



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

144th IPU Assembly and related meetings

Nusa Dua, Indonesia
20 – 24 March 2022

Results of the proceedings



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144th Assembly

1. Inaugural ceremony

The inaugural ceremony of the 144th IPU Assembly took place at the Bali International Conference Centre, Nusa Dua, Indonesia at 19:30 on Sunday, 20 March 2022, with President Joko Widodo in attendance.

Ms. Gilda Sagrado, Master of Ceremonies, welcomed delegates to Bali.

A medley of Indonesian cultural dances was performed.

Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, thanked the Indonesian Parliament for their warm hospitality and their efforts to ensure that the Assembly would take place under the best possible conditions. He noted that the world was at a crossroads, entering the third year of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, which had not only had direct health consequences for millions but had also set back progress on sustainable development. Nonetheless, parliaments and the IPU had remained open for business and parliamentarians had continued to play their role in securing better lives for everyone.

The crisis in Ukraine cast a considerable shadow over the Assembly. One member of the international community had invaded another, resulting in a major humanitarian catastrophe in Europe and repercussions around the world. The human toll of the invasion was unacceptable, as was the threat of use of nuclear force. The IPU called on the Parliament of the Russian Federation to stop the war and engage in the search for a peaceful solution. The IPU also stood ready to facilitate dialogue as the optimum way to resolve the crisis.

The world was facing many other challenges, but none was more urgent than the climate crisis, which had therefore been chosen as the main theme of the Assembly. The people of the world were tired of words and wished to see action. All crises resulted in increased inequalities, and the climate crisis was no different. The Assembly therefore needed to mobilize the parliaments of the world to take resolute action before it was too late.

The Assembly would also turn its attention to the ever-growing number of cases before the IPU's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, as well as the ongoing plight of the parliamentarians of Afghanistan, Myanmar and other parliaments in crisis. The IPU's Member Parliaments needed to be accountable for their own performance and continue to innovate, rejuvenate and improve, in particular by redoubling efforts to reach gender parity and increase youth engagement in politics.

In a video message, **Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations**, said that, as the world struggled to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, senseless violence was causing death and destruction in Ukraine, threatening global peace and security. The war was aggravating existing economic and social vulnerabilities both in the region and beyond. It also highlighted how the global addiction to fossil fuels was placing energy security, climate action and the global economy at the mercy of geopolitics.

The answers to the global climate catastrophe were clear: reduce emissions by 45 per cent this decade and achieve net zero emissions by 2050, invest 50 per cent of climate finance in adaptation and resilience to protect vulnerable communities, and ensure that existing climate finance commitments to developing countries were met. Parliaments and legislators were essential to achieving those goals and needed to drive forward ambitious climate policies, the transition to renewable energy and the creation of green jobs.

Ms. Puan Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, welcomed delegates to Indonesia and noted that the ongoing uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic added to the many complex challenges the world was already facing. Global issues required global solutions and parliaments had a key role in garnering political support for international cooperation and multilateralism. International commitments meant nothing without national implementation.

The 144th Assembly would provide an essential forum in which to engage in inter-parliamentary dialogue on democracy, peace, human rights and sustainable development. Democracy had been challenged in various ways in many countries. The Assembly would also provide an opportunity for the global community to call for an end to the war in Ukraine, express its support for the full independence of Palestine and encourage Myanmar to follow the path of democracy once more.

The choice of climate change as the theme of the 144th Assembly was particularly pertinent and parliamentarians needed to follow several steps to address the crisis: work to create a peaceful and stable geopolitical situation conducive to climate diplomacy, accelerate the equitable global availability of vaccines, mobilize commitments and actions to save the world from the impact of climate change, and accelerate the recovery of the global economy in the aftermath of the pandemic.

The challenges and uncertainties facing the world could only be overcome by working together and strengthening international cooperation. Parliaments were key to that effort and needed to demonstrate their leadership in mobilizing concrete actions to build a healthy, peaceful and prosperous world.

His Excellency Mr. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia, welcomed delegates to Indonesia and noted that the challenges evoked by the other speakers would only become greater in the years to come. The world would always struggle to keep up with the pace of technological change, and the COVID-19 pandemic had shown how a single crisis could disrupt everything. People were now facing huge increases in the cost of living due to energy scarcity and disruptions to global logistics. The words of parliaments and governments on climate change had yet to be matched with actions. The transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy seemed a simple solution on the surface but would be a formidable challenge to implement, particularly in developed countries.

The international community needed to mobilize investment in renewable energy without delay. Indonesia had enormous potential for renewable energy from hydroelectric, wind, tidal and solar power, but needed considerable investment and transfer of technology to harness it. The global community could not ignore the devastation resulting from climate change for much longer. IPU Member Parliaments needed to mobilize and work together now to formulate policies and concrete actions that could be implemented on the ground.

President Joko Widodo declared the 144th IPU Assembly open.

2. Participation

Delegations from 101 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The following four Associate Members also took part in the Assembly: the Arab Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF).

* For the complete list of IPU Members, see page 38

Observers included representatives of:

(i) the United Nations and related organizations: United Nations, Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), World Health Organization (WHO), the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO);

(ii) parliamentary assemblies and associations: African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), International Parliamentary Network for Education (IPNEd), Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TurkPA), Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC), Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF);

(iii) international political party federations: Liberal International.

Of the 778 delegates who attended the Assembly, 404 were members of parliament (393 from Member Parliaments and 11 from Associate Member delegations). Those parliamentarians included 30 Presiding Officers, 28 Deputy Presiding Officers, 154 women MPs (38.1%) and 110 young MPs (27.2%).

In continuation of the good practices from the 143rd Assembly, the 144th Assembly was an in-person event with adaptations for hybrid participation. Six of the seven session rooms were equipped for external engagement and remote interpretation and these technical capacities were well used throughout the Assembly.

The deliberations of the Inaugural Ceremony, Forum of Women Parliamentarians, Assembly General Debate and all sittings of the Governing Council were live streamed in English and the original language, with up to 2,000 views at any one time and over 1,100 hours of viewing time. The General Debate included pre-recorded videos from high-level speakers. The debate on the Emergency Item included a live intervention over Zoom from Ukraine and a video message from the Russian Federation.

Three of the four official side events (organized in cooperation with partner organizations – UNICEF, WHO and GOPAC), and all sittings of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP) allowed remote participation, as did two of the geopolitical group meetings. Viewers and speakers came from Asia, North and South America, and Europe.

Between the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, these hybrid arrangements were crucial to enable the voices of IPU Members, supporters and partners from around the world to contribute to the work of the 144th Assembly.

3. Choice of an emergency item

On 21 March, the President informed the Assembly that the following three requests for the inclusion of an emergency item had been proposed:

- *Russian and Belarusian aggression against Ukraine* (Ukraine)
- *The role of parliaments in supporting a peaceful resolution to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict* (Indonesia)
- *Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity* (New Zealand)

Ukraine, which presented its emergency item proposal via Zoom, withdrew this proposal in support of New Zealand's proposal.

Poland opposed the proposal submitted by Indonesia, expressing its support for New Zealand's proposal. South Africa opposed the proposal submitted by New Zealand and expressed its support for Indonesia's proposal.

The Assembly proceeded with a roll-call vote on the two remaining proposals (see pages 52-53). The proposal by New Zealand, which received the required two-thirds majority of the vote, was adopted, and added to the agenda as Item 8.

4. Debates and decisions of the Assembly and its Standing Committees

(a) *General Debate: Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change* (Item 3)

During the three days of deliberations, 114 legislators from 87 Member Parliaments, including 22 Presiding Officers and 15 young parliamentarians, as well as representatives of two Associate Members and three permanent observers, contributed to the General Debate. Several delegations that were unable to travel to Nusa Dua for the Assembly sent [video messages](#). The proceedings of the Debate were livestreamed, and many of the good practices and recommendations that emerged were reflected in the outcome document.

Ms. P. Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, opened the General Debate on 21 March, noting that the world was facing a multitude of crises: the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic driven by mutations of the virus, a rapid escalation of geopolitical tensions, precipitous increases in the cost of essential items, and the continued failure to address global warming. The world needed to come together, build trust in one another, strengthen global solidarity and bolster partnerships to address those crises.

The IPU's core goal of making parliaments stronger to promote democracy, peace and sustainable development was more important than ever. By making dialogue a habit and putting diplomacy first, parliaments had an opportunity to demonstrate that they were the guardians of democracy and could make democracy more resilient. Determination was still required to end the pandemic, particularly by accelerating equal global vaccine distribution. The global health architecture would also need to be strengthened to respond to any future pandemic. Recovery from the pandemic was not just about health and the economy, but also social recovery, including increasing the participation of women and young people in decision-making bodies.

Climate change was an existential crisis for the planet and parliaments needed to play their role in addressing it by mobilizing concrete actions and leading by example. Parliaments needed to adopt both mitigation and adaptation actions, realize the international community's commitment to provide US\$ 100 billion of climate finance per year and support the transition to clean energy through technology transfer and investment. The deliberations of the 144th Assembly should therefore take due account of the importance of strengthening global partnerships and multilateralism, the need to translate international commitments into tangible actions at the national level, the need to build a culture of peace marked by dialogue and tolerance, and the need for parliaments to take an active role in bridging differences and building trust. Indonesia was committed to hosting and leading the Assembly in a transparent and inclusive manner and believed that, through dialogue and solidarity, the parliaments of the world could create a safer, fairer and more prosperous world.

Mr. D. Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, observed that the climate change was worsening with every passing minute and would continue to intensify unless parliaments enacted major changes to economies, energy use practices and food systems. Human activity was a major driver of climate change, which impacted not only the planet and biodiversity, but the livelihoods of all human populations. Women and girls, and marginalized and underrepresented members of society were disproportionately affected. Climate-related displacement and migration were on the rise in many parts of the world.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had found that the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius would be unreachable without immediate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Parliamentarians needed to take urgent action to minimize the most devastating impacts of climate change, by acting on the commitments made at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021 and implementing the Paris Agreement. Actions to address climate change must be informed by science and developed through a gender-responsive and socially inclusive lens, to ensure that no-one would be left behind. Climate change did not recognize borders and its nature as a shared challenge must be acknowledged by fostering constructive, open, multilateral dialogues and defining concrete actions. Future generations had the right to expect a healthy planet.

In a video message, **Mr. Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary-General of the United Nations and co-Chair of the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens**, observed that the IPU's 144th Assembly was being held in trying times, with the world facing the dual struggle of the climate emergency and the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving progress on the Sustainable Development Goals well behind expectations. Parliaments could play a cardinal role in mobilizing cross-cutting climate action, through support for both international diplomacy and grassroots local implementation.

At COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021, the governments of the world had pledged to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement. However, emissions were clearly not being reduced quickly enough and more efforts were needed to motivate the necessary legislative response. High-impact and innovative mitigation solutions were required and countries needed to follow through with the pledges they had made in their Nationally Determined Contributions.

In a video message presenting the findings of the latest IPCC report, **Mr. A. Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations**, observed that the report was an unprecedented indictment of failed climate leadership. Half of humanity was in immediate danger and ecosystems had reached the point of no return. Emissions targets were not being met and fossil fuels continued to choke humanity. Countries needed to come together to accelerate the energy transition and end their reliance on fossil fuels.

An equal focus on adaptation and mitigation was required and investment needed to be increased in both, particularly for countries on the front line. Any delay in getting funding to small island developing states and less economically developed countries would be fatal. Development banks needed to work together with the public and private sector to secure funding, and the G20 needed to lead the way. The people of the world were anxious and angry and it was time to turn that rage into action.

In a video message recorded at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021, **Mr. S. Penitala Teo, Speaker of the Parliament of Tuvalu**, said that the majority of his country was only a few feet above sea level and was already feeling the effect of sea level rise and changing weather patterns. Salt water was entering water courses and affecting the country's staple crops. The answer to the crisis was in the hands of rich nations. Tuvalu was barely contributing to global emissions but was paying a huge price, with many of its people now expecting to have to leave the country in the coming years. Investment from developed countries was needed to build up the defences of Tuvalu and many other island nations.

Ms. M. Wijzen, Indonesian youth activist, leader of the Youthtopia movement and founder of Bye Bye Plastic Bags, said that climate change was real and was happening now, with no place on Earth not already affected. Young people knew very well that action was needed. She had begun her own successful campaign against plastic pollution at the age of 12 and now, at the age of 21, she was seeing a new generation of activists campaigning on issues such as the protection of biodiversity, promoting indigenous voices, stopping deforestation, objecting to new nuclear power facilities and supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Floods, forest fires and extreme weather were becoming a reality for everyone, often resulting in people losing their homes and becoming refugees. Conferences, speeches and photo opportunities were not enough; now was the time for action. Young people were ready to get involved and take their rightful place at the decision-making table. Parliamentarians should step up as there was no time to spare.

Ms. H. Ramzy Fayez (Bahrain), first Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians speaking on behalf of Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, observed that the theme of the general debate was of great importance to women and girls everywhere. The most immediate impact of climate change would be felt by already vulnerable and marginalized populations. Proactive measures to increase women's participation in parliaments would advance climate action as there was a strong positive correlation between the percentage of women in parliament and increased prioritization of climate change policy.

Climate legislation needed to be complemented with social policies, including gender-responsive policies. Institutions, starting with parliaments, needed to be both greener and more gender responsive. The green economy needed to be inclusive, taking into account gender and other socially differentiated needs. Action was needed now, not just for the sake of the families of today but for the children of the future.

Ms. S. Albazar (Egypt), President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, observed that, as the key issue of our time, climate change was at the forefront of the minds of young people. Degradation of the environment had begun well before most of the youth of today had been born, yet it was youth who would suffer the effects and have to repair the damage. Youth must have a say in climate action, in particular to draw on their talents and fresh ideas.

Young MPs were ideally placed to convey the views of youth to parliament but only 3 per cent of MPs were under the age of 30. More young MPs were needed, youth civil society needed to be included in parliamentary processes and MPs of all ages needed to listen to and speak up for youth. Attendees at

the 144th Assembly were encouraged to sign up for the IPU's ongoing *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign. Egypt, her home country, would be hosting the IPU's Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in May 2022 and the COP27 Climate Change Conference later in the year, including the UNFCCC Conference of Youth.

(b) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held three sittings from 21 to 23 March, with its President, Mr. M. Al-Ahbab (Qatar) in the chair. The Committee was entrusted with the task of debating the draft resolution on the theme *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace*. The draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory note had been prepared by the two co-Rapporteurs Ms. D. Gomashie (Ghana) and Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden).

Following the introductory remarks by Mr. S. Chowdhury, IPU Honorary President, and the presentation of the draft resolution by the two co-Rapporteurs, 28 speakers took the floor to express their thoughts on the subject matter. During the drafting process, the Committee considered 83 amendments tabled by 16 Member Parliaments and the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. Just over half of the proposed amendments and sub-amendments were taken on board.

At its sitting on 23 March, the Committee adopted the consolidated draft resolution by consensus. It was agreed that Ms. Gomashie would present the draft resolution to the Assembly in the afternoon of 24 March. The Indian delegation expressed its reservations on preambular paragraphs 5 and 13 and on operative paragraph 17 which all relate to the linkage between climate change and conflict.

The Bureau of the Standing Committee met on 22 March. Bureau members had the opportunity to have an exchange with Ms. P. Patten, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict on potential joint activities. The subject item to be studied during the next one-year cycle was also discussed. The proposed topic with the title *Cyberattacks and cybercrimes: The new risks to global security* put forward by the delegation of Spain was approved by the Committee at its sitting on 23 March. The Committee also approved the Bureau's proposal to hold a virtual meeting in May or June 2022 to discuss further its work plan for the next Assembly to be held in Rwanda and endorsed the nomination of Mr. J. Cepeda (Spain) and Ms. S. Falaknaz (United Arab Emirates) as the co-Rapporteurs for the next resolution.

The Committee elected to the Bureau Ms. L. Crexell (Argentina) to represent GRULAC and took note of the replacement of Mr. A. Kharchi (Algeria) by Mr. M.A. Bouchouit (Algeria) as announced by the African Group.

(c) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development held its sittings on 21 and 23 March with its President, Ms. A. Mulder (Netherlands), in the chair. The Committee was entrusted with the task of debating the draft resolution on the theme *Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic*. The draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory note had been prepared by the two co-Rapporteurs Ms. H. Järvinen (Finland) and Mr. S. Patra (India).

The presentation of the draft resolution was followed by a debate in plenary. The Committee considered 64 amendments submitted by 13 Member Parliaments and the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. The consolidated draft resolution was adopted by acclamation. The Committee agreed that Ms. Mulder would present the draft resolution to the Assembly. The resolution was adopted by acclamation at the plenary sitting of the Assembly in the afternoon of 24 March.

At its sitting on 23 March and upon the proposal of its Bureau, the Standing Committee adopted its next subject item entitled *Parliamentary efforts in achieving negative carbon balances of forests*. The Committee approved the nomination of Mr. C. Hoffmann (Germany) and Ms. H. Vijakumar Gavit (India) as co-Rapporteurs.

The Committee also approved a work plan for the next Assembly to be held in Rwanda. The work plan includes: a debate on the theme of the next resolution, a panel debate on the theme *Reconnecting local communities with a local sustainable inclusive economy to achieve the targets of SDG 8*, as well as a segment to discuss preparations for the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt.

The Committee elected to the Bureau Mr. R. Lozano (Uruguay) to represent GRULAC.

(d) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

The Committee held sittings on 22 and 23 March with its President, Mr. A. Gajadien (Suriname) in the chair.

At its sitting on 22 March, the Committee held a preparatory debate on the theme of its next resolution, namely *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*. The sitting began with introductory remarks by Mr. F. Zon (Indonesia), co-Rapporteur; Mr. U. Lechte (Germany) representing the co-Rapporteur Mr. J. Wadephul (Germany); Ms. P. Patten, United Nations Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict; and Mr. S. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), IPU Honorary President.

At its second sitting, the Committee held a debate on the theme *The role of parliaments in reconciling health measures during a pandemic with the preservation of civil liberties*. The debate was introduced by Senator Ms. G. Jourda (France), along with Mr. Y. Leterme, former Prime Minister of Belgium and Chair of the Global Commission on Democracy and Emergencies, and Mr. L. Gostin, Professor of Global Health Law at Georgetown University. For further information about the two debates, see page 57.

The Bureau of the Standing Committee met on 21 March and discussed how the Committee could contribute to the implementation of the overall IPU 2022-2026 Strategy. The Bureau resolved to develop a strategic plan for the Committee for that period and to hold a virtual meeting in May 2022 to move forward on the preparation of this strategic plan.

(e) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs met on 23 March with its President, Ms. S.A. Noor (Kenya) chairing the meeting. The session consisted of two panel discussions with high-level UN officials.

The first panel focused on the UN country team and its work in supporting Indonesian development.

Mr. J. Kazi, UN Women Indonesia Representative and Liaison to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and Ms. T. Boonto, UNAIDS Indonesia Country Director, shared an overview of their activities in Indonesia. They stressed the hard living conditions for poor and marginalized people in Indonesia. Specific problems involved the lack of participation of women in public life, violence against women, the difficult situation of HIV/AIDS infected persons and, in general, the lack of women's empowerment. Mr. H. Ali Mufthi (Indonesia) presented his Parliament's interaction with the United Nations which was focused on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Parliamentarians and panellists emphasized the need for more interaction between the representatives of the United Nations and parliamentarians in each country.

The second panel focused on the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The 2022 HLPF's main theme centred on building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In his presentation, Mr. C. Chauvel, Global Lead and Asia-Pacific Focal Point, Inclusive Processes and Institutions, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), outlined the set-back in SDG implementation due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine. Ms. P. Torsney (Head of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the UN in New York) presented the IPU's survey on parliamentary engagement. Ms. C.I. López Castro (Mexico) shared her experience with Mexico's 2021 voluntary national review (VNR). All panellists underlined the importance of parliamentary participation in the VNRs.

Some delegates deplored the impact of the pandemic which had widened the gap between the developed world and the global south. Others stressed the role of parliaments both in building back after the pandemic as well as in implementing the SDGs and shared their respective national measures in SDGs implementation. Several delegates shared their parliament's experience in drafting the SDGs implementation strategy and the VNRs.

(f) Debate on the emergency item

Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity

The debate on the emergency item was held in the morning of 22 March, with Mr. J.F.N. Mudenda, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe, in the chair. Both the IPU President and IPU Secretary General joined the debate. A record 34 speakers took the floor.¹

Before the debate began, a video message from Ms. L. Vasylenko, MP from Ukraine, was shown, in which she appealed to fellow parliamentarians at the Assembly to react decisively to the war of aggression against Ukraine. Also via video message, Mr. K. Kosachev, Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, explained that the war was a continuation of the conflict that had started in 2014 and its aim was to stop the genocide of Russians in Ukraine.

Many speakers expressed their solidarity with the people of Ukraine, in particular women, children, the elderly and the disabled, who were suffering most from the war, and deplored the loss of many civilian lives. Over 3 million people had fled Ukraine while 6 million were internally displaced, including other nationals. Speakers deplored the shelling of schools and a maternity hospital and called for an immediate ceasefire so as to open humanitarian corridors for urgent humanitarian assistance and to allow Ukrainians to leave conflict areas safely.

Several delegates underscored the importance of respecting the UN Charter and basic international law, including the need to respect the territorial integrity of a sovereign state and the right of all countries to co-exist peacefully. They praised the actions of solidarity by neighbouring countries, such as Poland, Republic of Moldova and Romania, which were hosting millions of refugees.

Other delegates expressed disappointment at the lack of historical context in the selected proposal and lamented inconsistencies in the way the IPU had expressed opinions on past conflicts. The IPU had not been as forceful in condemning actors in past military operations. Several felt that language in parts of the resolution was inflammatory and not helpful in terms of encouraging dialogue and mediation aimed at ending the war. They further called on the IPU to be unswerving in expressing values and opinions in a neutral manner in future.

Most delegates emphasized the need for dialogue to immediately stop the war and achieve peace between two IPU Members and several called on the IPU to lead this effort.

In summarizing the debate, Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand), author of the emergency item proposal, underscored the necessity for peaceful solutions and the role that the IPU – with its legacy of dialogue and diplomacy – could and should play to help achieve peace. She called for an immediate ceasefire and urged the participants in the 144th Assembly to unite to address the issue.

The Assembly referred the emergency item to a drafting committee made up of representatives of Belarus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Maldives, Mexico, Poland, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Uruguay.

(g) Adoption of the resolution on the emergency item

In the afternoon of 23 March, the plenary sitting of the Assembly adopted the resolution by consensus (see page 54).

After the adoption of the resolution, a number of delegations took the floor to express reservations or explain their vote:

Bahrain, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe expressed reservations to operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 4, as well as to operative paragraphs 8 (UAE and Zimbabwe) and 9 (Zimbabwe). China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam expressed a reservation to the entire text of the resolution. Belarus and South Africa expressed their opposition to the resolution.

¹ United Arab Emirates, Switzerland, Viet Nam, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malta, Maldives, Greece, Indonesia, Belarus, Czech Republic, China, Paraguay, Australia, South Africa, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, Portugal, Poland, Suriname, Timor-Leste, India, Austria, Zambia, Finland, Syrian Arab Republic, Malaysia, Turkey, Jordan, Nigeria, Spain, Israel, Algeria and New Zealand.

Most of those delegations stated that the neutrality of the IPU should be preserved, adding that any resolution condemning only one party did not support mediation for a peaceful resolution. Zimbabwe also deplored the fact that there had not been any IPU resolutions condemning western countries on past wars. China stated that the resolution failed to reflect the views many countries held and that there was always a need for political courage to create space for peace and leave room for political settlement. It also emphasized that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries must be respected.

