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Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹ in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in all fields of the work of the United Nations,

Recalling also its resolution [57/32](#) of 19 November 2002, in which the Inter-Parliamentary Union was invited to participate in the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer, and recalling further its resolution [72/278](#) of 22 May 2018, in which the Assembly, inter alia, decided to strengthen the modalities of the cooperation between United Nations entities and the global parliamentary community,

Taking into consideration the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union of 1996,² which laid the foundation for cooperation between the two organizations, and recalling the revised Cooperation Agreement of 2016,

Taking note of the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as well as the many activities undertaken by that organization in support of the United Nations,

Noting the outcomes of the World Conferences of Speakers of Parliament held in 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015, and in 2021 (preceded by a virtual segment in 2020), which affirm the commitment of national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary

¹ Resolution [60/1](#).

² [A/51/402](#), annex.



Union to support the work of the United Nations, strengthen multilateralism and continue efforts to bridge the democracy gap in international relations,

Recognizing that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continues to require a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation that is people-centred, and acknowledging the important role of the United Nations system and the key leadership role of the World Health Organization in this regard, as well as the role of national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Welcoming the annual parliamentary hearings at the United Nations, as well as other specialized parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in cooperation with the United Nations to correspond to major United Nations conferences and events,

Recognizing the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in mobilizing parliamentary action towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁴ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁵ the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁶ and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,⁷

Recognizing also the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs to provide a platform for regular interaction between parliamentarians and United Nations officials, including on the 2030 Agenda, review implementation of international commitments and facilitate closer ties between the United Nations country teams and national parliaments,

Recognizing further the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the areas of democracy and the rule of law, human rights, gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, youth empowerment, peace and security, disarmament, non-proliferation, humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, food security and nutrition, climate change, health, and interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue, as well as countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism,

Deeply concerned about all acts of sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual harassment, in political and in public life, including in digital contexts, as well as in parliaments and in leadership positions, and recognizing the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in combating such violence,

Highlighting the importance of women's full, equal and meaningful participation in parliaments, including in leadership positions and in decision-making at all levels, and the importance for parliaments to mainstream a gender perspective in their work,

Recognizing multi-stakeholder efforts towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as the realization of their human rights, noting all relevant international, regional and national initiatives in this regard, and recognizing the participation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in such initiatives,

³ Resolution 70/1.

⁴ Resolution 69/313, annex.

⁵ Resolution 69/283, annex II.

⁶ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

⁷ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Recognizing and affirming that the global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and all their abhorrent and contemporary forms and manifestations is a matter of priority for the international community, and recalling the launch of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech in June 2019,

Inviting, in this regard, the Inter-Parliamentary Union to observe, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, the international days aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination, addressing and countering hate speech and promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and the values of living together in peace,

Reaffirming the collective commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, calling for a reinvigorated multilateralism, and recognizing the outcome of the fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, which expresses support for a reinvigorated United Nations system and for effective multilateral solutions to current global challenges,

Mindful that rapid technological change includes new and powerful tools that can help to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda, and that the spread of information and communications technologies and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human development and bridge all digital divides, among and within countries, including the gender digital divide, and recognizing that national parliaments, among others, play an important role in addressing the impact, opportunities and challenges of rapid technological change,

Recognizing the efforts and the potential of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries in helping those countries to implement the 2030 Agenda through strengthening their science, technology and innovation capacity, and acknowledging the important role of parliaments in developing strategies in these areas as well as overseeing their implementation,

Noting the work carried out upon the request of Member States by agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, in support of national parliaments around the world,

Acknowledging the role and responsibility of national parliaments in regard to national plans and strategies, as well as in ensuring greater transparency and accountability at both the national and the global levels,

1. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to pursue a more systematic and meaningful engagement with the United Nations, and encourages both organizations to enhance their cooperation in meeting their common objectives;

2. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to work closely in various fields, including the three dimensions of sustainable development – the economic, social and environmental – peacebuilding and sustaining peace, countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, international law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, youth empowerment, democracy and good governance, poverty eradication, information and communications technologies, health, international migration, climate change, biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, capacity-building and financing for development;

3. *Also encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen cooperation by engaging parliamentarians in efforts to maintain support for the implementation of relevant United Nations agreements and resolutions;

4. *Encourages* the continued active involvement of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in promoting the enhanced contribution of parliaments at the national, regional and global levels, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships, in support of the accelerated implementation and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;

5. *Invites* parliaments and Governments to support the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries in its efforts towards bridging digital divides, and encourages the Inter-Parliamentary Union to facilitate inter-parliamentary dialogue on the role of science and technology in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. *Calls upon* Member States, including their national parliaments, supported upon their request by the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and other relevant stakeholders to further enhance coordination, as appropriate, so that their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic are people-centred and provide equal access, without discrimination of any kind, to safe, effective, affordable and quality essential medicines, vaccines, testing and diagnostics, personal protective equipment and medical equipment as may be required to effectively address COVID-19, ensuring that women and girls are not disproportionately affected;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to work with national parliaments to further accelerate climate action, as noted most recently in the Nusa Dua Declaration of 24 March 2022 entitled “Getting to zero: mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change”, and encourages the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to engage closely with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in this area, as appropriate;

8. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to promote universal health coverage and to address public health emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and invites the World Health Organization, as the United Nations specialized agency for health, and other relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to enhance cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in this regard;

9. *Notes* the contribution of the fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in close cooperation with the United Nations, entitled “Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet”, to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations in September 2020;

10. *Welcomes* the practice of including parliamentarians as members of national delegations to major United Nations meetings and events, as appropriate, and invites Member States to continue this practice in a more regular and systematic manner, and with due consideration given to achieving gender balance within such delegations;

11. *Invites* Member States to further consider ways to work regularly with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in facilitating a parliamentary component to major United Nations conferences so as to help to inform such deliberations from a parliamentary perspective;

12. *Encourages* Member States to further extend the practice of holding parliamentary meetings in conjunction with major United Nations conferences and

processes, with a view to including the outcome of these parliamentary meetings as a formal contribution to the respective United Nations processes;

13. *Welcomes* the enhanced contribution of parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the work of the Human Rights Council and the human rights treaty bodies, and encourages parliaments to strengthen their role in the promotion and protection of human rights, with a view to translating international commitments into national policies and laws;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system to work closely with national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in accordance with their respective mandates and, upon request, in such areas as gender equality and the empowerment of women, including in conflict prevention and peace processes, institutional gender mainstreaming, support to parliaments in promoting gender-sensitive legislation, increasing the representation and full, equal and meaningful participation of women in parliaments, combating violence against women, including women in politics, and implementing relevant United Nations resolutions;

15. *Welcomes* the contributions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the high-level political forum on sustainable development through the participation of parliamentarians, in convening a parliamentary event on the work of parliaments to institutionalize the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as through its efforts to encourage parliaments to engage in the voluntary national reviews of participating countries;

16. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to continue and enhance their cooperation in supporting Governments in facilitating the orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, and recalls the contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the follow-up process for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;⁸

17. *Welcomes* the joint activities carried out by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Office of Counter-Terrorism aimed at mobilizing parliamentary action to combat terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, develop relevant good practices and counter-terrorism legislation, and support the victims of terrorism, in accordance with national context and International law;

18. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to develop closer cooperation with parliaments at the national and regional levels, including in terms of strengthening parliamentary capacities, inter alia, in regard to the allocation of budgetary resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as appropriate, in reinforcing the rule of law and helping to align national legislation with international commitments, and to facilitate, within existing resources, greater South-South and triangular cooperation between parliaments and parliamentarians;

19. *Encourages* the United Nations to work with Member States, upon their request, to strengthen the institutional capacity of national parliaments through technical support, legal analysis, specific advice, training, monitoring and evaluation in all relevant areas;

20. *Recognizes* that the contributions of young people are important for the full and successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and urges Member States and

⁸ Resolution 73/195, annex.

United Nations entities, in consultation with youth, youth-led and youth-focused and young women's organizations, to explore and promote concrete new avenues for the full, effective, structured, increased and sustainable participation of young people, youth-led and young women's organizations in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring, in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular when implementing the 2030 Agenda;

21. *Takes note* of the Common Principles for Support to Parliaments pioneered by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Development Programme and endorsed by 143 national parliaments, 8 parliamentary assemblies and 20 partner organizations with a view to further strengthening the capacity of parliaments to perform their functions;

22. *Calls upon* United Nations country teams to develop, within their mandates and at the request of national authorities, a more structured and integrated manner of working with national parliaments, through appropriate mechanisms, inter alia, by involving parliaments in consultations on national development strategies and on development aid effectiveness, where applicable;

23. *Calls upon* United Nations entities to avail themselves more systematically of the unique expertise of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its member parliaments in strengthening parliamentary institutions, particularly in countries emerging from conflict and/or in transition to democracy;

24. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to include members of parliament, particularly from the developing countries, in multi-stakeholder high-level advisory groups as well as in mediation teams and other such exercises where a multiplicity of perspectives can help to ensure fair and lasting solutions to specific challenges;

25. *Calls for* regular annual exchanges and meetings at both the political and the operational levels between senior officials of the United Nations and of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to building greater coherence in the work of the two organizations and helping to forge a more robust strategic partnership between them;

26. *Encourages* the United Nations system to reflect more systematically the role and contribution of parliaments in its reports and draft strategic plans;

27. *Recalls* the decision to observe 30 June of each year as the International Day of Parliamentarism, and invites all Member States, national parliaments, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and all other relevant stakeholders to observe the Day and to promote awareness of it, while stressing that the cost of all activities that may arise from the observance of the Day by the United Nations should be met from voluntary contributions;

28. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,⁹ and requests that he submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session a report under the item entitled "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union" with a special focus on the implementation of the shared global objectives of United Nations entities and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, including best practices and contributions of Member States, national parliaments, the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to increase the representation and participation of women in parliaments.

⁹ A/76/780.