



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

138th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 24 – 28.03.2018

Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 138th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 28 March 2018)

The 138th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Reaffirming that, according to its Statutes, working for peace and cooperation among peoples is one of the main purposes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the IPU resolutions entitled *The prevention of conflicts and the restoration of peace and trust in countries emerging from war; the return of refugees to their countries of origin, the strengthening of democratic processes and the hastening of reconstruction* (99th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, Windhoek, 1998), *Achieving peace, stability and comprehensive development in the world and forging closer political, economic and cultural ties among peoples* (103rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, Amman, 2000); *Ensuring respect for and peaceful co-existence between all religious communities and beliefs in a globalized world* (116th Assembly, Nusa Dua, 2007); *Promoting and practising good governance as a means of advancing peace and security: Drawing lessons from recent events in the Middle East and North Africa* (126th Assembly, Kampala, 2012); *Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of parliament in safeguarding civilians' lives* (128th Assembly, Quito, 2013) and *The role of parliament in respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States* (136th Assembly, Dhaka, 2017),

Also recalling the IPU outcomes of general debates, namely the Quito Communiqué (128th Assembly, Quito, 2013), the Hanoi Declaration (132nd Assembly, Hanoi, 2015) and the St. Petersburg Declaration (137th Assembly, St. Petersburg, 2017), containing, among other things, the parliamentary community's action towards implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Also recalling the determination to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Further recalling that sustaining peace has been defined in the substantively identical resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly (70/262) and the United Nations Security Council (2282 [2016]) adopted on 27 April 2016 "as a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account, which encompasses activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development, and emphasizing that sustaining peace is a shared task and responsibility that needs to be fulfilled by the government and all other national stakeholders, and should flow through all three pillars of the United Nations' engagement at all stages of conflict, and in all of its dimensions, and needs sustained international attention and assistance",

Welcoming the renewed mandate these United Nations resolutions give to the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office within the context of the Sustaining Peace Agenda,

Also welcoming the prioritization of prevention of violent conflict by the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

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Fully supporting United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security which emphasizes the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security which recognizes the positive role of youth in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security,

Recognizing these resolutions and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) as crucial steps towards more coherence among the three pillars of the United Nations, namely peace and security, development and human rights,

Mindful that the 2030 Agenda recognizes the need for sustaining peace and ensuring security and includes them as cross-cutting issues,

Recognizing that the SDGs apply to all States, while acknowledging that their implementation shall be adapted to the uniqueness of each and every State and that each State shall have the right to determine its priorities concerning the SDGs depending on its prevailing circumstances and needs,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda calls on governments, parliaments and other stakeholders to design and deliver laws and programmes that meet the needs of the people, break down policy silos, uphold human rights, and leave no one behind,

Underlining that there is a link between peace and the promotion and protection of all human rights, included in, but not limited to, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and *recognizing* the will of the United Nations General Assembly to continue examining the issue of the promotion and protection of the right to peace,

Also underlining that, in view of the mutually reinforcing nature of development, human rights, peace and security, the strengthening of democracy and good governance, inclusive development, the promotion and protection of human rights, the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequalities, the elimination of all forms of discrimination, the reduction of illicit financial and arms flows, effective, accountable and inclusive institutions and equal application of the law to all people are among the most effective ways to sustain peace and security and prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflicts,

Emphasizing that peace and security are not only political issues defined by the absence of violence and war but also the freedom from fear, and that they encompass political, cultural, economic, social, environmental, educational and humanitarian issues,

Recognizing that violence is increasingly driven by domestic political instability and that one out of every two people in the world has been affected by or lives in proximity to political violence (OECD report *States of Fragility 2016*),

Convinced that parliaments can significantly contribute to sustaining peace, and *highlighting* both the constructive and preventive nature of parliamentary diplomacy in enhancing democracy and human rights, including its capacity to reduce tensions and mitigate and resolve conflicts by peaceful means,

