SHARE THIS PRESIDENCY WITH SOME OF THESE VICE-PRESIDENTS DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE.

FINALLY, HONORABLE DELEGATES, I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY, ON EITHER SIDE OF THE

STAGE, THERE IS AN USHER WHO WILL BE PLEASED TO TRANSMIT ANY MESSAGES YOU MAY HAVE FOR MYSELF, OR THE SECRETARIAT.

YOU HAVE BEFORE YOU THE LIST OF SPEAKERS WHO HAVE REGISTERED SO FAR FOR THE GENERAL DEBATE. FINALLY, I WISH TO REQUEST ALL DELEGATES TO STRICTLY RESPECT THE SPEAKING TIME ALLOCATED SO THAT ALL DELEGATES WHO HAVE REGISTERED TO SPEAK MAY DO SO WITHIN THE TIME AVAILABLE FOR THE GENERAL DEBATE.

THE FIRST SPEAKER IN THE GENERAL DEBATE IS **Mr./Madam**
Speaker of the Parliament of WHO WILL BE FOLLOWED BY
Mr./Madam **Speaker of the Parliament of**

MR/MS., YOU HAVE THE FLOOR.

(The President may invite other heads of delegations to preside over the general debate, as Vice-President of the Assembly to preside over the General debate. The President may return at 12.45 p.m. to preside over the last fifteen minutes of the morning sitting, if rights of reply have been requested. The Speaker's Office will be in contact with the Secretary of the Assembly, who will keep them duly informed).

At the close of the first sitting

THE PRESIDENT:

THE FIRST SITTING HAS NOW CONCLUDED ITS WORK. WE WILL CONTINUE WITH THE LIST OF SPEAKERS ON THE GENERAL DEBATE AT 2.30 P.M.

AT 5 P.M. THIS ASSEMBLY WILL EXAMINE ITEM 2 OF THE AGENDA AND CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF AN EMERGENCY ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF OUR ASSEMBLY.

THE FIRST SPEAKER OF THIS AFTERNOON'S SITTING OF THE GENERAL DEBATE IS **Mr./Madam** **Speaker of the Parliament of**
WHO WILL BE FOLLOWED BY **Mr./Madam** **Speaker of the**
Parliament of

THIS SITTING IS CLOSED.

Wednesday 12 October 2022. 2.30 p.m.

Second plenary sitting

The President of the Assembly opens the sitting at 2.30 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT:

I NOW OPEN THE SECOND SITTING OF THE GENERAL DEBATE AND WE SHALL CONTINUE WITH OUR LIST OF SPEAKERS:

Mr./Madam Speaker of the Parliament of WHO WILL BE FOLLOWED BY Mr./Madam Speaker of the Parliament of

ALLOW ME ONCE AGAIN TO REMIND DELEGATES THAT AT 5 P.M. THIS ASSEMBLY WILL EXAMINE ITEM 2 OF ITS AGENDA AND WILL PROCEED WITH THE CONSIDERATION OF THE EVENTUAL INCLUSION OF AN EMERGENCY ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF OUR ASSEMBLY.

MR./MS., YOU HAVE THE FLOOR.

The President will give the floor to the last Speaker at 4.55 p.m., to be able to start consideration of the Emergency item at 5 p.m.

Plenary sitting - VOTE

THE PRESIDENT:

WE ARE NOW GOING TO CONSIDER ITEM 2 OF THE AGENDA.

Item 2

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

ALLOW ME FIRST OF ALL TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT
... REQUESTS FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN EMERGENCY ITEM WERE RECEIVED
BY THE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT.

THESE REQUESTS ARE TO BE FOUND IN DOCUMENT **A/145/2-Inf.1** WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED, AND ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The following requests have been submitted:

I NOW GIVE THE FLOOR TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO INFORM THE ASSEMBLY ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE DIFFERENT REQUESTS THAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED.