5. Special accountability segment

For the first time, the General Debate included a special accountability segment where Members could share their good practices and the concrete actions they had undertaken towards implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions.

In this context, the IPU President underscored that the 2022-2026 IPU Strategy was a new phase for the Organization where stronger accountability was required from both Member Parliaments and the Secretariat. The aim, which was reflected in the fifth strategic objective, also sought to reinforce the statutory provisions of the Organization according to which all Members were expected to submit an annual report of their activities in follow-up to IPU decisions. The Organization was keen to actively engage the membership in this important exercise.

Multiple delegations took the floor to report on their good practices and the activities they had undertaken in follow-up to the decisions adopted at the 143rd IPU Assembly, in particular the Madrid Declaration on overcoming contemporary challenges to democracy, the resolutions on combating online child sexual exploitation and abuse and on harnessing parliamentary support for vaccine equity, as well as the decisions relating to violations of the human rights of parliamentarians.

Delegations shared the following concrete examples of their parliamentary actions:

- Indonesia: Parliamentary youth programme as a model of training.
- Nepal: Coordinated outreach to local communities on the risks of the COVID-19 virus which was supported by all political parties.
- Paraguay: Launch of the Spanish language version of the IPU's worldwide campaign *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!*.
- Sweden: Identifying modalities for more effective interventions both at the level of national parliaments and within the IPU in keeping with the work of the newly established IPU Working Group on Transparency, Accountability and Openness.
- United Kingdom: Providing expertise to other parliaments when legislating around arms bills; annual reporting on IPU decisions to the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs.
- Bahrain: Convening a second session of the Youth Parliament; new legislation drafted to combat abuse and violence; new mechanisms put in place such as the focal point on justice and child protection.
- India: National production of essential medicines and equipment for equal access to COVID-19 protection throughout the country; support to other countries including through the distribution of over 160 million vaccine doses to 98 countries.
- Ecuador: Promoting inclusive parliamentarism through new legislation, including a "democracy code" whereby political parties observe youth and women quotas on their electoral lists (at local, regional and national level).
- Morocco: Convening a regional event in Parliament on 7 December 2021, with the participation of women's civil society organizations, in follow up to the recent IPU publication on violence against women in African parliaments.
- Zambia: Establishment of a youth caucus in Parliament with a mandate to: (1) enhance capacities of young parliamentarians, (2) leverage the advocacy role of young parliamentarians with respect to government (youth responsive policies), (3) promote youth participation in political parties, and (4) share experiences with other parliaments in the region.
- Sierra Leone: Working to promote gender equality at the regional, national and local levels – including through the organization of a dedicated conference in Parliament with the participation of Speakers from local parliaments.
- Thailand: Mechanism put in place to allow for annual reporting in Parliament on the IPU decisions on the human rights of parliamentarians, as well as efforts to raise awareness and support for the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, particularly with respect to the situation in Myanmar.

In closing, the President thanked the delegations that had taken the floor for their good work and encouraged all Members to actively engage in the 2022 reporting exercise. A similar accountability segment would be convened in the context of the 145th IPU Assembly in Kigali in October.

6. Concluding sitting of the Assembly

At the concluding sitting on 24 March, **Mr. P.F. Casini (Italy)** and **Ms. C. Castro (Mexico)** introduced the Nusa Dua Declaration on *Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change* (see page 40). The Declaration encouraged parliaments to lead the way with innovative solutions and to focus particular attention on countries on the front line of the effects of climate change. Parliaments should continue to share best practices and lessons learned from their responses to the climate crisis. That response should also take due account of the needs of marginalized and underrepresented communities and be guided by the Sustainable Development Goals and scientific consensus. Climate change affected all generations, but its consequences would be most felt by young people. Parliaments urgently needed to redirect budgets to addressing the crisis and deploy every effort to protect their citizens from its consequences. The Assembly unanimously endorsed the Nusa Dua Declaration.

Ms. A. Gomashie (Ghana), co-Rapporteur of the resolution of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, presented the resolution *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace* (see page 44). The Assembly adopted the resolution by consensus, with reservations expressed by India on three paragraphs.

Ms. A. Mulder (Netherlands), President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, presented the Committee's resolution, *Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic* (see page 49). The Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution.

The Assembly took note of the Reports of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, presented by its President, **Mr. A. Gajadien (Suriname)**, and of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs presented by its President, **Ms. S.A. Noor (Kenya)** (see pages 57 and 59).

The Assembly approved the subject items for the resolutions to be drafted by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, for adoption at the 146th IPU Assembly, together with the rapporteurs that would be working on the draft resolutions (see page 35).

Ms. E. Nyirasafari, Vice-President of the Senate of Rwanda, warmly invited all IPU Members to attend the 145th IPU Assembly, which would be taking place in October 2022 in Kigali. A short promotional video was shown.

At the conclusion of the Assembly, the representatives of the geopolitical groups took the floor: **Mr. E. Mundela Kanku (Democratic Republic of Congo)** on behalf of the African Group, **Ms. A. Gerkens (Netherlands)** on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, **Ms. S. Carvajal Isunza (Mexico)** on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, **Mr. P. Wichitcholchai (Thailand)** on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, and **Mr. H. Alziadin (Jordan)** on behalf of the Arab Group. They conveyed their thanks to the Indonesian parliament for its hospitality and to Ms. Maharani for her leadership. The events in Ukraine had somewhat overshadowed the Assembly and they urged Members to implement the actions adopted in the emergency item resolution without delay. They also encouraged Members to mobilize and take concrete actions on climate change. The geopolitical groups pledged their commitment to follow up on the important decisions of the Assembly and looked forward to meeting again in Kigali in October 2022.

In his concluding remarks, **Mr. D. Pacheco, President of the IPU** congratulated the Indonesian parliament for its organization of the Assembly, and thanked Ms. Maharani for her personal commitment to its success. The setting of the Assembly had been highly conducive to fruitful deliberations and had produced several concrete outcomes, which delegations were now encouraged to take back and implement in their parliaments. The adoption of the emergency item resolution on Ukraine had been a particularly important moment and an IPU task force would be established soon with a view to visiting both the Russian Federation and Ukraine to encourage dialogue and a diplomatic resolution to the conflict. In addition, the Assembly's strong consensus on the climate emergency, as reflected in the Nusa Dua Declaration, was a clear call for immediate action that all parliaments must heed. He thanked all delegates for their participation.

In her concluding remarks, **Ms. P. Maharani, President of the 144th Assembly and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia**, said that the Assembly had begun with many unanswered questions, on the climate crisis, world peace and the COVID-19 pandemic, but delegates had reached agreements and found consensus while accommodating their different views. Global solutions required international cooperation and parliaments had shown that they had the right spirit to rise to the challenge.

The Assembly had produced several concrete outcomes. Delegates had agreed that the peaceful resolution of conflicts could only be achieved through multilateral diplomacy. The equal global distribution of vaccines was still needed in response to the pandemic. Parliaments also needed to continue their fight against corruption and inequality to ensure that no one was left behind. As for the climate emergency, support for developing countries was essential and there was no doubt that the environment needed to be protected for future generations. She thanked delegates for their participation, wished them a safe return home and declared the 144th IPU Assembly closed.

209th session of the Governing Council

1. Election of the President of the 144th Assembly

At its first sitting on 21 March, the Governing Council proposed that Ms. P. Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, be elected President of the 144th IPU Assembly.

The Governing Council observed a minute's silence in memory of the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Mr. Jacob L. Oulanyah, who had passed away the previous day.

2. Report of the IPU President

The Governing Council took note of the report of the activities of the President of the IPU covering bilateral meetings during the 143rd Assembly in Madrid, visits to various countries to strengthen relations with Members, press conferences to increase the IPU's visibility, initiatives to promote universal membership of the IPU, and a visit to Ukraine followed by a statement on the crisis in Ukraine condemning the invasion of the country, expressing the IPU's solidarity with the people of Ukraine, and offering the IPU's support to resolve the crisis.

The Governing Council took note of the discussion of the Executive Committee on the report on the IPU's engagement with the United Nations over the previous 20 years. The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to invite additional inputs to this report from both the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs and the geopolitical groups.

The Governing Council appealed anew to IPU Members to ensure that they include IPU office holders in their national delegations.

The Governing Council was apprised of the President's proposal to institute an anthem for the Organization. It took note of the proposed way forward, in which terms of reference for a competitive process would be drafted and submitted for further discussion.

Members of the Governing Council were reminded of the deadline for nominations for the Cremer-Passy Award: 30 April. The winner would be announced on 30 June.

3. IPU Impact Report

The Governing Council took note of the [report of the Secretary General](#) on the activities and results of the Organization over the period covered by the previous strategy, for 2017-2021. Despite setbacks for democracy in many countries, the IPU had remained steadfast in its mission to build strong, democratic parliaments. The report covered achievements in the area of standard setting and building stronger institutions, promoting gender equality and defending human rights, supporting youth empowerment, contributing to peace building and security, achieving the SDGs, and facilitating parliamentary diplomacy and engagement with the United Nations.

4. 2022-2026 Communications Strategy

The Governing Council approved the IPU Communications Strategy 2022-2026, which was designed to boost communications efforts to help the IPU achieve the Organization's strategic objectives in the next five years.

The new overall IPU 2022-2026 Strategy had identified communications as a cross-cutting driver of change.

This refreshed Communications Strategy built on the work started in the previous IPU Communications Strategy 2019-2021, in which the IPU had begun its digital transformation, engaged actively with its Members through its communication channels and raised its visibility significantly in the media space.

Overall, the principal objective of the refreshed Communications Strategy was to strengthen the IPU's positioning as the primary global resource for, about and between parliaments, targeted especially at the 46,000 parliamentarians around the world.

In line with Strategic Objective 5 of the IPU 2022-2026 Strategy, Member accountability was identified as a critical success factor for the refreshed IPU Communications Strategy.

The active contribution of IPU Members was instrumental for the IPU to become better known to all parliamentarians around the world. A key element of the refreshed strategy would be to activate those parliamentarians, so they became domestic ambassadors for the Organization.

The refreshed Communications Strategy was organized around three key work streams :

- accelerating the IPU's digital communications transformation;
- encouraging more engagement and accountability from and between IPU stakeholders;
- increasing the IPU's influence and visibility.

5. Amendment to the Rules of the Committee on Middle East Questions

Following a recommendation by the Executive Committee, the Governing Council adopted an amendment to the Rules of the Committee on Middle East Questions. The amendment was intended to reflect the established practice of that Committee with regard to the gender balance of its composition.

6. Future inter-parliamentary meetings

The Governing Council approved the list of future meetings and other activities to be funded by the IPU's regular budget and by external sources (see page 78).

7. Financial results for 2021

The Governing Council considered the Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2021. The Financial Statements had been prepared in full compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and the accounts of the IPU and the closed Pension Fund were consolidated into a single set of financial statements.

The financial results for 2021 were introduced by Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden), Chair of the Sub-Committee on Finance. She reported that the External Auditor had expressed to her that the financial statements were accurate and that he had received constant support from the IPU finance team. The audit had been carried out remotely due to travel restrictions. The auditors had found that the IPU's internal controls were strong. During the year under review, the net assets had increased by CHF 0.38 million due to reduced travel and operational expenses caused by the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Investment performance had ended the year positively with a net result of CHF 0.42 million. At the end of 2021, the Working Capital Fund had reached its target level for the first time. As total assessed contributions in 2022 were still well below the level they had been in 2010, Ms. Widegren proposed that the Sub-Committee look into rebalancing the level of contribution income in the coming years.

Ms. Widegren welcomed the continued increase in voluntary contributions, as new parliaments and partners had brought their support to the IPU. She underlined that the IPU was viewed by partner organizations as relevant, transparent and worth supporting. At the same time, it was important that three quarters of the IPU's income came directly from the Members, ensuring that no-one could "buy" the IPU. She thanked Members for their commitment to paying their contributions despite the challenges of COVID-19. Nevertheless, the number of Members in arrears of their assessed

contributions remained a concern, and ten Members and Associate Members were currently at risk of potential suspension of their IPU membership rights later in the year. All IPU bodies should work together in making every effort to prevent this.

The Internal Auditor's report was presented by Ms. L. Fehlmann-Rielle (Switzerland) who had been appointed by the Governing Council, following the recommendation of the Executive Committee, to replace Ms. S. Moulengui-Mouélé (Gabon), who was no longer an MP. She conveyed her opinion that the accounts gave a true and fair reflection of the financial situation of the IPU at 31 December 2021 and complied with all current standards and rules. The External Auditor had expressed no reservations on the Financial Statements, noting their good quality and confirming that all previous recommendations were under implementation. Four new recommendations were made, which IPU management had accepted and would consider how best to implement. The overall result for the year 2021 increased the reserves of the IPU to their target level. The financial management of the IPU had a strong foundation based on internal controls and its financial position was solid.

The Secretary General supplemented these reports with a summary of the financial situation to date and the mobilization of voluntary funds towards implementation of the IPU's Strategy. The voluntary funding base was strong and new partners were coming forward with support.

There were several interventions from the floor, congratulating the Sub-Committee on Finance and the Secretariat team for the excellent results achieved and for the adherence to strong and effective financial management. In response to remarks from the Japanese delegation on cost efficiency and staffing, members of the Sub-Committee on Finance confirmed that the IPU assessed contribution budget had not increased since 2007, which would not have been possible without close adherence to cost savings and careful financial management. The Zimbabwean delegation commended the efforts of the Secretariat to keep the Organization functioning despite a freeze in Members' contributions, which could only have happened with stringent efforts to achieve efficiencies.

The Chair of the Sub-Committee on Finance underlined the Sub-Committee's commitment to transparency and accountability in the IPU's financial processes and the Secretary General described the recruitment procedures and importance of diversity within the Secretariat, the overriding criterion being to secure the highest standards of competence irrespective of national origin. He also confirmed that he did not plan to reduce staff numbers as the current staff were already overstretched, and outlined the various cost-saving measures he had undertaken and would continue to consider. In response to further remarks from the Zimbabwean delegation, the Secretary General confirmed that, at the Madrid Assembly, the Governing Council had appointed two Internal Auditors for the 2022 Financial Statements. The two Internal Auditors for 2023 would be appointed at the next session in Kigali.

The Governing Council approved the Secretary General's financial administration of the IPU and the financial results for 2021.

8. Questions relating to Membership of the IPU and observer status

The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to suspend admission of new observers until such time as it had more complete details from the candidate observers, including the Collective Security Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (CSTO-PA), the League of Parliamentarians for Al Quds, and the Muslim World League (MWL).

In that regard, the Governing Council also concurred with the Executive Committee that the four-yearly assessment of observers would provide a valuable opportunity, especially in the context of the IPU 2022-2026 Strategy, to develop a clearer and more rigorous methodology for the admission of new observers. The Governing Council decided to examine this matter during the 145th Assembly in Kigali.

The Governing Council took note of the Executive Committee's statement of 26 February on the invasion by the Russian Federation of Ukraine. The IPU President believed that launching a large-scale war against an independent and sovereign State was inexcusable. The Governing Council called for an immediate cessation of the hostilities, which potentially threatened world peace in light of their expected large-scale impact.

The Governing Council expressed its solidarity with the people of Ukraine and welcomed the ongoing initiatives of the President and the Secretary General which, in line with the IPU's unwavering belief in and commitment to peace, aimed at re-establishing dialogue between the parliaments of the Russian Federation and Ukraine to restore peace.

The Council was apprised of the situation of certain parliaments and endorsed the related recommendations made by the Executive Committee with regard to each of those parliaments. It reiterated its previous decisions on Afghanistan and Myanmar, following the recommendations of the Executive Committee and in solidarity with the people of those countries, to recognize the suspended parliaments of those two countries as the IPU's main interlocutors and to allow their participation in the IPU in a non-voting observer capacity.

Regarding the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Governing Council supported anew the recommendation of the Executive Committee made in Madrid in November 2021 to accept a delegation as observers from the country only if composed of Members from both parliaments (elected in 2015 and 2020). The Governing Council welcomed the positive news on the resumption of peace talks between the two parties under the auspices of the Government of Mexico. It requested that the Secretary General continue to monitor the situation.

The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to retain Burkina Faso's membership as its situation was similar to those of Mali and Guinea, for which it had endorsed the same recommendation from the Executive Committee. However, the Governing Council urged the national authorities of Burkina Faso to work for a speedy return to constitutional order and offered the IPU's support to that effect.

Regarding Tunisia, while endorsing the recommendation of the Executive Committee to continue dialogue with the elected Parliament and the national authorities, the Governing Council recommended conducting an in-depth analysis of the situation in the country in light of the complexity of the crisis and the major role that the country had played in the Arab Spring.

The Governing Council noted with concern the worrying development of the political situation in Eswatini and urged the authorities to make the necessary arrangements for a successful outcome of the national dialogue intended to end the sociopolitical unrest in the country. The Governing Council encouraged the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to look into the cases of two parliamentarians arrested in the context of this crisis.

The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to continue to monitor the situation in Sudan. It encouraged the Sudanese authorities to do their utmost for a speedy return to constitutional order.

The Governing Council further endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the Secretary General continue to monitor the situation in the following countries and provide an update during the next session: Chad, Eswatini, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Libya, Mali, Palestine, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen.

9. Reports of committees and other bodies

The Governing Council approved the recommendations contained in the reports on the activities of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, the Committee on Middle East Questions, the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, the Gender Partnership Group, the Advisory Group on Health, the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) and the Working Group on Science and Technology. The Council endorsed the new appointments to those bodies.

The Governing Council noted with satisfaction the increased participation of young parliamentarians in IPU Assemblies and meetings. As a support to that momentum, the Governing Council encouraged national parliaments to create platforms for early engagement of youth in politics as of secondary school age.

The Governing Council reiterated its support for the efforts of the Gender Partnership Group and encouraged Members to engage in the current positive trend so as to reach the objective of the Group related to gender parity among participants in IPU Assemblies.

The Governing Council welcomed the joint publication by the IPU and the World Health Organization (WHO) of a new handbook for parliamentarians entitled *Strengthening health security preparedness: The International Health Regulations*, which would support parliamentarians' efforts to make their communities and countries safer.

The Governing Council adopted nine decisions concerning 217 parliamentarians (including 22 per cent women) in nine countries submitted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP).

In respect of the decision on the Egyptian case, the Governing Council, while adopting this decision, requested that the preamble be reviewed in consultation with the Egyptian delegation with a view to ascertaining the accuracy of the information reflected therein.

The Governing Council took note of the concern expressed by the delegation of Israel saying that the IPU should not be defending terrorists. The Governing Council also took note of the explanation provided by the Secretary General to clarify the matter. He said that the IPU and its CHRP were not defending criminals, people who might have violated the law. The CHRP was defending parliamentarians as part of the institution that was supposed to function in an unimpeded manner in any democracy. If there were any members of parliament who had been prosecuted on account of performing their duties as members of parliament, the Committee could pronounce itself on their cases and ask the Governing Council to take decisions. He added that the Committee was very anxious to portray itself as an institution that was doing its work impartially according to its mandate to defend the human rights of parliamentarians in the performance of their duties. However, if members of parliament committed crimes, they should face the full force of the law. The request of the Committee in that particular instance was that those persons be given a free and fair trial.

287th session of the Executive Committee

1. Debates and decisions

The Executive Committee held its 287th session across three sittings that took place in person with some participants attending online, the first in Dubai on 26 February, and the second and third in Nusa Dua on 18 and 19 March.

The President of the IPU chaired the meetings and the following members took part in at least one sitting:

Mr. A. Kharchi (Algeria), Ms. C. Mix (Chile, temporary replacement), Mr. Chen Guomin (China), Ms. O. Kefalogianni (Greece), Ms. A.D. Mergane Kanouté (Senegal), Mr. M. Grujic (Serbia), Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain), Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden), Ms. P. Krairiksh (Thailand), Ms. E. Anyakun (Uganda), Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates), Ms. B. Argimón (Uruguay), Mr. A. Saidov (Uzbekistan), Mr. J.F.N. Mudenda (Zimbabwe), Ms. S. Albazar (President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians), Ms. L. Vasylenko (President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians).

The Secretary General attended all the sittings, assisted by staff members of the Secretariat where relevant. Ms. F. Martonffy (Consultant for the IPU Strategy) attended the sessions on 26 February and 18 March.

Activities report by the President

The President of the IPU presented a report on his activities, notably his mission to Ukraine and his subsequent declaration condemning the invasion of the country by the Russian Federation. He informed the Executive Committee that, while he had also offered to travel to Moscow in the wake of his mission to Kyiv, he had been advised that the Russian Parliament considered the situation in Ukraine to be an internal matter for the Ukrainians to resolve and was unwilling to engage in discussions on the topic.

The 143rd Assembly in Madrid had been a particular highlight of the period, and the President had held more than 30 bilateral and other meetings in the margins of the Assembly. Since the Assembly, he had visited Bahrain, Kazakhstan and Serbia, attended the annual hearing at the United Nations in New York focused on a sustainable recovery from the pandemic, and engaged in a number of ongoing initiatives currently on the Executive Committee's agenda, notably the political project at the UN, the Transparency Report and the Communications Strategy.

On the subject of communications, he had endeavoured to participate in press conferences or media interviews during every mission he had undertaken and to enhance his own presence on social media. With a view to advancing the goal of universal membership of the IPU, he planned to visit the United States and the Caribbean in the coming months.

The Executive Committee congratulated the President on his work and devotion to promoting democracy and the IPU core values, as well as to strengthening multilateral cooperation in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

IPU Impact Report

The Secretary General presented the IPU Impact Report for the past five years. The report covered activities and results achieved in line with the objectives of the 2017-2021 Strategy, namely: building strong and democratic parliaments; advancing gender equality and respect for women's rights; protecting and promoting human rights; contributing to peace building, conflict prevention and cooperation; promoting youth empowerment; mobilizing parliaments around the global development agenda; and bridging the democracy gap in international relations.

The Executive Committee congratulated the Secretary General on the substantive report and the impressive results achieved, which were testimony to the whole Secretariat's commitment and dedication to the Organization.

The Executive Committee expressed its confidence that the Secretary General and his team would continue to demonstrate the same commitment to the successful implementation of the 2022-2026 Strategy. In that regard, the Executive Committee recommended more attention be focused, *inter alia*, on social development, violence against women, support for vulnerable groups and climate change. The IPU should also pursue efforts to strengthen its monitoring and evaluation processes so as to be better able to ascertain the impact of the Strategy.

Questions relating to IPU membership and the situation of certain parliaments

The Executive Committee examined requests for permanent observer status at the IPU from the following organizations: the Collective Security Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (CSTO-PA), the League of Parliamentarians for Al Quds, and the Muslim World League (MWL). While appreciating the interest of those three organizations in the IPU's activities, the Executive Committee requested additional information on the organizations which would allow it to make informed recommendations to the Governing Council.

In that regard, the Executive Committee also decided, in the context of the upcoming four-yearly assessment of observers, to undertake a careful evaluation of the level of engagement of the over 75 organizations currently holding permanent observer status, to determine the added value they brought to the IPU, in particular in the context of its new Strategy for 2022-2026, and to develop a clearer and more rigorous methodology for the admission of new observers. The matter would be examined at the next Assembly in October.

The Executive Committee was apprised of the situation of certain parliaments and made a number of recommendations for consideration by the Governing Council.

Concerning the invasion of **Ukraine**, the Executive Committee examined the conflict at length during its sittings in Dubai on 26 February and in Nusa Dua on 18 March.

It issued a statement on 26 February which strongly condemned the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, and expressed the Committee's profound solidarity with the Ukrainian Parliament and the innocent victims of the invasion. The Executive Committee called on President Putin, as well as members of both houses of the Russian Parliament, to rapidly bring about the cessation of hostilities, which were jeopardizing world peace.

