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## Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace

***Draft resolution submitted by the  
Standing Committee on Peace and International Security***

Rapporteur: Ms. D. Gomashie (Ghana)

The 144th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Recalling* the tenets and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,
- (2) *Recalling also* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as the International Covenants on Human Rights and other human rights agreements, and affirming the importance for all member States parties to these agreements to implement them fully in order to promote international peace and security,
- (3) *Recalling further* the international community's commitment to preventing conflict and achieving sustainable peace contained in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to Sustainable Development Goal 16 on providing access to justice and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies in particular,
- (4) *Mindful* of Security Council resolutions 1325 of 31 October 2000 on women, peace and security; 1612 of 26 July 2005 on children and armed conflict; 1820 of 19 June 2008 on sexual violence in conflict; and 2250 of 9 December 2015 on youth, peace and security; and their successor resolutions that address the inordinate impact of conflict and war on women and children, as well as the need for a survivor/victim centred approach in all interventions, and highlight the crucial role that women, youth and children should and already do play in conflict prevention and peace building,
- (5) *Recalling* the IPU resolutions *Promoting international reconciliation, helping to bring stability to regions of conflict, and assisting with post-conflict reconstruction* (adopted at the 110th IPU Assembly, April 2004), *The role of parliament in respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States* (adopted at the 136th IPU Assembly, April 2017), *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development* (adopted at the 138th IPU Assembly, March 2018), and *Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences* (adopted at the 142nd IPU Assembly, May 2021),
- (6) *Recalling also* the Declaration of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments entitled *The parliamentary vision for international cooperation at the dawn of the third millennium* (adopted on 1 September 2000), the St. Petersburg Declaration *Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue* (endorsed by the 137th IPU Assembly, October 2017), and the Belgrade Declaration *Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation* (endorsed by the 141st IPU Assembly, October 2019),

- (7) *Mindful* of the fact that nearly all armed conflicts today take place within countries; that 56-armed state-based conflicts in the world were recorded in 2020 which represented the highest number of conflicts in the post-Second World War period; and that the majority of these conflicts were often internationalized,
- (8) *Mindful also* of the use of tactics below the threshold of war, such as cyberattacks, information warfare, coercive trade and the targeting of critical infrastructure, that harm societies politically and socio-economically for strategic gain,
- (9) *Cognizant* that peace is not synonymous with the absence of violent conflict and, therefore, that no society is immune to it; that the root causes of conflict are a combination of inequalities, underdevelopment, grievances, unresolved and protracted misunderstandings within societies as well as a society's capacity for organized violence; and that once armed conflict begins the costs to societies are enormous,
- (10) *Recognizing* that resolved conflicts have a tendency to recur and that there are fewer ongoing peace processes than there are conflicts,
- (11) *Recognizing also* the current complex and multidimensional nature of peace and security issues that need to be addressed through a holistic approach, and stressing the key role of parliaments and parliamentarians in the whole peace continuum process, in line with the peace and security architecture of the United Nations,
- (12) *Recognizing further* the importance of adherence to the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the fundamental principles of international law, including the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity of States, and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States,
- (13) *Deeply concerned* that future risks of conflict arising from current and ongoing global issues are expected to escalate, for example, as a consequence of climate change and pandemics, reaffirming that there is no development without peace, no peace without development, and that neither is possible without the promotion and protection of human rights,
- (14) *Recognizing*, in the light of current and future challenges, that the active promotion of peace and conflict prevention by more actors and organizations is needed, and that contributions of women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities and other groups that have traditionally been left furthest behind are essential in this regard, and stressing that effective and sustainable solutions to conflicts can only be achieved through negotiations, based on a spirit of justice, compromise, and mutual accommodation,
- (15) *Recognizing also* that, as the world continues to face humanitarian crises, human security, as an alternative paradigm for development cooperation, could be instrumental to address multidimensional and complex global challenges,
- (16) *Recognizing further* the unique role of national parliaments and parliamentarians in using parliamentary diplomacy as a vital tool in promoting meaningful inter-parliamentary dialogue and mediation while using their legislation, oversight and financial functions to determine the fair allocation and efficient use of resources to areas of development considered national priorities; the need for effective and uninterrupted functioning of parliaments before, during and after conflicts; and parliaments' role in conflict prevention,
- (17) *Stressing* the capacity of national parliaments and parliamentarians to call governments to order by challenging the use of governments' emergency powers to wage war which gives parliaments a key role to play in times of peace and in conflict prevention both in their own countries and internationally,
- (18) *Acknowledging* the IPU's unique role as the parliamentary counterpart to the United Nations and as a forum for dialogue and cooperation on matters of international peace and security; and, in particular, its role in providing support to parliaments and parliamentarians in addressing threats to peace at the local, national, regional and international levels, and in sharing lessons learned among its Member Parliaments and enabling vivid, mutually respectful exchanges among members of parliaments of different delegations in seeking solutions,