Reaffirming that parliaments must guarantee inclusiveness through the representation and empowerment of women, the respect of the rights of children, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups, including ethnic and religious groups and those of LGBTI sexual orientation, and the expression of all their interests through parliamentary representation to ensure peace among all community members,

Also reaffirming that parliaments must guarantee that the situation and particular needs of migrant, refugee and displaced women and girls are taken into account, as well as the protection of their rights, their security, economic and social integration and their empowerment,

Recognizing that climate change has direct and indirect implications for peace and security, mainly affecting those in the most fragile and vulnerable situations, exacerbating the threat of social and political unrest, increasing environmental pressures and disaster risks, and causing the migration of populations that can be the source of conflicts,

Underlining the importance of enhancing national and regional initiatives, with international support, to address the negative consequences for sustainable peace, security and development of all aspects of the extraction and exploitation of mineral resources,

Noting with concern the plight of children in conflict situations, in particular the phenomenon of the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflicts, as well as other violations and abuses committed against children, and *stressing* the need for the protection of children in armed conflicts and for ensuring that the protection and rights of children in armed conflicts are integrated into all peace processes,

Recognizing that sustaining peace and achieving sustainable development requires regular, predictable and adequate financing and that innovative solutions must be pursued to increase the financial contributions made by non-traditional stakeholders, including the private sector,

Emphasizing the importance of the equal participation and inclusive involvement of all citizens of the nation, and of ethnic, religious and linguistic and other minorities, such as persons with different sexual orientations and persons with disabilities in national efforts towards sustaining peace, and *also emphasizing* the acknowledgement of the rights of all community groups and minorities, as principal partners in the attainment of peace,

Stressing the importance of addressing the socioeconomic dimension of youth unemployment, as well as of facilitating the enhanced participation of youth in decision-making processes, with a view of addressing social, political, cultural, and economic challenges, and *welcoming* in this regard the adoption of the United Nations Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth aimed at addressing youth unemployment,

Also stressing the need to accelerate the process of adoption of national plans of action for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security while ensuring the full participation of parliaments in their drafting, oversight of their implementation and financing,

Highlighting the contribution of civil society in ensuring sustaining peace and the implementation of the SDGs, and *welcoming* mutually beneficial interaction with it in order to build linkages to enhance citizens' well-being,

Reaffirming the principle of national ownership and leadership in sustaining peace which is understood as a broadly shared responsibility by the parliament, the government, the judiciary and all other national stakeholders,

Recognizing the contribution of regional actors, governmental and non-governmental, regional parliamentary assemblies, local bodies, and other regional forums, to sustaining peace and the implementation of the SDGs,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption by consensus of the substantively identical resolutions on sustaining peace by the United Nations General Assembly (70/262) and the United Nations Security Council (2282 [2016]);
2. *Calls on* all parliaments to contribute to the implementation of the concept of sustaining peace and the SDGs, and to identify specific measures of implementation in accordance with their national contexts;
3. *Stresses* the importance of national ownership and leadership in sustaining peace, and that the primary responsibility for identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for sustaining peace and the implementation of the SDGs lies with national parliaments and governments;
4. *Underlines* that, in this regard, inclusiveness and diversity are crucial to ensuring that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account, and *acknowledges* inclusiveness itself as a means of conflict prevention;
5. *Calls on* all parliamentarians to bear in mind the notion of sustaining peace in the implementation of the SDGs as well as in their daily parliamentary work, and to include conflict prevention and the implementation of peacebuilding strategies in their parliamentary relations agenda, without prejudice to the principle of State sovereignty;