The Executive Committee reaffirmed the IPU's availability to be part of the solution and offered the IPU's good offices to support the restoration of peace between the two parties. In that view, the Executive Committee supported the ongoing initiatives of the President and the Secretary General to restore contacts between the parliamentary authorities of the two countries. The Executive Committee called on all countries to keep diplomatic channels open with the Russian Federation with a view to securing an immediate ceasefire.

The Executive Committee noted with regret the fact that the current crisis in Ukraine had somewhat overshadowed the situation in **Afghanistan**, where a humanitarian disaster was underway.

The Executive Committee received confirmation that there was no functioning parliament in Afghanistan, as it had been dissolved by the Taliban. The members of parliament elected in 2018 and in office at the time of dissolution who had escaped the country had now formed a parliament-in-exile, representatives of which would meet with the President and the Secretary General during the Assembly. The Executive Committee was informed of a legal opinion confirming that the IPU Statutes could not accommodate parliaments in exile. Any parliament aspiring to be a Member of the IPU must be constituted in accordance with the laws of the country in question and function on the territory of a sovereign state whose population they represented, which was clearly not the case for the parliament-in-exile of Afghanistan. The Secretary General informed the Executive Committee that he and the President had brought that information to the attention of the Afghan delegates who had come to Nusa Dua.

However, the Executive Committee reiterated that, in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan and as a symbolic gesture, the IPU should continue to consider the parliament-in-exile as the IPU's interlocutor for Afghanistan and invite it to participate in the deliberations of the Organization in a non-voting observer capacity.

The Executive Committee took the same decision on **Myanmar**, as its situation was similar to that of Afghanistan. The Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) was also functioning in exile. It would therefore continue to be invited to attend IPU meetings in a non-voting observer capacity until such time as there was a fully fledged parliament in the country.

Burkina Faso was the latest country to experience a coup, which had occurred in the period since the 143rd Assembly in Madrid. The Executive Committee was informed that this was a similar situation to those witnessed in Guinea and Mali, where the military had stepped into power, dissolved state institutions and put in place transitional bodies. The Executive Committee, while condemning the coup, decided to recommend that Burkina Faso's membership of the IPU be maintained, in line with the decisions taken in the cases of Guinea and Mali. The Executive Committee encouraged the IPU to continue to work with the authorities in Burkina Faso towards a rapid return to constitutional rule.

The Executive Committee took note of the fact that no parliament currently existed in **Sudan**. No confirmed information was available as to when elections would take place, but provisional indications had suggested July 2023. The Executive Committee expressed its dismay at the lack of progress in re-establishing democratic institutions in the country and recommended that the IPU continue to monitor the situation.

In the case of **the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**, the Executive Committee was informed that peace talks might soon resume between the two parties, facilitated by the Government of Mexico. The Executive Committee took note of this positive development and reiterated its previous position that the two parliaments (of 2015 and 2020) would be invited to the IPU as observers, on condition that they form a joint delegation, until such time as the situation was clarified.

The Executive Committee expressed its displeasure at the ongoing chaos in **Libya** and decided to continue to monitor the situation.

The Executive Committee recommended that the Secretary General continue to monitor the situation in the following countries and provide an update during the next session: Chad, Eswatini, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Mali, Palestine, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen.

The IPU political project at the United Nations

The Secretary General presented the report by an independent consultant on the evolution of the cooperation between the IPU and the UN over the previous 20 years. The Executive Committee expressed its strong support for the findings of the report and its ten recommendations. As a way forward, and considering the mutually beneficial character of the cooperation, the Executive Committee recommended further consideration of the report by Members and invited the views of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs as well as the geopolitical groups.

The Executive Committee asked the Secretariat to produce, for review at its sittings during the 145th Assembly, a strategy and roadmap as to how the ten recommendations of the report would be implemented, along with a matrix for evaluating the impact in a quantifiable way.

Follow-up to the Transparency Report

The Executive Committee took note of the report by the Chair of the Working Group on Transparency, Accountability and Openness on the Group's first meeting held on 15 February.

Preparations for the 144th IPU Assembly

The Executive Committee was briefed on the organization of and expected participation in the 144th IPU Assembly in Nusa Dua, as well as the security and anti-COVID-19 arrangements in place. In terms of the programme of the Assembly, and as per the proposal of the President, a special segment would be included in the General Debate, during which Members would be invited to share how they had been able to implement decisions from the Madrid Assembly and the impact of those actions in their countries.

Regarding the outcomes from the Assembly, the Executive Committee was informed of the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security on *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace*; the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, entitled *Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic*; and the draft Nusa Dua Declaration, which would be further enhanced based on discussions in the general debate on the overall theme of the assembly, *Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change*.

The Executive Committee expressed its thanks to the authorities of Indonesia for their speedy and commendable organization of the 144th IPU Assembly.

Finally, the Executive Committee noted with concern reports that some Member Parliaments had been failing in their responsibility to include IPU office holders in their delegations. The Executive Committee appealed to the parliaments concerned to comply with their obligations in that regard by ensuring that delegations systematically included all current IPU office holders, since the individuals concerned were critical to the functioning of the IPU bodies during Assemblies. The IPU stood ready to show flexibility with regard to limits on the size of delegations that included IPU office holders.

Draft revised Communications Strategy

The Executive Committee was apprised of the new Communications Strategy during its sittings in Dubai on 26 February and in Nusa Dua on 19 March.

The IPU Communications Strategy for 2022-2026 aimed to position the IPU as a global resource for, about and between parliaments and to activate the 46,000 parliamentarians around the world, i.e. encourage them not only to participate in events, read the IPU's publications, watch its videos and engage on social media, but also to take action on the IPU's initiatives and resolutions and reach out to their constituents to promote the IPU's work.

The Executive Committee congratulated the Communications team for designing this well-articulated strategy, which was all the more timely as it would help the IPU to achieve its strategic objectives over the next five years. The Executive Committee agreed that parliamentarians, and more specifically Speakers of Parliaments, should take ownership of the Communications Strategy and disseminate it at the national level. In the same vein, the Executive Committee asked the Secretary General to contribute to that dissemination through meetings with parliamentary secretaries and staff during the IPU Assemblies. In order to ensure the successful implementation of the Communications Strategy, the Executive Committee recommended that additional financial and human resources be mobilized for communications, and a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism be introduced.

Future inter-parliamentary meetings

The Executive Committee discussed and endorsed the list of future inter-parliamentary meetings. The members of the Executive Committee noted with satisfaction the guarantees, including regarding visa issuance, provided by the authorities of Bahrain to support its offer to host the 146th IPU Assembly in Manama from 11 to 15 March 2023.

Members of the Executive Committee concurred that the International Conference on Migration that would be held in Istanbul from 9 to 10 June 2022 should offer an opportunity for participants to visit refugee camps in Turkey. Such a visit would allow participants to get first-hand information on how the IPU's specialized mechanism on international humanitarian law could provide assistance to those refugees.

The Executive Committee also welcomed Egypt's forthcoming hosting of the Eighth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in May 2022 and Uzbekistan's hosting of the 14th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament on 8 and 9 September 2022.

The Executive Committee recommended that the Governing Council request the support of Members to host upcoming IPU events which as yet had no venue confirmed. The Executive Committee agreed that the events in question were part of the implementation phase of the Strategy. In hosting such events, Members would therefore be contributing to the successful achievement of that Strategy.

In the same vein, following an overview of recent and upcoming hosts of IPU Assemblies, the Executive Committee noted that no country from either the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean or the Eurasia Group had recently hosted or was currently scheduled to host an IPU Assembly. The Executive Committee therefore made a strong appeal to the Members in those groups to consider making an offer to host the 147th Assembly in Autumn 2023, which was nonetheless provisionally scheduled to take place in Geneva. The Secretary General confirmed that a provisional booking had been made at the Geneva International Conference Centre.

Amendment to the Rules of the Committee on Middle East Questions

The Executive Committee examined an amendment to the Rules for the Committee on Middle East Questions. Of the 14 members that comprised that Committee, the geopolitical groups appointed 12, and Israel and Palestine appointed two ex-officio members. To comply with the IPU's target of achieving gender balance among office holders, Rule 2.2 of the Committee stipulated that "no more than seven of the members shall be of the same sex". However, that rule did not take into account the fact that the Committee could not influence the gender of the ex-officio appointments. The Executive Committee therefore endorsed the proposal to correct this discrepancy to ensure proper enforcement of that rule, by changing "seven" to "six" and excluding the ex officio members from the gender balance requirement.

IPU Anthem

The Executive Committee endorsed the proposal by the President for the IPU to institute an anthem, which could be played at the start of the Organization's events in a bid to enhance its identity. Members agreed that an open competition should be launched to identify an original composition for that purpose, which insofar as possible should represent the diverse musical traditions of all the IPU's geopolitical groups.

2. Sub-Committee on Finance

The Executive Committee heard the report of Ms. C. Widegren, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Finance, who recommended the 2021 financial statements and the external audit report to the Executive Committee for its approval.

The Sub-Committee on Finance had met virtually on 14 March to prepare and facilitate the Executive Committee's consideration of financial and budgetary matters. It had carefully examined all the financial documents including the financial results, the External Auditor's report, the current financial situation and voluntary funding update. It had been pleased to note from the positive audit opinion and report from the External Auditor (the Comptroller and Auditor General of India) that the IPU's financial situation was healthy, its internal controls were strong and the IPU's accounts were again fully IPSAS-compliant. The audit recommendations had been accepted and the IPU management would consider how best to implement them. Net assets had increased by CHF 378,000, with the operational surplus being explained by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on travel, meeting and operating costs, albeit to a lesser extent than during 2020. Investment performance had been very positive during 2021 and the Working Capital Fund had reached its target level, as set by the Executive Committee in 2006. The Chair of the Sub-Committee drew attention to the fact that the arrears of assessed contributions from Members remained a matter of concern and asked the geopolitical groups to draw Members' attention to their responsibility to pay their dues.

The Sub-Committee had noted the success of the IPU in attracting voluntary contributions. Partner organizations saw the IPU's work as relevant and worth investing in.

The Executive Committee thanked the Sub-Committee and the Secretariat for the work performed and recommended that the Governing Council approve the financial administration of the IPU and the financial results for 2021.

3. Questions relating to the IPU Secretariat

The Executive Committee was informed of the recruitment of Ms. A.R. Damachi as an Executive Office Administrative Assistant and of Mr. C. Pampín García as Administrative Assistant/Receptionist.

Forum and Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

The 33rd session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 20 March. It brought together 129 participants, including 64 parliamentarians (55 women and 9 men) from 60 countries and representatives from various international organizations.

The First Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. H. Ramzy Faye (Bahrain), opened the session on behalf of the Bureau President, Ms. L. Vasylenko, who was prevented from attending by the ongoing war in her country, Ukraine. The Forum proceeded to elect Ms. I.Y. Roba Putri (Indonesia) to the Presidency of its 33rd session. The President of the IPU, Mr. D. Pacheco, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia, Ms. P. Maharani, made opening remarks.

As a contribution to the Assembly, the participants considered, from a gender perspective, the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security entitled *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace* and the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development entitled *Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic*. The discussion opened with a presentation by Ms. P. Patten, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The debate was conducted in two breakout groups, each of which discussed one of the draft resolutions. Ms. D. Gomashie (Ghana) and Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden), co-Rapporteurs on the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, addressed Group 1. The Forum subsequently proposed amendments to the draft resolutions of the two Standing Committees and expressed support for amendments proposed by national delegations. Most of the proposed amendments were included in the relevant draft resolution.

The Forum held a panel discussion on parliamentary experiences in promoting women's, children's and adolescents' health in time of the COVID-19 pandemic and pandemic recovery. The participants called for women and girls to be involved in the design and delivery of health services and to be empowered to claim their right to health. They shared strategies and good practices for a post-COVID recovery that prioritized sexual and reproductive health and rights and improved access to health services for all.

The Bureau of Women Parliamentarians met on 20 and 24 March. On 20 March, it reviewed the proceedings of the Forum and on 24 March, it took stock of the results of the 144th Assembly from a gender perspective and discussed the future of its work. The Bureau had an interactive dialogue with Ms. P. Patten, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and with Mr. M. Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU and Global Champion for the Fight Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, focusing on legislation on conflict-related sexual violence and the implementation of a survivor-sensitive approach.

The Bureau also initiated a joint reflection with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians on the best means to support women parliamentarians against the acts of violence that they may face. The reflection pointed towards the development of a special protocol adapted to the needs of women complainants in cases of gender-based and/or sexual violence.

Regarding the Task Force to be created in accordance with the IPU resolution on *Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity*, adopted at the Assembly, the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians made a strong recommendation that its composition be gender-balanced and that it include countries that did not have a high stake in the conflict.

Forum and Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians held its sitting on 21 March. It was presided over by its President, Ms. S. Albazar (Egypt). The meeting brought together 58 parliamentarians (25 young women and 33 young men) from 40 countries, as well as representatives from various international organizations. The IPU President and Secretary General made opening remarks.

Reviewing the theme of the Assembly's General Debate, the young parliamentarians agreed that climate change was a defining and existential priority. As they would be the most impacted by this crisis, they demanded being fully included in relevant political decisions. They emphasized the importance of international cooperation to facilitate the transfer of technologies and resources among countries to strengthen the transition to clean energies. The resolve of young parliamentarians on that issue was further supported by the decision to dedicate the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians to take place in Egypt in May 2022 to climate action. The Conference was to be part of a process of youth inclusion ahead of COP27 to take place also in Egypt, in November 2022.

Contributing youth perspectives to the IPU resolutions on *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace* and *Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic*, the young MPs drew attention to the importance of youth engagement in peace processes and called for conflict resolution, including the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. They also highlighted north-south cooperation to transfer technologies to better enable access to education for young people.

The young MPs exchanged country-level information on progress in youth participation through new measures such as the creation of youth caucuses, empowerment trainings for young MPs, advocacy for youth quotas, as well as successes in lowering of ages of eligibility to run for office. Activities to empower young MPs had started at the IPU and would be furthered, including through a series of online briefings and trainings.

They held a questions and answers session on youth quotas. The current state of quotas was reviewed, and good practices for effective youth quotas were highlighted.

The Forum appointed its President, Ms. S. Albazar (Egypt), to prepare a youth overview report on the resolution to be considered at the 145th Assembly.

Subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council

1. Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The Committee held its 168th session from 19 to 23 March. Ms. A. Reynoso (Mexico), President, Mr. S. Cogolati (Belgium), Vice-President, Mr. N. Bako-Arifari (Benin), Mr. S. Spengemann (Canada), Ms. L. Dumont (France), Ms. L. Quartapelle (Italy) and Ms. C. Asiaín Pereira (Uruguay) participated in the session. Mr. B. Mbuku Laka (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Mr. A. Caroni (Switzerland) were unable to attend.

During the session, the Committee examined the situation of 253 parliamentarians (22% of whom are women) in 14 countries. Of these cases, the Committee examined for the first time the cases of two parliamentarians in the following countries: Brazil and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Committee also held ten hearings with several delegations and complainants.

The Committee submitted recommendations to the Governing Council for adoption as [decisions](#) on the situation of 217 parliamentarians in the following countries: Belarus, Ecuador, Egypt, Eswatini, Libya, Myanmar, Palestine/Israel, Uganda and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

2. Committee on Middle East Questions

A sitting of the Committee was held on 20 March, with eight members in attendance. The Committee discussed the importance to its mandate of dialogue in supporting collaboration between countries to achieve conditions conducive to peace.

Members heard a report from the IPU Secretariat on the Committee's activities and the communications received by the IPU on the situation in the Middle East since the Committee's last meeting at the 143rd Assembly in November 2021. The Committee emphasized the importance of periodic interactions in-between meetings between members and with the IPU Secretariat as follow up briefings on the situation in the region. Members said that regular updates on communications received would give them greater scope to assess how to act in response.

As part of the Committee's work plan for the period 2022-2025, members agreed on the importance of seeing the realities on the ground through a visit to the region in June 2022 in order to better inform their work. With reference to recent events in Europe, the Committee noted that the topic of food security was important and that it should be addressed by the Committee. It was agreed that, in line with the IPU Strategy for 2022-2026, the Committee should foster links with other IPU bodies, including the Working Group on Science and Technology and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, by holding joint meetings on issues of common interest.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Israeli-Palestinian question and peace process were central to the Committee's mandate, members stressed the importance of addressing all crises occurring in the Middle East, including in Lebanon, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, as well as the general peace agreements between countries in the region. The Committee noted with satisfaction the warming of relations between countries in the region, which was evidence of the Committee's effectiveness.

The Committee heard a briefing by an expert from the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Mr. M. Bona, on the upcoming Science for Peace Dialogues webinar entitled "Making the water pie bigger, water technology vis-à-vis the water crisis in the Middle East", a precursor to the IPU Science for Peace Schools due to be held in-person at CERN in Geneva at the end of 2022. The Committee pointed out that science could contribute to intercultural dialogue and to addressing relevant regional challenges through problem-solving. It was however important to retain political focus when working towards concrete results on Middle East issues.

3. Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

The Committee met on 23 March. The meeting was opened by Ms. A. Vadai (Hungary), the outgoing President. The Committee was unable to elect a new President as quorum was not met at any point during the meeting. Members attending were from Australia, Bahrain, Democratic Republic of Congo, Hungary, Iraq, Kenya and Republic of Moldova.

The Committee heard a brief update on the situation of refugees from Ukraine. As at 21 March, 3,557,245 refugees had fled Ukraine since 24 February 2022.

The Committee members reiterated the importance for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) to be respected by all parties in the war in Ukraine. In concrete terms, this meant that:

- Civilians must be protected, wherever they are, and agreements passed to allow safe passage out of cities or areas of violence.
- Humanitarian aid should be allowed in, as the parties were obligated under IHL to ensure people under their control had access to assistance.
- Civilian infrastructure must be spared from attacks, including hospitals, schools, water facilities and electricity infrastructure.
- Prisoners of war and interned civilians must be treated with dignity and protected against ill-treatment and exposure to public curiosity, including through images posted on social media.

The Committee members also stressed the need to provide assistance and protection to refugees as well as support to host countries. Lastly, the Committee reiterated the importance of dialogue and peaceful resolution.

The Committee heard a briefing on recent developments in combatting statelessness. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)'s *#IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness* by 2024 was entering its last phase. UNHCR had decided to lay particular emphasis on the links between statelessness and development. It encouraged members of parliament to follow up on pledges made by their respective governments at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness. UNHCR was also working on building a Global Alliance to End Statelessness. Committee members expressed their wish to see parliaments and the IPU be part of this Alliance.

The Committee welcomed the planned organization by the IPU and UNHCR of virtual global events on the themes *Refugees and climate change* and *Refugees and education*. It also welcomed the proposal made by UNHCR to organize a field mission on refugees, that would also be linked to climate change, during the next IPU Assembly, to be held in Rwanda in October 2022.

The Committee discussed its joint efforts with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to promote accession to and implementation of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions. The Committee welcomed the organization of a global virtual event to mark the 45th anniversary of Protocol Additional 1 in June 2022 and asked that this be included in the list of future meetings of the IPU.

The Committee held an exchange with the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. P. Patten. The question of building legal frameworks to prevent and address sexual violence in conflict was at the heart of the exchanges, as was the role of parliaments in terms of implementation. The Committee also drew attention to the question of accountability and prosecution of non-state actors, as well as violence against children, and against men and boys. The Committee agreed to engage with the Office of the Special Representative and develop a joint work programme.

4. Gender Partnership Group

The Group held its 45th session on 23 March. In attendance were the Chair Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates), Ms. A.D. Mergane Kanouté (Senegal), and Ms. H. Ramzy Faye (Bahrain) replacing Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine).

The Group reviewed the state of women's participation in national parliaments and at the IPU. It examined in particular the composition of delegations at the 144th Assembly. As at 24 March, 38.9 per cent of the delegates at the Assembly were women which was one of the highest percentages ever achieved. However, this relatively higher percentage was also linked to the smaller number of delegates present in Nusa Dua. The Group noted with concern that there were some large delegations that included only one woman and it encouraged them to strive for gender balance. Gender-balanced delegations attending the 144th Assembly were commended. In Nusa Dua, 30 delegations out of 101 (or 29.7%) were gender-balanced, namely composed of 40 to 60 per cent women. That was a setback from the last Assembly, when 37.6 per cent of delegations were gender balanced.

Of the 101 delegations present, 90 were composed of at least two delegates, of which 13 were all-male (14.4%). In addition, three delegations of two or more delegates were composed entirely of women. These 16 single-sex delegations were from the parliaments of the following States: Afghanistan, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Cambodia, China, Greece, Iceland, Japan, Latvia, Madagascar, Mexico, Poland, Republic of Korea and Yemen. In addition, there were 11 single-member delegations attending the Assembly. All in all, eight delegations are subject to sanctions, up from four at the last Assembly. The Group requested that whenever a delegation had their voting rights reduced at the Assembly and Governing Council due to the fact that they did not include both men and women delegates, that that should be clearly specified at the moment of voting.

The Group reviewed existing good practices in preventing and addressing sexism and sexual harassment at multilateral and inter-parliamentary meetings in view of developing an ethical framework to that effect for IPU Assemblies and other IPU-organized meetings. The Group decided to develop such a framework for the IPU which would: (1) endorse the UN Code of Conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at UN system events; (2) request that the IPU Secretariat draw up an implementation plan with specific accompanying measures on prevention, communication, training, and enforcement in the subject area, and (3) set up a mechanism for regular monitoring of the implementation plan by the Group. The importance for the IPU to continue to encourage and support national parliaments in the development of such policies in their own institutions was stressed.

The Group pursued its discussion on how to support parliaments with few or no women members. It held a dialogue session with the delegation from the Nigerian Parliament attending the 144th Assembly. The delegation highlighted the particular challenges that women faced in politics in the country, such as entrenched traditional, social, cultural and religious norms, that prevented them from exercising political functions, in particular to run for elections. Lack of support by political parties also constituted a challenge. Financing electoral campaigns was another major obstacle for women to enter politics. There was a need to empower women and to make them financially independent. The representation of

women in the Nigerian National Assembly had been historically low. Currently, women occupied 3.6 per cent of seats in the House of Representatives and 7.3 per cent in the Senate. To date, none of the proposals to amend the Nigerian Constitution in order to introduce gender quotas or reserved seats for women had been approved.

The Group encouraged the Nigerian parliamentarians to continue mobilization on the constitutional amendment bills on women's political empowerment so that the bills could eventually be passed in time for the 2023 elections. The Group also emphasized the importance of political will and on ensuring the engagement and support of men leaders at the highest level of the State and within political parties. The support of NGOs and women's grassroots mobilization were also key. The Group decided to write to the leadership of the National Assembly as a follow-up to the meeting to offer the Gender Partnership Group's and IPU's support to help strengthen women's participation in politics, particularly in the National Assembly. The meeting concluded with the resolve to organize a meeting of the Group with a larger delegation of Nigerian members of parliament to pursue these discussions.

5. Advisory Group on Health

The Advisory Group met on 20 March, with four out of ten members in attendance. It also welcomed technical partners from the World Health Organization, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, and UNAIDS.