(19) *Mindful* of the IPU Strategy 2022–2026, particularly its objectives to “build effective and empowered parliaments”; “promote inclusive and representative parliaments”; and “catalyse collective parliamentary action”,

(20) *Recognizing* that inclusive, representative, accessible, accountable, and effective legislatures with the autonomy and capacity to act can foster conflict resilience and sustainable peace if grievances, differences, and solution alternatives are articulated and decided upon in peaceful, transparent and respectful public debates in and outside of parliament,

(21) *Recognizing also* the various tools and measures that parliaments have for dialogue between different national stakeholders, including measures to work in a bi-partisan fashion by establishing commissions of inquiry and to arrange hearings with representatives of underrepresented or marginalized groups,

(22) *Reaffirming* the centrality of parliamentary representation in addressing the root causes of conflict and violence, including inequalities, exclusion, the lack of rule of law, injustice, illegal exploitation of natural resources, and discrimination among others,

(23) *Recognizing* the unique legislative role of parliaments in promoting transparency, as well as their ability to perform checks and balances,

(24) *Concerned* about the risk that corruption presents to the integrity of legislative institutions and functions, and about its negative effect on the capacity of parliaments to effectively contribute to peace and governance,

(25) *Recognizing* parliaments’ role in the oversight of state security, public safety agencies, intelligence structures, the legislative sector and military expenditures, in particular in ensuring that they operate accountably, transparently and with respect for the rule of law and human rights to meet the security needs of all parts of the population, including women, children and members of vulnerable groups,

(26) *Reaffirming* the centrality of parliament in countering any abusive and subversive use of internal intelligence and security actors, and fighting corruption,

(27) *Acknowledging* the essential role of parliaments in promoting conflict prevention through a focus on disarmament, socioeconomic, psychosocial, climate and ecological issues, and in post-conflict situations in preventing a relapse to large scale violence, including through enacting, overseeing and monitoring the implementation of agreed peace agreements accompanied by adequate funding, investing in psychosocial health, basic healthcare service, transitional justice, reintegration, and institutional reforms,

(28) *Emphasizing* that more systematic engagement of parliaments is needed to advance and implement the *Women, Peace and Security* and *Youth, Peace and Security* agendas and to alleviate the impact of armed conflicts on children,

(29) *Recognizing* that higher levels of financial resources are required in order to support the implementation of commitments to prevent conflict and sustain peace,

(30) *Calling upon* parliaments to strengthen legislative and legal frameworks and discuss the various policies and mechanisms necessary to combat the phenomenon of terrorism and extremism and dry up its sources, and emphasizing parliaments’ role in promoting the values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence in society,

1. *Urges* actors engaged in peace processes to acknowledge and collaborate with national or local institutions and actors and their respective parliaments, in the articulation, design, and implementation of transitional processes, and to participate in activities focused on anchoring and sustaining peace efforts through national or local ownership and leadership;

