



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 144th IPU Assembly

Nusa Dua, Indonesia  
20-24 March 2022



Standing Committee on  
Democracy and Human Rights

C-III/144/3-Inf.1  
28 February 2022

## Preparatory debate on the next resolution of the Standing Committee:

***Parliamentary impetus to local and regional development of  
countries with high levels of international migration and  
to stopping all forms, including state-sponsored,  
of human-trafficking and human rights abuses***

Tuesday, 22 March 2022  
09:30 – 13:00 (Central Indonesia Time, GMT+8)

### Concept note

The preparatory debate provides an opportunity for all Members to express their opinion on the issues to be included in the resolution. The contributions from Members will assist the co-Rapporteurs in drafting the resolution, which will be examined and finalized at the 145th IPU Assembly in October 2022.

Building on the previous work of the Standing Committee and other IPU bodies, including the 2018 resolution *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*, the preparatory debate is likely to consider issues such as:

- Policy responses to support the development of countries with high levels of international migration and to address the connections between migration, human trafficking and human rights abuses.
- Analysis of the current situation, including from a gender perspective.
- Lessons learned at the national, regional and global levels.
- Preventing the instrumentalization of migration for political purposes.
- Identification of major issues that need urgent parliamentary action.

In addition to the preparatory debate at the 144th IPU Assembly, all Members have the opportunity to submit by 24 April 2022 written contributions (2 pages maximum) for the consideration of the co-Rapporteurs.

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Migratory crises have accelerated in the recent past in many areas of the world. The consequences of migration are becoming more severe and an ever-greater burden on transit and receiving countries. Women and children, as well as other vulnerable groups such as elderly people and disabled persons, suffer disproportionately from these crises.

In addition to this, ever more criminal human-trafficking organizations and networks are exploiting these specific vulnerabilities for their own economic purposes. Recent indications of individual states and state actors directly getting involved in human trafficking by using migrants to blackmail other states, have added a new dimension to this criminal endeavour.

International cooperation remains key to resolving the global challenge of human deprivation and the resulting root causes of migration. The creation of appropriate mechanisms, through dialogue and agreement, to protect the most vulnerable persons living in a situation of grave inequality is a priority.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the inequalities in many different countries by completely disrupting education systems and the economy and changing the world of labour and society in general. However, the pandemic is not the only cause of the profound poverty crisis and inequalities that affect millions of people around the world. Different kinds of imbalances in the global economic system have plunged millions of people into poverty and extreme poverty or have made them vulnerable due to social deprivation. In parallel, violations of the economic, social and cultural rights of the population have added to the process of disintegration of the social fabric.

In many countries, vulnerable security situations, the presence of violent state and non-state actors, and ongoing civil wars and war-like scenarios have contributed notably to a deteriorating human rights situation and have had a negative impact on human development.

The armed and organized criminal groups that profit from this poverty and recruit thousands of young people to reinforce their organizations have contributed to this ongoing crisis. The new generations who live in economically difficult conditions and with few development perspectives see their survival option as either to escape from their place of origin because of violence and poverty or to join a criminal organization.

On the other hand, we are increasingly witnessing an alarming instrumentalization of very vulnerable groups of migrants who are being used by one country to blackmail another for its own purposes. The standoff witnessed at the Belarus-Polish border in 2021 is a case in point. The orchestrated instrumentalization of human beings puts human lives at risk and provokes a migrant crisis for mere political purposes.

To put it clearly, no one who can meet their basic needs and personal and professional development needs will leave their place of origin, their roots, family and friends, and their possessions to migrate to another country. Migration is a social phenomenon provoked by the people's need to have security and the possibilities to overcome the poverty and helplessness they have experienced in their place of origin.

Parliaments can act to protect the human rights of migrants seeking international protection. As a global community, we must deal with the structural causes of migration. The new IPU Strategy 2022-2026 underlines this as an ultimate goal. It highlights the vision of a world where parliaments and parliamentarians work "for democracy, for everyone". All people have a voice in how they are governed and can enjoy all human rights without distinction of any kind such as political beliefs. The IPU Strategy 2022-2026 particularly supports attention to work on preserving freedom of expression and ensuring that all people live in peace, free from violence.