As the focal point for parliamentary accountability on the 2019 IPU resolution on universal health coverage, the Advisory Group discussed challenges in ensuring access to health for all. The 2021 accountability report on the implementation of the resolution highlighted the continued commitment of parliaments, with several countries having taken steps to improve financial protection, expand access to sexual and reproductive health services, and monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Group acknowledged the importance of addressing the ongoing pandemic, while calling for increased attention to be paid to other diseases and health issues that had been sidelined. Women, children and adolescents were impacted by indirect consequences of the pandemic, particularly due to disruption to maternal and immunization services. The Group agreed that universal health coverage and strengthened health systems needed to be prioritized in pandemic preparedness efforts. It further pointed out that demographic changes and the governance of health systems were among the main challenges in implementing universal health coverage. Sustainable and predictable investment in health was critical to achieving long-term health goals. In line with the new IPU Strategy, the Group will continue to play its accountability role with a more targeted approach to regional challenges to access to health and an increased focus on capacity building in national parliaments.

The Advisory Group was briefed on the process of development of a new international instrument for pandemic preparedness. It expressed the importance for parliaments to engage in the process through the IPU and to have access to data as well as details of legislative and budgetary practices from other countries.

Finally, the Advisory Group unanimously elected Mr. J.I. Echániz of Spain as its Chair and Ms. S. Núñez of Mexico as Vice-Chair, each for a period of one year.

6. High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG)

The HLAG held a meeting on 21 March, with 11 members in attendance. Members elected a new Chair, Ms. J. Oduol (Kenya), and a new Vice-Chair, Mr. A. Dicter (Israel).

The HLAG was informed of the launch of the IPU's new information and communication technology tools: a mobile application and an interactive map. The mobile application was designed to facilitate interconnectivity among parliamentarians and between the IPU and national parliaments, and to provide a tool for outreach and visibility, including details of upcoming events, documents, news, articles and more. The interactive map was a unique tool that gave users access to all global legislation on counter-terrorism. It drew on a restricted access database to facilitate immediate connection between the IPU and national parliaments, specifically their specialized committees on countering terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism.

The HLAG was informed that the IPU, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) had launched Model Legislative Provisions (MLPs) for victims of terrorism in a virtual meeting with the heads of the three organizations on

4 February 2022. The purpose of developing the MLPs was twofold. The provisions would serve as an example for the review of existing legislation and procedures relating to the victims of terrorism, while systematizing and promoting the exchange of information between parliaments on existing good practices.

The HLAG also discussed the newly developed Action Plan derived from the *Call of the Sahel* declaration adopted at the First Global Summit on Counter-Terrorism. The basis of the Action Plan was three axes of action: human, state and regional. The three axes covered four key areas of interest: development, education, community and security. The Action Plan proposed the organization of four meetings, each of which would focus on one of the areas of interest. Following the meetings, the HLAG would organize a global conference through a Joint Secretariat composed of regional parliaments. The conference would host parliaments, regional parliamentary associations, private and public institutions, and relevant United Nations organizations, and would be held towards the end of 2022.

The HLAG heard a briefing by guest speaker Ms. P. Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG/SVC). She explained that one of the most significant current threats to peace, security and stability was the expanding reach and impact of terrorism and violent extremism. Extremism and terrorism impacted men and women in different ways, and sexual violence was increasingly being used as a tool of terror. In 2016, the UN Security Council had called for “decisive and immediate action to prevent, criminalize, investigate, prosecute and ensure accountability” for perpetrators. However, there were still many gaps in legislation and terrorists were rarely prosecuted for these crimes. She suggested that the HLAG could play a critical role in promoting the review of national legislation aimed at preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism, and ensuring compliance with that legislation.

Members then heard an intervention by a second guest speaker, Mr. D. Cesselin, of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF), who praised the Action Plan for the *Call of the Sahel* while informing members of the difficult situation that the Sahel countries were currently facing. Mr. Cesselin highlighted the APF's willingness to join the Joint Secretariat of the *Call of the Sahel*.

Members discussed the draft work plan for the year 2022-2023 and the budget for the IPU's programme on countering terrorism and violent extremism. The HLAG thanked China and the United Arab Emirates for their contributions to the budget and encouraged members to raise the necessary funds for the implementation of the work plan.

7. Working Group on Science and Technology

Two sittings of the Working Group were held, on 4 February and 22 March, and 13 members attended one or both of the sittings.

The Working Group welcomed the inclusion of a reference to science in the IPU 2022-2026 Strategy under Strategic Objective 3: Supporting resilient and innovative parliaments, in terms of achieving real change by building bridges between politics and science to contribute to the fostering of good governance and trust. The inclusion would ensure that science was considered throughout political decision-making at all levels.

With reference to the Working Group's Work Plan, members agreed on their intention to officially participate in and hold a meeting of the Working Group at the international conference entitled *Science, Ethics and Human Development* in Viet Nam in September 2022, organized by the *Rencontres du Vietnam* in collaboration with the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), the Parliament of Viet Nam, and the organizers of the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development 2022. The Working Group's participation in the conference would be a good way to ensure that there was continual dialogue between parliamentarians and the scientific community. It was also important that a concrete budget for the activities of the Working Group be determined, in order to plan adequately for future activities.

The Working Group was briefed by Mr. M. Bona, CERN expert, on the upcoming Science for Peace Dialogues webinar entitled *Making the water pie bigger, water technology vis-à-vis the water crisis in the Middle East*, a precursor to the IPU Science for Peace Schools due to be held in-person at CERN in Geneva at the end of 2022. Members expressed their strong support for this initiative, agreeing that it would help transform elements of conflict between parties into reasons for coexistence. Members agreed on the importance and timeliness of the initiative, in particular given the recent developments in Europe.

At both of its sittings, the Working Group also examined the proposed International Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology. The Charter would serve as an ethical framework on the application and use of science and technology and could be used as a starting point for countries wishing to establish legislation in the field. Members agreed on the importance of ensuring that the Charter would not impose obligations but instead make suggestions that each country would be able to adapt to its own culture and domestic law. Efforts should also be made to ensure the Charter was drafted in language that was easily understandable and universal, making it accessible not only to parliamentarians and scientists, but also the general public.

Other activities and events

1. Joint Meeting with the Chairpersons of the Geopolitical Groups and the Presidents of the Standing Committees

On 20 March, the IPU President and Secretary General met with the Chairs of the Geopolitical Groups and the Presidents of the Standing Committees. The meeting was attended by: Mr. E. Mundela Kanku (Democratic Republic of the Congo), President of the African Group; Ms. F. Bint Abdullah Zainal (Bahrain), President of the Arab Group; Mr. Vu Hai Ha (Viet Nam), acting President of the Asia-Pacific Group; Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), President of the Eurasia Group; Mr. B. Llano (Paraguay), President of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean; Ms. A. Gerkens (Netherlands), President of the Twelve Plus Group; as well as by Mr. M.B.M. Al-Ahbab (Qatar), President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security; Ms. A. Mulder (Netherlands), President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development; and Mr. A. Gajadien (Suriname), President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

The IPU Secretary General presented the main findings of the report by an independent consultant on the IPU's political project at the United Nations. The report examined the evolution of relations between the IPU and the United Nations over the past twenty years and sought to identify challenges and opportunities going forward. It recognized the IPU's success in helping parliaments to pass legislation implementing global agreements and engaging them on issues including human rights, climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While the IPU had sought to influence outcomes at the UN – seeking to “bridge the democracy gap in international relations” – the report suggested that perhaps that was too ambitious and recommended that the IPU focus more on helping parliaments be more effective at the national level in terms of influencing their own governments' positions at the UN. Furthermore, it suggested that the IPU focus on fewer issues and that it re-evaluate the mandate and structure of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs.

The Secretary General invited the Chairs to discuss the report and future engagement with the United Nations in the geopolitical group and standing committee meetings, and provide feedback that would help shape a roadmap of next steps for consideration by the Executive Committee. The discussion that followed confirmed the strategic direction taken in the IPU's new five-year Strategy, with members expressing their commitment to deepening the IPU's engagement with the UN. Several geopolitical groups shared their success at the national level following up on the IPU's resolutions including most recently on climate change and vaccine equity, both IPU and UN priorities. One geopolitical group encouraged the strengthening of the role of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, suggesting it guide the IPU's dialogue with the United Nations. There was support for focusing the IPU's efforts across a tighter range of issues, as reflected in the new IPU Strategy. It was noted that diplomats were appointed to represent Member States at the UN, and that as such the IPU should continue supporting parliaments fulfil their oversight functions at the domestic level. While parliamentarians could not direct the UN's work, the UN could use the IPU as a partner in achieving success for the people.

The Secretariat provided an overview of the process ahead of the upcoming UN General Assembly resolution on interaction between the UN, national parliaments and the IPU. The UN Secretary-General's related report was to be circulated shortly together with the draft resolution to be submitted by Portugal as the country holding the IPU Presidency. All Members were encouraged to work with their respective foreign ministries so that the resolution would benefit from strong support and a high number of co-sponsors.

The IPU President also referred to the attention that all Members were called upon to give to strengthening the IPU's accountability at all levels, as noted in the new IPU 2022-2026 Strategy. A special accountability segment of the General Debate was to be held in the context of the Assembly,

allowing Members the opportunity to report back on the action and initiatives they had undertaken in follow up to the decisions adopted on the occasion of the 143rd IPU Assembly in Madrid (November 2021).

The Chairs of the Groups and Presidents of the Standing Committees concurred that it was critical that the IPU better demonstrate the results and impact of its work at national, regional and global levels. They shared several good practices and pledged to further reinforce the message in their respective Groups and Committees, and encourage greater engagement by Members.

2. Panel discussion: *Leveraging parliamentary budgeting powers for children* (Organized jointly by the IPU and UNICEF)

The IPU, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), organized a panel discussion on *Leveraging parliamentary budgeting powers for children* on 21 March.

The objectives of the panel were to:

- Raise parliamentary awareness around the need and possibilities for action by parliaments to budget for the promotion and protection of children's rights;
- Identify and share good parliamentary practices in all phases of the budget cycle that could serve as inspiration for better budgeting in support of children's rights.

Welcoming the participants, Ms. S. Kiladze, Member of the CRC, congratulated the IPU and UNICEF for their timely organization of the debate on a crucial issue, which despite its importance had often been left on the back burner in the context of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. She made a strong appeal in favour of awareness raising and the allocation of sufficient budgets to allow children to escape from this alarming trend.

In her keynote message, Ms. D. Comini, Regional Director for UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific, commended the long history of partnership between the IPU and UNICEF, through which significant and targeted activities had been carried out, covering such varied areas as draft legislation, budget allocations, sensitization advocacy and the presentation of information on child rights related issues during IPU Assemblies. She highlighted the critical role that parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, should play in articulating the views of all citizens, including children, in decision-making processes. In the post-COVID-19 period, all children needed to be given access to quality education, health and social protection in line with the SDGs. COVID response measures must take the specific needs of children into account. Learning from each other was one of the key ways to achieve this objective.

Mr. A. Moechtar, Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF Indonesia country office, articulated his presentation around the following points:

- A brief overview of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the role of parliaments to ensure its implementation, including through allocation of sufficient resources, the process for which should be transparent and inclusive;
- Best practices on budget advocacy for children around the world;
- Briefing on UNICEF engagements in various Asian countries and specific activities in Indonesia;
- Suggested interventions for parliaments in the budgeting process.

Ms. D. Tahiraj, Member of Parliament from Albania, shared the good practices in her country, including the steady level of public investments for children and various oversight mechanisms in place, for which she recognized the decisive support provided by UNICEF.

Ms. P. Appiagyei, Member of Parliament from Ghana, informed participants of the impressive legal framework and policies to enhance the development of children in place in her country, including the Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE) policy, the early childhood development policy and the national social protection strategy. The rights of the child were being addressed through those provisions at multi-sectoral levels including eight ministries which had made corresponding provisions in their budgets.

Participants made the following recommendations regarding the leveraging of parliamentary budgeting powers to promote and protect children:

- Increase parliamentary awareness of the necessity to promote the rights of the child;
- Include child rights among the priorities of parliamentary actions;
- Provide parliaments with expertise and mechanisms related to the budgeting process including:
 - Child friendly budget and benchmarking analysis;
 - Models of successful programmes related to the child rights budget;
- Create child parliaments to gather information related to the needs of children;
- Foster partnerships with international organizations working on child rights issues, especially UNICEF and the IPU;
- Ensure the effective monitoring of the implementation of the child rights budget;
- Ensure that national frameworks monitoring the SDGs include child-focused indicators.

3. Workshop: *Never again – Strengthening health security preparedness during COVID-19 recovery and beyond* (Organized jointly by the IPU and WHO)

As part of their long-standing collaboration, the IPU and the World Health Organization (WHO) jointly organized this session to discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic can be used as an opportunity to build parliamentary engagement for health security preparedness and promote dialogue between parliamentarians, ministries of health and the WHO. It was moderated by Dr. G. Silberschmidt, Director, Health and Multilateral Partnership, WHO. Introductory remarks were given by: Dr. T.A. Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO (via video message); Mr. M. Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU; and Ms. P. Maharani, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. All speakers highlighted the fact that there had been a widespread lack of preparedness for the COVID-19 pandemic and the critical role that parliaments played in ensuring that international preparedness frameworks were translated into laws and strategies at the national level.

Dr. J. Mahjour, Assistant Director-General, Emergency Preparedness, WHO, and Dr. S. Chungong, Director, Health Security Preparedness, WHO, provided an overview of the existing international instruments and mechanisms to strengthen pandemic preparedness and response, including the plan for a new convention or other instrument on pandemic preparedness. They identified entry points for parliamentary engagement and presented the main elements of a new IPU-WHO handbook for parliamentarians to be launched in the context of the 144th IPU Assembly.

Government representatives from Saudi Arabia and Singapore presented their countries' lessons from the COVID-19 response and how that could guide preparedness efforts. They highlighted the need for building national capacities while maintaining a degree of flexibility in emergency preparedness plans to cope with future unforeseen circumstances. The Seychelles shared a parliamentary perspective, stressing the importance of leadership and collaboration across party lines in times of crisis.

Further interventions from the floor called for a platform enabling parliamentarians to exchange experiences on how countries translated international regulations into national laws, as well as for support from the WHO in providing technical guidance to national parliaments on emergency preparedness and response.

4. Workshop: *Engaging for a universal ban on nuclear tests* (Organized jointly by the IPU and CTBTO)

On 22 March, a workshop was jointly organized by the IPU and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) on the theme *Engaging for a universal ban on nuclear tests*. The aim of the workshop was to celebrate the latest States to ratify the Treaty and to engage with non-ratifying IPU Members in a strategic dialogue to further advance CTBT universalization.

The workshop was moderated by Ms. B. Brenner, head of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations and other international organizations in Vienna. The panel was composed of Mr. L.F. Paulus, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia; Mr. R. Floyd, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO; and Mr. M. Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU. The workshop – which was a closed meeting – was attended by the Speakers of Equatorial Guinea, Nepal, South Sudan and Timor-Leste and their respective delegations, and the delegations of Bahrain, Belarus, Indonesia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. R. Floyd, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO, pointed out that the CTBT was essential not only for world peace but also for the preservation of nature in general, and maritime life in particular, including in avoiding tsunamis. The war in Ukraine and the Russian Federation's nuclear threat highlighted the need to ban nuclear testing completely and to make it more difficult for nuclear powers to update their nuclear weaponry as well as to prevent non-nuclear states making their own. In terms of technical data, the ratification of the CTBT gives the signatories access to very precise seismic data, indications of changes in maritime life, as well as all other data of relevance to a country's people and ecosystem.

Mr. L.F. Paulus, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia, explained the steps Indonesia had undertaken to sign and ratify the CTBT and stressed Indonesia's determination to fully implement the Treaty.

Mr. M. Chungong, IPU Secretary General, emphasized the IPU's strong commitment to peace and security which were at the core of the Organization's foundation. He recalled that the IPU Members had called for a world free of nuclear weapons even before the CTBTO had been set up. The IPU's Strategy for 2022-2026 focused on its Members' multilateral work, of which the cooperation with the CTBTO was a good example. He thanked the parliaments present for their unwavering support for a nuclear free world and for the important steps they had undertaken within their own parliaments and with their respective governments. The IPU remained committed in its support to their engagement.

In the course of the discussion, the delegates from the Syrian Arab Republic, Nepal, Timor-Leste, Equatorial Guinea, Bahrain and South Sudan all stressed the importance they and their parliaments accorded the CTBT. They also explained where they stood in the process of signing, ratifying and implementing the CTBT. The participants gave their strong support to the ban on nuclear weapons testing and encouraged those who had not yet ratified the Treaty to do so as soon as possible.

In closing, the IPU Secretary General was awarded a CTBTO pin of honour.

5. Panel discussion: *International cooperation to prosecute corruption and recover stolen assets* (Organized jointly by the IPU and the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC))

On 22 March, the IPU and the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) organized jointly a panel discussion on the theme *International cooperation to prosecute corruption and recover stolen assets*. Building on the manifold work done by parliaments and parliamentarians to combat corruption, the panel focused on the way forward to strengthen international cooperation on the issue. The panel discussion was well attended. The discussion and Q&A session were animated. The IPU-GOPAC cooperation was highly praised and the IPU was thanked for having scheduled a panel discussion on the topic.

The panel was moderated by Mr. J. Hyde, Secretary of GOPAC. The panellists, who were from different regions of the world, and had insight into the needs and mechanisms of the fight against large-scale corruption included: Mr. F. Zon, Member of the House of Representatives of Indonesia, Vice-Chair of GOPAC and Chair of GOPAC's Southeast Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC); Ms. R. Zaharieva, Coordinator, Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) facilitated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (participated remotely); Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand), Member of the House of Representatives, strong advocate for human rights and good governance; Mr. L. Syarif, member of the Integrity Initiatives International Asia-Pacific Sub-Committee, expert in good governance, transparency issues and anti-corruption. Mr. A.F. Al-Marri (Qatar), GOPAC Chair, opened the meeting in a video message.

The following were the three main themes guiding the discussion: taking stock of initiatives that work in combatting corruption; recovering assets – what can parliaments do to recover stolen assets; and what can the IPU and GOPAC do jointly to ensure international commitment to these goals.

The panellists and participants underscored the critical role of parliaments in combatting corruption, especially in passing legislation that effectively targeted large-scale corruption. While on the one hand a number of essential improvements had been made, on the other hand, big-scale corruption continued to flourish and governments continued having difficulties in recovering stolen assets.

Multiple references were made to the Panama Papers and to Kofi Annan's statement: "If crime crosses all borders, so must law enforcement". A number of speakers who were former judges or members of criminal investigative bodies spoke of the obstacles they faced in effectively implementing national laws

against corruption. In the context of the war in Ukraine, reference was made to the efforts to freeze the assets of oligarchs. The online tool GlobE Network, facilitated by UNODC, which linked 56 countries and a number of independent experts was presented. The delegations of the south-east Asia-Pacific region welcomed the new initiatives and explained what challenges they faced in their region.

In closing, the IPU and GOPAC panellists expressed their commitment to continue the fight against corruption.

6. Launch of the *Global Parliamentary Report*

The [third IPU-UNDP Global Parliamentary Report \(GPR\)](#), *Public engagement in the work of parliament*, was presented at a special segment of the Assembly on 22 March.

The presentation aimed to:

- Inform parliamentary leaders from the Member Parliaments about the GPR, its findings, recommendations and related practical tools;
- Raise awareness of the network of “engagement champions” that the IPU plans to build and encourage parliamentarians to join;
- Motivate and encourage parliaments to intensify their efforts towards positive change in public engagement.

In their introductory remarks, IPU President Mr. D. Pacheco and UNDP Administrator Mr. A. Steiner (by video) situated the Global Parliamentary Report as a response to the perception of a growing distance between the people and their parliaments. The core aim of the report was to promote closer relationships between parliaments and the communities they represent. The speakers pledged their institutions’ support to parliaments’ efforts to enhance public engagement.

The key features of the report were presented by IPU and UNDP representatives, Mr. A. Richardson and Mr. C. Chauvel respectively. The future focus for public engagement was centred around five key ideas: taking youth seriously, leaving no-one behind, transforming through technology, encouraging innovation and working together to share experience and good practices. The report set out case studies and good practices, concluding in recommendations addressed to parliaments and all stakeholders.

Four parliaments took the floor to share case studies on public engagement from the report:

- Ms. S. Lucas, Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces of South Africa
- Mr. R. Epeli Nailatikau, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji (video message)
- Ms. H. Baldwin, Chair of the British IPU Group
- Ms. W. Andrade, Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians; Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador

Welcoming the report, the speakers emphasized the political will for greater public engagement, and the need for effective systems and qualified staff to support this work. They reiterated their commitment to continue to strengthen public engagement in their parliaments.

Participating delegates shared their views during the special segment via an online survey. Survey results suggested a positive perception that public engagement is increasing. Delegates identified as a priority better engagement with youth, women, minority groups, people with disabilities and rural communities.

The special segment concluded with a specific call to action, in which the IPU Secretary General encouraged Member Parliaments to:

- Review their strategy for public engagement;
- Join the network of “Engagement Champions”, and advocate for public engagement in their work;
- Share good practices with other parliaments to continue to learn from each other;
- Contribute to positive change. Parliamentarians are the key actors who have the power to make parliament an inclusive, responsive and participatory institution.

7. Launch of the handbook *Strengthening health security preparedness: The International Health Regulations (2005)*

The IPU and the World Health Organization (WHO) jointly published the handbook entitled [*Strengthening health security preparedness: The International Health Regulations \(2005\)*](#). This is the 34th handbook for parliamentarians published by the IPU. Dr. T.A. Ghebreyesus, Director General of the WHO (via video link), and Mr. M. Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU, launched the handbook during the 209th session of the Governing Council, in the presence of the Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives, Ms. P. Maharani.

They called on parliamentarians to carry out their leadership role effectively and draw lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the world was prepared to respond to future health emergencies. The handbook uses the framework of the International Health Regulations (IHR) which are an instrument of international law designed to prevent the spread of disease internationally and to guide the public-health response when risks arise. The aim of the handbook is to introduce parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to the concept and importance of health security and the IHR, and to explore the functions and opportunities they can use to prioritize and advance health crisis preparedness.

Elections and appointments

1. IPU Vice-Presidents

The following member of the Executive Committee was designated as IPU Vice-President representing the Twelve Plus Group:

- Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden)

2. Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

The Forum of Women Parliamentarians elected the following regional representative to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians:

Eurasia Group

- Ms. G. Karelova (Russian Federation) will replace Ms. E. Afanasieva (Russian Federation) to complete the term which will end in April 2025.

3. Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians elected the following Board member:

Arab Group

- Mr. M. Alajmi (Kuwait) will replace Mr. A. Al-Kattan (Kuwait) to complete the term which will end in April 2023.

4. Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The Governing Council elected the following member for a five-year term ending in April 2027:

- Mr. E. Blanc (France)

5. Committee on Middle East Questions

The Governing Council elected the following member for a four-year term ending in April 2026:

- Ms. N.W.T. Makwinja (Botswana)

6. High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG)

The High-Level Advisory Group elected Ms. J. Oduol (Kenya) as its next Chair, and Mr. A. Dictor (Israel) as Vice-Chair.

A vacancy remains for one member from the *Eurasia Group*.

7. Bureaux of the Standing Committees

The Standing Committees also elected the following members to their respective Bureaux:

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean

- Ms. L. Crexell (Argentina) to complete Argentina's term which will end in April 2023

African Group

- Mr. M.A. Bouchouit (Algeria) will replace Mr. A. Kharchi (Algeria) to complete the term which will end in April 2023.

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean

- Mr. R. Lozano (Uruguay) elected for a first term which will end in April 2024.

A vacancy remains for one member from the *Eurasia Group*.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

Arab Group

- Ms. H.H. Al-Sulaiti (Qatar) elected for a first term which will end in April 2024.