6. *Also calls on* all parliaments to use the preventive potential of the parliamentary process fully as a way of mitigating and resolving conflict, including through monitoring of human rights protection, inclusive dialogue processes, and mediation to peacefully address the needs of all segments of society;
7. *Encourages* parliaments to collaborate with the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission in their conflict prevention efforts and *recommends* that their national governments seek inclusion of their country's situation on the Commission's agenda where appropriate;
8. *Invites* parliaments to adopt enabling legislation, including key budget laws in order to advance both the SDGs and sustaining peace agendas, including measures that promote increased financial support from national stakeholders, notably the private sector;
9. *Also invites* parliaments to apply all generic parliamentary functions to hold governments accountable for the effective implementation of the sustaining peace framework and the SDGs, including the relevant law-making, oversight, budget, representative and elective functions and sustainable development agendas informed by the work of independent oversight bodies such as audit institutions, ombudsman institutions and national human rights institutions;
10. *Calls on* parliaments to partner with civil society more regularly in order to build trust among the general public, including the marginalized sections of society, to ensure inclusiveness and representation of a variety of needs and enable more effective access to decision-making processes, according to the national legislations;
11. *Recommends* parliamentarians to engage with governments, international organizations and civil society to promote gender equality, bearing in mind the impact of conflict on women and children, as well as the women, peace and security agenda of the United Nations, and to further promote the participation of women in peace processes, particularly, in mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities, as well as in education, health care and promotion of a culture of peace; moreover, *urges* parliaments to work towards concrete measures to promote gender equality and to protect the rights of children such as encouraging gender responsive budgets and the provision of adequate funding of human rights components in UN peacekeeping operations;
12. *Calls on* parliaments to adopt national plans of action for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and to oversee their implementation and adequate financing;
13. *Recommends* parliamentarians to work with governments, international organizations and civil society in order to guarantee the protection of children from conflict at all times, and to avoid the use of children in armed conflict;
14. *Insists* that national parliaments and the international community, in accordance with the Paris Agreement on climate change, put in place legislative and financial provisions based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and *calls on* them to engage against climate change and its consequences, in particular on people who have to move and should be guaranteed a bedrock of international inalienable rights;
15. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure implementation of international commitments and treaties by the government, including the 2030 Agenda and human rights obligations, and *stresses* that a signed treaty is binding upon its signatories, who are obliged to implement it without any preconditions;
16. *Acknowledges* that particular attention must be paid to the prevention of violence in the context of elections, as pivotal moments of the political cycle, since politically stable situations provide an environment that is conducive to sustainable development and sustaining peace;

17. *Recognizes* the responsibilities of political parties and associations in this regard and the important role of free and fair elections and supporting institutions such as an independent electoral commission, the judiciary and free media;
18. *Urges* parliaments of conflict-affected countries to exert more efforts in supporting national reconciliation and transitional justice, the establishment of the truth, and in dealing with the past; *acknowledges* the important role of parliaments and national human rights institutions in national reconciliation; *underlines* the importance of bringing perpetrators to justice, and *calls on* parliaments to ratify the Rome Statute;
19. *Encourages* parliamentarians to legislate and collaborate with governments, international organizations and civil society, in accordance with international law, and international humanitarian law, to prevent the flow of arms in conflict-affected societies and regions;
20. *Declares* that an effective implementation of the SDGs not only contributes to preventing the outbreak of conflict but also supports the sustainability of peace and development by significantly reducing all forms of violence;
21. *Looks forward* to the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace on 24 and 25 April 2018 convened by the President of the United Nations General Assembly;
22. *Acknowledges* that cultural diversity has significant importance for achieving sustainable development and *invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to organize with the United Nations a world conference on the interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue with the participation of the Heads of States, Parliaments and leaders of world religions;
23. *Encourages* ever-closer cooperation among parliaments and regional parliamentary organizations and local bodies within the Inter-Parliamentary Union with a view to contribute to sustaining peace and the implementation of the SDGs;
24. *Recommends* that governments of developed countries carry out their responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security in developing countries and promote the sustainable development process they originally initiated;
25. *Emphasizes* parliament's role in sponsoring active dialogues among various community members from different backgrounds to ensure sustaining peace and tolerance within communities.