2. *Calls upon* parliaments and parliamentarians to intensify their efforts for peace and the non-violent resolution of differences before, during and after conflict; and also calls upon parliaments to strengthen existing national mechanisms, and upon those who are yet to do so, to establish these mechanisms in which citizens, especially women, can register their grievances, perpetrators are held accountable, and victims are accorded justice;
3. *Encourages* parliaments, in their efforts to pursue and reframe the approach to peace processes for a just and lasting peace, to systematically partner with the executive sector, independent oversight bodies, civil society organizations, faith-based movements, women's groups, community organizations, peace builders, academia, media, the private sector, and regional and international bodies, in their own countries and internationally;
4. *Calls upon* parliaments to allocate time and resources to the identification and eradication of barriers that limit the participation of citizens in parliamentary decision-making based on their gender, age, geography, social identity group (such as ethnicity, religion, and race), and citizenship status, and to seek solutions to such issues;
5. *Also calls upon* parliaments to explore and invest in mechanisms and modalities, such as the human security approach, for continuous and systematic engagement with citizens and residents, and that are sensitive to the needs and realities of different population segments and contexts to be implemented through conventional and new means ranging from MPs practical actions or interventions to consultations and online engagement with conflict affected groups;
6. *Further calls upon* parliamentarians to explore safe and survivor/victim centred sensitive mechanisms that would enable those left furthest behind and without adequate representation to invoke their rights, express their grievances, concerns and aspirations, and to pursue meaningful ways for their full and effective representation in parliament;
7. *Urges* parliaments, their members and political parties to form partnerships to address and reverse hate speech and disinformation, including those online, and to encourage more diverse and inclusive political participation and representation; and also urges parliaments to review or reform legislation, policies, and practices that perpetuate incitement to violence and/or hatred that is based on race, ethnicity, gender, and religion;
8. *Strongly encourages* further efforts at ensuring women's equal participation in parliaments and at all levels of decision-making, and, in that regard, at acknowledging the critical role of support by male allies, while urging Member States to ensure a systematic engagement of parliaments in the implementation of the *Women, Peace and Security* and *Youth, Peace and Security* agendas;
9. *Calls upon* parliaments to strengthen legal frameworks and mechanisms to prevent and address corruption through institutional measures and to develop codes of conduct committing members of parliament at the individual level;
10. *Acknowledges* the increasing role of cyberspace for international politics and peace, and that cybersecurity presents increasing global challenges, and also affirms that in cyberspace, international law applies, that human rights and fundamental freedoms must be protected and respected, and that the internet must remain a free, open, interoperable, reliable and secure space for all;
11. *Recognizes* that respecting, protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms is essential to preventing violent conflict and ensuring peace and security;

12. *Urges* parliaments to promote transparency and accountability in the allocation of financial resources, budgets, policies, practices, and appointments within the military and security sectors through the establishment of oversight bodies, as well as to encourage disarmament efforts to restrict and destroy weapons, mines, and unexploded ordnance, and to support the creation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes;
13. *Strongly encourages* members of parliaments to ensure comprehensive funding for peacebuilding by reducing silos between different loans allowing Official Development Assistance funds to be used for peacebuilding activities;
14. *Encourages* members of parliaments to raise questions about “value-for-money” of security sectors, including military spending;
15. *Urges* parliaments to ensure that their oversight mechanisms and committee systems are structured, mandated, adequately resourced and equipped to consider security on a holistic, cross-sectoral basis, including from the point of view of human development and ecology; and to provide citizens with the information needed to contribute constructively to the processes used to produce legislation relating to democratization and human development, both at home and abroad;
16. *Calls upon* parliaments to invest in a multidimensional process including frameworks to protect and assist vulnerable groups, political mechanisms, and institutions to prevent and manage conflict through peaceful means, and to institutionalize equitable participation in political socio-economic life, the psychosocial well-being of people, basic healthcare services and in communities to build peace and prevent the recurrence of future cycles of violence, including through mechanisms that enable dealing with the past, such as transitional justice forums, truth and reconciliation investigations and criminal prosecutions;
17. *Also calls upon* parliaments to request information on how the executive branch is addressing climate-related security risks and how climate-related measures can promote peacebuilding;
18. *Encourages* inter-parliamentary cooperation to inspire collective ambition, enhance peer-to-peer learning, and to increase good practice sharing among parliamentarians on locally relevant pathways to sustainable peace and human development;
19. *Reiterates* that parliaments and parliamentarians, as institutions and actors for peaceful dialogue, legislation and oversight, have unique roles and capacities to provide tailor-made responses to conflict, and acknowledges their power to invite and convene concerned actors to take part in national peace processes;
20. *Tasks* the IPU to develop an inventory of tools for parliaments and parliamentarians for engaging in dialogue, legislation, oversight and prevention in the pursuit of peace and to present the outcome at the 147th IPU Assembly.