8. Rapporteurs to the 146th Assembly

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security appointed Mr. J. Cepeda (Spain) and Ms. S. Falaknaz (United Arab Emirates) as co-Rapporteurs for the subject item entitled *Cyberattacks and cybercrimes: The new risks to global security*

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development appointed Mr. C. Hoffmann (Germany) and Ms. H. Gavit (India) as co-Rapporteurs for the subject item entitled *Parliamentary efforts in achieving negative carbon balances of forests*.

Media and communications

Press and traditional media

The 144th IPU Assembly was covered extensively by the media, particularly the Indonesian press, who were present in large numbers. A media advisory, a press release specifically on the emergency item resolution on the war in Ukraine and a closing press release were sent to the IPU database of thousands of journalists and helped generate more international coverage, including from some major news agencies.

In partnership with the media team of the Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives, the IPU Communications team organized opening and closing press conferences, which were attended by around 50 representatives of the media, mostly Indonesian press as well as international correspondents.

National media delegations also covered the Assembly from their own country perspectives, leading to extensive coverage in Armenia, Bahrain, Kuwait, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

The IPU President was also interviewed by CNN Indonesia.

Live feed and video extracts

Livestreaming of the Assembly, the Governing Council and the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, as well as IPU editorial coverage of the Assembly, generated many hits on the IPU website and YouTube platform.

Close to 10,000 people viewed the live stream feeds, mostly from the southern hemisphere (compared with around 4,000 people during the 143rd IPU Assembly in Madrid, Spain).

The top 10 countries viewing were:

1. Indonesia
2. Uganda
3. Thailand
4. Timor-Leste
5. Nepal
6. India
7. USA
8. Luxembourg
9. South Africa
10. Bangladesh

Peak viewing times were on Monday, 21 March during the debate on the resolution on an emergency item on the war in Ukraine. The peak can also be explained by the fact that the IPU website was out of action for around 8 hours due to a DDoS attack, with people resorting to the IPU YouTube channel to watch proceedings.

The livestreaming was watched predominately by young males (69% of viewers were male and 81% were under 45 years old).

Thanks to the availability of more staff, the Communications team were able to offer video extracts of specific plenary interventions. This service proved immensely popular and an effective way for Members to amplify the messages of the Assembly through their own communications and social media platforms. Around thirty extracts were requested and sent to the delegations for national amplification.

Social media

On social media, the IPU Communications team conducted an extensive campaign, publishing substantive tweets on the different events, speeches, soundbites and publications. The team actively encouraged engagement and amplification among the parliamentarians present.

The social media wall <https://my.walls.io/IPU> was again a great success, using the event hashtag #IPU144, as it encouraged MPs and other participants to post frequently as well as stimulating healthy “competition” between them to appear on the big screen in the plenary hall.

The results were encouraging, as shown below in the statistics covering 16 to 25 March:

TWITTER - 93 posts

126K impressions (average 12K per day, more than double the previous week)

4.2K engagements (60% increase on previous week)

Engagement rate on 25 March was 5.5%, double our average

10K mentions from other accounts

106K profile visits

535 new followers (all of March)

[Top mention](#) (earned 10.3K engagements)

[Top follower gained](#)

INSTAGRAM - 55 posts

985 engagements (4.45% engagement rate)

22K impressions (more than 50% increase on previous week)

FACEBOOK - 50 posts

476 engagements (5.5% engagement rate)

20K impressions (25% increase on previous week)

LINKEDIN (stats only provided two days later, so up to 22 March) - 11 posts

3.3K impressions

Communications stand

A branded communications stand helped give visibility to the latest IPU publications, especially the new IPU 2022-2026 Strategy.

All of the stand's stock disappeared – rapidly in some cases – showing there is still a real demand for hard copies of IPU publications, particularly from countries in the developing world with limited access to broadband internet.

Photographs

Working closely with the photographers recruited by the host parliament, the IPU Communications team processed thousands of photographs each day and posted them on the IPU's Flickr channel.

Thousands of pictures were downloaded every day by Member Parliaments and then used to amplify the message of the Assembly to national audiences.

Membership of the Inter-Parliamentary Union*

Members (178)

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras**, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea**, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Associate Members (14)

Andean Parliament, Arab Parliament, Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), European Parliament, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), Pan-African Parliament, Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF)

* As at the close of the 144th Assembly.

** Non-participating Members (all rights suspended)

Agenda, resolutions and other texts of the 144th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 144th Assembly
2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General Debate on the theme *Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change*
4. *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace*
(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)
5. *Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic*
(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development)
6. Reports of the Standing Committees
7. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development for the 146th Assembly and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs
8. Emergency item: *Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity*

Nusa Dua Declaration

Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change

*Endorsed by the 144th IPU Assembly
(Nusa Dua, 24 March 2022)*

We, Members of Parliament, gathered together at the 144th IPU Assembly in Nusa Dua, Indonesia, recognize the urgent need to address the climate crisis. Climate change poses an existential threat to humankind and immediate action must be taken to minimize its worst impacts.

Our current economic structures, energy use practices and food systems are causing devastating consequences in all regions of the world, including hotter temperatures, an increase in extreme weather events, sea level rise and the loss of biodiversity. Flooding and cyclones have caused large-scale population displacement in South Asia. Recurrent droughts in East and Southern Africa have repeatedly destroyed crops and caused widespread food insecurity. Rising sea levels are reducing the land mass of small, low-lying nations across the Pacific.

The recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) show that the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, or even 2 degrees Celsius, will be unreachable unless there are immediate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions,¹ and that irreversible damage from climate change is already occurring.² The burning of fossil fuels, increased livestock farming and deforestation are all major causes of rising emissions. Implementation of the Paris Agreement,³ the landmark legally binding international climate change treaty, is critical for ensuring that countries make rapid and deep cuts in their emissions so that we reach a climate neutral world by 2050.

As parliamentarians, we must ensure that the climate commitments outlined in the Paris Agreement and other international agreements, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, are met. As representatives of the people, we must ensure that the needs of our populations, particularly those on the front lines of climate change, are addressed. We acknowledge that there are costs to addressing climate change, but the costs of inaction are far greater.

The science is clear and instructive: to keep the 1.5 degrees target within reach, we must achieve net zero emissions by producing less carbon than the amount we take out of the atmosphere by the second half of this century. We must demonstrate strong political leadership in setting the framework required for net zero emissions.

Inadequate climate finance remains a major obstacle to effective climate action, particularly for developing countries. Developed countries should urgently fulfil their promises to address this funding gap, namely the US\$ 100 billion pledge for climate finance by 2020 that is generally understood to have been missed. Ample, sustainable and predictable climate finance, particularly for adaptation, needs to be provided to developing countries in light of the findings outlined in the recently released IPCC Working Group 2 report.⁴ It is essential that funding for mitigation is matched by equal resources for adaptation. The scaling-up of adaptation investments should prioritize least developed countries, small island developing states, and other high-risk countries, including those that are landlocked, mountainous or low-lying. Developing countries often have very low greenhouse gas emissions yet pay a higher price for climate change. Developed countries have the imperative responsibility not only to reduce their own emissions but also to ensure that sufficient resources and technologies to combat climate change are made available to developing countries with low emissions.

We therefore pledge to use all powers at our disposal to ensure that there are effective laws and appropriate budgets to bolster climate action, including supporting the transition to clean energy and strengthening adaptation. We must also scrutinize our governments' response to the climate crisis and hold them accountable over their actions to implement international and national climate change agreements and policies.

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/2021/08/09/ar6-wg1-20210809-pr/>

² https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FinalDraft_FullReport.pdf

³ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf

⁴ https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FinalDraft_FullReport.pdf

As representatives of the people, we commit to meeting the needs of our constituents, particularly those most at risk, resulting from climate change impacts. We recognize the need to hold open, constructive dialogues with our constituents to discuss emerging climate issues. We must also engage the public, including youth and the civil society groups that represent them, in formal parliamentary processes including hearings and examination of new climate legislation.

Strengthening national-level action to meet global commitments

Parliaments have a responsibility to ensure that robust and ambitious national laws on climate change are put in place that are directly aligned with the Paris Agreement, including its Nationally Determined Contributions, the Sustainable Development Goals, and national climate and development policies and strategies. Progress on climate action and sustainable development is interdependent. We therefore pledge to adopt and implement laws that are mutually reinforcing in those respects.

Countries around the globe have expressed the importance of stronger climate action, yet the recent 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) reaffirmed that the current level of ambition is insufficient, and that not enough is being done on implementation in order to translate commitments into action. From now on, we must adopt national laws and policies designed to close the gap between ambition and implementation.

To increase ambition, we commit to enshrining a net zero emissions target in law and to implementing a legal framework on emissions. National legislative and policy frameworks on climate change must include clear, time-bound targets to facilitate oversight and accountability.

Accelerating a clean energy transition for a green COVID-19 recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic has had far-reaching health, social and economic consequences. Despite these challenges, the pandemic recovery period presents an opportunity to introduce fundamental changes to our current unsustainable energy systems. Such changes are desperately needed if we want to contain rising temperatures before it is too late.

We must accelerate the clean energy transition to mitigate climate change. This requires a major reallocation of resources from highly polluting energy sources, such as fossil fuels, to renewable energy. The laws we introduce as parliamentarians must incentivize green investment and prioritize budget allocations for low-carbon activities, including as part of COVID-19 recovery packages. We must raise awareness of the economic benefits of a clean energy transition and its potential to create millions of new jobs. We should phase out fossil fuel subsidies and increase the cost of emission allowances. The current energy crisis, in which we are witnessing the soaring prices of fossil fuels, makes the case for transitioning to renewable energy even more urgent. As part of the process, we may wish to explore the use of nuclear energy as a clean source of energy.

We must match our efforts to scale up renewable energy investments with an equal commitment to increase universal access to affordable and clean energy, with particular attention being paid to access for the poorest groups in society. The energy transition should be just and inclusive and not have disproportionate impacts on developing countries, nor on marginalized or underrepresented groups. We must consider the potential economic implications of a clean energy transition for the most vulnerable and support the creation of alternative employment opportunities for people who have been employed in the fossil fuel industry. A green economy also needs to be a fair economy.

Towards inclusive climate action

Climate change does not affect everyone equally. Marginalized and underrepresented members of society, including women, youth, indigenous people, minorities and people with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by climate change as a result of unequal access to socio-economic and political rights. The climate crisis is exacerbating existing inequalities. Climate change can reinforce harmful gender norms and power dynamics that adversely impact women and girls, thereby heightening their risk of food insecurity and gender-based violence.

We must respond to the needs of the most at-risk members of the population through positive climate action. We therefore pledge to approach the legal framework on climate action through a socially inclusive, pro-poor and gender-responsive lens so that it may be truly comprehensive, effective and sustainable. Research indicates that greater representation of women in national parliaments leads

countries to adopt more stringent climate change policies.⁵ However, there is currently a lack of women in national and global policy spaces. We are committed to increasing women's political participation in the interests of both gender equality and inclusive climate action.

We should also adopt inclusive climate solutions that simultaneously reduce the exposure of marginalized and underrepresented groups to climate change, while also empowering them to become climate leaders themselves. In many parts of the world, youth are already leading the climate movement and we must strengthen intergenerational dialogue to ensure that the justifiable demands of youth for a healthy planet are met.

The climate crisis is affecting human rights. Climate change is forcing people to uproot their lives and move, particularly those living in resource-scarce conflict situations. As such, concerns over climate displacement and climate migration are growing. As of 2020, there were an estimated seven million internally displaced people due to disasters, including those caused by climate change, most notably in Asia and the Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Americas.⁶ The rights of persons displaced due to climate change must be respected. In October 2021, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a landmark resolution that recognizes for the first time that having a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right.⁷ Additionally, young people and future generations have the same right to a healthy planet as generations before them, and yet this right is being grossly violated. To promote environmental and intergenerational justice, we pledge to take account of these issues, reflect them in our national laws and guarantee accountability when such rights are violated.

Promoting greener parliaments

To further encourage sustainability, we must work to reduce our own carbon footprints at an institutional level. We must lead by example and reduce the emissions of our own parliaments, including through changes to energy usage and procurement practices, by building sustainability, and the optimized use of digital tools and technology. By greening our operations and practices as institutions, we will further demonstrate our commitment to climate action. To further boost climate awareness, parliaments can implement climate training for parliamentarians and staff, and hold regular knowledge exchanges with experts on climate change.

Enhancing regional and global cooperation for joint climate solutions

Climate change knows no boundaries and its impacts do not respect national borders. International cooperation is therefore crucial, particularly for addressing transboundary climate risks. In view of the importance of strong regional and global inter-parliamentary cooperation, we will continue to discuss shared challenges, foster innovation and build partnerships for jointly tackling the climate crisis.

National, regional and global peace and security are paramount for effectively addressing climate change. Conflict and war have profound negative environmental consequences and divert vital resources from climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Recent geopolitical developments have also heightened the risk of nuclear incidents, by design or miscalculation, with potential catastrophic impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity. Therefore, as noted in our own Resolution⁸ adopted in Geneva in 2014, we must make the abolition of nuclear weapons a priority.

We recognize the value of convening parliamentary meetings at the annual United Nations Climate Change Conferences to amplify the parliamentary voice in global climate change negotiations. These meetings provide a key opportunity to reflect on progress made in implementing the Paris Agreement and to identify ways to further scale up parliamentary action for the climate. In the lead up to the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) that will be hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt in November 2022, we reiterate the importance of delivering on the outcomes of COP26 and call upon parties to expedite implementation of their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and to further revise and update their NDCs, as well as to work towards the setting of a post-2025 climate finance goal.

⁵ <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2019/09/countries-with-more-female-politicians-pass-more-ambitious-climate-policies-study-suggests/>

⁶ <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2021/>

⁷ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G21/289/50/PDF/G2128950.pdf?OpenElement>

⁸ <http://archive.ipu.org/conf-e/130/Res-1.htm>

To further accelerate climate action, we will also strive to strengthen partnerships with key international organizations and forums working on climate change, including the Climate Vulnerable Forum, the Global Center on Adaptation, the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Environment Programme.

We also recognize the importance of convening parliaments regionally and sub-regionally to exchange insights on context-specific challenges and good parliamentary practices on climate change. In line with the IPU 2022-2026 Strategy,⁹ which prioritizes climate action, we urge the IPU to continue bringing parliaments together to advance climate knowledge and build parliamentary capacity to legislate and oversee their governments' response to climate change. Parliaments should maximize their participation in the IPU's work by being accountable to one another and by striving to minimize their carbon footprint through increased use of virtual technology for parliamentary exchanges. We also encourage the IPU to develop a robust climate policy for its own activities.

Parliaments also need to build a stronger relationship with the private sector, including with transnational corporations. It is essential to assess the responsibility of the private sector for the negative environmental impacts resulting from corporations' global practices. We must also support further innovation by the private sector to find novel solutions to mitigate global warming and reduce emissions, including through new technologies.

As Members of Parliament, we strongly and solemnly agree that it is only through international cooperation on climate change that we can address increasing risks, build solidarity and find lasting concrete solutions and possibilities for a more sustainable world for future generations.

⁹ <https://www.ipu.org/file/13678/download>

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

***Resolution adopted by consensus* by the 144th IPU Assembly
(Nusa Dua, 24 March 2022)***

The 144th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the tenets and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

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,

Recalling further the international community's commitment to preventing conflict and achieving sustainable peace contained in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16 on providing access to justice and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies,

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,

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),

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),

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 internationalized,

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,

Cognizant that peace is not synonymous with the absence of violent conflict, to which no society is immune; that the root causes of conflict are a combination of inequalities, underdevelopment, grievances, and 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,

* The delegation of India expressed reservations on preambular paragraphs 5 and 13, and operative paragraph 17.

Recognizing that resolved conflicts have a tendency to recur and that there are fewer ongoing peace processes than there are conflicts,

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,

Recognizing further the importance of adherence to the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the fundamental principles of international law, including the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States, and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States,

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,

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,

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,

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,

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,

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,

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

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,

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,

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,

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

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,

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,

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

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,

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,

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

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, 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 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 UN 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 the "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 sharing of good practices 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.

Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic

***Resolution adopted unanimously by the 144th IPU Assembly
(Nusa Dua, 24 March 2022)***

The 144th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Welcoming Sustainable Development Goal 4, the Incheon Declaration and the United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation that all recognize the importance of equitable access to information and communication technology (ICT) in education,

Encouraging the use of ICT to support, enhance and optimize the delivery of information to create new teaching methods and improve learning results while paying attention to challenges in terms of human rights, equity and inclusion, security and privacy, infrastructure, connectivity and the financing of expensive digital capacities,

Recognizing the fact that the world had been facing a global learning crisis long before the COVID-19 pandemic started,

Aware that, according to the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in 2016, over 600 million children and adolescents were estimated to be not reaching minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics, and that an estimated 53 per cent of children in low- and middle-income countries cannot read proficiently by age 10, a phenomenon the World Bank defined as "Learning Poverty",

Welcoming the United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) call to address the learning crisis and urgently increase finance for education for children, with special attention to the disadvantaged and marginalized – children living with disabilities, migrant and refugee children, and children in remote areas,

Highlighting Sustainable Development Goal 10 and the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated gaps between rural and urban areas, with a critical impact on the education of children, especially the disadvantaged ones, and that Africa and Asia account for nearly two-thirds of the 463 million school children unable to access remote learning,

Noting that learning is the right of every child,

Bearing in mind that remote learning can open up vast opportunities in bridging disparities between urban and remote areas, by bringing new applications to classrooms, as well as by reaching out to families in times of pandemic, but that it can also expose children to a myriad of risks including cyberbullying, and online abuse and exploitation,

Welcoming technological development that creates more opportunities with smaller and more effective devices, more inventive applications, and more interactive solutions,

Acknowledging that digitalization is pivotal in accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but aware that unequal access to broadband internet can deepen inequalities between and within countries, between the poorest and richest households, women and men, girls and boys, and among different communities, including indigenous communities, in rural, remote and urban areas,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries to help low-income countries build their science, technology and innovation capacity,

Noting that in-person social interactions are important to children and adolescents,

Acknowledging that countries come from very different starting points in terms of their capacity to acquire technological devices and in terms of teaching staff, and emphasizing the importance of stakeholders, including the international community, to provide adequate capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries,

Reminding parliaments and governments that, according to the estimates of UNICEF, every dollar invested in increasing enrolment in pre-primary education returns US\$ 4 to 9 in benefits to society,

Recognizing that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples and their right to their own language, culture and religion, and that the realization of these rights must be supported by education systems and institutions that reflect their cultural methods of teaching and learning,

Noting that remote learning requires more self-discipline from pupils and their families, the lack of which is a major contributing factor to the digital divide between pupils,

Stressing that digital and remote learning can never fully replace in-person learning as vocational teaching in many fields requires in-person learning on site,

Recognizing the critical role of the private sector in ICT infrastructure, content and services, and also the importance of public-private partnerships and other approaches to that end,

Recognizing also that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to advancement of all the SDGs, and emphasizing the need to promote and target iSTEAM-subjects (Innovation, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) to narrow the gender digital divide,

1. *Stresses* that device access (computers, laptops, mobile phones and others), digital literacy and skills, and affordable and well-functioning internet connections are the basis of an infrastructure necessary to leverage ICT as an enabler for the education sector;
2. *Underlines* that the pedagogical skills and ICT literacy of teachers and assisting staff are of key importance in all learning, including in the use of ICT devices and applications, and in teaching methods that support the introduction of ICT skills, and therefore that learners, teachers and assisting staff's ICT skills require constant updating and training;
3. *Calls for* teachers' ICT skills to be constantly improved and developed to adapt to new information technology to effectively apply and unlock its full benefits, including to maximize the quality of behavioural learning during the digital education process;
4. *Calls upon* parliaments and governments to pass necessary legislation on adequate support and needed infrastructure to enable effective ICT training of teachers and digital solutions to be part of curricula in their countries based on their national digital situations, while bearing in mind that funding for learning conditions and more basic teaching equipment should not be compromised;
5. *Welcomes* holistic thinking to create ecosystems which integrate ICT, digital content and digital skills with the capacities of teachers and policy makers to build resilient education systems;
6. *Emphasizes* that hybrid teaching arrangements, including both in-person and remote learning, significantly increase the workload of teachers, which must be taken into consideration when compensating the salary and benefits of the teaching staff, and that sufficient measures must be taken to avoid overburdening teachers;
7. *Calls for* parliaments to encourage their respective governments to develop effective tools for tackling all forms of online security risk, harassment and bullying, and legal frameworks for zero-tolerance policies against such offences to create a safe and non-discriminatory learning environment;
8. *Stresses* the importance of evaluating and monitoring of education results as one of the cornerstones of measuring the success of education policies and teaching methods;
9. *Encourages* governments to keep the number of pupils in classes small if necessary to curb the spread of pandemics, and to ensure efficient teaching and learning processes;
10. *Emphasizes* the key role of families in supporting children, especially in the early stages of education, in learning, both in the learning process itself and in understanding the importance of education;

11. *Stresses* that digital and remote learning can never fully replace in-person learning as vocational teaching in many fields requires in-person learning on site, but also that there are demonstrable benefits to remote learning for students for whom in-person learning on site is problematic and that it is therefore important to recognize the benefits of remote learning to engage these students;
12. *Urges* parliaments to pay special attention to equity, language, local content and accessibility, particularly for persons living with disability, when legislating in the education sector, including in the use of ICT;
13. *Also urges* governments and the private sector to work together to remove technological barriers by investing in digital infrastructure and lowering connectivity and device costs, and to support open educational resources and open digital access;
14. *Invites* parliaments and governments to support the United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries in its efforts to bridge the digital divide;
15. *Underlines* that women are a large, untapped learning resource as women and girls are often prevented from using ICT and particularly the internet, and, at the same time, that educated women have a great impact on societal development by contributing to more stable, resilient societies that give all individuals – including boys and men and marginalized citizens – the opportunity to fulfil their potential;
16. *Calls upon* parliaments and governments to ensure policies and resources allocated to encourage the use of ICT in education and ICT-related training and employment serve to empower women and girls, including by setting targets, quotas and other positive measures;
17. *Encourages* governments to include in their development cooperation programmes assistance in technology transfer in the education sector and support in teacher training to empower students to learn from practical experiences and motivate creative and innovative mindsets;
18. *Also encourages* governments to invest more in ICT learning, research, development and innovation, which are an essential cornerstone in modern human resource development;
19. *Further encourages* governments to provide vitally important support functions, such as free meals in schools, because well-nourished pupils can concentrate better and get better learning results, and also because free meals in schools can be an added incentive especially to poorer families for sending their children to school;
20. *Invites* governments to engage the youth in the development of plans and strategies in the short and medium term, to chart the obstacles that may arise, and to look for new opportunities in introducing ICT in education;
21. *Invites* parliaments and governments to look into possible partnerships with United Nations organizations such as UNESCO and UNICEF, as well as industries and businesses, to accelerate the use of ICT in the post-pandemic education system;
22. *Encourages*, in federated and decentralized states where education may be a responsibility shared by more than one level of government, the various legislative and executive bodies to find ways to collaborate on the measures and initiatives highlighted in the present resolution;
23. *Emphasizes* the importance of sustainable digital skills and digital literacies in narrowing the digital divide and enhancing inclusion to empower students and build a modern, interactive and flexible learning environment for a better tomorrow;
24. *Calls upon* parliaments to enact legislation and standards that regulate the process of remote education and e-learning, including the recognition and adoption of certificates at all levels;
25. *Calls upon* parliaments and governments not to compromise or reduce budgets for education, including e-learning, and to share good strategies and practices to support the key role of the educational system for the state and all members of society.