(The Secretary General explains the situation and the remaining proposals)

OUR RULES LAY DOWN THAT **ONLY ONE EMERGENCY ITEM** CAN BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA. THE ASSEMBLY WILL THEREFORE CONSIDER EACH REQUEST AND VOTE ON EACH ONE. IN ORDER TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION, A REQUEST MUST RECEIVE A **TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY** OF THE VOTES. MOREOVER, ONLY THE REQUEST THAT HAS OBTAINED **BOTH THAT MAJORITY AND THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF POSITIVE VOTES** WILL BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA.

WE WILL NOW PROCEED WITH THE PRESENTATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS FOR AN EMERGENCY ITEM.

I WILL NOW GIVE THE FLOOR TO ONE DELEGATE FROM EACH DELEGATION WHICH HAS PROPOSED AN EMERGENCY ITEM AND TO ONE DELEGATE - IF THERE IS ANY - WHO IS AGAINST THE ADDITION OF THE ITEM TO THE AGENDA. WE WILL HEAR THE SPONSORS OF THE ITEMS - AND ANY POSSIBLE OPPONENTS - IN SEQUENCE, **BEFORE HOLDING A SINGLE VOTE BY ROLL-CALL ON THE DIFFERENT REQUESTS.**

ACCORDING TO ASSEMBLY RULE 12, SPEAKERS SHOULD **REFRAIN FROM GOING INTO THE SUBSTANCE** OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED. THEY WILL HAVE A **MAXIMUM OF THREE MINUTES** EACH IN WHICH TO STATE THEIR CASE.

WE WILL NOW TAKE UP THE FIRST OF THE REQUESTS.

I CALL ON A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DELEGATION OF TO PRESENT ITS REQUEST.

(The delegate from speaks.)

DOES ANYONE WISH TO SPEAK AGAINST THE INCLUSION OF THIS ITEM IN OUR AGENDA?

(There may or may not be a speaker to oppose the request.)

All sponsors of items for an emergency item are invited to present their proposal, with one delegation speaking against (if requested)

WE HAVE NOW HEARD ALL THE SPONSORS OF THE VARIOUS ITEMS AND WE WILL PROCEED TO THE ROLL-CALL VOTE. I CALL ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO EXPLAIN THE VOTING PROCEDURE.

(The Secretary General explains the procedure)

IF ALL DELEGATIONS ARE CLEAR ABOUT THE PROCEDURE, I ASK THE SECRETARIAT TO CALL THE ROLL. THIS WILL TAKE SOME TIME, AND I WOULD ASK ALL DELEGATIONS PLEASE TO BE READY TO ANNOUNCE THEIR VOTES VERY CLEARLY WHEN THEIR NAMES ARE CALLED.

(The Secretariat calls the roll.)

IF ALL DELEGATIONS HAVE VOTED, I DECLARE THE VOTE CLOSED.

HERE ARE THE RESULTS OF THE VOTES WHICH HAVE JUST BEEN HELD:

(Results will be presented to the President on separate sheets indicating the number of positive votes, negative votes and abstentions for each, and showing whether the 2/3 majority was obtained. It will also indicate whether a request has failed to fulfill the requirements of Assembly Rule 34.3 which lays down that: "When a specified majority is required, the number of affirmative votes must be equal to at least one-third of the total number of votes allocated to delegations participating effectively in the Assembly (cf. Rule 33.2))

THE REQUEST OF HAVING RECEIVED BOTH THE NECESSARY MAJORITY AND THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF POSITIVE VOTES WILL BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA AS ITEM 8. MAY I REMIND ALL DELEGATIONS THAT A DEBATE ON THE EMERGENCY ITEM WILL BE HELD IN THIS HALL TOMORROW, 13 OCTOBER, AT 9 A.M. I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU ALL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEBATE.

BEFORE FINISHING WITH ITEM 2 OF THE AGENDA, I WISH TO INVITE THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO EXPLAIN THE PROCEDURE FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE OF THIS POINT.-

(The Secretary General explains the procedure)

THE PRESIDENT:

MAY I REMIND DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES THAT WE SHALL BE RECONVENING TOMORROW MORNING AT **9 A.M. SHARP** FOR THE DEBATE ON THE EMERGENCY ITEM.

THE SITTING IS CLOSED.