The role of parliaments in supporting a peaceful resolution to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict

Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Indonesia for the inclusion of an emergency item

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes389 Total of affirmative and negative votes ..861
 Negative votes472 Two-thirds majority574
 Abstentions162

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan		Absent		India			23	Portugal		13	
Algeria	16			Indonesia	22			Qatar	11		
Andorra		10		Iran (Islamic Republic of)	19			Republic of Korea		Absent	
Angola	14			Israel		10	2	Rwanda		10	
Armenia	11			Italy		10		San Marino		10	
Australia		10		Japan			20	Sao Tome and Principe		Absent	
Austria		12		Jordan	12			Saudi Arabia		Absent	
Bahrain	11			Kazakhstan	13			Senegal	10		
Bangladesh		Absent		Kenya		Absent		Seychelles			10
Belarus	13			Kuwait	11			Sierra Leone		Absent	
Belgium		13		Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	South Africa	17		
Benin		Absent		Latvia		9		South Sudan		Absent	
Botswana		11		Madagascar		Absent		Spain		Absent	
Bulgaria		10		Malawi		10		Sri Lanka		Absent	
Cabo Verde			10	Malaysia		Absent		Suriname	5		5
Cambodia	11			Maldives			10	Sweden		13	
Chile		13		Malta			8	Switzerland		12	
China	20			Mauritius			11	Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
Croatia		10		Mexico			18	Thailand	18		
Czech Republic		13		Monaco		10		Timor-Leste	4	7	
DR of the Congo		17		Morocco		Absent		Turkey	9		10
Denmark		12		Mozambique			13	Uganda		Absent	
Ecuador		13		Namibia	11			United Arab Emirates	11		
Egypt		20		Nepal		Absent		United Kingdom		18	
Equatorial Guinea		Absent		Netherlands		11		United Republic of Tanzania	17		
Estonia		11		New Zealand		12		Uruguay		10	
Eswatini		Absent		Niger	13			Viet Nam	19		
Finland		12		Nigeria	20			Yemen	11		
France		18		Norway		12		Zambia	3		10
Germany		19		Oman	11			Zimbabwe	13		
Ghana		14		Pakistan		Absent					
Greece		13		Paraguay		8					
Guinea		13		Poland		15					
Guyana		Absent									
Iceland		8									

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Articles 5.2 and 5.3 of the Statutes.

Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity

Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of New Zealand for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes..... 577
 Negative votes 188
 Abstentions 258

Total of affirmative and negative votes ..765
 Two-thirds majority.....510

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan		Absent		India			23	Portugal	13		
Algeria			16	Indonesia		22		Qatar			11
Andorra	10			Iran (Islamic Republic of)		19		Republic of Korea		Absent	
Angola			14	Israel	12			Rwanda	10		
Armenia			11	Italy	10			San Marino	10		
Australia	10			Japan	20			Sao Tome and Principe		Absent	
Austria	12			Jordan			12	Saudi Arabia		Absent	
Bahrain		11		Kazakhstan			13	Senegal		10	
Bangladesh		Absent		Kenya		Absent		Seychelles	10		
Belarus		13		Kuwait			11	Sierra Leone		Absent	
Belgium	13			Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	South Africa		17	
Benin		Absent		Latvia	9			South Sudan		Absent	
Botswana	11			Madagascar		Absent		Spain		Absent	
Bulgaria	10			Malawi	10			Sri Lanka		Absent	
Cabo Verde	10			Malaysia		Absent		Suriname	7		3
Cambodia			11	Maldives	10			Sweden	13		
Chile	13			Malta	8			Switzerland	12		
China			20	Mauritius	11			Syrian Arab Rep.		13	
Croatia	10			Mexico	18			Thailand			18
Czech Republic	13			Monaco	10			Timor-Leste	7	4	
DR of the Congo	17			Morocco		Absent		Turkey	19		
Denmark	12			Mozambique			13	Uganda		Absent	
Ecuador	13			Namibia			11	United Arab Emirates		11	
Egypt			20	Nepal		Absent		United Kingdom	18		
Equatorial Guinea		Absent		Netherlands	11			United Republic of Tanzania			17
Estonia	11			New Zealand	12			Uruguay	10		
Eswatini		Absent		Niger		13		Viet Nam			19
Finland	12			Nigeria		20		Yemen		11	
France	18			Norway	12			Zambia	10		3
Germany	19			Oman		11		Zimbabwe		13	
Ghana	14			Pakistan		Absent					
Greece	13			Paraguay	8						
Guinea	13			Poland	15						
Guyana		Absent									
Iceland	8										

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Articles 5.2 and 5.3 of the Statutes.

Peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, respecting international law, the Charter of the United Nations and territorial integrity

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 144th IPU Assembly
(Nusa Dua, 23 March 2022)*

The 144th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling that the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the global organization of national parliaments working for peace, democracy, human rights and development,

Conscious of the historical legacy of the IPU in facilitating peaceful engagement through dialogue and diplomacy and noting the Belgrade Declaration on strengthening international law, parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation, adopted at the 141st IPU Assembly in Serbia, in which the IPU agreed to dedicate itself to international peace and the rule of law,

Recalling that, on 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation launched a full-scale military attack invading the sovereign nation of Ukraine and its people,

Committed to ensuring total adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (1945) and mindful of national commitments to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948),

Reiterating that the Charter of the United Nations prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of states,

Recognizing the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, as referred to in United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 68/262 of March 2014,

Recalling UNGA resolution 76/234 on promoting international cooperation on peaceful uses in the context of international security, adopted in December 2021,

Recalling also United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, adopted in October 2000, which addresses the impact of war on women and the importance of women's full and equal participation in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction,

Welcoming the adoption of UNGA resolution ES-11/L.1 of March 2022 deploring the aggression of the Russian Federation and demanding that it immediately cease the use of force against Ukraine and withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine as defined by its internationally recognized borders,

Recalling that, under Article 5 of the Annex to UNGA resolution 3314 (XXIX) of December 1974 on the definition of aggression, no consideration of whatever nature, whether political, economic, military or otherwise, may serve as a justification for aggression and that a war of aggression is a crime against international peace,

Recalling also that, since 24 February 2022, the ongoing war in Ukraine has caused immense human suffering, with thousands of civilians killed, many more wounded and millions displaced, in particular women, children, the elderly and the disabled,

Gravely concerned at the threat to global peace and security posed by the Russian Federation's decision to order its nuclear forces onto a special regime of operation and a "high alert" level of readiness, and noting the urgency for the Russian Federation to withdraw this threat and refrain from making such threats,

Noting that the Russian Federation has committed an act of aggression that may constitute a violation of a fundamental rule of international law,

Reaffirming that any hostilities amounting to an armed conflict are strictly governed by the rules of international humanitarian law and human rights law,

Acknowledging with deepest appreciation the incredible bravery, commitment and resolve of the people of Ukraine in the face of such adversity, including the unwavering commitment of fellow parliamentarians in the Verkhovna Rada to uphold democracy despite the significant personal risks they have faced,

Recalling the Statement on Ukraine issued by the Executive Committee of the IPU on 26 February 2022 and presented to the Governing Council on 21 March 2022, and reaffirming the IPU's willingness to impartially mediate for a peaceful resolution and to listen to all parties in the hostilities,

1. *Notes with concern* the war in Ukraine, which threatens the long-standing peace and security of the European region, and its wider repercussions for global security and potentially global economic uncertainties and global complexities;
2. *Condemns* the ongoing Russian use of force against Ukraine as a violation of Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations, including the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity recognized by all UN Member States;
3. *Deplores* the use of missiles and artillery by the Russian Federation targeting civilian objects and populations in violation of international humanitarian law;
4. *Expresses concern* regarding the attacks against medical units and personnel, and improper use of military emblems, insignia and uniforms of the adversary by the Russian Federation, in violation of international humanitarian law; and appeals to all IPU Members to engage immediately to join UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO in calling for an immediate cessation of all attacks on healthcare units in Ukraine and facilitating the safe passage of humanitarian support and aid to Ukraine;
5. *Calls for* full compliance with the rules of international humanitarian law;
6. *Urges* countries to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine to alleviate the hardships now faced by its civilian population caused by this war;
7. *Calls upon* all nations able to assist to open their borders on a humanitarian basis to provide sanctuary and support for refugees fleeing Ukraine;
8. *Encourages* parliaments to deploy their utmost efforts in accordance with their respective duties, mandates and obligations to call on their respective national governments to bring this act of aggression to an end and enable the parties to resolve their differences through peaceful and sustainable means;
9. *Encourages* all IPU Member Parliaments to jointly support all peaceful efforts to de-escalate the current violent military attack on the people, towns and cities of Ukraine;
10. *Calls upon* the parties involved to establish humanitarian corridors, ensure the safe passage of all civilians, particularly women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, and respect the human rights of refugees in line with UN conventions;
11. *Calls upon* IPU Member Parliaments to do their utmost to facilitate humanitarian assistance to and support for those fleeing this war; and to ensure full and equal participation of women in the peace dialogues between parliamentarians of both countries;
12. *Appeals* to Members of Parliament in both the Russian Federation and Ukraine to promote initiatives to cease hostilities and resolve differences through peaceful, diplomatic means;

13. *Calls upon* all governments with influence over both countries to accelerate diplomatic efforts to agree an immediate ceasefire resulting in the Russian Federation withdrawing its forces from Ukraine;
14. *Calls upon* the IPU to use its good offices to encourage dialogue between parliamentarians in both countries in support of diplomatic efforts under the framework of a rules-based international order respecting the principles of sovereignty and complete avoidance of interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation, and recommends that the IPU establish a Task Force on the situation in Ukraine to facilitate the role of parliaments in formulating feasible peaceful solutions.

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- * After the adoption of the Resolution, a number of delegations took the floor to express their reservations:
- **Bahrain, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe** expressed reservations to operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 4, as well as to operative paragraphs 8 (UAE and Zimbabwe) and 9 (Zimbabwe)
 - **China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam** expressed a reservation to the entire text of the Resolution
- Belarus** and **South Africa** expressed their opposition to the Resolution.

Report of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

*Noted by the 144th IPU Assembly
(Nusa Dua, 24 March 2022)*

The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights held its sittings on 22 and 23 March. Both sittings were chaired by the President of the Standing Committee Mr. A. Gajadien (Suriname).

Preparatory debate on the next resolution: *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.*

The debate took place on Tuesday 22 March. The session was introduced by Mr. F. Zon (Indonesia), co-Rapporteur, Mr. U. Lechte (Germany) representing the co-Rapporteur Mr. J. Wadephul, Ms. P. Patten, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and Mr. S. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), IPU Honorary President.

The Rapporteurs and panellists pointed out that, alongside war, conflict and political tensions, poverty and inequality were major drivers of migration. Over the decades to come, climate-related natural disasters would also become a major cause of migration. A long-term, intergenerational view was necessary.

That global phenomenon required concerted responses and holistic approaches grounded in human rights. That implied paying particular attention to the multiple forms of exploitation and abuse to which those who migrated – either voluntarily or forcibly – could be subjected. Human trafficking, and labour and sexual exploitation affected migrant and refugee women and girls in a disproportionate and differentiated manner. Sexual violence and child marriage increased in times of conflict. Patriarchal norms and systems and the lack of economic and educational opportunities increased the vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking and exploitation. It was therefore necessary to address existing inequalities, and to ensure that labour and migration laws were gender-responsive and that all those at risk were protected by asylum regimes.

Comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation and enforcement mechanisms must be survivor-centered, child-sensitive, gender-sensitive and human rights focused. Victim-centered support services must be inclusive and accessible. Cross-border collaboration must be reinforced. Borders should remain open to all fleeing conflict regardless of their nationality and religion. All States had a duty to combat human trafficking. Parliamentarians had a key role to play to avoid that the issue of migration was held hostage to national, regional and global politics. The protection of those who were marginalized and disadvantaged must be placed at the centre.

During the debate, 25 delegates from all geopolitical groups took the floor. They stressed the importance of ratifying key international treaties, including those related to transnational organized crime and trafficking, and of translating them into domestic legislation. They also recalled the need to support and implement the Global Compact for Migration. In the context of international cooperation, bilateral agreements were equally important.

Delegates further highlighted their concern at organ trafficking and the need for strong legal and law enforcement measures to address it. Addressing the root causes of trafficking included ensuring access to education to all and economic development. Delegates shared their concern at populist anti-migration rhetoric and stressed the importance of a rights-based approach to migration. They also highlighted the fact that host countries could at times face particular difficulties, especially in times of a rapid increase in asylum requests due to conflict. It was, therefore, necessary to share the hosting responsibility among States.

Debate on the theme: *The role of parliaments in reconciling health measures during a pandemic with the preservation of civil liberties.*

The debate took place on Tuesday, 22 March. It was introduced by Ms. G. Jourda (France), along with Mr. Y. Leterme, former Prime Minister of Belgium and Chair of the Global Commission on Democracy and Emergencies, and Mr. L. Gostin, Professor of Global Health Law at Georgetown University.

Thirteen delegates took the floor during the debate. They observed that during the Covid-19 pandemic, restrictive measures had been taken in almost every country in order to preserve public health. Those measures, such as lockdowns and school closures, had frequently been of a scale that would have seemed unimaginable before the pandemic. They had a serious impact on individual freedoms. Meanwhile, the situation also required parliaments in many countries to adapt the normal legislative procedures in similar situations.

The discussion focused on how to find the appropriate balance between preserving civil liberties while responding to a pandemic. Mr. Leterme shared conclusions from the report of the Global Commission on Democracies and Emergencies, drawing attention in particular to the fundamental importance of parliamentary oversight. Parliament must always have the means to play its role, even at times of crisis.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Gostin drew out five key principles to guide decision-makers which the delegates recognized were of particular importance. Those principles were as follows:

1. Don't interfere with individual liberties unless there is a significant risk to public health.
2. Take an evidence-based approach, that is based on science and data.
3. Do everything possible to maintain trust in science and the work of public health agencies, which must be preserved from the politics of the day.
4. Only impose measures to the extent that is needed to achieve a legitimate public health objective. When there is a choice between different measures that could be taken, take the one that is least onerous for society.
5. Last, but perhaps most importantly, the principles of fairness and equity. Keep in mind that the law is just a means. The end itself is justice. Parliamentarians have to lead in ways that are wise and fair.

The Covid-19 pandemic had aggravated inequalities within countries but also between countries. The practice of rich countries hoarding vaccines while other countries could not get access to them was just one example.

Delegates noted that the pandemic had amplified mental health challenges, particularly that of young people who had often been deprived of their right to education.

Delegates also shared examples of how they had carried out oversight during the pandemic and held the government to account for the measures that it was taking. One example was that of using a human rights perspective to assess governmental measures for their legality, proportionality, necessity and accountability.

Although the debate did not offer concrete answers it allowed for an exchange of experiences and ideas that delegates would be able to use in their national parliaments.

Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 144th IPU Assembly
(Nusa Dua, 24 March 2022)*

The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs met in plenary session on 23 March with Ms. S.A. Noor (Kenya) in the chair. Due to the parallel debate on the emergency item on the war in Ukraine, only 24 parliamentary delegations comprising some 50 parliamentarians attended. The session consisted of two panel discussions with high-level United Nations officials.

The first panel on the theme *The UN field presence in support of national development: the case of Indonesia* featured the following UN organizations' representatives working in Indonesia: Mr. J. Kazi, UN Women Indonesia Representative and Liaison to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and Ms. T. Boonto, UNAIDS Indonesia Country Director. Mr. H. Ali Mufthi (Member of Parliament, Indonesia), gave a presentation on the Indonesian Parliament's interaction with UN organizations.

The UN system is present in most developing countries with a team of officers headed by a Regional Coordinator (RC) who represents the UN Secretary-General. The UN Country Team (UNCT), also present on the spot, manages a portfolio of development projects that is agreed with the government. Over the years, the IPU has advocated for a closer relationship between these UN country representatives and the host-country's parliament.

The representatives from UNAIDS and UN Women gave an overview of their activities in Indonesia. They stressed the hard living conditions for poor and marginalized people in the country. Special problems involved the lack of participation of women in public life, violence against women, the difficult situation of HIV/Aids infected persons and, in general, the lack of women's empowerment. Mr. H. Ali Mufthi focused his remarks on the importance attributed to the SDGs in numerous parliamentary initiatives.

The Chair encouraged delegates to share their experiences with the UN representatives in their respective countries, including on the frequency and quality of the contacts. The discussion highlighted the difference in the roles and perceptions of UN personnel and members of parliament. The former wondered at times if their work got too political when they contacted parliaments. The latter needed more information on the work of UN representatives in their respective countries.

Seven parliamentarians took the floor. The exchanges with the panellists emphasized the need for more interaction between UN representatives and MPs in the very country. Several interveners thanked for the organization of the field visit that took place earlier in the day. One delegate was specifically interested in the evolving work in combating AIDS globally.

The second panel focused on the theme: *UN High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF) and preparation for the 2022 review session*.

The discussion focused on the 2022 HLPF's main theme centered on building back better from the coronavirus disease. There was a brief presentation of the results of the 2021 IPU survey of parliamentary engagement in the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) and of this year's survey which would involve 45 parliaments.

Delegates heard from three presenters: Mr. C. Chauvel, Global Lead and Asia-Pacific Focal Point, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Bangkok; Ms. P. Torsney (Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations in New York), and Ms. C. López Castro (Member of Parliament, Mexico).

In his presentation, Mr. Chauvel outlined the set-back in SDGs implementation due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine. Delegates discussed ways to better involve parliaments in the UN High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF) and its VNRs. Parliamentary awareness of the VNRs was still rather limited. Delegates of countries reporting in 2022 were advised to consult the IPU survey to be published in April.

All panellists underlined the importance of parliamentary participation in the VNRs. Mexico allowed different sectors of society to participate in establishing the VNR so as to make all national stakeholders more aware of their role in SDGs implementation. Mexico focused strongly on climate change in SDGs implementation. The Mexican Parliament had set up an informal committee to contribute to the report.

Nine parliamentarians took the floor with some delegates deploring the impact of the pandemic which had widened the gap between the developed world and the global south. Others stressed the role of parliaments both in building back after the pandemic as well as in implementing the SDGs and shared their respective national measures in SDGs implementation. Several delegates shared their parliaments' experiences in drafting SDGs implementation strategies and the VNRs.

The IPU Communications Strategy 2022-2026

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 209th session
(Nusa Dua, 21 March 2022)*

1. Introduction and overall objectives

The IPU Communications Strategy 2022-2026 is designed to boost our communications efforts to help the IPU achieve its strategic objectives in the next five years. It notes that the new overall IPU Strategy 2022-26 has identified communications as a cross-cutting driver of change.

This refreshed Communications Strategy builds on the work started in the previous IPU Communications Strategy 2019-2021 in which the IPU began its digital transformation, engaged actively with its Members through its communication channels and raised its visibility significantly in the media space.

The refreshed Communications Strategy moves from a three-year to a five-year cycle to better align with the overall Strategy. However, considering the rapidly evolving nature of communications, it may need to be reviewed on a more regular basis.

Overall, the principal objective of the refreshed Communications Strategy is to strengthen the IPU's positioning as the primary global resource **for, about and between parliaments**, targeted especially at the **46,000 parliamentarians** around the world.

The objective is to go beyond one-way communication that simply broadcasts and informs stakeholders about the IPU to actively engaging with them to make change happen.

IPU Communications aim to inspire all stakeholders in the parliamentary ecosystem to act on the IPU's new overall strategic objectives through bold messaging, compelling story-telling and strong calls to action. We want to drive the creation of online communities and digital spaces that allow the IPU's stakeholders to connect and learn from each other as well as reaching parliamentarians who don't normally engage with the IPU through its traditional activities.

IPU Communications will focus strictly on the priorities identified in the overall IPU Strategy. We will also work towards 'greener' communications to reduce our carbon footprint.

In terms of messaging, we will emphasize the uniqueness and added value of the IPU's global reach as well as its continuing relevance as demonstrated by its more than 13 decades of growth.

In line with Strategic Objective 5 of the IPU Strategy 2022-2026, member accountability is a critical success factor for the refreshed IPU Communications Strategy. The active contribution of IPU Members is instrumental for the IPU to become better known to the 46,000 parliamentarians in the world. A key element of the refreshed strategy will be to activate those parliamentarians, so they become domestic ambassadors for the organization.

The refreshed Communications Strategy is organized around three key work streams which are expanded in Section 2:

- accelerating the IPU's digital communications transformation;
- encouraging more engagement and accountability from and between IPU stakeholders;
- and increasing the IPU's influence and visibility.

The refreshed Strategy also includes a stakeholder engagement model in Section 3 and a timeline of the communications highlights of the year in Section 4.

2. Workstreams

2.1. Accelerating the IPU's digital communications transformation

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated much of the IPU's online development with, for example, significant investments in IT, improved technology for virtual meetings and the development of a new central database to better target our communications with MPs.

In the next strategy cycle, we will scale up efforts to create virtual inter-connected communities and activate parliamentarians who are not connected to the IPU through its traditional in-person activities.

Much of the investment will focus on the main IPU website, www.ipu.org, as well as supporting the development of other platforms, especially Parline, data.ipu.org, the IPU's open data source on parliaments. IPU Communications will also contribute towards the overall strategic development of the IPU's growing portfolio of digital platforms to ensure better linkages between them.

Investing in the IPU's primary digital platform

The main IPU website is the cornerstone of the IPU's digital communications strategy, also identified by the overwhelming majority of IPU stakeholders in a 2021 communications survey as their main source of information.¹

The launch of a new website and ongoing improvements in the past three years have led to hikes in the number of visitors, with over 370,000 people visiting the website in 2021 (up 24% compared to 2020) including many from new countries. The data is encouraging, with visitors spending more time on the website (pages viewed up 16% in 2021 compared to 2020) showing that they are interested in what the IPU has to offer.

To keep this upwards trajectory, we will reorganize the website to better align with the new overall IPU Strategy and continue improving user experiences, especially on mobile screens.

Refining our digital content production

We will continue to position the IPU as leading the narrative on parliamentary action to address global challenges. Building on the success of previous years, we will refine our content strategy with more strategic digital content.

This digital content – whether blog opinion pieces, news releases, interviews, social media posts, video or podcasts – will be positive and solutions-focused. We will counter misinformation to consolidate the IPU's voice as an authoritative and reliable source of news for, about and between parliaments. We will practise what we preach to produce content that is always gender-sensitive.

We will showcase follow-up actions to IPU initiatives to encourage more Member accountability, promote good parliamentary practices, cross-link with Parline data and make as much creative use as possible of IPU data, maps, visualizations, and facts and figures.

We will give more airtime to parliamentarians themselves through interviews such as the video series '[A conversation with...](#)' as well as experimenting with a new podcast series more suitable for in-depth interviews with parliamentarians.

Working closely with IPU partners, we will concentrate on fewer, but more strategic, publications and handbooks for parliamentarians, covering key policy priorities.

The handbooks in particular serve as important capacity-building tools to strengthen and empower parliaments who struggle sometimes with a lack of knowledge and data

We will also continue to cut down on paper, moving some of our content to online formats for a more interactive user experience, such as the [2020 Impact Report](#).

¹ 90 per cent of stakeholders polled said ipu.org was their principal source of information about the IPU

Supporting other digital platforms in the pipeline

The Communications Team will also support colleagues in implementing other IPU digital projects, particularly following the implementation of SharePoint in 2021-2022, a web-based collaborative platform for document management.

The platform will allow the IPU to create a Secretariat intranet, simplify some administrative workflows as well as plan for the possibility of a Members-only extranet, which will contain governance and Assembly documents for example.

Other projects in the pipeline over the next five-year cycle include support for a virtual or hybrid events platform, digital projects on counter-terrorism and an online learning website.

2.2. Encouraging more engagement and accountability from IPU stakeholders

One of the key elements of the refreshed Communications Strategy will be to improve engagement with IPU Members and the 46,000 parliamentarians around the world.

In line with the new overall IPU Strategy, we will go beyond looking at parliaments in isolation to considering the ecosystem in which they operate.

The primary focus will be to engage with the active Members of the IPU while trying to activate those who are less involved.

With only a small Secretariat team, we rely heavily on our Members to amplify our messaging to help us engage within their own parliaments as well as beyond to the general public.

Member engagement is weak with IPU communications and initiatives. As a result, we propose to stop creating elaborate communication toolkits for stakeholders which rarely get used.

We will also consider ways to show parliamentarians themselves the added value of becoming an IPU champion in their own countries.

We will streamline current ways of working so Members are clear on what is expected of them and how they can easily act as amplifiers for the Organization at the national level. Equally, we will regularly ask Members to demonstrate what actions they have taken to increase the visibility of the IPU in their national space. We will showcase those actions on our communications platforms to encourage other MPs to do the same.

Consolidating and centralizing our databases

To engage with our stakeholders, we need to identify how and where to contact them. In 2021, we invested heavily to centralize fragmented contact lists at the IPU into one central customer relationship database using software called Zoho.

At the beginning of 2022, the database contains around 12,000 contacts, most of whom are parliamentarians. The future Communications Strategy will concentrate on increasing and enriching their contact information to better target communications in the future.

More targeted outreach and communication campaigns

An enriched database, with more data on MPs' specific interests, will allow us to have more targeted communications campaigns as recommended in the new overall strategy.

For example, in 2021, the launch of the [*I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!*](#) campaign was a good opportunity to engage directly with parliamentarians interested in youth issues and to encourage them to pledge to rejuvenate their parliaments. In 2022, following Member feedback, we will launch a specific communications campaign on parliamentary action to address the climate emergency.

One of our direct marketing tools is the monthly IPU e-bulletin. In the past few years, the newsletter has seen strong growth, on which we will build in the next strategy cycle.

2.3. Increasing influence and visibility (both traditional and social media)

As part of the 2019-2021 Communications Strategy, we invested heavily in populating and curating our social media channels as well as in reaching out to journalists. In the next Strategy cycle, we will build on this work and take the IPU to the next level in terms of engagement on social media and more in-depth coverage in top-tier media outlets.

Encouraging more engagement through social media

On social media, the return on our efforts in the previous strategy cycle is encouraging, with a growing base of followers, reach and engagement on pre-existing channels Twitter, YouTube and Facebook as well as newer IPU accounts on Instagram and LinkedIn.

We will concentrate on fewer but more strategic posts and encourage more interaction by our Members on our social media platforms. Innovations such as projecting a social media wall during our flagship Assemblies have seen excellent participation from Members, which we will continue.

In the next strategy cycle, we will make it easier for IPU Members to reuse our video content or extracts of MP speeches. We will continue to live-stream major IPU events and offer the footage to parliamentary TV channels.

Increasing our influence through traditional media

Our influence both on social media and in traditional media is starting to pierce through. For example, followers on social media include top influencer journalists, as well as youth activists, partner organizations, think tanks, foundations and of course many parliamentarians.

In traditional media outlets, the IPU is increasingly recognized as the global authority on parliaments. IPU data on gender, violence against women, youth and innovation is frequently covered by top-tier international media and news agencies such as Reuters, CNN, AFP, El Pais or the Washington Post. Our work is also regularly cited in influential publications from, for example, the World Economic Forum or Cambridge University Press. We will enhance our relationships with national media where possible.²

One innovation in the refreshed Communications Strategy will be to promote national stories to the press, working with the parliament's own press teams where possible.

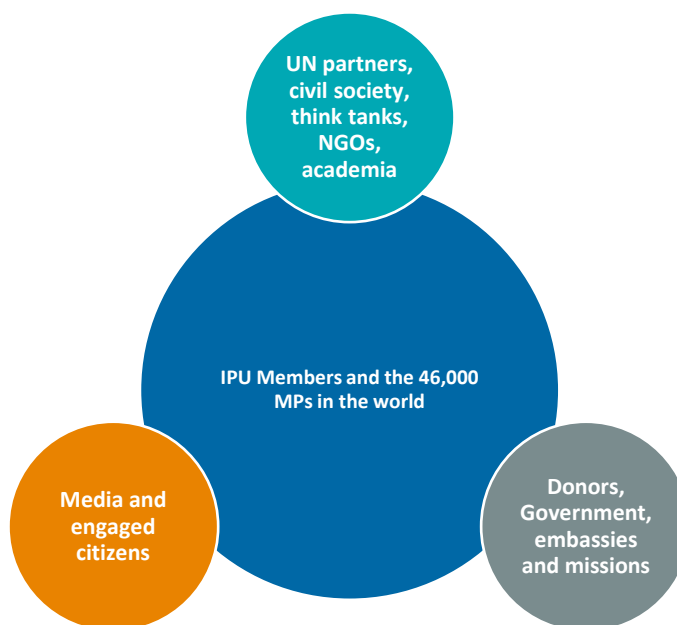
The launch of the first Cremer-Passy prize, the so-called 'MP of the year' award, will be a good annual opportunity to raise our visibility and the work of parliamentarians in a media-friendly way on 30 June, International Day of Parliamentarism and the anniversary of the IPU's foundation.

We will also continue to mark the International Day of Democracy on 15 September, also an important anniversary marking the adoption of the [IPU Universal Declaration on Democracy](#) in 1997.

3. IPU stakeholder engagement model

One novelty of the overall IPU strategy is to look at the ecosystem of stakeholders and dynamics in which parliaments operate. Below we have mapped out those stakeholders to better target our communications. The diagram shows overlapping circles of engagement and amplification. Together, these stakeholders represent a unique network through which the IPU can create solutions for the four policy focus areas over the next five years.

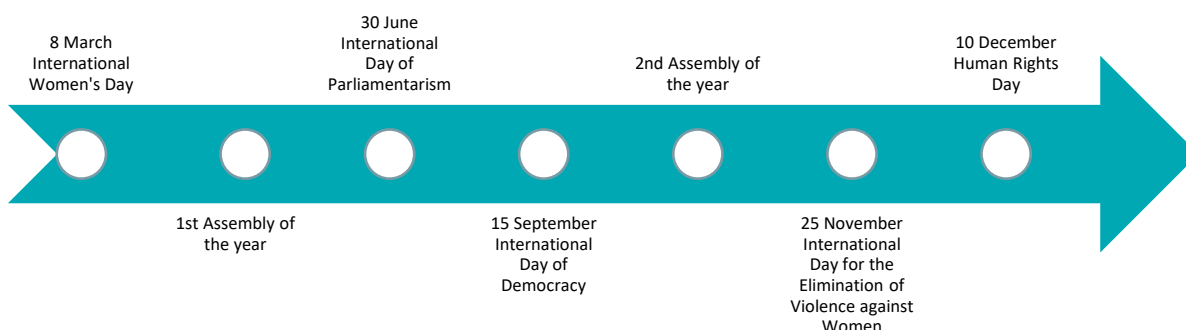
² The launch of the report on sexism in African parliaments late 2021 was a good opportunity to proactively generate coverage in national media as well as regional papers such as Jeune Afrique and the African pages of Le Monde.



Stakeholder	Who	Engagement	Engagement channel
IPU Members and the 46,000 MPs in the world	IPU Leadership, office-holders in IPU governance bodies, IPU Secretaries of delegations and parliamentary staff, Speakers of Parliament, MPs who attend IPU events. This group also includes Parliamentarians who are either unaware of the IPU or who have limited interest. They need to be activated. Also includes web and press offices in parliaments who are more interested in national stories than global issues.	This audience includes those who participate in IPU activities either in its governance structures or by attending events or using our resources. This group actively engage with the IPU on social media and are willing to advocate on behalf of the IPU and the values we promote. The audience also includes all the 46,000 MPs in the world who need to be activated through targeted communications so they become amplifiers.	In-person events, virtual events, websites, traditional media, social media, publications, subscribers to IPU newsletters.
UN partners, civil society, think tanks, NGOs, academia	International organizations, UN agencies or civil society groups who are interested in IPU themes such as human rights or climate change. Also includes researchers and academics.	The IPU has a multitude of partnerships in this group. Engagement varies according to mutual interests. With the right strategic partner, this group can be a very effective champion and amplifier for the IPU.	In-person events, virtual events, traditional media, social media, website, subscribers to IPU newsletters, key publications. Good pool of speakers and experts for our events.
Donors, government, embassies and missions	Executive branch, embassies and permanent diplomatic missions, especially in UN cities. Donor organizations who monitor our activities closely.	A lot of engagement through the three IPU offices in Geneva, New York and Vienna	Events, social media, traditional media, as speakers at our events.
Media and engaged citizens	IPU Communications targets global top-tier media outlets and national outlets for specific events or initiatives. This is our main channel for engagement with interested citizens.	Engagement will centre around two-three key moments during the year when the IPU has hard news or new data to report.	Press releases, websites, social media, traditional media, key publications.

4. Highlights

The timeline below shows the communication highlights of the year when the IPU has something to say which can generate the most interest and engagement from Members and the media.



In addition to the above highlights, IPU Communications also supports all other IPU events and activities throughout the year, including its seven programmes.

Amendment to the Rules of the Committee on Middle East Questions

*Adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 209th session
(Nusa Dua, 21 March 2022)*

Rule 2

Amend Rule 2.2 to read as follows:

2. No more than ~~seven~~ **six*** of the members **who are not ex officio members** shall be of the same sex and as many of the geopolitical groups as possible shall be represented on the Committee.

Report of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 209th session
(Nusa Dua, 24 March 2022)*

1. The 33rd session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 20 March 2022. It brought together 129 participants, including 64 parliamentarians from 60 countries and representatives from various international organizations. There were 55 women and 9 men among the parliamentarians who attended the Forum.

Election of the President and delivery of welcome addresses

2. The First Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. H. Ramzy Fayeze (Bahrain), opened the session and the Forum proceeded to elect Ms. I.Y. Roba Putri (Indonesia) to the Presidency of its 33rd session. The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Mr. D. Pacheco, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia, Ms. P. Maharani, welcomed participants to the Forum and to the 144th IPU Assembly.

* Considering that the sex of the ex officio members is immaterial.

The IPU's actions aimed at promoting gender equality

3. Ms. A. Nassif Ayyoub (Egypt) summarized the work of the 46th session of the Bureau, which had taken place in November 2021 in Madrid, and its 47th session, which had been held immediately prior to the Forum meeting.

4. The Vice-President of the IPU Executive Committee and Member of the Gender Partnership Group, Ms. A.D. Mergane Kanouté (Senegal), informed participants about the gender balance in delegations to the 144th Assembly. There was a decrease in the participation of women in Nusa Dua compared to the situation at the 143rd Assembly. The Gender Partnership Group would pursue its work towards parity. It was also continuing the development of a framework policy to prevent harassment and sexual harassment at Assemblies and other IPU-organized meetings.

5. The participants were informed about the IPU's recent and future activities to promote gender equality. Ms. H. Ramzy Fayez presented a report on the virtual parliamentary meeting at the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held on 14 March 2022. The Secretary of the Forum, Ms. Z. Hilal, briefed participants on the new IPU report on Women in Parliament in 2021.

Contributions to the work of the 144th Assembly from a gender perspective

6. Participants considered, from a gender perspective, the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security entitled *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace* and the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development entitled *Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic*. The discussion opened with a presentation by Ms. P. Patten, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on sexual violence in conflict. The debate was conducted in two breakout groups, each of which discussed one of the draft resolutions. Ms. D. Gomashie (Ghana) and Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden), co-Rapporteurs on the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, addressed Group 1.

7. Ms. E. Anyakun (Uganda) and Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand) were designated Chair and Rapporteur respectively of Group 1, and Ms. P.A. Komarudin (Indonesia) and Ms. S. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates), Chair and Rapporteur respectively of Group 2.

8. Participants in Group 1 agreed that the draft resolution already included a significant gender perspective. They agreed that it was urgent to ensure the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions on women, peace and security. The Group urged governments and parliaments to guarantee the equal and meaningful participation of women at all levels, from local to international, in conflict prevention, in the resolution of conflict, and in post-conflict socio-economic recovery to ensure inclusive and long-lasting peace. Considering that gender-based violence and sexual violence are further exacerbated in the contexts of conflict, displacement and migration and in the context of pandemics, the resolution put special emphasis on UN Security Council Resolution 1820 on sexual violence in conflict. The Group recommended listening to the victims/survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and being accountable for their rights by guaranteeing well-implemented laws and an appropriate survivor-centred approach.

9. Participants in Group 2 discussed the promotion of ICT in education and the need to address pre-existing inequalities for women and girls in access to the internet. Measures to eliminate disparities in connectivity and in access to devices between and within countries were discussed. Such measures included equipping schools in rural areas; guiding parents in supporting their children at home in accessing information and education online; adapting learning tools to reach the widest range of learners; including ICT in the curricula of teachers and expanding ICT education in schools; and encouraging more girls and women to pursue a career in the ICT sector and in science more generally. The Group agreed that ICT in education can serve as an empowerment tool, provided that parliaments allocate sufficient resources to education and its digital transformation, adapt legislation to create an enabling environment for e-learning, and apply a gender lens in the allocation of resources and implementation of related policies, including policies that specifically benefit and target women and girls.

10. The reports on the discussions conducted in the groups contained amendments to the draft resolutions of the two Standing Committees and expressions of support for amendments proposed by national delegations. Most of the proposed amendments were included in the relevant draft resolution.

Panel discussion on Parliamentary experiences in promoting women's, children's and adolescents' health in the time of COVID-19 and in recovering from the pandemic

11. The panel discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular focus on inequitable access to health services, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and child and adolescent well-being. Participants identified the legislative and policy reforms required, and the means to strengthen their role as parliamentarians in championing sexual and reproductive health and rights and improving access to health services for all.

12. The discussions were introduced by presentations from Ms. S. Mbaya from the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health; Mr. J. Kazi from UN Women Indonesia; Dr. D. Chou from the WHO Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research; a video message from Girls not Brides; Ms. P.A. Komarudin, Member of Parliament (Indonesia) and Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians; and Ms. P. Bayr, Member of Parliament (Austria), President of the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights and former Vice-President of the IPU Advisory Group on Health.

13. Participants shared experiences on the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19 on the health of women, children and adolescents, the most affected of whom are those in poor and marginalized communities. These impacts were caused by the disruption of access to sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services in most countries of the world during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as by entrenched inequalities in health systems. Participants stressed that women and girls must be involved in the design and delivery of health services and empowered to claim their rights to health. They shared concrete strategies and good practices for post-COVID recovery, such as: ensuring that any emergency response and recovery legislation and budgets take into account the specific health-related needs of women and girls; providing mental health services, in particular for young women and adolescents; offering free early detection of breast cancer and free sanitary products; providing equal and fair pay and safe working conditions for health workers; running a parliamentary commission on femicide to build solid prevention mechanisms; and increasing support services for victims of gender-based violence.

Elections to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

14. To fill the vacant seat for the Eurasia Group, the participants elected Ms. G. Karelova (Russian Federation) to end the term of Ms. E. Afanasieva (Russian Federation) who had resigned from the position.

Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

15. The Bureau met on 20 and 24 March. On 20 March, it reviewed the proceedings of the Forum and on 24 March, it took stock of the results of the 144th Assembly from a gender perspective and discussed the future of its work.

16. It had an interactive dialogue with Ms. P. Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and with the Secretary General of the IPU, Mr. M. Chungong, Global Champion for the Fight Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, focusing on legislation on conflict-related sexual violence and the implementation of a survivor-sensitive approach.

17. In follow up to the publication of the study on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Africa in November 2021, the Bureau initiated a joint reflection with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians on the best means to support women parliamentarians against the acts of violence that they may face. The reflection pointed towards the development of a special protocol adapted to the needs of women complainants in cases of gender-based and/or sexual violence.

* * * * *

COMPOSITION AND OFFICERS OF THE BUREAU OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS (as at 20 March 2022)

PRESIDING OFFICERS (April 2021–2023)

President: Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine)

First Vice-President: Ms. H. Ramzy Fayez (Bahrain)

Second Vice-President: Ms. W. P. Andrade Muñoz (Ecuador)

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES		Expiry of term
African Group:		
Ms. O. Sanogo (Mali)	Ms. S. Wakarura Kihika (Kenya)	April 2023
Ms. N. Bujela (Eswatini)	Ms. M. Baba Moussa Soumanou (Benin)	April 2025
Arab Group:		
Ms. M. S. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates)	Ms. M. Mohammed Saleh (Syrian Arab Rep.)	April 2023
Ms. H. Ramzy Fayez (Bahrain)	Ms. A. Nassif Ayyoub (Egypt)	April 2025
Asia-Pacific Group:		
Ms. P. Maadam (India)	Ms. U. Chinbat (Mongolia)	April 2023
Ms. P.A. Komarudin (Indonesia)	Ms. E. Azad (Islamic Rep. of Iran)	April 2025
Eurasia Group:		
Ms. E. Vtorygina (Russian Federation)	Ms. Z. Greceanîi (Rep. of Moldova)	April 2023
Ms. G. Karelova (Russian Federation)	Ms. M. Vasilevich (Belarus)	April 2025
Group of Latin American and the Caribbean:		
Ms. C. Mix (Chile)	Ms. V. Persaud (Guyana)	April 2023
Ms. W. P. Andrade Muñoz (Ecuador)	Ms. A. F. Sagasti (Argentina)	April 2025
Twelve Plus Group:		
Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand)	Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine)	April 2023
Ms. V. Riotton (France)	Ms. M. Grande (Italy)	April 2025
MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (<i>ex officio, for the duration of their term on the Executive Committee</i>)		Expiry of term
Ms. O. Kefalogianni (Greece)		October 2025
Ms. B. Argimón (Uruguay)		October 2024
Ms. E. Anyakun (Uganda)		October 2023
Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden)		October 2023
Ms. P. Krairiksh (Thailand)		October 2023
Ms. A.D. Mergane Kanouté (Senegal)		April 2023
PRESIDENT OF THE FORUM OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS (<i>ex officio for two years</i>)		Expiry of term
Ms. I. Yusiana Roba Putri (Indonesia)		April 2024
Ms. M. Batet Lamaña (Spain)		October 2023

Report of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 209th session
(Nusa Dua, 24 March 2022)*

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians was held on 21 March 2022. It brought together 65 participants, including 58 parliamentarians (25 young women and 33 young men MPs) from 40 countries, as well as representatives from various international organizations. It was presided by the President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, Ms. S. Albazar (Egypt).

Opening the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, the IPU President and the IPU Secretary General welcomed the participants and expressed their support for the cause of youth participation. They stressed the long-term consequences of climate change, and the importance of including youth in all action-taking efforts. With only a handful of years left before it was too late, youth inclusion was not only about the future, but was also important in the present decision-taking process.

Forum members reported on key developments regarding youth participation in their respective countries which included: the creation of youth caucuses, empowerment training, advocacy for youth quotas, the lowering of the age eligibility to run for office. Legislative and constitutional changes that entrenched youth rights more fully were also reported, as well as the adoption of electoral campaign financing measures in support of youth candidates in elections.

The young MPs emphasized the value of being part of an international community of young parliamentarians at the IPU to promote youth participation. Youth participation acted as a unifying factor in bringing political parties together within countries for common causes.

Forum members exchanged views on the main theme of the General Debate of the Assembly: *Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change*. Global climate action was needed, including the provision of ample, sustainable, and predictable climate action financing for developing countries, in particular the financing of climate change adaptation. Climate change was a defining and existential issue for young people and future generations. As the young generation would be the most impacted by the crisis, youth must be fully included in political decisions that would shape the world for centuries to come. The importance of holding governments accountable for delivering on their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement was reiterated. The participants recalled the motto that had been the driving force of the IPU youth movement over the past years: “No decisions about youth, without youth”. The importance of international cooperation in facilitating the transfer of technologies and resources from developed to developing countries to strengthen the transition to clean energies was emphasized.

The young parliamentarians’ resolve to work on the issue of climate change was boosted by the decision to dedicate the 2022 Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Egypt to climate action. The youth conference would provide another opportunity to ensure that young MPs’ voices were included in the forthcoming 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) to be held in Egypt. Egypt’s hosting of COP27 was welcomed.

The IPU resolutions entitled *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace* and *Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic* were discussed from the youth perspective. Also discussed were the Youth Overview Reports provided by the Forum. It was pointed out that youth must be engaged in conflict resolution, the current conflict in Ukraine included. North-south cooperation in the transfer of technologies was needed to provide better education opportunities for young people.

Following an exchange of good practices in advancing implementation of the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign, the young MPs held a questions and answers session on youth quotas. The current state of youth quotas around the world was reviewed, as was the progress in achieving the international targets for youth representation that had been set out by the Forum in 2018. Good practices for effective youth quotas were highlighted, including the promotion of: quotas that were ambitious, well-designed to suit the electoral system, and enforceable; mechanisms that placed youth candidates in winnable positions on electoral lists; and the inclusion of gender parity provisions in youth quotas to ensure that they supported the participation of both young men and women. The importance of looking at youth quotas as part of a broader package of measures to promote youth participation was also highlighted in terms of the goal aimed at breaking the “glass ceiling” experienced by youth. It was concluded that the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign offered a broad package of measures to advance youth participation.

In preparation for the 145th IPU Assembly to be held in October 2022, the Forum charged its President Ms. Albazar with preparing a youth overview report as a contribution to the IPU resolution on the theme *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*.

In conclusion, the Forum elected Mr. M. Alajmi, young MP from Kuwait, to replace Mr. A. Al-Kattan, as new member of the Board from the Arab region.

Report of the Committee on Middle East Questions

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 209th session
(Nusa Dua, 24 March 2022)*

A sitting of the Committee was held on 20 March 2022, with eight members in attendance. The Committee discussed the importance to its mandate of dialogue aimed at supporting collaboration between countries to achieve conditions conducive to peace, enabling the Committee to be an important cog in the wheel of peacebuilding in the region.

Members heard a report from the IPU Secretariat on the Committee's activities and the communications received by the IPU on the situation in the Middle East since the Committee's last meeting at the 143rd Assembly in November 2021. The Committee emphasized the importance of periodic interactions between members and with the IPU Secretariat between meetings, as well as potentially increasing the frequency of its meetings, to keep it informed of the situation in the region. Members said that regular updates on communications received would give them greater scope to assess how they could act in response.

As part of the Committee's work plan for the period 2022-2025, members agreed on the importance of seeing the realities on the ground for themselves through a visit to the region in June 2022 in order to better inform their work. With reference to recent events in Europe, the Committee also noted that the important topic of food security, with the goal of self-sufficiency in the Middle East region, should be addressed within their work. The Committee also agreed that, in line with the IPU Strategy for 2022-2026, it should foster links with other IPU bodies, including the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, the Working Group on Science and Technology, and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, by holding joint meetings on issues of common interest.

Notwithstanding the centrality of the Israeli-Palestinian question and peace process to the mandate of the Committee, members stressed the importance of addressing all crises occurring in the Middle East region, including in Lebanon, Libya, Syria and Yemen, as well as wider peace agreements between countries in the Middle East. The Committee agreed that the aim of its work should be to build bridges with bricks of peace in the Middle East and noted with satisfaction the warming of relations between countries in the region, which was evidence of the Committee's effectiveness.

The Committee heard a briefing by an expert from the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Dr. Maurizio Bona, on the upcoming Science for Peace Dialogues webinar entitled *Making the water pie bigger, water technology vis-à-vis the water crisis in the Middle East*, a precursor to the IPU Science for Peace Schools due to be held in-person at CERN in Geneva at the end of 2022.

Members recalled that the Committee had been the birthplace of the IPU Working Group on Science and Technology. The Committee emphasized how science could contribute to intercultural dialogue and to addressing relevant regional challenges through problem-solving. Regarding the importance of science, members emphasized the relevance of a political focus on concrete results on the issues in the Middle East. The use of new water technologies to address water scarcity in the Middle East was one of the tangible issues that the Committee already had dealt with in the past, allowing collaboration between countries in the region under the neutral umbrella of science.

Report of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 209th session
(Nusa Dua, 24 March 2022)*

1. The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law met on 23 March 2022. The meeting was opened by Ms. A. Vadai, the outgoing President. The Committee was unable to elect a new President as quorum was not met at any point during the meeting. Participants in the session included members from Australia, Bahrain, Democratic Republic of Congo, Hungary, Iraq, Kenya and Republic of Moldova. Representatives from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) attended as observers.

2. The Committee heard a brief update on the situation of refugees from Ukraine. As at 21 March, 3,557,245 refugees had fled Ukraine since 24 February 2022. More than 2 million had fled to Poland, more than 500,000 to Romania, more than 350,000 to the Republic of Moldova, more than 300,000 to Hungary, more than 250,000 to Slovakia and around the same to the Russian Federation, and more than 4,000 to Belarus.

3. The Committee members reiterated the importance for International Humanitarian Law to be respected by all parties in the Ukraine conflict. In concrete terms, this meant that:

- civilians must be protected, wherever they are, and agreements passed to allow safe passage out of cities or areas of violence;
- humanitarian aid should be allowed in, as the parties are obligated under IHL to ensure people under their control have access to assistance;
- civilian infrastructure must be spared from attack, including hospitals, schools, water facilities and electricity infrastructure;
- prisoners of war and interned civilians must be treated with dignity and protected against ill-treatment and exposure to public curiosity, including through images posted on social media.

In addition, the Committee members highlighted the need to provide assistance and protection to refugees as well as support to host countries. Lastly, the Committee reiterated the importance of dialogue and peaceful resolution.

4. The Committee heard a briefing on recent developments in combatting statelessness. It noted that several countries had revised their legal frameworks to remove discrimination in nationality laws. Several others had acceded to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. The UNHCR *#IBelong* campaign to end Statelessness by 2024 was entering its last phase. It was time to step up action. UNHCR had decided to place particular emphasis on the links between statelessness and development. UNHCR welcomed the cooperation of the IPU and encouraged members of parliament to follow up on pledges made by their respective governments at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness to support progress in this area. UNHCR was also working on building a Global Alliance to End Statelessness. Committee members expressed their wish to see parliaments and the IPU be part of this Alliance.

5. The Committee was briefed on the follow-up to the Global Refugee Forum and implementation of the pledges made. IPU Members were invited to follow up on their country's pledges (see <https://globalcompactrefugees.org/index.php/>). The Committee welcomed the planned organization by IPU and UNHCR of virtual global events on *Refugees and climate change* and *Refugees and education*. The Committee also welcomed the proposal made by UNHCR to organize a field mission on refugees, with a link to climate change, during the next IPU Assembly, to be held in Rwanda in October 2022.

6. The Committee discussed its cooperation with the ICRC and joint efforts to promote adherence to and implementation of the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions in view of the celebration of their 45th anniversary in June 2022. The Committee had adopted a workplan in that regard and welcomed the organization of a global virtual event to mark the anniversary. Committee members also took note of the various tools that could be put at their disposal to engage their parliaments and constituents around the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols.

7. The Committee held a very interesting exchange with the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Pramila Patten. In 2021, the IPU had signed a cooperation agreement with the Office of the Special Representative. The Special Representative presented her mandate and work to the Committee and outlined areas of possible cooperation. The question of building legal frameworks to prevent and address sexual violence in conflict was at the heart of the exchanges, as was the role of parliaments in terms of implementation. The Committee also drew attention to the question of accountability and prosecution of non-state actors, as well as violence against children, and against men and boys. The Committee agreed to engage with the Office of the Special Representative and develop a joint work programme.

Report of the Advisory Group on Health

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 209th Session
(Nusa Dua, 24 March 2022)*

The IPU Advisory Group on Health met on 20 March, with four out of ten members in attendance. It also welcomed technical partners from the World Health Organization, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, and UNAIDS.

As the focal point for parliamentary accountability on the 2019 IPU resolution on universal health coverage, the Advisory Group discussed challenges in ensuring access to health for all. The 2021 accountability report on the implementation of the resolution highlighted the continued commitment of parliaments, with several countries having taken steps to improve financial protection, expand access to sexual and reproductive health services, and monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Group acknowledged the importance of addressing the ongoing pandemic, while calling for increased attention to be paid to other diseases and health issues that had been sidelined. Women, children and adolescents were impacted by indirect consequences of the pandemic, particularly due to disruption to maternal and immunization services. The Group agreed that universal health coverage and strengthened health systems needed to be prioritized in pandemic preparedness efforts. It further pointed out that demographic changes and the governance of health systems were among the main challenges in implementing universal health coverage. Sustainable and predictable investment in health was critical to achieving long-term health goals. In line with the new IPU Strategy, the Group will continue to play its accountability role with a more targeted approach to regional challenges to access to health and an increased focus on capacity building in national parliaments.

The Advisory Group was briefed on the process to develop a new international instrument for pandemic preparedness. It expressed the importance for parliaments to engage in the process through the IPU and to have access to data as well as details of legislative and budgetary practices from other countries.

Finally, the Advisory Group unanimously elected Mr. J.I. Echániz of Spain as its Chair and Ms. S. Núñez of Mexico as Vice-Chair, each for a period of one year.

Report of the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG)

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 209th session
(Nusa Dua, 24 March 2022)*

The High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) held a meeting on 21 March 2022, with 11 members in attendance. Members elected a new Chair, Ms. J. Oduol (Kenya), and a new Vice-Chair, Mr. A. Dicter (Israel).

The HLAG was informed of the launch of the IPU's new information and communication technology tools: a mobile application and an interactive map. The mobile application was designed to facilitate interconnectivity among parliamentarians and between the IPU and national parliaments, and to provide a tool for outreach and visibility, including details of upcoming events, documents, news, articles and more. The interactive map was a unique tool that gave users access to all global legislation on counter-terrorism. It drew on a restricted access database to facilitate immediate connection between the IPU and national parliaments, specifically their specialized committees on countering terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism. The map was compatible with multiple devices, including mobile phones and tablets, and ensured secure access to content based on individual user privileges.

The HLAG was reminded that, on 4 February 2022, the IPU, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) had launched Model Legislative Provisions (MLPs) for victims of terrorism in a virtual meeting with the heads of the three organizations. The purpose of developing the MLPs was twofold. First, the provisions would serve as an example for the review of existing legislation and procedures relating to the victims of terrorism in line with recent advances on this subject matter, and also for the drafting of legislation where no current

legislation existed. Secondly, they would systematize and promote the exchange of information between parliaments on existing good practices. Additionally, the launch of the MLPs would draw attention to the urgency of taking concrete steps to protect, assist and support victims of terrorism.

The HLAG also discussed the Action Plan derived from the Call of the Sahel declaration adopted at the First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism. The declaration had brought together a parliamentary bloc that shared a strong commitment and real solidarity with the people of the Sahel. The bloc was aiming to achieve concrete results by supporting Sahel countries through a holistic approach. The HLAG agreed it would be necessary to reassess international cooperation and evaluate why, instead of improving, the regional situation was worsening and becoming a substantial danger to global peace and security.

The HLAG reviewed its Action Plan, which had already been discussed and agreed upon by some of the HLAG's partners, including the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) and the G5 Sahel Inter-Parliamentary Committee (CIP G5 Sahel). The Action Plan was based around three axes of action: Human, State and Regional. All three axes were developed across four key areas of interest: development, education, community and security. The Action Plan proposed the organization of four meetings, each of which would focus on one of the areas of interest. Following the meetings, the HLAG would organize a global conference through a Joint Secretariat composed of regional parliaments. The conference would host parliaments, regional parliamentarian associations, private and public institutions, and relevant United Nations organizations, and would be held towards the end of 2022.

Members discussed the Action Plan and provided remarks and amendments. The Action Plan was designed to have a measurable impact on the ground and to address, through a holistic approach, the reasons that had led to a deterioration in the situation in the Sahel countries.

The HLAG heard a briefing by guest speaker Ms. P. Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG/SVC). She explained that one of the most significant current threats to peace, security and stability was the expanding reach and impact of terrorism and violent extremism. Extremism and terrorism impacted men and women in different ways, and sexual violence was increasingly being used as a tool of terror. In 2016, the UN Security Council had called for “decisive and immediate action to prevent, criminalize, investigate, prosecute and ensure accountability” for perpetrators. However, there were still many gaps in legislation and terrorists were rarely prosecuted for these crimes. She suggested that the HLAG could play a critical role in promoting the review of national legislation aimed at preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism, and ensuring compliance with that legislation. Gender mainstreaming would also be an important step to promoting more equal societies, in which gender violence was less common.

Members then heard an intervention by a second guest speaker, Mr. D. Cesselin, of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF), who praised the Action Plan for the Call of the Sahel while informing members of the difficult situation that the Sahel countries were currently facing. Mr. Cesselin highlighted the APF's willingness to join the Joint Secretariat of the Call of the Sahel.

Members discussed the draft work plan for the year 2022-2023 and the budget for the IPU's programme on countering terrorism and violent extremism. The HLAG thanked China and the United Arab Emirates for their contributions to the budget, and encouraged members to raise the necessary funds for the implementation of the work plan.

Report of the Working Group on Science and Technology

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 209th session
(Nusa Dua, 24 March 2022)*

Two sittings of the Working Group were held, on 4 February and 22 March 2022, and 13 members attended one or both of these sittings.

The Working Group noted with satisfaction the inclusion of a reference to science in the IPU Strategy for 2022-2026 under Strategic Objective 3: Supporting resilient and innovative parliaments, in terms of achieving real change by building bridges between politics and science to contribute to the fostering of

good governance and trust. The inclusion of science in the IPU Strategy would ensure that science was considered throughout political decision-making at all levels and that the scientific values of rationality and transparency would serve as a common language in support of parliamentary diplomacy. It was now the Working Group's role to implement this objective through its Work Plan. In line with the IPU Strategy, the Working Group also noted the importance of building links with other IPU bodies to enhance its own work.

With reference to the Working Group's Work Plan, members agreed on their intention to officially participate in and hold a meeting of the Working Group at the international conference entitled *Science, Ethics and Human Development* in Viet Nam in September 2022, organized by the *Rencontres du Vietnam* in collaboration with CERN, the Parliament of Viet Nam, and the organizers of the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development 2022. The Working Group's participation in the conference would be a good way to ensure that there was continual dialogue between parliamentarians and the scientific community. It was also important that a concrete budget for the activities of the Working Group be determined, in order to plan adequately for future activities.

The Working Group was briefed by an expert from the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Dr. M. Bona, on the upcoming Science for Peace Dialogues webinar entitled "Making the water pie bigger, water technology vis-à-vis the water crisis in the Middle East", a precursor to the IPU Science for Peace Schools due to be held in-person at CERN in Geneva at the end of 2022. Members expressed their strong support for this initiative, agreeing that it would help transform elements of conflict between parties into reasons for coexistence. Members agreed on the importance and timeliness of the initiative in relation to recent events in Europe. The neutrality of science and technology could serve as a concrete opportunity for rapprochement between countries in conflict. The participation of the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions in the initiative was also important in terms of fostering cooperation with other IPU bodies.

At both of its sittings, the Working Group also examined the proposed International Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology. The Charter would serve as an ethical framework on the application and use of science and technology and could be used as a starting point for countries wishing to establish legislation in the field. Members agreed on the importance of ensuring that the Charter would not impose obligations but instead make suggestions that each country would be able to adapt to its own culture and domestic law. Efforts should also be made to ensure the Charter was drafted in language that was easily understandable and universal, making it accessible not only to parliamentarians and scientists, but also the general public. The Charter should also hold as a key principle throughout that access to science and technology should be non-discriminatory, with an overarching aim of ensuring the wellbeing of humankind, while attending to the ecosystems of which human beings were a part in an ecologically sustainable and responsible manner.

Statistics of the Gender Partnership Group

Status of participation of women delegates at the 144th Assembly of the IPU (at 24 March 2022)

Composition of delegations of IPU members attending the last eight IPU statutory meetings (October 2017 - present)

Meeting	Total delegates	Total/percentage of women delegates		Total delegations	Total/percentage of all-male delegations (2 or more)		Total all-female delegations (2 or more)	Total single-sex delegations (2 or more)	Total single-member delegations (male and female)
Nusa Dua (24/03/22)	393	153	38.9	101	13	14.4	3	16	11
Madrid (11/21)	509	198	38.9	117	10	9.3	3	13	10
Virtual Gva (05/21)	755	287	38	133	8	6.2	2	10	4
Belgrade (10/19)	719	221	30.7	149	15	11.4	0	15	17
Doha (04/19)	721	219	30.3	147	16	11.8	0	16	12
Geneva (10/18)	751	247	32.9	149	17	12.1	4	21	9
Geneva (03/18)	745	227	30.5	148	18	12.7	3	21	6
St. Petersburg (10/17)	829	249	30.0	155	17	11.8	1	18	11

Single-sex, multi-member delegations of IPU members present in Nusa Dua (status on 24 March 2022)

N°	Country	Nusa Dua Mar22			Madrid Nov21			Virtual May21			Belgrade Oct19			Doha Apr19			Geneva Oct18			Geneva Mar18			St. Petersburg Oct17		
		Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total
1	Afghanistan	0	2	2	absent			2	6	8	2	7	9	1	1	2	2	1	3	4	5	9	3	5	8
2	Australia	2	0	2	absent			3	1	4	2	2	4	absent			2	2	4	2	2	4	0	3	3
3	Belarus	0	2	2	1	0	1	2	2	4	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	5	6
4	Belgium	0	2	2	2	3	5	3	5	8	0	2	2	2	3	5	1	2	3	3	4	7	3	4	7
5	Benin	0	2	2	1	1	2	1	4	5	0	3	3	1	3	4	1	2	3	1	3	4	1	5	6
6	Cambodia*	0	5	5	0	2	2	2	5	7	2	4	6	1	4	5	3	3	6	absent			1	5	6
7	China	0	2	2	absent			4	7	11	1	5	6	2	3	5	2	4	6	1	3	4	1	4	5
8	Greece	0	3	3	1	2	3	1	4	5	1	3	4	2	3	5	2	2	4	2	3	5	2	3	5
9	Iceland*	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	0	1
10	Japan	0	4	4	absent			2	2	4	1	4	5	2	3	5	1	5	6	1	4	5	0	1	1
11	Latvia*	0	2	2	0	3	3	2	2	4	0	2	2	1	3	4	1	1	2	1	2	3	2	3	5
12	Madagascar*	0	2	2	0	4	4	3	6	9	2	3	5	absent			absent			3	5	8	1	5	6
13	Mexico*	6	0	6	3	0	3	5	5	10	5	2	7	6	4	10	6	2	8	5	5	10	4	6	10
14	Poland	2	0	2	2	2	4	4	5	9	0	3	3	0	4	4	3	3	6	2	2	4	absent		
15	Republic of Korea	0	3	3	2	4	6	4	0	4	1	8	9	1	3	4	0	7	7	2	3	5	1	7	8
16	Yemen*	0	5	5	0	5	5	0	8	8	0	8	8	absent			0	5	5	0	7	7	absent		

Single-member delegations of IPU members present in Nusa Dua (status on 24 March 2022)

N°	Country	Nusa Dua Mar22			Madrid Nov21			Virtual May21			Belgrade Oct19			Doha Apr19			Geneva Oct18			Geneva Mar18			St. Petersburg Oct17		
		Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total
1	Bulgaria	1	0	1	absent			absent			0	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	2	2	4
2	Croatia	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	2	3	2	1	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	2	3
3	Guatemala	1	0	1	absent			absent			0	3	3	1	3	4	1	2	3	0	1	1	1	2	3
4	Guinea-Bissau	0	1	1	2	0	2	absent			absent			1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	5	7
5	Italy	0	1	1	2	3	5	3	3	6	1	3	4	1	4	5	2	4	6	1	2	3	1	2	3
6	Malaysia	0	1	1	absent			1	2	3	2	3	5	1	3	4	2	4	6	absent			2	6	8
7	Malta*	0	1	1	0	3	3	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	3	3	1	1	2	0	2	2	0	3	3
8	Paraguay*	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	2	3	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
9	Rwanda	1	0	1	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	0	1
10	Senegal	1	0	1	2	3	5	2	3	5	3	2	5	3	3	6	3	2	5	absent			absent		
11	Uruguay	0	1	1	3	3	6	4	4	8	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	4	5	1	5	6	1	3	4

* Delegations subjected to sanctions at the 144th Assembly, pursuant to Art. 10.4 and 15.2.c of the IPU Statutes, for being composed exclusively of representatives of the same sex for two consecutive Assemblies.

45th session of the Gender Partnership Group

Delegations with 40 to 60 per cent of women parliamentarians

The Gender Partnership Group promotes gender parity within the delegations of IPU Member Parliaments to the Assemblies and has decided to give visibility to those that are composed a minimum of 40 per cent and maximum of 60 per cent of each gender.

The countries below are ordered according to the percentage of women parliamentarians in their delegations at the 144th IPU Assembly. There are a total of 30 gender-balanced delegations out of 101 delegations (29.7 per cent) of IPU members attending the 144th IPU Assembly (as at 24 March 2022).

Delegations with 40 to 49.9 per cent women parliamentarians (6):

Democratic Republic of Congo (40%)
Guyana (40%)
Namibia (40%)
Oman (40%)
Saudi Arabia (40%)
Uganda (43%)

Delegations with 50 per cent women parliamentarians (19):

Armenia
Cabo Verde
Central African Republic
Finland
France
India
Israel
Mauritius
Monaco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Niger
Seychelles
South Sudan
Timor Leste
Turkey
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United Republic of Tanzania

Delegations with 50.1 to 60 per cent women parliamentarians (5)

Zambia (57%)
Austria (60%)
Denmark (60%)
Ecuador (60%)
Kenya (60%)

Calendar of future meetings and other activities

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 209th session
(Nusa Dua, 21 March 2022)*

Series of webinars on disarmament co-organized with Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)	Virtual January – December 2022
The global empowerment series: Briefings and training courses for young parliamentarians	Virtual (Every other month) 2022
Series of Science for Peace Dialogues	Virtual Beginning of March 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Meeting for the Call of the Sahel: Financing Terrorism and Funding Counter-Terrorism	GENEVA (Switzerland) April / May 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Information seminar on the structure and functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for French-speaking participants	Virtual 17 – 20 May 2022
8th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians	Egypt May 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Regional Conference on the Elimination of Violence against Women in Africa, co-organized with the African Parliamentary Union	Venue to be confirmed May 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
International or regional workshop for members of Parliamentary Human Rights Committees	GENEVA (Switzerland) May / June 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Meeting for the Call of the Sahel: Prevention of Violent Extremism: Conditions Conducive to Terrorism	Venue to be confirmed May / June 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary conference on migration	ISTANBUL (Turkey) 9 – 10 June 2022
Parliament's role in strengthening health security preparedness: the International Health Regulations panel at the Global Health Security 2022 (GHS2022 Conference).	SINGAPORE (Singapore) 28 June – 1 July 2022
Regional seminar on climate change for parliaments of Latin America and the Caribbean	MONTEVIDEO (Uruguay) June 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Meeting of the IPU Executive Committee	MONTEVIDEO (Uruguay) June 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Global webinar co-organized with UNHCR on climate change and refugees	Virtual June 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
15th Workshop of Parliamentary Scholars and Parliamentarians, co-sponsored by the IPU and the Centre for Legislative Studies, University of Hull, United Kingdom	WROXTON (United Kingdom) 30 – 31 July 2022

Parliamentary Forum at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	NEW YORK (USA) July 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
14th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament	Uzbekistan 8 – 9 September 2022
Regional seminar on achieving the SDGs for Asia Pacific Parliaments	ISLAMABAD (Pakistan) September 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Workshop for members of Parliamentary Human Rights Committees from French-speaking countries that have recently or will soon be reviewed by the Human Rights Council	GENEVA (Switzerland) September 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Meeting for the Call of the Sahel: Security and Development for Countering Terrorism	Virtual September 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Webinar on Cybercrime	Virtual September 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary meeting in the context of the WTO Public Forum	GENEVA (Switzerland) September / October 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Meeting for parliaments and Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) partnering for Audit Impact and greater accountability with the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI)	Virtual September / October 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Speakers' Summit (P20) on the occasion of the G20	JAKARTA (Indonesia) 6-7 October 2022
145th Assembly and related meetings	KIGALI (Rwanda) 11 – 15 October 2022
Parliamentary Meeting at COP27	SHARM EL-SHEIKH (Egypt) 13 November 2022
Global Conference on the Elimination of Violence against Women	KYIV (Ukraine) November 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Meeting for the Call of the Sahel: Human Dignity, Women and Children	Virtual November 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary meeting on Cybercrime	November 2022 (Venue and dates to be confirmed)
Annual Parliamentary Conference on the WTO	GENEVA (Switzerland) November / December 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Call of the Sahel Summit: Global Response to the Call of the Sahel	Venue to be confirmed December 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Capacity-building regional workshop for the G5 Sahel on countering terrorism and violent extremism	NIAMEY (Niger) 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)

Interregional seminar on the SDGs	Virtual 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Second regional seminar for African parliaments on achieving the SDGs	DJIBOUTI (Djibouti) 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Third regional seminar for the parliaments of Latin America and the Caribbean on achieving the SDGs	PANAMA CITY (Panama) 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Third regional seminar for the Twelve Plus Group on achieving the SDGs	PARIS (France) 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
World Conference on Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue: <i>Working together for peace and humanity</i>	ST. PETERSBURG (Russian Federation) 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Series of regional and sub-regional webinars on statelessness	Virtual 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Series of Regional and Global Virtual Workshops on gender equality and women's empowerment	Virtual 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Global webinar co-organized with UNHCR on education and refugees	Virtual 2022 (Dates to be confirmed)
Information seminar on the structure and functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for parliaments from the Latin American and Caribbean regions	2022 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Capacity-building regional workshop on countering terrorism and violent extremism for the Eurasia group	2022 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Capacity-building regional workshop on countering terrorism and violent extremism for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC)	2022 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Capacity-building regional workshop on countering terrorism and violent extremism for the African Group	2022 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional workshop on promoting the rights of the child for the parliaments of West Africa	2022 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional workshop on promoting the rights of the child for the parliaments of the East and South Asia region	2022 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Fifth South Asia Speakers' Summit on achieving the SDGs	2022 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Workshop on comprehensive disarmament	2022 Venue, format and dates to be confirmed
Series of workshops on Human Security, in the framework of the Human Security for All Global Campaign	2022 Venue, format and dates to be confirmed

Parliamentary Track at the Internet Governance Forum 2022	2022 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Parliamentary Forum on the occasion of the 5th UN Conference on the LDCs	DOHA (Qatar) 5 – 9 March 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
146th Assembly and related meetings	MANAMA (Bahrain) 11 – 15 March 2023
147th Assembly and related meetings	GENEVA (Switzerland) 8 – 12 October 2023
Side event at the 5th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2)	NAIROBI (Kenya) 2023 (Dates to be confirmed)
Second Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism	2023 Venue and dates to be confirmed

Agenda of the 145th Assembly

(Kigali, Rwanda, 11-15 October 2022)

1. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 145th Assembly
2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General Debate
4. *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*
(Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)
6. Reports of the Standing Committees
7. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 147th IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs